

The Colonist.

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THE IMPERIAL CORONATION

The coronation ceremonies at Delhi passed off with great splendor. His Imperial Majesty, for such is his title in India, we assume, appears to have well judged the temper of the people of the Dependency for there does not seem to have been a single jarring note in the whole ceremony. At the present writing details of the event are lacking, and these will be of very great interest. We do not now refer to the pageantry inseparable from such an occasion, which it is easy to believe must have exceeded in gorgeousness anything that has transpired in modern times, but to the actual coronation itself. This part of the ceremony was unique. King Edward was proclaimed Emperor of India, but Queen Alexandra was not proclaimed Empress. It will be interesting to learn if the Associated Press dispatch which says "George V. and Queen Mary were proclaimed today Emperor and Empress of India" is correct. The point is one of more than a curious interest for if it is true a new thing has happened in India, and in the event of His Majesty predeceasing his wife she would remain Empress, a condition of things that seems wholly improbable. We draw attention to this matter in the interest of accuracy only, merely suggesting that readers should not take the language of the Associated Press too literally until it has been corroborated.

In respect to the coronation there will be only one feeling among British people everywhere, and that will be one of profound gratification that His Majesty had the wisdom to determine upon the outward and visible demonstration of British supremacy in India, and that the occasion was so completely successful. No small amount of courage was requisite to support His Majesty in the resolve to visit India at a time when discontent was abroad in the land, but the royal House has never been deficient in that virtue of kings. The gentle lady, who shares his high honors exhibited the same splendid quality. She well knows the risks attaching to royalty, but she faced them without fear, sustained by her strong sense of duty and confidence that the good will of her husband and herself would find a response in the breasts of the people of India. And now that the occasion with all its splendor is at an end, it seems fitting to look at the human side of the case. Husband and wife left their children at home to face their duty and confidence that the good will of her husband and herself would find a response in the breasts of the people of India. And now that the occasion with all its splendor is at an end, it seems fitting to look at the human side of the case. Husband and wife left their children at home to face their duty and confidence that the good will of her husband and herself would find a response in the breasts of the people of India.

B. C. TELEPHONE RATES

The B. C. Telephone Company has announced its intention of increasing the rates for business telephones by a dollar a month. This we are given to understand will apply both in Victoria and Vancouver. Without any hesitation let us say that we are opposed to this increase; that we regard it as in the nature of an imposition and intend to combat its introduction by every means in our power. Here are a few facts that may be of interest to the public. Mr. Halse, the secretary of the company gives as a reason for the increase that it has been found necessary to raise the wages of linemen and other employees. The Victoria business district contains from 1,400 to 1,500 telephones, which with the extra dollar a month will mean an increased revenue of some \$1400 a month to the company. If we are correctly informed the amount to be imposed through additional wages paid out to the Victoria employees will not exceed \$150 per month. Thus the company's added income drawn from this city will leave a net monthly balance of at least \$1,250 to provide for "other contingencies."

In Vancouver, which is also included in the proposed change there are said to be some 5,000 business telephones. The increase in that city will mean an added income to the company of \$5,000 per month. Let us suppose for the sake of argument that some fifty employees of the company will benefit by the raise in wages. It is not an unreasonable assumption to make a day, and that there

are thirty working days in the month. The company will thus pay out an additional \$275 per month, and will have created a clear increased net revenue of \$4,625 per month. This is equal annually to \$55,600 or 55-6 per cent on a million dollars. In Victoria the clear net revenue will have been increased by \$15,000 annually, equal to 5 per cent on \$300,000.

Let us go further and tell Victorians something of the treatment which they have been receiving at the hands of the company. This city has been without a wire chief since the end of November. One is expected, we are given to understand, but he has not yet arrived. A cable man who was employed here at \$4.50 a day was taken to Vancouver his place being filled by an apprentice who received \$2.50. A cable helper who was working here and getting \$2.50 was replaced by an employee at \$2.25. Owing to a tree which fell across the wires on Fort street the residents of the Oak Bay and Willows districts—whose there are over 200 subscribers—were deprived of the use of the service for a number of days. The repairing work was being done by the apprentice cable man mentioned above, for a portion of the time at least, after which a thoroughly competent man was brought over from Vancouver. With efficient employees engaged the disorganized system could have been effectively repaired in at least two days. Up to two years ago the telephones in the city were inspected and cleaned once in six weeks, but for the past twenty-four months this practice has been discontinued. From a sanitary standpoint this lack of supervision does not meet with the approval of the subscribers.

