

The Colonist

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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Many pleasant things happen in newspaper work, but it is seldom seen our good fortune to receive a letter which was as gratifying as the following:

Editorial Department The Charlottetown Guardian (Independent) Prince Edward Island's Newspaper. Guaranteed average circulation of at least 7,000 per day for both Morning and Rural Editions. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. April 10, 1908.

Dear Sir,—Just a line (across the continent) to say how greatly I appreciate the Sunday edition of the Colonist. Among a hundred exchanges there are few, if any, over which I linger so long. "An Hour with the Editor" is especially enjoyed from week to week. Pardon this from one who has spent forty years in newspaper work.

Faithfully yours, J. E. B. McCready, Ed. Guardian.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Industrial Canada has three letters from prominent business men on the business outlook. One of them is from Mr. Byron E. Walker, President of the Bank of Commerce. He speaks from the banker's standpoint, and says that "while there is much in the present situation to cause men to be unusually careful and prudent, there is nothing to warrant the belief that, provided the crops of 1908 are normal, we shall not before long be again in a quite prosperous condition." He thinks the existing curtailment of business is desirable, and is the surest means by which we can hope to have matters return rapidly to a normal condition.

Mr. C. C. Ballantyne, of the Sherwin-Williams Company, Montreal, "can see no reason for any one entertaining any other but the most optimistic views in reference to the continued prosperity and development of our country with all her diversified interests." We quote further from his letter: "Business all over the country is rapidly improving and with a favorable spring, and money easier, trade conditions will soon return to their normal activity. Our great railways are not slackening their efforts, and are pushing forward their large development schemes with all energy and enthusiasm, for the present and future greatness of our country."

Now is the time in our history for all true Canadians to be imbued with well-directed optimistic enthusiasm, for have we not every reason to be? There is nothing pertaining to the situation from any standpoint in Canada to cause us to feel otherwise. Let us all put our shoulder to the wheels of commerce with greater vigor than ever and make the most of 1908.

Mr. W. H. Bowley, President of the E. Eddy Co. of Hull, says that he delayed answering the question put to him until he had full details for 1907, and later reports from all over Canada. We quote the greater part of his letter, in full in fact, except the introductory paragraphs, which are simply formal.

Mr. Mullen, our joint manager, last summer made a tour of the West, visited every branch and agency, saw most of our customers in the wholesale grocery and jobbing trade, between Hull and Victoria, B.C. On his return, I went to the Eastern Maritime Province and visited nearly every city and large town in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and saw hundreds of our customers and merchants in all lines of trade. Thus we have talked with the greatest number of our customers and business men in all parts of Canada, and find that while caution was plainly observed everywhere in the purchase of the wares and supplies required, and while there was an earnest effort, in some cases anxiety, to meet payments and reduce stocks a little so as not to be overloaded, with a well-defined determination to shorten up credits and reduce outstanding indebtedness, there was no panic, no distress, and no real cause for discouragement; there was, however, a little setback for some thirty days last fall, but the slight depression and hesitation noticeable in business in Canada in the latter part of October, and early days of November, was soon got over, and trade has since been good.

We did more business in 1907 than in 1906. January and February of 1908 show larger sales and better payments than in any January or February for seven years past.

Although our sales for 1907 showed a satisfactory increase for the year, there were still some rumblings and murmurings about business falling off, and so on, so we had a conference of our managers, agents, and representatives from one end of Canada to the other, to find out what the actual conditions were during the first six weeks of this year (1908), and what their opinion was of the outlook for the rest of the year. The result of the conference fully justified the information we had gathered, and the view we had held, viz., that while care and caution had been exercised in the purchase of goods, and merchants were anxious and determined to pay off their debts, and although there was some fear in some quarters, there was no cause for anxiety either as to the amount of business or the volume of trade that will be done this year in Canada in staple articles and goods that are in daily use.

About payments, and answering particularly your enquiry, we find them satisfactory in every respect. Out of a very large number of customers on our books, over 95 per cent. in number and nearly 98 per cent. in amount, pay within 30 days, the bulk of them in ten days, from date of invoice.

We think these views of men in a position to judge of business conditions are very satisfactory. In our own city the depression has really not been felt at all, and it is highly satisfactory to know that throughout the whole country things are in so satisfactory a condition as the above letters demonstrate.

BRITISH IMMIGRATION

Mr. J. Obed Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Immigration, who is well known in Victoria, and now is in London as the representative of the Canadian government has sent to the London Standard a copy of a letter, which he addressed to Mr. W. F. Hamilton, Chairman of the Church Army, who had remonstrated against the requirements of our government in regard to assisted emigrants. We have not seen Mr. Hamilton's remonstrances, but take it that he objected to the requirement provided in the regulations in respect to immigrants having some means at their command before being permitted to land in the Dominion for Mr. Smith says:

The intending emigrant has an interest that cannot be lost sight of by the Canadian Government, and nothing more cruel and inhuman could be conceived than to allow (not to seduce) an unfortunate family to dispose of their few remaining worldly possessions wherewith to help pay for the passage money, and, having unhappily been refused admission to Canada, are returned by the steamship company to England, destitute, and minus even the comfort of the attenuated list of worldly possessions they once had. Surely it is better such should know before parting with their belongings that they are unsuitable and liable to rejection at the port of landing in Canada.

