

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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TO WORKINGMEN

Yesterday an Associated Press telegram announced that the Southern Pacific would discharge six thousand of its employees because no freight was offering. This discloses an exceedingly serious condition of things in the United States. It emphasizes what we referred to very recently in these columns when we spoke of the general financial and industrial state of that country.

We invite the working men who read the Colonist to consider what this means. Let them reflect upon the difference between things as they are in Canada, and as they are in the United States. If the action of the Southern Pacific were an isolated or unusual case, it might be dismissed as one of those incidents that are to be expected in the business world. But it is not an isolated case. All over the United States the same stress, as is compelling this action by the great southern railway company, exists. In Seattle, to take the nearest point where observations can be made, things are in an exceedingly unsatisfactory state. Employment is scarce; wages are low and enterprise is at a standstill.

The strongest advocates of reciprocity will not deny that, if the agreement comes into effect, Canada will be governed very largely as to economic conditions by what transpires in the United States. What will happen in that event? There will be a determined effort on the part of the business community of the United States to exploit reciprocity for all it is worth. They must turn somewhere for relief. The consequence will be that all manner of visionary projects to be located in Canada will be set on foot, and there will be a rush of workmen into this country, whereby the labor market will be swamped.

We appeal to the workingmen as to reasonable men. Is the experiment that they are asked to sanction worth trying? They cannot reasonably hope for better times than now prevail in Canada. They may find the result of the experiment to be that they will have to put up with the kind of times existing in the United States. Do they want this?

At the present time of all times Canadians should not dream of linking their commercial and industrial future with that of the United States. Is it not an undeniable fact that business has been getting worse in that country for several years past? We all know it is the case. The advocates of reciprocity will not deny this. Is it not also true that the President of the United States only took up the question of reciprocity because something had to be done to appease the popular clamor for a policy that would promise some measure of relief? Surely no one will deny this; surely no one will pretend for the fraction of a second that Mr. Taft had any altruistic notions in his mind, and was seeking to benefit Canada. His course looks like a desperate effort to avert in some way the calamity which he sees impending over his country and his party.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has put Canada in such a position that if it ratifies the reciprocity agreement it will be plunged into all the uncertainty existing across the border, and we ask the workmen of British Columbia if they are willing to try the experiment which closer trade relations with that country will inaugurate. We do not believe they will, but that on the contrary they will leave well enough alone.

A STRANGE ERROR

We are bound to believe, until the contrary is shown, that a newspaper believes the things it states in its editorial columns. Therefore we assume that the local Liberal paper believes what it states in the following quotation from its editorial columns of yesterday:

The export royalty has not only not caused the establishment of a single lumber mill in the country nor has it prevented the export of a single stick of lumber from this province. The timber resources of British Columbia have been leased by the provincial government to Americans. Four-fifths of these limits are already controlled by Americans and they will continue to control them for ninety-nine years if they continue to pay the license. The owners of this timber log it and ship it to their own American mills, paying an export royalty in the sum named. They can afford to do so because they have always been able to ship their products back into Canada duty free while they have had the advantage of an embargo of \$1.25 per thousand on Canadian lumber going into their own country. After paying their 60 cents royalty they still have the Canadian lumberman hand-capped with the duty which amounts to another 65 cents net per thousand, so they can go on exporting our timber, manufacturing it in the United States and shipping it wheresoever they choose.

The fact of the case is that the export of saw logs from British Columbia is absolutely prohibited by law. It is also a fact that on several occasions United States holders of timber licenses have forfeited limits valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars, because they have contravened this essential condition upon which the licenses are held. Our contemporary speaks of "leases," but what it really has in mind are licenses, for no leases have been granted since the McBride government came into power. The hollowness of our contemporary's argument is at once apparent from the fact that its assumed facts are not facts at all. It would be interesting to know what it thinks it is talking about.

