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THE ISLAND RAILWAY.

The first sod in the construction of the Vancouver Island section of the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway has been "well and truly" turned and the management of the line declares that work will be rushed through, so that it will not be long before trains will be running out of Victoria in the direction of Sooke. One of the officials stated on Saturday that if nothing unforeseen occurred the construction as far as Sooke should be completed in about four months, and that the grade on this section was little more than one per cent. It is to be hoped this programme will be carried out and that on its completion the steel will be quickly laid and trains operated. What the people of Victoria and Vancouver Island want more than anything else is railway development, and no one can deny that railway construction means much to any part of this country.

Outside of the direct effect the building of a railway has upon the community, there is the indirect effect. The advertising it brings to a place is the means of inducing industries to look to the neighborhood for headquarters. People who like to be in busy places and who are movers of big things turn in that direction. Victoria, as the headquarters of another railway on the Island, will certainly gain in population and in prestige. She has already benefited from the prospects of the line being built, and every day will see accessions to her business interests and growth of population. The result of this is that property sells well, that business in every line is brisk, and that everyone is optimistic. We hope this condition of affairs will continue, and that the railway will do all that has been proposed for it. If anything we can do or say will aid in this we shall certainly do it and say it, for above everything we value the progress and prosperity of our province, and especially of this island and city. The time for criticism of ways and means has passed. Judgment upon the undertaking must be suspended pending further development of the plans of the company as far as they affect pledges given the people by the Premier and his supporters. In the meantime might we be permitted to call attention to the fact that there have lately been no references to the "first class passenger, express and freight ferry" that was to connect the Mainland with the Island section of the railway?

PURELY BUSINESS.

If the provincial government were to offer to remit the head tax in this province, which amounts to \$260,000, we should all hold up both hands in favor of it. The Dominion government offers to remit taxation to the extent of over two and a half million dollars, and many people say they do not want it, that they prefer to pay. Such is the oddity of human nature. In one case the money is paid all in one sum, while in the other it is distributed so that it is hardly noticed. Still we have to pay it.

If the Dominion government were offering only the two and a half million dollars we should not think so very much of it, but they are offering more. The collection of the large sum as a tax on the food of the Canadian people makes it possible for special interests to extort several times that amount from consumers. The net result of the tax is that the people pay much more for their food than they would do if there were free trade in natural products, as proposed by the Dominion government. It is a plain business proposition.

Whatever we may do or say will not make any difference. The Liberals of this city in public meeting assembled have declared unanimously in favor of reciprocity. The government is committed to it, and if it passes the United States congress will undoubtedly become law. At the same time it is well that the matter should be thoroughly understood, for there are many politicians who are trying to belittle the issue and persuade the people that all sorts of dire consequences will follow.

A FINE ADVERTISEMENT.

Canada most unquestionably occupies the spot-light in the great stage of the world's affairs. The attention we are receiving would be very flattering to a less self-conscious nation. Our destiny has become an issue, it appears, not only in the politics of the United States, but in the affairs of

the Empire also. According to the Unionist programme, upon the future of Canada hinges the fate of the Empire. Mr. Bennett of New York, a belated and befogged politician of the school which was supposed to be extinct, evidently believes, or rather affects to believe, that all that remains to bring about annexation is the blessing of John Bull upon the union. The New York Congressman would entirely ignore Canada in the matter. Canada's views or sentiments are merely minor considerations. Mr. Bennett should take a few days off from his legislative duties and personally study the Canadian people. If he did that he would find just as strong national feelings prevailing here as anywhere else. He would also discover that there are thousands of Americans in this country who are just as proud of the new institutions with which they have become identified as Canadians born under the flag. Men who if the question of changing their allegiance ever came to a vote would be unanimous in declaring their loyalty to conditions they have found much more desirable than the institutions under which they were born. Still advertising is stimulating to business of every kind. It has its effect upon the work of nation-building as upon every other constructive effort to which men bend their minds and their energies. By all means let the work of publicity go on. It gives zest to the debates in the Imperial Parliament and in Congress and it does not hurt us.

