

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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CANADIAN CLUB LUNCHEON.

It was not expected that Mr. William Mackenzie would speak at length to the Canadian Club yesterday, as every one knows that he makes no claims to oratorical ability. He is to be commended upon his excellent taste exhibited in the observations which he did make. A man, who has done as much as he has in the way of railway building and who has achieved the fame that is his might readily be pardoned if on such an occasion as that of yesterday he took a little credit to himself for what he has accomplished; but he effaced himself entirely and spoke almost wholly of those general topics which had no special personal application to himself. It will be recalled by those who were present at the luncheon when Mr. D. D. Mann was the guest of the Club, that he was careful to avoid saying anything that smacked of self-laudation. The members of the Canadian Club were proud to have Mr. Mackenzie as their guest and were grateful to him for having discharged the unaccustomed task of speaking to such a large gathering of people. He made no extravagant promises which indeed would have been out of place seeing that he is engaged in the conduct of negotiations with the government. He showed himself to be what he is, an unassuming gentleman who prefers to express his thoughts in deeds rather than in words.

Signor de Barra's remarks were interesting and valuable because they served to direct attention to the great country to the south in which there are so many and such great opportunities for Canadians to build up a profitable trade. There is much that can be done in the way of closer commercial intercourse between Canada and Mexico. At present the people of British Columbia are looking chiefly to the east for openings where the products of the province can find markets and we are all very deeply interested in the development of land transportation; but it is a good thing that we should have been reminded at this juncture that there are fields, well worthy of attention, that can be reached by way of the sea.

The hopeful tone, in which the remarks of Mr. McBride were expressed, was in complete harmony with the sentiments of all present.

MUNICIPAL THEATRES

There have been one or two efforts towards the establishment of municipal theatres in America, but it has remained for the city of Denver to set a conspicuous example in this direction. Mayor Speer of that city was impressed with the idea that it was the duty of the municipality to provide for the amusement of the people as well as for their convenience and control. He also had the idea that the prices charged for high-class entertainments is altogether too high and that there by the great body of the people are forced to put up with something that is less than the best. A great auditorium had been built and this has been converted into a theatre. It was opened for theatrical performances on November 1st, and one of the conditions under which it is let is that no seat shall be sold for more than \$1.00. During the first week there was an average audience of 2,700 nightly, and the total receipts were \$12,000. Therefore the undertaking seems to have been a great financial success. Commending upon it, Collier's says:

Some years ago the citizens of Denver voted a \$400,000 bond issue for the erection of an auditorium. Opponents of the scheme, as a final move in a desperate fight to block the sale of the bonds, brought an injunction suit, which was fought out in the State Supreme Court with the result that the city, in the years 1906 and 1907 a total of \$150,000 was saved from the current revenues and added to the auditorium fund. The additional amount secured enabled Mayor Speer to have the plans for the building include a system of movable walls and a proscenium arch, by which the structure could be divided in half, one portion being arranged in such a way that with little work it could be fitted up as a thoroughly modern theatre with a seating capacity of 3,000. The building was formally opened by the Democratic Convention last year.

Officially, the big steel and concrete structure was designed for the usual purposes of a convention hall. As such it was used for the first year after its completion. Politicians and traction magnates and farmers and labor unions held meetings and made speeches and passed resolutions within its ample walls. Fairs and automobile shows alternated with band concerts and campaign rallies. On one never-to-be-forgotten night last summer the "big" was fitted for a few brief hours, and a prize-fight was pulled off in the hall made historic by the nomination of a Presidential candidate.

The contract calls for a season of twenty weeks, the city furnishing the playhouse and the Shuberts the attractions. Receipts and expenses are shared on a basis of 80 per cent to the city and 20 per cent to the theatrical concern. A special clause in the agreement provides that the contract may be nullified by the city without notice in the event of an immoral show being brought to Denver.

May we ask those people, who object to municipal assistance or ownership of a theatre, to point out what there is in the above that is wrong?

If there is to be no share of municipal ownership or control in the new theatre which Victoria will have, whether the city aids in securing it or not, what do these objectors propose as an alternative? It is folly for any one to say that, because he personally does not attend the theatre, theatres must not be permitted. There are some very excellent people, who have been taught to believe that the influence of the theatre is all for evil. They are very greatly mistaken; but they are honest, no doubt, in their belief and have every right to express it. But their opposition will not prevent the erection of a theatre in this city. They will only force its erection by persons, who will have the right to say how it shall be managed, what prices shall be charged for the use of it, who shall have the right to use it, and what class of entertainments shall be provided.

A NAVAL POLICY

In the course of the next week the resolutions on naval defence will be laid before the Parliament at Ottawa and they will become a subject of very keen discussion both in the House and throughout the country. Until the resolutions themselves are at hand it would be useless to engage in any attempt to say how far they are likely to meet the requirements of the situation; but there are some general observations that may be made at this time.