IMPORTANT NEWS

The statement which we publish this morning in regard to the plans of the new owners of James Island, or St. James Island as they wish it to be hereafter called, is exceedingly interesting. The island is almost an ideal location for a summer colony, and possesses advantages not easily equalled anywhere. It will be almost unique among summer resorts because of the remarkable combination of features present there. Hundreds of people will avail themselves of the opportunity that will be afforded by such a resort. It will be really a suburb of Victoria, for the land journey to a point on the Saanich Peninsula opposite the island is only twelve miles and the width of the channel in the narrowest part is only slightly over half a mile.

This project will add very greatly to the value of all property in the Gulf Islands. It is announced the Pier Island is to be subdivided into high class residential property, and there are scores of other places where people desiring homes amid beautiful surroundings, and at the same time a little apart from the busy centres of population, will be sure to locate. The fact that the Canadian Pacific has taken the trade of the islands in hand is abundant proof that every accommodation in the matter of transportation that can reasonably be asked will be forthcoming. We look for an exceedingly progressive future for these delightful parts of the province. That Victoria will greatly benefit thereby goes without saying.

THINK THIS OVER

We have seen a circular issued by the Kamloops Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition Association, from which we make the following extract:

Strenuous efforts are being made by the executive of the above association to make this year's exhibition an unqualified success. Prominent men in the district are showing their interest; co-operation of merchants and professional men is assured; the agricultural community are alive to the duty of showing the possibilities of the interior in general, and the Thompson valleys in particular, and an appeal is made to all to co-operate in making the forthcoming exhibition an object lesson of what can be done by the fruit grower, truck farmer, grain grower, poultry raiser, and horse and cattle rancher.

The association is strictly non-political, but the considerations set out in the quotation have an important political aspect. The object of this and every other provincial Agricultural Association is to develop in British Columbia an industry of the utmost value, and yet while this effort is being made, the Dominion government is asking the farmers to consent to remove every shred of protection they have in their own markets.

WAS IT A CRISIS

It has been pointed out that during all the strenuous weeks that preceded the passage of the Parliament Bill not a single petition was presented to Parliament praying that it might not become law, not a popular meeting was held to denounce it and that the by-elections were humdrum affairs in which no one took any particular interest. The morning papers devoted miles of copy to the question, but the evening papers hardly paid any attention to it, confining themselves to news of sport, aviation and matters of mere passing interest. The truth of the matter was that the British public were quite indifferent to what was transpiring. We can understand that the supporters of the government, feeling that the measure was safe, might refrain from expressing any opinion. But how shall we explain the indifference of the great mass which votes the Unionist ticket? They refused absolutely to be stampeded into a panic. It is amusing now to read the wild assertions made by some of the papers before the Bill was passed. The Observer, Mr. J. L. Garvin's paper, which is owned by Mr. Astor, called upon the "die-hards" not to surrender, for it assured them that the majority of the peers were with them, and that their popular influence was great; but the populace simply laughed at the "die-hards," and while they played their frenzied part never encouraged them by so much as a paltry petition or a sympathetic public meeting. As the Church Times put it, "the politicians are excited; the country is calm." It is also amusing now to recall how frenzied some of our Canadian newspapers managed to get. They out-ouced Cecil in the denunciation of Mr. Asquith and all his works. The British Weekly denies that there was anything like a crisis. It

calls the Parliament Bill "only a quiet change which in its consequences will by no means justify the fears of its opponents." If we may judge from the British press there are signs of returning sanity on the part of the wild Unionists; but we observe that such men as the Rev. Canon Hensley Henson fear for the effect upon the public of the scene in the House of Commons when, as Mr. Augustine Birrell has said, "the language hurled at the Premier's head would have disgraced a gambling hell or a thieves' kitchen." The shock to the nation was a severe one, and its effects are likely to be felt for some time to come.

