

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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A NEEDED INSTITUTION

One of the greatest needs of Victoria at the present time is a University School for girls. There are institutions for boys, although they are not large enough, and in St. Ann's College excellent education is given to girls. The accommodations of that institution are necessarily limited and it goes without saying that many people would prefer to have their girls trained in some school other than one presided over by the members of any religious order, no matter how estimable they may be or how free in their work of instruction of anything resembling sectarian bias.

While the members of the University Commission were unable to see that Victoria or its vicinity offers ideal opportunities for educational advantages, every one in British Columbia, except those who will not see it, fully realize the fact. A Girls' University school here would draw pupils from the whole Pacific Northwest and be not only an exceedingly useful, but also a highly profitable institution.

We have plenty of rich people in this town who could provide the money necessary for such an institution with ease, and we are confident that they would find it an investment that would yield a good return in dividends. We feel so confident on this point that we believe it is only necessary for a qualified person to take the matter in hand to bring it to a successful issue.

LAND POLICY

We are told that it is mistaken policy for the government of the province to use the proceeds of land sales to meet current needs. The contention is that the permanent assets of the province are being expended as though they were income. This is a specious argument, but it is not sound. The government is engaged in a task that, relative to the limited population of the province, may be called gigantic. Moreover, it is necessary. Millions must be spent in public works and of these the greater part are of permanent utility. It is impossible, for example, to estimate the value of a trunk highway. It is of value not only to those who will make use of it when it is first made, but will remain a permanent asset of value to the people for all time to come. If it is paid for with the price obtained for unimproved assets of the province, the case is only one of exchanging an unvalued asset for one that will be immediately used, and by its use will render the whole country better off. If we could get along without roads, bridges, trails, public buildings, schoolhouses and so on, it would not be necessary to sell the public domain; but as such, improvements are needed, and the alternative to paying for them out of land sales and timber receipts is to borrow the money or collect it by direct taxation, we submit that the plan pursued by the government is more in the interest of the people of the province than any other that could be suggested.

If the lands sold could be taken out of the country, there would be something in the contention that assets ought not to be parted with for even money to pay for permanent improvements; but the land remains here. As soon as it is sold it becomes taxable. It is certain to be improved, if not immediately at least within a few years, and when it is improved the resulting benefit to the whole province will be immeasurable. We have in mind a certain area of ungranted Crown Lands in this province at present under reserve. It is the source of no revenue whatever nor does it add a single dollar's worth to the business of the country. If it were cut up into farms, and roads were made through it, the area would shortly be occupied by farmers. Now what is the wisest course, to let this land remain as it is, or to open it to settlers? We suppose every one will say the latter would be the wiser. How shall it be opened to settlers? By means of road and bridges. Who ought to pay for these roads and bridges? The people in the older parts of the province, who have already paid for the development of their own localities, or the people who will directly enjoy the advantage of those roads and bridges? The area in question must remain closed to settlers until the government either taxes the people in other parts of the province to make roads through it or borrows the money and charges the interest and sinking fund up to the whole province, or sell the land

and pay for the improvements out of the proceeds. It is hardly necessary to say that the last course would be preferable to the others.

We do not suggest that this is the exact way in which this matter of land sales and improvements works out; that is, we do not suggest that the proceeds of sales in any particular district are used for improvements in that district. We take the case as an example of the way the system adopted by the government operates. Those who object to the sale of land and clamor for what they call a broad and progressive land policy seem to fail to realize that such a policy would cost a great deal of money, and that if it could not be procured from the sale of land, it would have to be raised by taxation. We are far from saying that experience and investigation may not show how the land policy of the government may be enlarged with advantage. On the contrary we think it will; but any change that is made ought only to be after mature consideration. In the course of a year or two it will be possible to form a pretty good idea of how the present policy will eventually in regard to placing settlers on the land, and we may then all be in a better position to determine what is the best course to adopt than any of us are now.