In the meantime the destiny of Canada remains in the hands of Canadians.

THE TORY'S LOYALTY.

The dropping of a pin could have been heard Thursday at the public meeting in Broad street hall, when the chairman called for "noes" from those opposed to the resolution approving the reciprocity agreement. The murmur of conversation stopped, and everyone was expectant that there would have been at least one to lift his voice against the proposal. There was not a sound, and then, amidst applause, the chairman declared it carried unanimously. The reasoned eloquence of H. C. Brewster, M. P., of Duncan Ross, and of R. L. Drury, had made it so clear to everyone present that reciprocity was the proper thing for the country, that the gathering was at one with the speaker.

The proposal was well and fairly put. There was no mincing matters. Gloves were removed from the beginning and the arguments were most convincing. The meeting should be productive of much good, for while those who were present were largely in sympathy with the movement, having the case so clearly presented made several hundred ardent apostles in the cause, who will be better able now to give a reason for the faith that is in them.

It would be useless to draw attention here to the arguments brought forward, for they are printed on another page, but we cannot refrain from quoting a few lines descriptive of Toryism in the time of George Brown, written by that able editor of the Toronto Globe and quoted last night by Mr. Ross. To give it in Mr. Ross's words.

"The Toronto Globe said it was amusing to watch the effects of the new British policy upon the Tory members of the province. The comments of these members afforded an admirable illustration of the selfishness of Toryism. Give them everything they could desire, and they are brimful of loyalty. They would chant psalms till they were sick, and drink goblets till they were blind, in praise of wise and benevolent sovereigns who gave them all the offices and all the emoluments. But let their interests, real or imaginary, be affected, and how soon did their loyalty evaporate. Now there was talk of separation from the Mother Country unless the mother would continue to feed them in the method prescribed by the child. Tory loyalty was estimated in pounds, shillings and pence. When these were withdrawn it sustained a complete collapse. It was a strange thing, the Tory's loyalty. You might trample on every privilege, you might oppose the passage of every good law, you might enact class legislation, by which the interests of the many were entirely sacrificed for the few, and you would not disturb the Tory's loyalty. He seemed to be better pleased to show his loyalty for the preservation of things as they were. But the moment the government ventured legislation on a broad, just and comprehensive scale, the Tory's loyalty vanished."

The above, we believe, is a perfect pen-picture of the Tory of to-day, and we suppose he will remain the same until the end.

VICTORIA AND THE RESERVE.

A couple of years or so ago the McBride government passed an order in council conveying to the city of Victoria forty-three acres of the Songhees Indian Reserve. Friday in the legislature Mr. McBride admitted the transaction, but claimed that the conditions had so changed since the order

was passed on his recommendation that the bargain could not be carried out so far as the government is concerned. His plea is that the land has so appreciated in value that a gift of a part of it to the city could not be considered. That may be an excuse, but it does not constitute a valid reason. For such a contemptible breach of a covenant. The relative value of all parts of the reserve are precisely the same as they were at the time the order in council was passed. If the government was justified at the time in passing such an order, it can be defended to-day in consuming its part of the bargain. There was no condition attached to the order providing that in the event of the reserve increasing in value the undertaking might be considered null and void. It is almost beyond belief that a man who claims to be in a position to sense the friend and defender of the interests of Victoria should be guilty of such trickery and shuffling. Are we going to have a reputation of the difficulty which characterized the disposition of the provincial universities?

WAS THERE LACK OF COURTESY?

A correspondent, whose letter we cannot print because it uses expressions which are considered offensive, suggested that it would be a good idea for the electors to attend some of the meetings of the Liberal Association and learn at close range something of the kind of men they have selected to represent them in that body. The writer of the letter was present on Wednesday evening last, and he says the experience was certainly an unpleasant surprise. There was a failure of the chairman to observe any known rules of debate or of parliamentary procedure, and the courtesy with which gentlemen are accustomed to treat each other in their social and business intercourse was conspicuously wanting. There was a decided lack of official courtesy and dignity. In comparison with the council of last year, this council, he thinks, is infinitely the worse. There was not more than fifteen minutes during the entire meeting when the chair was treated with common decency, to say nothing of common courtesy, and during the time Alderman Bishop occupied the chair he thinks the case was even worse than when the mayor presided.

