

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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REPORT NOT SUPPRESSED

An article appeared in the evening paper yesterday which we have read with very great regret. It is headed "A Suppressed Report," and starts out with the assertion that the report of the University Commission has been handed in to the government and that in it Victoria is recommended as the site for the proposed great educational establishment. Then our contemporary alleges that this report has been in the possession of the government for a month or more, and proceeds to surmise why it has not been given to the public. It professes to disbelieve that the alleged delay can arise from a desire to enable favored persons to secure options on property and details a baseless story about a local firm having already secured a large block of real estate near the city because of inside knowledge on the subject. Then it surmises that possibly Mr. Bowser is keeping the report back and calls upon Mr. McBride to make it public and give his guarantee that he is going to act upon it.

The answer to all this tirade is that the government has not yet received the report and does not know what the Commission will recommend. Upon the appearance of the article referred to the Minister of Education was asked if there was any foundation for it and he replied as is stated in the last sentence. Mr. McBride was asked by the Colonist not many days ago when the report would be received and he said that he did not know. There is absolutely no ground for thinking that the government is not acting in perfect good faith in this matter. The absurdity of the insinuation about options and the purchase of land will be apparent when we repeat what was announced, when the Commission first met, namely that its duty was to select the location of the University in general terms and not the specific site. In other words, if the vicinity of Victoria should be chosen, as we hope it will be, we do not suppose for a moment that the commissioners will say what particular place in this vicinity shall be selected. That, as we were given to understand at that time, is a matter which the government itself will have to settle. We can assure our contemporary, and every one else, that it is the intention of the government to act upon the recommendation of the Commission and for that reason we hope the decision will be in favor of this part of the province.

SOME REASONS FOR IT.

The Ottawa Journal says: "What is the Grand Trunk Pacific paying \$300,000 for a hotel site in Victoria for? The Grand Trunk Pacific does not run to Victoria. Somebody please say." But the Grand Trunk Pacific does run to Victoria, not just at present overalls, but by means of two very fine steamships. In a few years from now the Grand Trunk Pacific will have a railway from ocean to ocean, and it will be carrying a great many people. It will be reaching out for business to the north and south as well as across the Pacific. One of the latestest things this company has done was the construction of extensive docks and warehouses in this city. It realizes that Victoria is already a great depot of travel and commerce and will be a far greater one in the immediate future. Every trip made by a G. T. P. steamer into Victoria brings some one who goes to the Empress hotel, owned by the Canadian Pacific. It is a hotel calculated to "prepossess every person in favor of the company owning it." The G. T. P. Pacific has no intention of hauling people over its line and then carrying them over to the Canadian Pacific. So poor would this sort of business be for any railway company that the Canadian Northern will also have to build a hotel here. Let the Journal's endeavor to understand the situation. A few years ago the C. P. R. completed the Empress hotel. Within a year from that time the necessity of enlarging it was realized. The enlargement has been made, but before the new part is ready for occupancy it is seen to be necessary to make another addition to it. Perhaps it will be large enough then for a few years, but we have our doubts. If the G. T. P. Pacific is completed the volume of travel to Victoria will be very much greater than it now is. If the G. T. P. Pacific did not build a hotel to take care of a part of it, the Canadian Pacific would go on enlarging. The same will be true when the Canadian Northern is built. It would suit the pioneer transcontinental

road admirably. If the later centers in the field would be content to carry the travelers and let it take care of them at the end of their journey, but we have evidence that the G. T. Pacific does not propose to be guilty of such monumental folly.

In addition to these considerations we have the fact that Prince Rupert will be essentially a G. T. Pacific town. It will owe its importance to that railway, and to the people of a large area in the interior of the province the G. T. Pacific will stand for much. When they want to visit the Capital of the Province they and the people of Prince Rupert will, in the majority of cases, travel by the G. T. Pacific boats. When the people of that part of British Columbia want a pleasant outing they are going to come to Victoria for it. If the Journal does not quite understand this, let it send some one out here to spend a week at the Empress next winter and it will require no further enlightenment than what he will tell it. Now doubtless the G. T. Pacific is a very altruistic corporation. We have never seen any striking evidence on that point, but possibly it is; but we doubt if its altruism extends far enough to lead it to carry the people of Prince Rupert and along its lines to Victoria and turn them over to a rival railway company for entertainment. There may be other reasons for the action of the company in the premises, but these seem quite sufficient. Will the Journal please make a note of them? Moreover, the G. T. Pacific will one day have its rails running into Victoria.

SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL

Among Canada's grand old men none bears the weight of his years more lightly or is inspired by a wider and more hopeful outlook than Sir Mackenzie Bowell, who has been spending a day in Victoria. To meet an erect, active and keen-looking gentleman, who tells you that he has been identified with his newspaper in one capacity or another for seventy-five years, and who speaks in the tone of one who looks forward, and not as most octogenarians do, backward, is an inspiration. His has indeed been a long and honorable career. It is one that has been an ornament to journalism, and a source of pride to the people of Canada. When one thinks that it is not far short of three score years and ten since he was entitled to cast his first ballot, one realizes how great a part of the history of Canada his busy life spans. He has played many roles including the highest that a citizen of Canada has ever taken in this country, and in them all he has shown himself to be a sane, pure and sane reproach. It is a great thing to have lived such a life, to have the number of eighty-seven years with a light heart, to have contributed much to the building up of the land which is his home, to have set an example of good citizenship and now at an age, when most men crave retirement, to be as fully alive to the issues of the day, to be as acute in his judgment and as sound in his opinions as younger men, to be just as closely in touch with national life. We think we express what is a very general hope when we say that Sir Mackenzie ought, if he has not already, to prepare his memoirs, and that he will give them to the world himself. His memory must be a storehouse of things of interest to the people of Canada.

SOME LOCAL DRAWBACKS

When we speak of the advantages of Vancouver Island, we are apt to overlook certain drawbacks, at least one might be justified in thinking they are drawbacks, when the conditions of countries, that appear to attract Englishmen, most strongly, are considered. For example, there is not a venomous reptile in the Island, except the variety that walks around on two legs; there are no ferocious wild beasts, except some of the biped class; there is no sleeping sickness, or at least very little of it, since we have all awakened to the possibilities of the country; there are no use-les or any other kinds of flies on us; there is no malaria. If we accept the inclination to take things easy which seems to be indigenous, provided malaria and insect-plague England before morning.

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CYRUS H. BOWES

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ination can properly be called indigenous; there are no troublesome natives, unless the gentle Siwash who decline to abandon their reservations when we want them to be put in that category; the country is not inaccessible except to certain folk who live on the other shore of the Pacific Ocean. Unquestionably the absence of these things militates against this island when the young Englishman thinks of seeking adventure and fortune in foreign lands. We do not know what the government ought to do under these distressing circumstances. When the circus comes here at Fair time, the wild animals might be bought and turned loose in the woods and a close season for ten years or thereabouts might be established. A few good healthy savages with a discriminating taste for human flesh might be imported. Some other things in that line might be done, if we had a federal government worth its salt; but we fear that any appeal along these lines will be met with frozen indifference, and that we shall have to struggle along as best we can without those things, which seem to make the average young Englishman so keen to try his luck in parts indidibus.

A PERMANENT EMPIRE.

The telegram has said that Sir James Whitney had declared in an interview, in London, that without tariff reform in the United Kingdom and an imperial preference the Empire could not be permanent. We refrained from comment upon this observation at the time because we did not believe the despatch did the Ontario Premier full justice. We found in the Illustrated Weekly of Canada just what Sir James did say, which we quote:

All those of us who look forward to strengthening the bonds of Empire and to inducing the people of the Old World to understand that if they wish for the continuance of the Empire they must realize that the Overseas Dominions are not to be treated like dependents, must realize the necessity of giving a patient hearing to all proposed measures looking in that direction. In my opinion, the continuance of the British Empire depends upon the consideration that will be given to all such measures during the next five or ten years. When you hear there is a feeling in Canada in favor of Preference, you must remember it depends upon the effect it is believed Preference would have. "The Empire" would be against Preference, if it were thought the results would be bad. We do not care whether it is Preference or anything else. What we are anxious for is that something should be done to widen the Empire and broaden it out. If the greater subject is to be obscured and a refusal to consider it is to be given because of "Free Trade" and the door is to be "banged and bolted," you people in Great Britain will find some day that the Empire is but a recollection. Of course, I admit that the British people have a right to do as they please, but they ought not to do so in utter ignorance of what the result is going to be. He must be a very superficial observer of what is going on in this world if he does not see that the conditions surrounding the British Empire today are utterly different from what they were thirty years ago, and must be met manfully.