We do not see what exception can be taken to this statement, for we can think of nothing more unfortunate than the condition of a family brought to Canada under alluring promises only to be sent back penniless. But some well-meaning people in England may ask why they should be sent back, and why the country so rich as Canada cannot permit penniless immigrants to land. The answer is that a penniless family in one of our seaboard cities, with no friends, without knowledge of the country, without the slightest idea which way to turn to get work, is in about as sad a condition as can well be imagined. To people to whom Canada is not more than a geographical expression it may seem as though when once an immigrant has set foot on a Canadian dock the wheat fields and the railway lines under construction are a few hours' walk off. It is the truth, and it cannot be too generally understood that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred a penniless and friendless immigrant dumped ashore at St. John or Montreal is in an infinitely worse position than he would be if he had remained in England.

Joseph Chamberlain sent a message from Cannes wishing him success. The association of such eminent and distinguished personages with the cause seems to establish that it is to be more than ordinarily important, and further particulars will be awaited with much interest.

The Russian invasion of Persia, although it is only a punitive expedition, may prove very troublesome. The disturbance created by the Kurds within Russia's sphere of influence as defined by the treaty with Great Britain, but possibly Turkey may feel that she has something to say on the subject.

All the daily newspapers in the Dominion of Canada and many in the United States yesterday morning proclaimed the fact that the city of Victoria, B.C., led every city in Canada in bank clearings during the week just closed. There could be no better proof than this, but we never heard of it.

Now we are told that the financial panic of last fall was the result of a conspiracy and that proof can be forthcoming. Most of us thought the fact first mentioned was true, but few supposed that its truth could be demonstrated. It is to be hoped that the evidence which will be forthcoming, although we fear that if the case were made out the reprisals which the people of the United States would demand, would be revolutionary.

All England is aroused over an official disclosure of the fact that the engine drivers get insufficient sleep, a number of railway disasters being directly attributed to this circumstance. The surprising thing about this is that such a condition of affairs should be found to exist in England—the cradle of reform. Possibly, however, there may be a lesson in this which could be taken to heart in railway circles outside of England.

THE BY-LAWS VOTE

The citizens of Victoria are under great obligations to the eight hundred people who voted on Thursday upon the four by-laws. Only about one person in five qualified to vote thought it worth his while to go to the polls, which discloses an apathy in public matters that is somewhat surprising, although not unusual. It is true that the favorable vote in each case is to be regarded as an expression of confidence in the City Council, as we may assume that those who did not vote were quite content to accept the judgment of the Mayor and Aldermen, for if they were not, the assumption is that they would have voted against the by-laws. But such an exhibition of apathy is doubt to be regretted, and arouses a doubt as to the expediency of submitting matters of such a kind to a vote of the ratepayers. We are constantly told that ratepayers on real estate have a greater and more permanent interest in the welfare of the community than other people, although as a matter of fact we all know that this is not the case. Thursday's voting justifies the gravest doubt as to the actual practical value of this interest. The wisdom of placing the control of the permanent improvement of this city in the hands of people, the majority of whom are absolutely indifferent about it, is certainly open to question if the vote on Thursday is to be taken as a criterion.

Needless to say, the Colonist is very much gratified at the ratification of the by-laws. It is gratifying to the City Council to carry into effect important public works. A large schoolhouse is just approaching completion in Victoria West and another is to be erected in the North end. There is also a site for another in the South end to be purchased. These things indicate growth better than anything else. The extension of the sewerage system is another indication of growth, and perhaps the most interesting result of the voting is the adoption of the high-pressure system of fire protection. By this step Victoria takes a rank among Canadian cities. If we are not mistaken, no other Canadian city has adopted a separate high-pressure system for this purpose, although in all cities where piping is laid upon for a water supply, high pressure is available to a greater or less extent in case of fire. This decision of the ratepayers will add greatly to the standing of Victoria as a city, and will show where the money outlay within the city by reason of the adoption of these by-laws will be considerable, and be very welcome, although it does not appear likely that there will be a lack of employment for the next few years. Yet there are many people who, for justifiable reasons, are unwilling to leave home to take work, and these will be able to get good wages here.

Extensive street improvements are in progress; new sewers are being laid; new school accommodations are being provided; a special fire protection system is to be installed; the existing fire department is being made more efficient; new railway terminals are in course of completion; and the extension is about to materialize; new residences are going up in every direction; the demand for telephones is in excess of the available supply of instruments; travel is increasing and the rapidly increasing with improved steamship connections; bank clearings show a steady and gratifying growth, and all this at a time of alleged depression. The best of it all is that our progress as a city has only just begun.