THE STRIKE SETTLED

The prompt settlement of the railway men's strike in the United Kingdom illustrates once more the marvelous capacity of the British people for self-government. A day or two ago things looked very threatening, and some timid people expected little else than disaster. But the confidence of the people in their institutions saved the situation. We do not say confidence in the present ministry, although this may have been an element in the case; what we mean is the confidence of all classes of the British people in the sufficiency of their institutions to meet every possible emergency. There was no talk on the part of the railway men about the government not acting in good faith. Mr. John Burns spoke truly when he said that as soon as the people understood what the government proposed they would agree to it.

The settlement of this formidable strike following the adjustment of the dock laborers strike are great triumphs for the Asquith ministry, for they will inspire confidence in it to a degree that nothing else could. We direct attention to the fact that in the serious conditions created by the railway strike, as in the critical stage reached by the Morocco incident, there was no attempt on the part of the Opposition to embarrass the ministry. In the United Kingdom it is happily recognized that, however much men may be opposed to each other on matters of policy, they are as one in moments of national crisis.

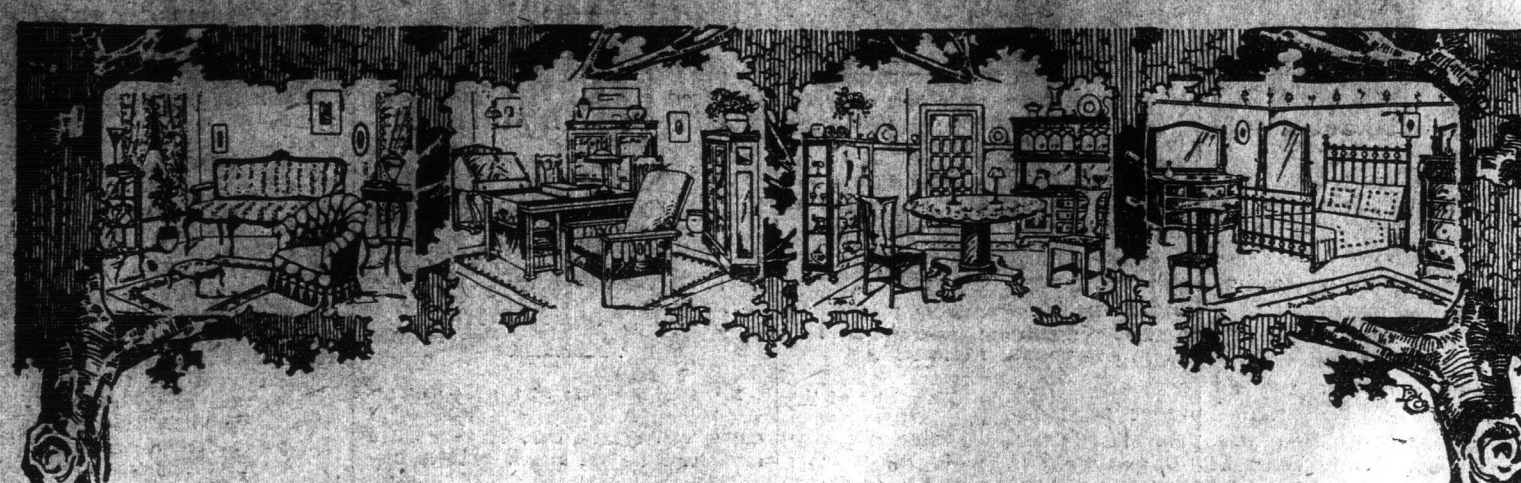
Since the introduction of the Lloyd George Budget the British people have been drinking three glasses of whisky where formerly they drank four. Still, seeing that last year they consumed 30,880,000 gallons of the beverage, they cannot be said to have become particularly abstemious. This is at the rate of 0.68 gallons per head.

We have a very interesting, though brief, interview with Mr. Robert Dinsdale, the well-known Victoria contractor. Mr. Dinsdale's views are especially important because he has always been identified with the Liberal party, and one of its most active workers. The opinions which he says he found very generally held during his journey home across Canada, are beginning to be those of hundreds of persons hitherto identified with the Liberal party. Canadians do not need reciprocity, and the evidence multiplies daily that they do not want it.