While it is evident from this that Sir James is strongly in favor of tariff reform, it is absurd to construe it as meaning that he regarded this as a sine qua non for the maintenance of the Empire. Indeed he shows that he realizes the possibility of danger arising out of tariff arrangements, for he says, "The feeling would be against preference if it were thought the results would be bad." The chief point made in the interview is to be found in the first and last sentences. Englishmen must learn that conditions have changed and that the Overseas Dominions are not to be treated as dependents. When this is generally understood and appreciated, the way will be clear for the further solidification of the Empire.

Another Zepplins alarhup has come to grief. A despatch says that these air-craft are now discredited in Berlin. There seems to be pretty good cause for it. Our distinguished consideration is extended to those contemporaries that could not sleep at night for fear that a fleet of Zepplins might capture England before morning.

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ENGLISH SOVEREIGN

The French Revolution was indeed English Revolution, as indeed American Revolution. The terrible excesses of the first movement from the other great movement mentioned in a variety of considerations which may be mentioned. Primarily of the difference lay in the fact that the people had been familiarized with the idea of popular sovereignty. In England the sons and daughters "the ancient rights and the kingdom to be invoked in distress, and this appeal was not sent because the definition of and privileges was never very cause consisted in the fact that in England that broad gulf between the common people and the nobles. This was largely due to the fact that in England the sons and daughters are commoners during the time and they all remain commoners who succeeded to the title. The rank of society merge in and class distinctions are not caused to be found in the essential character of the English whom religion has always seemed a personal matter independent of. In France it was otherwise. The individualism was undeveloped, try, either in politics or religion. Sieyes, in a pamphlet that had circulation in France, declared that the clergy and nobles had common with national representation was a "Third Estate" in the king. Sieyes pointed out, it was nothing should have been everything. In people in these days and in the attempt to pass judgment upon the responsibility for the terrors of the Revolution. The winter of 1789 was a famine stalked abroad in the giving assumed enormous proportions in order that the starving streets and country roads might place where they could go and keep of cold. Meanwhile agitators were preaching incendiary doctrines, the clergy nor the peers seemed to be was not the time to insist upon their claims. The nobles were unreasonable. Mons. Malouet differences between them and the people were very embarrassing. The clergy were "pig-headed" and points of discipline that were "ance." Thus there was in France against the Church, and when the people became fully inflamed nothing to restrain them. France were not without some essential to the public welfare. England; societies were formed to propagating the principles of the lar in France, and for a time it there might be serious trouble; sense of the nation prevailed, a found himself compelled to accept France as an alternative to permission of Holland, the nation pressed front. During the Napoleonic war, Great Britain was a unit, attempt to create disorder in Ireland very little success. The Nineteenth century with the United Kingdom compl and a general feeling of the government among all ranks. "Popular government was by established in the Kingdom upon a tion. George III., whose effigy king" had cost the country so much come weakened intellectually to tent, and the affairs of the nation managed so well by Parliament fanatic could profess to believe office possessed, any inherent essential to the welfare of the large number of the people had no the right to vote, and while the fair was really vested in the families, the principle of popular was recognized and our institution established upon a settled and we basis. The Crown had become a bol of the power of the state. He came what Tennyson afterwards "a crowned republic." The men the King grew weaker from year in 1810 he was completely incapable exercise of any of his prerogative next ten years, that is until his he was sovereign only in name. Of all the kings of England no sincere or more frequently in George III. He was undoubtedly high character. His courage was objects were good, but he was wise in his efforts to attain them that in his dealings with the Thir he was establishing the British firm foundation, because he believed that the power to be essential to the public welfare. He was not mistaken in his opposition to Catholic emancipation. He believed that it was his duty as the kingdom, and hence he exercised in respect to the details of government no sovereign before him for sections and none since has attempted. With the best of motives actual would have plunged the kingdom into confusion, if it had not been for the strength of men of strength. He was very religious life was exemplary; his tastes were liked the simple career of a count