THE PRICE OF CONSOLS

A writer in the London Times discusses the low price of Consols, which between 1894 and 1897 reached the unprecedented price of 114 and are now selling at about 80. As these securities represent the credit of the government of the United Kingdom, anything bearing on their value is of general interest. A decline of 24 points, even if spread over fourteen years, is a very notable thing and might easily be misunderstood by the uninitiated. One contributing cause, the automatic reduction of the interest in 1908 from 3 to 2½ per cent, was of itself sufficient to cause an immediate decline in price; for not even conservative investors are content with such a small earning upon their capital, especially as there are other securities practically as safe as Consols, that pay considerably more. At the present selling price Consols realize about 1½ per cent to their holders, which is surely as little as one ought to be expected to be content with. At this price the demand becomes very cheap, the price is not likely to advance. In 1894, 1895 and part of 1896 money was so abundant in London that loans were made for short periods at as low as ¼ of 1 per cent per annum, and for a full year at 2 per cent. Consols were then paying 3 per cent, and it is not surprising that they immediately went above par. At this time also these were the only securities that were recognized as sufficient for the investment of trust funds; but now many Colonial issues are recognized by the court. These latter securities yield a higher income than Consols, and hence trustees, desiring to make a maximum profit for their estates consistent with safety, prefer those issues which yield the larger returns. The inference drawn by the Times writer seems to be that until cheaper money is available the price of Consols will continue low. The present price is in no way indicative of the credit of the British government, but is due solely to the fact that investors can make better use of their money than invest in Consols at a higher price than 80 or thereabouts. The tremendous expansion of business all the world over is likely to prevent the advent of a period of cheap money.

Russia seems to be seeking a cause of quarrel with China, and threatens it a reply more satisfactory than that which has come to hand is not forthcoming. She will seize a province in Chinese Turkestan. This would be much safer under existing conditions than to occupy territory further East, although most people will think that, at a time when the plague is rife in parts of China, it would be just as well to abandon the thought of military movements.

We are very much disposed to favor the idea that there ought to be legislation in this province to preserve the right of dower against testamentary disposition by a husband. Possibly in view of the frequent transfers of real property in British Columbia it is unwise to require that a married woman shall join in the execution of every conveyance in token of relinquishment of her right of dower; but we do not think any man should be in a position to divest his wife of any right to enjoy an interest in his estate after his death, especially as the wife often does her full share in making it possible for her husband to have property to leave to anyone. In some of the Pacific coast States all property acquired after marriage either by a husband or wife is community property, unless it is otherwise provided in

the conveyance thereof. Each of them owns an undivided half interest.

Rain in Central Alaska in February is a very unusual thing. Two inches have fallen on at Tanana. There is no previous record of such a thing.

It is edifying to see certain Liberal papers attacking Mr. Clifford Sifton. Time was when everything he said was law and gospel to them.

The New York Herald has taken a poll of the United States Senate and has reached the conclusion that a majority of 23 for the agreement is certain if a vote is reached during the present session of Congress.

The Saturday Evening Post does not usually find much to say about Canada, but in its last issue it informs its many readers that the idea of Canada being a land of pauper labor and a low standard of living is absolute nonsense. It is strange how such a fallacy lingers in the minds of otherwise well-informed people south of the boundary line.

A proposal has been made in Toronto to make the street car fare to persons who have to stand up only 2 cents. We fear the adoption of such a system will have a bad effect upon the manners of the people of Toronto. Just at present if a man gives up his seat to a lady, he gets credit for politeness, but if by standing up he will save 3 cents, he would certainly be regarded as influenced by mercenary motives.

A statement has been going the rounds of the papers to the effect that Mr. Lemieux had at one time favored annexation. The Postmaster-general replying to a statement to that effect made in the House of Commons said that it arose out of the fact that when he was a young man he took part in a debate of an academic nature. He was assigned to speak for independence, and to two others were given the advocacy of imperial federation and annexation respectively. Rather poor politics that, which goes back to a man's debating school days to discover grounds for questioning his loyalty to Canada.

Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Minister, stated in Parliament recently that His Majesty's government looks with great favor upon recent proposals from the United States looking to a conference on international arbitration. He is reported as saying that Mr. Reid conferred with him on the matter in December, when he informed the American Ambassador that his government had the deepest interest in the plan for an international agreement, and for this purpose would be prepared to enter upon a frank and full exchange of views with the United States government on the subject, and to lend support to any well considered and practical proposition that might be put forward by the American government. Sir Edward said the British government would welcome the joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives and would look forward with interest to the conclusions arrived at.

The resolution moved in the House of Commons by Mr. F. D. Monk, which was adopted unanimously read as follows: "Before resuming the study of the conditions of the Customs arrangement concluded between the Government of Canada and the President of the United States and to calm the uneasiness created in Canada by the comments made in the two countries relative to the political consequences of this arrangement, this House strongly affirms its resolution to maintain intact the bonds which unite Canada to the British Empire and the full liberty for our own people to control their fiscal policy and its internal autonomy." In the debate on this resolution, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fielding said it was unnecessary, and this is quite true in one sense of the word, but sometimes things that are unnecessary are nevertheless timely. The resolution was a proper answer to the nonsense talked by Messrs. Clark and Bennett in the United States House of Representatives.