Our correspondent was apparently very attentive, for he says that within the space of twelve minutes by the city hall clock one alderman made nine speeches on the same item of business, and each time he seemed to be attempting to exceed his neighbor in seeing how soon he could get off his offensive. He could elicit no arguments. We give the rest of the communication in the writer's own words: "Now, Mr. Editor, what are we going to do about it? The writer has always been a firm believer in the right and the ability of any community of Canadian citizens to govern itself. He believes so still. But there must be something wrong somewhere when results such as these are produced. Is it in the ward system, or where is the defect in our civic machinery?"

"In many cities of the United States the commission form of government has been found to work a vast improvement in the method of carrying on the government of cities. That method abolishes the ward system and enables the people of the entire city to elect a council or body of five men, subject to recall, who shall hold office for a period of years and devote their entire time to the city's business."

"As a citizen and taxpayer I view with some considerable disquietude the prospect of a council such as ours showed itself to be on Wednesday evening, handling the Seeke proposition and the expenditure of a million dollars or so in street work."

MEXICAN REBELS AGAIN ON MARCH

Vega to order a retreat. Four of Vega's men deserted into the arms of the United States. The governor's private secretary, Alfredo Quintero, who was not supposed to fight, but who had loudly insisted upon staying by the governor's side, also crossed the border. One soldier was killed while assisting the general to mount, after being shot, and three soldiers were killed during the retreat. All the others answered to the roll call.

Back to the Laajunkas ranch the troops went to recuperate, arriving there after 60 hours of forced marching in a country where water was limited and the cold intense.

The defeated federals are due at Ensenada tomorrow.

Vega has announced his determination, wounds or no, to be in command when the city is attacked.

NOT MISSING HEIRESS.

Spokane, Wash., Feb. 20.—The young woman held in the Sandy Point hospital, suspected of being Dorothy Arnold, the missing New York heiress, is neither Dorothy Arnold nor Dorothy or Dora Falk. This was positively stated by the Spokane police to-day. Dora Falk has been seen in Spokane since the woman was arrested in Sand Point, police officers asserted.

R. KELLY DENIES CHARGES OF GRAFT

Gives Evidence Before the Chinese Commission at Vancouver

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 20.—"I never made a five cent piece out of graft in any party in all my life."

Mr. Robert Kelly, concluded his evidence at the Chinese commission by flinging back in the teeth of those who made the charges of graft against himself and the Liberal party. He did not make the definite statement until he was invited by Mr. S. S. Taylor, who asked Mr. Kelly to reply to the charges of Mr. Martin, especially that which the erratic member of the Panamas made through the press to the effect that Mr. Kelly had sold a

chair, Kelly, who had been sitting in his chair, speaking colloquially and frequently smiling, rose to his feet with a

"I want to say to Mr. Joseph Martin, and other people that I, Robert Kelly, never made a five cent piece out of graft in this party or in any other party, any more than I made a five cent piece out of graft in the Liberal party. Of course I am treasurer of the Liberal Association and handle the funds, but when it comes down to saying that I took a cent piece for getting a man elected, I can't say that. I answer that I have not done so. I have not got to make money in that way. As for offering a judgeship for sale, I defy Mr. Martin or any other man on the face of the earth to substantiate that charge. Let any man put it down in black and white and I will prove it if he is worth going after. I have been slandered by this bunch and called everything else, but I am not a horse thief, and when I was down there it was said I had skipped out, I would run away from no one. I have gone into business and am prospering and have made a couple of hundred dollars and was working hard building up a business when Mr. Joseph Martin was flying around Victoria in a hack with his friends."

At this point Mr. Justice Murphy intervened, but Mr. Kelly also expressed his belief that no other members of the Liberal executive were making money by graft.