Victorians have hitherto shown considerable faith in the B. C. Telephone company, regarding it as an important factor in the upbuilding of the city. On January 15th last the ratepayers pledged their credit to the extent of \$100,000 to enable the company to place its wires in underground conduits. The Colonist strongly advocated the passing of the bylaw believing it to be in line with the proper advancement of the city. We still are of opinion that the doing away with the unsightly poles and the overhead network of wires is a move in the right direction.

Reverting to the decision of the company to increase its rates for telephones in the business area by a dollar a month we are given to understand that this drastic change is being inaugurated at the suggestion of a number of new employees. This is not right. We have, we think, proved that the increase decided upon is altogether out of proportion to the additions it is proposed to grant in wages. We have illustrated that it will mean a very largely increased income to the company for which the public must pay and for which they in return have no reason to hope for additional benefits. It has been shown that the needs of the system as installed here are being catered to in an inefficient manner and that the company instead of reciprocating the faith reposed in it by the ratepayers is seeking to benefit unwarrantably at their expense. These it seems are legitimate reasons why we should protest against the increase in the rates for business telephones, and we intend to keep on protesting until the company withdraws from its altogether untenable position.

TERMINAL FACILITIES

At the meeting of the Council of the Board of Trade yesterday there was some discussion of the interesting and important fact that between Victoria and Ladysmith fully one hundred freight cars are lying loaded for Victoria, which cannot be brought into the city because of the lack of terminal facilities. No criticism was made because the members realized that the E. & N. railway is doing all it can with the trackage available. Interest attaches to the fact because it shows how the business of the city is growing. Many readers will remember the time of the agitation in favor of the Victoria Terminal railway, which was intended to bring in freight over the Victoria and Sidney, when we were told that the Charmer could furnish all the accommodation needed by Victoria business men, and how a transfer barge was brought to Ladysmith with a couple of freight cars aboard, and these were run down to the station on Store street to demonstrate that Victoria already had car-ferry connection with the Mainland, but really had no use for it. If ever there was a case of any one being "hoist with his own petard" it was the E. & N. on this occasion. The demonstration was intended to put an end to the agitation for the bringing of goods in cars into Victoria, and its effect was to make the merchants insist that they should be so brought. For reasons which need not now be discussed the Victoria terminal project did not prove to be of its expected advantage, although it is a useful factor in the carrying trade of the city; but the E. & N. has since then handled thousands of cars of freight both in and out, and its business of this class has completely outgrown its present facilities. This state of things affords the best possible proof that Victoria is advancing with strong, rapid and steady strides as a business centre. The fact is important because it

casts some light upon the probable demands of the future. We do not wish to be understood as even remotely forecasting the decision to which the provincial government will come in respect to the former Songhees reserve, when we say that the idea held by many of us only a few years ago that there was abundant space on the reserve for a public park, a passenger station, freight sheds, car barns, sidings, machine shops, warehouses and coal bunkers must be dismissed as quite an inadvisable conception of the requirements of Victoria in the very near future. The people of this city must begin to think of matters in connection with transportation along much broader lines than have hitherto seemed sufficient.

Another reason why this fact is of great importance is because of the bearing it has upon the coming of the Canadian Northern. It shows that there will be plenty of business for the car-ferry which this railway has contracted to maintain between its Island and Mainland systems. It is also a part of that contract that the company shall establish its carshops at or in the immediate vicinity of Victoria and Sir Donald Mann is on record as saying that this city is to be the headquarters for the whole Island system. It is also reasonable to believe that the E. & N. will pursue a similar policy. Within a very few years, both these railways will be extended to the north end of the Island, and terminal facilities, which seem adequate now, will then be found to be utterly insufficient.