Hunt For Murderers

BAKER CITY, Ore., March 2.—Sheriff Rand, of Baker county, with a posse from this city assisted by nearly every male resident of the town of Haines, have been scouring the surrounding country all day in their search for the murderers of Edward McCullough, who was shot down in his saloon at Haines at midnight last night. The officers have kept a sharp watch over every ranch house in the valley, and none has been approached by any one whose identity was unknown. The men had no food supplies when they left Haines, and it is thought they will get hungry and venture out of their hiding places before long. Thus far the officials are completely baffled up to the present time have secured absolutely no clue as to the whereabouts of the holdups. Bloodhounds were put on the trail today, but were useless.

The One Price
Store—Prices
Never VaryThe One Price
Store—Prices
Never VarySpringtime
in the New Lace Curtains

With the advent of this glorious weather and the coming of the Spring blossoms arises the urgent question of curtains. The brilliant sunshine brings the deficiencies out very prominently. Let us draw your attention to the fact that we are splendidly equipped to satisfactorily supply you with everything to beautify your windows and embellish your home.

Irish Point, Point Venise, Swiss Applique Curtains

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

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

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

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

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

Scotch and Nottingham Lace Curtains, From 75c per Pair

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

Scotch and Nottingham Lace Curtains, from, per pair.....75c

Curtain Material by the Yard

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

Scotch Cream Madras

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

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

Scotch Colored Madras

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

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

All Over Filet and Bungalow Nets

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

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

White Swiss Muslin

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

White Swiss Muslin, 35 to 52 inches, from, per yard.....20c

Things You Should See

Our Broughton Street windows will attract you, we know. The few rugs that we have there are beautiful, but to gain the full benefit of this very large new shipment it is necessary for you to visit our second floor. Here we have a bewildering display of these, everything of the highest quality and all at most reasonable prices. If it is not convenient for you to come in the daytime, you can visit our store this evening. We keep open on Saturdays till 9:30. We would also like to draw your attention to our immense new shipment of Whitney Baby Carriages. We have a few in our Government Street windows. It will save you money to turn your attention to these new carriages.

SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY IN OUR SUNDAY'S AD—IT WILL INTEREST YOU ALL

Order
Your Goods
By Mail

WEILER BROS

It's a Waste
of Time
to Look
Elsewhere

IRISH

The Irish are the most interesting people of origin is lost in the mists of time. They are said to be of Celtic origin, and means only that the great family of people and Western Europe. The word migration of the Irish was mentioned in some months ago, for supposing that they migrated from elsewhere, it is not probable that the Troglodites or cave-dwellers, a surmise based upon such cave-dwellers as the existence of a Celtic migration of the Irish in centuries before the grants from Southward as the time of Plutarch. Irish as a nation was distinguished writer said history from remote times. The Irish nation is now called Irish chroniclers tell Bochy I, who lived years before Christ, into seven grades, of its dress, and that of learning; that is a law, ranked next to who was one of Eochu temporary of David, ed what was known Triennial Parliament consisted of the ate princes and chief the law-givers, priest historians another, der the third. The Ard-Ri, and under kings.

The population of time homogeneous. of the races. Not very them, except that a Chronicles a party of eight or nine centuries assigned to the siege of land to Greece, where time, finally returning. Another branch of it was known as the E. are said to have been who ruled in Spain before the Christian Ireland is put at a date ish exodus from Egypt. ous tribes there was although they seem to culty in uniting again. They were exceedingly only people in Western shoulders the yoke of who were able to keep ing overrun by the N.

The Irish as a race tive and inclined to a religion of mystery them, and in no part introduction attended in Ireland. St. Patrick century of our era, but been stated, the first of the people. The religion a foothold when it appeared on the scene. been to eliminate the from the people as received it, and to spread island to which it came. He established schools laid the foundation of Ireland became the Western Europe. The his history of Ireland, that Irish scholars in learning as Bangor, Clonmacnoise, pursue along independent line influenced by the subtle was created so much church in the East. these schools carried conceptions of Christianity, Switzerland and Italy. He says they trine that met with criticism from Rome, even throw open to them and very many England. Indeed it is Irish culture had very ing the whole trend of Western Europe and too far to say that the people remained faithful idea of Christianity teaching of the schools the movement, headed Latimer and others, vated with the reform gestion will not, perhaps many members of the and yet the fact remains for reform was confined those countries where the thought of students ence between Ireland, England, Scotland, France Switzerland on the other here mentioned out of it.