DEFECTIVE ENGINES DELAYED LONSDALE

Left Saturday Afternoon With Small Cargo for Mexico Maru Sails for the Orient

(From Monday's Daily.) While on her way to this city from Port Harbor, where she had been called in on Friday night, the Canadian Mexican liner Lonsdale, Capt. Bate, experienced considerable trouble with her engines and was delayed in leaving port for Salina Cruz. When running at full speed she was unable to make her regular number of knots, and on arrival here her boilers were blown out and several minor repairs made to the engines.

She left the outer wharf on Saturday afternoon with a small cargo, including principally coal and lumber. For Manzanillo she has 12,000 tons, and for Acapulco and Salina Cruz she has 5,000 tons. Seven passengers are travelling south on the steamship for different Mexican ports.

On Saturday afternoon the Osaka Shosen Kaisha liner Mexico Maru left for the Orient, carrying a capacity load, valued at over half a million dollars. At the outer wharf the steamship took on a large shipment of oats and feed from the Brackman & Ker mills.

As usual the most valuable items in the cargo of the Mexico Maru were cotton and machinery. She had 2,500 bales of cotton valued at \$154,400. The machinery cargo was valued at more than \$150,000. It consisted of various kinds of machinery, including 1,832 pieces of electrical machinery, valued at \$53,977; 141 pieces of concrete mixing machinery, valued at \$5,348; 89 pieces of mill machinery, valued at \$57,695; 64 pieces of farm machinery, valued at \$3,500; 68 fan motors, valued at \$7,970; 1,476 lamps, valued at \$14,704; 82 pieces of laundry machinery, valued at \$5,850; 45 pieces of turbine machinery, valued at \$10,000. Other items of the cargo were: 1,441 sewing machines, valued at \$28,866; 46 pieces of locomotive parts, valued at \$15,977; 2,585 boxes of salt herring, valued at \$12,955; 7,800 barrels of flour, valued at \$31,200, of which 4,454 barrels, valued at \$17,816, were laden at Tacoma and 3,346 barrels, valued at \$13,384, laden at Seattle.

Among the 52 passengers who left for the Orient on the steamship were 38 Japanese, who are being reported after serving six months in jail in Alaska for seal poaching. The captain and one of the crew of the Jap schooner, which was confiscated, remained behind to appear in some government inquiry regarding their case.

SHOCKS IN ITALY.

Rome, Feb. 20.—Telegraph lines destroyed by yesterday's earthquake, were put in order to-day and reports of the slight damage from the shock were worked here. The damage in the provinces of Tuscany was heavy.

PORTLAND IRON MASTER DEAD.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 20.—William J. Corbett, president of the Willamette Iron Works, died at his home in the city of pneumonia to-day. He had been ill for several weeks.

New Dress Goods Are Pouring in Daily

It will be very interesting when in town to visit our Dress Goods and Silk Departments as we are showing something new every day.

Five Specials

44 INCH BENGALINE SUITING, a clean even weave of good wearing quality; tan, brown, navy, reseda and electric. Per yard \$1.00

44 INCH ARBATROS SUITING in a beautiful range of colors. Particularly serviceable for Misses and Children's dresses. Yard 65¢

44 INCH FRENCH CASHMERE, a fine even cloth in the daintiest shades; pink, pale blue, champagne, grey, rose, wisteria, Persian and green. Yard 75¢

52 INCH FRENCH BROADCLOTH, satin finished and wear guaranteed. Makes handsome tailored suits and come in a full range of colors, comprising Persian and electric blue, champagne, tan, biscuit, brown, rose, taupe, mauve, sky, pink, gold, maize, cream, white, navy, myrtle and black. Special, yard \$1.75

42 INCH ARMURE SUITING, a good wearing cloth, even weave and will make up in to the most serviceable suits. Colors, myrtle, tan, taupe, reseda, grey and black. Per yard 75¢

Large Shipment of New Silks Has Arrived

Black Silks will be in great demand for the coming season. Our buyer is now in Europe attending the best markets, so large shipments are arriving weekly direct from the world's fashion centres.