In the above observations we have alluded to Victoria only in connection with local trade. We have not spoken of it as a National port nor do we propose to do so today, further than to say that when this expectation is realized, the area that will be devoted here to terminals will be very extensive. A gentleman who has an intimate knowledge of conditions in many parts of the world is our authority in stating that the plans for the port of Victoria ought to include the whole area between Macaulay Point on the west and the point opposite Menzies street on the east, including both sides of the Inner Harbor. We do not believe that this is an extravagant suggestion.

A WORD TO FARMERS

It is the plain, unvarnished truth that the farmers in the vicinity of Victoria are not doing what they ought to do to provide this city with the necessities of life, and they are thereby losing the chance to make money. We know very well what answer will be made to this statement. We will be told that labor is too scarce, that all the good men get employment in the towns at wages no farmer could afford to pay and that the poor ones are not worth hiring. We do not underrate the importance of this objection, but the fact remains that the market is not sufficiently supplied with home grown produce. Said a farmer to whom this remark was made the other day: "It does not pay to send our produce into town," and he went on to give reasons why it does not pay. These reasons were serious ones, and yet the fact remains that we have the soil, the climate and the unsupplied market for the things which the soil can produce.

We are writing about this now so that farmers may think it over during the season which will elapse before it is time to put in crops. Is there not some way in which the home market can get more home produce? In certain lines, certain parts of the community have discovered the way to successful production. Of these the Cowichan creamery furnishes a conspicuous example. Cannot more be done along this line? Cannot the farmers get more closely in touch with the consumer than he now is? It is a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy on the part of anyone to discourage farmers to grow produce for the local markets, and it is said that such discouragements exist. The farmers ought to take matters in their own hands more than they do.

We are told by some critics that British prestige in the East is going to suffer very greatly from what is about to happen in Persia. It might not be a bad idea to wait and see what is going to happen.

Hitherto the decreasing birth-rate in France has been the subject of a great deal of discussion and other nations, Germany especially, have been congratulating themselves that they were free from this symptom of national decadence. But Germany's statistics are giving her cause for alarm, and the natural increase of the population has for a short time back been at a standstill. We notice also that the returns of the last quarter show a marked decline of the birth rate in England and Wales. Queen Wilhelmina, of Holland, has sold her great private library, which she inherited. She has done so because very many of the oldest books are very naughty indeed, and she did not want her little daughter to read them. At one time she thought of destroying them, but was persuaded not to do so because of their value historically. It is a pity that some one had not been at hand with similar advice, when religious zeal destroyed the great Alexandrian Library and the books of the Mayans of Yucatan.

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Some E
As this is the flowering shrubs, few of the best of in gardens so much London Times. Timid in his use of from ignorance and not know what to look well grown in indeed, the very sound, suggesting growth that is in gardens look large no reason why shrubs in a shrub like other flowering grow too large, most of them can and so kept compact less hardy plants if they must be planting the following: Aesculus parviflora a dwarf species of a spreading bush white scented flowers some time and its foliage is beautiful one end of a large pruning, but should it makes many such is a rampant grower back of a large border rich soils and in about 8 feet high, tender flowers with the variety Veitchii. Most species of C. are the finest of wall flowers, however, is hardy, grows though of south of England, may kill it. It has plumage of last The variety Gloire Choisyana ternata for light soils, and protection of a wall after flowering. their best in May beautiful at all shrub for a large only about 4 feet. Cistus—There is hardness and of the hardest at 5 feet high, and C. cypricus (common) is like it but grows purple blotches as hardy. C. crispus, and grows all in most winters. It is brighter and a most valuable but less hardy, and bright yellow brown; it is a lot increased by layers and a magnificent grower feet high, and long time. It is of England. C. between this and able. All Cistus can endure any established, and after flowering, they are far hardy posed. Clethra—The they deserve, are late flowering, and perhaps the high and has white flowers. The variety later and has a large species, in ordinary light from drought up Of the many mention only C. spring flowering which is equally ed in fairly rich suckers and spr across. It is in rock gardens or It also looks well it can spread down cantha is a very ing shrub. It has It grows 2ft. to der blue flowers seems to be quite fact—that after times flowers to in good soil in a wood should be Escallonia m open in the South from north and tiful shrub both grows quickly. hardy, but not