Brains seem to be fairly well distributed in Canada. An Edinburgh boy has captured a Rhodes scholarship.

Of course there was nothing else to be done but to go on with the bridge. Let us hope that it will be built with skill and without scandal.

Mr. Kane to the G. T. F. "He who fleches from me my good name takes that which not enriches him, but makes me poor indeed."

The new White Star Leviathan is to be named the Olympic and to be 1,000 feet in length. This is the very latest announcement coming from the realm of mariner architecture, but by no means the last.

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We may as well prepare ourselves with as much fortitude as we can muster for a deluge of denunciative criticism as to the treatment of Englishmen in Canada. A Toronto dispatch yesterday was to the effect that the city engineer, Mr. Rust, replying to the complaint of alleged discrimination against Englishmen on city work, declared that "newly-arrived Englishmen are a grumbling lot of men, and they raise trouble. After they are in the country for two or three years and get settled down they are all right." One of the things that is indispensible about this matter is that Mr. Rust occupies no unique position in respect to his opinion of newly-arrived Englishmen. Similar expressions from employers have been heard all over Canada. We have on previous occasions dealt at some length with this question, and can only reiterate that we believe the chief difficulty with the average Englishman arriving in Canada is that he is too prone to suppose he has been entrusted with the mission of educating Canadians how to do things as they do "at home." Canadians are impatient of the conduct of their affairs; and when they give any man work they expect him to fall in line with those methods without demur. If an Englishman will only keep this in mind, he will find that no warmer welcome awaits him in any part of the earth than in Canada.

If you would witness some history in the making, you need but turn your eyes to the California coast cities, which are now doing honor to the off-shore and crews of the great United States battleship fleet on the conclusion of its voyage from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is difficult, sometimes, to see in these demonstrations of boyish pride and glitter attendant upon the reception ceremonies, in our neighbors, in characteristic fashion, always enter upon with much extravagant enthusiasm, and thoughtful thought will occur that there are elements in the situation profoundly serious. Here we have a mighty nation testing itself upon the sea. The United States fleet of a future today day, in a flash, as it were, it has leaped to a prominent position in the ranks of the mighty Powers of the earth seeking the mastery of the ocean. Not that its naval strength has been materially augmented over what it was a year ago, for it has not; but hereafter it will be in a position to give practical effect to its national aims and aspirations on both the Atlantic and Pacific. Beyond recognizing its new position, its changed status and higher rank as a world-power, one hesitates to attempt to suggest what the future may hold for it. Behind the veil, however, there are hidden in the womb of time problems in the solution of which it will be called upon to play an important part, problems which will mean much to all who dwell in lands whose shores are washed by the waves of the broad Pacific.

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"I heard two Denver men talking at dinner the other night. 'Hello,' said the first, 'here's a Philadelphia fellow has invented buttonless underwear.' 'Oh, that's nothing,' said the second, 'I've worn it ever since my wife got a vote.'"

After having been compelled to say some things that were not complimentary concerning Mr. Kipling's letters, it is a pleasure to be able to speak of the desired. When he expresses opinions he is quite otherwise. We observe that the Toronto Mail and Empire suggests that his references to the labor situation in England are "unpleasantly true" due to the fact that he "is writing as a sort of press agent for the big railroads," but we hardly like to think so. We prefer to think that his is a pleasure to be able to speak of the highest body uses words so coarse that the vocabulary of civilized countries does not furnish their equivalent.—New York Evening Post.

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Loveliness in Glass

Handsome "Libbey" Cut Glass Gift Pieces at Low Prices

"Libbey" Glass is unquestionably the very finest cut glass made. The greatest care, the highest possible degree of skill and artistry, the finest workshops in the world all combine to give it a "worth" and "value" that is absolutely unique. Always look for the name "Libbey" graven in each piece of the genuine. We are sole agents for this beautiful glass, and should be pleased to have the opportunity of showing you some excellent values in suitable Easter gift pieces. By all means, see our Cut Glass Room, acknowledged by travelers and others to be the finest room of its kind in Canada. Imagine the flash of polished crystal, the brilliance of scintillating facets, the flame of lighted diamonds—the offerings of the Cut Glass Room.

These Prices Give But a Faint Idea of the Offerings

- Clarets from \$10.00 to \$20.00
Whiskey Jugs, at each, \$12.00, to \$20.00
Loving Cups, at each... \$20.00
Compotes, at each... \$15.00
Centre Vases, at each... \$20.00
Ice Cream Plates, from \$15.00 to \$40.00
Vases from \$3.50 up to... \$30.00
Nappies from \$3.00 up to... \$20.00
Bowls from \$6.00 up to... \$40.00
Footed Bowls, at each... \$30.00
Puffs, at each \$3.00
Hair Receivers, at each... \$9.00
Clarets, at each, \$16.00

Rich Cut Glass or China for the Easter Bride?

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