BLACK CACHMIRE SUPERB SILK, a clean even weave, very silky, and wear guaranteed. Monday \$1.25

BEACH ORIENTAL SATIN now much in demand. Monday \$1.00

FANCY BROCADE LOUISIENE in light grounds with dainty floral patterns; very smart for afternoon dresses 50¢

TARTAN PLAID in red and green grounds, various claus represented 50¢

FIFTY SHADES OF NEW TAMALINE SILK 50¢

42 INCH ORIENTAL SATIN, the most favored silk of the season for evening or reception gowns. Colors, Nile, pink, pale blue, mauve, rose, Persian, reseda, cream, ivory and black. Special \$2.00

BLACK PEAU DE SOIE, extra fine quality, wear guaranteed. Every yard stamped. Monday \$1.50

Women's New Kid Gloves

PERRIN'S "MARCHELON" GLACE KID GLOVES, in navy, brown, tan, slate, beaver, green, mode, white and black; 2 clasp \$1.00

TREFOUSSE DOROTHY GLACE KID GLOVES, in navy, brown, tan, slate, beaver, mode, mauve, wine, ashes of rose, new green, black and white. Self and fancy points; 2 clasp. Price \$1.50

TREFOUSSE DELORAIN SUEDE GLOVES, in slate, tan, white and brown \$1.50

JOUVIN SUEDE GLOVES; 2 clasp. Black and slate \$1.50

DENT'S WASHABLE KID GLOVES, in pale shades, pastels, greys and white. Being able to successfully wash, this glove is of special advantage in the easily soiled shades, \$1.25

New Spring Whitewear for Children

CHILDREN'S NIGHT GOWNS, good cotton. Yoke trimmed with cluster tucks, full length sleeves. Neck and cuffs finished with embroidery ruffle. Sizes 2 to 7 years 50¢

CHILDREN'S NIGHT GOWNS of cotton. Fancy shaped yoke, high neck and long sleeves. Neck and cuffs finished with lace. Sizes 8 to 16 years 65¢

CHILDREN'S NIGHT GOWNS, of long cloth, tucked yoke. V-shaped neck edged with good embroidery. Sizes 2 to 7 years. Price 75¢

CHILDREN'S NIGHT GOWNS, of fine cotton, yoke of tucking and insertion, embroidery ruffle around sleeves, neck and down front. Sizes 8 to 16 years 75¢

CHILDREN'S NIGHTGOWNS, round neck, finished with heading and ribbon, cuffs of embroidery insertion. Sizes 2 to 7 years. Price 85¢

CHILDREN'S NIGHT GOWNS of fine cambric, Dutch neck, finished with tucking and edging, short sleeves, bell shaped. Sizes 8 to 16 years \$1.50

CHILDREN'S NIGHT GOWNS of soft nainsook, deep yoke of tucking and insertion finished with wide heading threaded with ribbon, full length sleeves trimmed with insertion and edging. Sizes 8 to 16 years \$1.50

CHILDREN'S SKIRTS, with waists, two rows of embroidery insertion above deep hem. Sizes 1 to 7 years 50¢

CHILDREN'S SKIRTS, without waists, fine cotton, trimmed with deep ruffle of lawn, edged with lace. Sizes 8 to 16 years. 65¢

CHILDREN'S SKIRTS, with waists, low neck and armholes, trimmed with lace, skirt finely tucked and finished with two rows of lace insertion and edging. Sizes 1 to 7 years 75¢

CHILDREN'S SKIRTS, without waists, of fine cambric, finished with deep lawn frill edged with a four-inch lace ruffle. Sizes 8 to 16 years \$1.00

DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED

A MUSICAL SOUL AND BAD CHEQUES

Giblett Tells Original Story With Engaging Frankness and Receives Long Sentence

(From Monday's Daily.)