What the Colonist may or may not think about the Chinese head-tax is not in issue just now. What the voters have a right to know is what Mr. Templeman meant when he said: "The Chinese have been coming in in considerable numbers of late, and the question is what shall we do as to the \$500 head-tax." As to the increase in the head-tax I do not know that I would be prepared to say it should be done. I would very much prefer to see an agreement which would limit to a very reduced number the Chinese coming in here, somewhat on the lines of our agreement with Japan.

We find in "Canada" a very interesting article by Mr. R. G. Harvey, of Vancouver, in which he deals with real estate investments in British Columbia from the standpoint of the money-lender on mortgages or other real estate securities. Mr. Harvey states the case with much clearness. He closes with this observation with which we are sure all Canadians will agree: "On the far Pacific Coast of Canada an intensely loyal people will be found with a strong love of everything British, to which the British manufacturer could well pay attention, with the full assurance of a growing market with the rapid development now going on."

"Mr. Pugsley At Once Orders Vast Improvements." This is the joyous headline in a St. John paper, favorable to the Minister of Public Works. Compare this with the tentative observations which Mr. Templeman made in regard to the Brocton Ledge Breakwater at the Liberal convention. "If it is found feasible the minister is prepared and so on" is as far as our British Columbia member of the Cabinet is prepared to go. As we said on a former occasion, the Minister of Inland Revenue would do well to take a leaf out of Mr. Pugsley's book in respect to these things, but then perhaps if he did, he would no longer be Minister of Inland Revenue. He would be made an example of little Oliver Twist, who presumed to ask for more.



Right Sort of Bedroom Furniture

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It doesn't matter what sort of a bedroom you may desire—simple, elaborate or just comfortable—you'll find this store offers you the easiest and most effective solution of the problem. At least it should if broad assortments of the very best is any help. You'll find a surprisingly large and varied collection of chamber furniture pieces shown on the third and fourth floors—there's a piece that would add comfort and attractiveness to your room.

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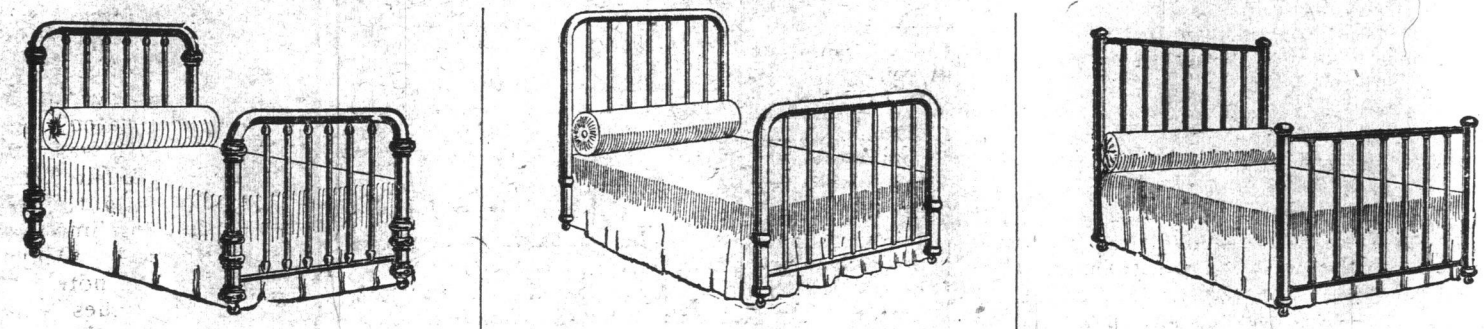
- Chiffoniers from ..... \$10.00
- Bedroom Squares from ..... \$7.50
- Bedroom Chairs from ..... \$3.50
- Bedroom Tables from ..... \$1.25
- Dressers from ..... \$12.00
- Beds from ..... \$4.00

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Come up to our fourth floor and have a look at the dozens of attractive designs we are now showing. You are sure to find something that will please you in design, and we know that the price will also satisfy.