His fondness for music, and his shortness of money, led Eric Giblett into issuing two cheques, one for \$500 to the Montellus Piano House, Ltd., and one for \$1,000 to Hicks & Lovick, which brought him before the police court on two charges of forgery, and led to the unfolding of an ingenious but unsatisfactory plan to get free entertainment and satisfaction for a musical soul. Giblett was this morning sentenced to serve nine months on each charge, the sentences to run concurrently, and to commence at the expiration of seven months, which he received on Friday on similar charges.

Giblett, who had pleaded guilty to passing cheques at the Dominion hotel and on Waitt & Co., and was sentenced to seven months imprisonment, told the court, when faced with the charge of issuing a forged cheque for \$500 to the Montellus Piano House, Ltd., that he had an extreme fondness for music and had called on the piano people for the purpose of passing the time and of getting satisfaction for his musical desires. He thought if he proposed to buy a piano he would be welcomed by the store people, who would play to him and maybe allow him to play to himself. He negotiated the purchase of a \$500 piano, and gave a cheque on the Merchants' bank for \$500 in part payment, but did not use his own

name, signing the cheque instead by the name of G. L. Strang.

He returned late the same evening and enjoyed gramophone selections for two hours, and next day telephoned to see if the cheque had been presented. He told the magistrate his intention was, if the cheque had not been presented or returned marked "no funds," to have gone to the store and had some more music. He blamed his fondness for music for getting him into trouble.

On cross-examination he said he was born in Scotland, came to Canada and worked at Winnipeg. He lived at the Royal Alexandra hotel and still owed over \$200 there for board. He came west, visiting Calgary, and was employed in various capacities on farms and as waiter on the C. P. R. trains. He left that job at Calgary, and through the acquaintance of a Pullman car conductor came west without paying his way. At Vancouver he stayed at the Vancouver hotel till they would not stand for it any longer, and then came to Victoria and put up at the Empress. He stayed there until they refused to cash any more cheques, and then he went to the Dominion hotel, where his cheque habit laid him low.

The police have information that he visited several stores here and ordered furniture to the value of \$1,500 to be sent to his newly purchased home on the Dallas road. The furniture was sent and Giblett, or Strang, was not found. The return of the cheques through the bank led to the piano people making personal inquiries, and representatives of two of the houses he had attempted to victimize met at the house on Dallas road and upon their exchange of notes the Giblett bubble burst.

His story to the court was told with the utmost frankness, and as he did not know a J. L. Strang, which name he had used, he could not believe he had committed a forgery. On the part payment, but did not use his own

transaction he made an attempt to get \$10 on a cheque after having deposited the \$1,000 cheque with the firm. As he was unsuccessful he took the cheque round to Waitt & Co. and there obtained the money, and for that offence he received a sentence of six months.

Gideon Hicks gave evidence that Giblett had called at the store of the Hicks & Lovick Company, Ltd., and bought a Grand piano for \$1,500. He gave a cheque for \$1,000, signed an order for the firm to receive a piano at Winnipeg for which he was to be allowed \$400, and gave a note for the balance of the purchase. He told Mr. Hicks he had to go to Vancouver to bring his wife, and asked for cash on the \$10 cheque which he afterwards cashed at Waitt's music store. This morning he confessed that he had no wife, and no money to buy piano with. He also said he had no intention to defraud.

Several cheques which he presented to the Empress hotel are expected to be brought against him by the police. One of Giblett's fine touches was to register at the Empress and issue cheques there. To make these good he went to a telephone outside the hotel and telephoned that he was the manager of a local bank. He gave the hotel a message that Eric Giblett had a credit of \$400 in the bank and that his account was good. He then went back and presented other cheques. Some of these were signed "G. L. Strang" and drawn on a Winnipeg bank.

TWENTY OUTLAWS KILLED.

Manila, Feb. 20.—News has reached here of the wounding of Captain Prouse and three American soldiers in a running fight with 20 outlaws in the region of Linao, in which 20 bandits were killed. The outlaws put up such a stubborn resistance that it required four days for a combined force of soldiers and constabulary to put the bandits to flight.

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