The present display is one of the most interesting, and we cordially invite you to come in and view this interesting showing of the very latest ideas in high-class Brass Beds.

THESE THREE ARE PERFECT BEAUTIES



- Brass Bed, in bright finish, 4ft. 6in., continuous 2in. pillars with six 1/2in. fillers head and foot ..... \$35.00
  - Brass Bed, 4ft. 6in., bright finish, 2in. continuous pillars, seven 1/2in. fillers head and foot, ornamented. Price ..... \$45.00
  - Brass Bed, polet finish, 4ft. 6in., four 1/2in. corner posts, seven 1/2in. fillers top and bottom ..... \$70.00
- Also in a large range of designs and prices: Full sized Beds, \$125.00, \$90.00, \$65.00, \$50.00 ..... \$40.00
- Three-quarter size, \$32.50, \$21.00 ..... \$20.00
  - Brass Costumers ..... \$20.00
  - Costumers, Venus Martin finish ..... \$7.50

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We have sizes to fit all beds, priced in proportion.

The full size sells at \$15.00.



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We stock a big range of styles in the different styles favored, and you'll find the values excellent in every line.

Come here to supply your wants in mattresses, top or spring.

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- Ingrain Squares from \$55.00 to ..... \$8.00
- Tapestry Squares from \$25.00 to ..... \$7.50
- Brussels Squares from \$42.00 to ..... \$14.00
- Axminster Squares from \$65.00 to ..... \$12.00
- Wilton Squares from \$95.00 to ..... \$16.00
- Velvet Squares from \$42.50 to ..... \$8.00
- Smyrna Rugs from \$40.00 to ..... \$30.00
- Genuine Oriental Rugs, all prices.

THE STORE THAT SAVES YOU MONEY

Quality True Test of Value

Victoria's Popular Home Furnishers

# WEILER BROS

Story

There is living too Scotman who was on the Alabamian, up to day she was destroyed. The story of the Alabamian exciting episodes of the Alabama was a set built at Birkenhead federates. The British slow in acting upon American Ambassador the day fixed for her Azores, took on guns received her command board, and was chris to that time the vessel number "200." she entered upon her turing and burning parts of the world.

For two years the destructive tactics a erican Kearsarge on It was maintained by losses by the Alabamian negligence, and the d by arbitration in 187 to three and a half m ed for damages done other privateer ships

Captain Nicolson, is close upon 90 years as a sailor on the Alabamian of romance. In his own words, "I, 1863, I was a sailor the Jabez Snow—a Cal general cargo at N few days out we steamer. There was not make much head We soon made out the ing right in our track

Nearer and nearer made out that it was You can understand caused among the n all felt that whatever the Jabez Snow was bama was within a h and she fired a sho immediately hove to the question. We co guns, in fact no we against the four or f a boat from the p us and in it was th the Alabamian—the man I have known in

Our captain said him saying, "Well, brief long looking for set eyes on you," commander, "but st happen, and I suppos of the usual routine This was said in the came on board. He captain, and I confie he took my own ha commander walked on deck for some tim all at once Captain crew, "We must get did go to work w cleared us of all ou and everything in t was on board. Th and anything that w appropriated.

Captain Semmes the Jabez Snow to g We were allowed a to stow our clothing deck, each man wit in the bag, one of o in a few minutes w bama. A number o boarded our vessel, of the decks. On the of oakum was plac we saw from the de good ship enveloped huge tongues of fla an hour the Jabez S tom. We were tra I remember that am our ship were tw property of the ow belonging to Captai appropriated the ov him handing back chronometer.

Perhaps about a board the Alabamian Indian islands some Semmes brought o and he pointed-t "You can have yo your own boat and make the best of it ashore on the slant Several years after ed crew, who had he told me that they deprived of their cl with their lives.

Captain Semmes They ultimately gan cruising about ing American ship the mafter the ma Snow was disposed wild times, and o as ever sailed the s but shared in all