We think there has been a disposition to confuse two very distinct things in the discussion of Canada's duty in respect to the naval defence of the Empire. One group of people, we do not of course mean any political party, has advocated the building of one or more battleships as contributions to the Royal Navy, or the gift of the amount of money necessary to build them. Another group advocates the establishment of a Canadian Navy. There is yet another group, which does not favor anything at all in the way of naval expenditure; but we think it is numerically so small that it need not be taken into account. The confusion, of which we speak, arises from an apparent inability on the part of some people to see that the gift of battleships and the establishment of a Canadian navy are totally distinct things. A man may be in favor of either or both of these proposals. He may not think there is any need for the former and hold that Canada's first duty is to take up at home her share of the Imperial burden in respect to naval defence; but we cannot see how any one can hold that the gift of battleships can be regarded as a substitute for a Canadian navy. The Colonist has throughout the whole discussion taken the position that, if the Admiralty so desires, the Dominion might well make a present of a battleship or perhaps more than one for service in the waters of the United Kingdom or wherever the Admiralty might see fit to employ it or them; but it has always claimed that by so doing the Dominion would be performing the least important part of its duty, although it might be a more spectacular thing to do than to build, maintain and operate a navy of our own. If after conference with the Admiralty the Dominion government had reached the conclusion that the best thing to be done was to build one or more battleships, we would have supported such a policy as best we could; but the decision reached having been that Canada shall take the initiative towards becoming a naval power, we applaud that decision and hope it will be carried into effect expeditiously and effectively. We would have questioned the wisdom of confining our action to the gift of ships from time to time, for in our view of the case the hour has come when Canada must adopt a Canadian policy in this regard, and place upon the sea ships that will be hers, so that the Empire shall have not only one navy, but as many navies as there are self-governing Dominions, all ready to act in concert in defence of our common flag, just as our land forces are ready to do. So much for the general principle.

Speaking specifically as to the nature of what Canada ought to do in the way of building ships, we feel unable to say more than that it is for experts to say. It may be remembered that some time ago Rear-Admiral Black, addressing the Navy League in this city, advocated the establishment of much such a squadron on the Pacific as is understood to be in contemplation. There is one aspect of the case upon which laymen can speak with some degree of certainty, and that is the construction of dry docks. Every layman knows that ships of war need docks, and when they need them at all, they are likely to need them very badly, if there happens to be an enemy somewhere on the seas.

There are at present in Canada, no drydocks capable of accommodating the large battleships in use at the present day, and it seems to us that no Canadian naval policy would be anything like complete if it did not provide for one such dock on the Atlantic coast and another on the Pacific.

Our idea of the Canadian naval policy, apart altogether from sporadic assistance to the Royal Navy by the gift of battleships or money in case of need, may be stated to be the provision of ample dock accommodation at the earliest possible day on both ocean frontiers of the Dominion, the construction and maintenance of such a nucleus fleet as may, in the opinion of the Admiralty, be at present advisable, the establishment of training ships of war under the British flag in any part of the world, and the inauguration of a branch of the Royal Naval Reserve.

When the Legislature meets on the 26th inst., a new Lieutenant-Governor will greet a new House, and doubtless he will announce the inauguration of a new era for British Columbia.

The appointment of Mr. E. Leeson to the office of Assessor in the room of Mr. J. K. Worsfold, resigned, is an excellent appointment. Mr. Leeson has been for a long time, a resident of Victoria, and has as a deservedly good name in the business community. As a public official he will give every satisfaction.

"Sa kompaniano, astonata rigardis il grand-ukulo a kristiano." You may think that this sentence is due to the fact that the linotype man was working with his eyes shut; but you would be wrong. It is a sample of the proposed international language, which is alleged to be an improved Esperanto, and is said to possess the advantage of being understandable without previous study. Therefore it may be presumption for us to render it into English, but, as there may be some people to whom the sentence may not be absolutely intelligible, we may mention that it means: "His companion's eyes in astonishment as he looked at him in astonishment, he exclaimed: 'Surely now you will want at once to learn the new Lingua Internaciona.'"

The attack by the Liberal organ upon Mr. Charles Wilson, K. C., in connection with his appointment as a commissioner to revise the statutes, is one of the most unseemly things that has appeared in that journal for some time. The statement that the new revision is needed because of any act or omission of Mr. Wilson is unjust and wholly inexcusable. Surely when there are no political issues before the people, it cannot be necessary to follow political opponents with vituperation. It is thirteen years since the last revision, and in a province where things are in the making, as they are in this province, it is absolutely necessary that the statutes should be revised after such an interval of time. We believe the appointment of the Commissioners will be acceptable to the legal profession, and that the result of their work will be satisfactory to the public. Speaking more especially of Mr. Wilson, we may say that he is a gentleman, who has enjoyed, in the highest degree, the confidence, esteem and respect of the bench, the bar, the legislature and the people generally. His record ought to make him free from ill-founded aspersions.

As far as we are able to gather from comment made upon the street, the general trend of public sentiment is hostile to the adoption of the Sooko Lake bylaw. No one seems to be quite satisfied with the information available. We have looked upon the subject from a bylaw at this time as a great mistake. That Victoria will avail itself of Sooko Lake as a source of water supply may be taken for granted, no matter what else may be done in that way. It may be, we are inclined to think since the rejection of the relief offers by the legislation of last session that it will be wise to take hold of Sooko before attempting anything else; but before the ratepayers vote \$1,500,000 for that purpose they may very naturally ask for more information than is at present before the public and they may also want to know who is going to expend the money. We think it would have been wise if the out-going council had left the matter to its successors. The whole facts of the case could then have been made public and been intelligently discussed, and the ratepayers would have known in whose hands they were going to entrust the expenditure of so large a sum of money. However, the question is for the ratepayers themselves.

Mr. A. W. Nietmann, from Chicago, is enjoying a visit to Victoria.

Nev-a-hone Razor Strop

Makes shaving a pleasure. Clean, simple, durable and inexpensive. Does away with honing entirely. Instantaneously sharpens your razor. Always ready for use. Saves money, time and trouble.

Don't throw away your Safety Blades, they can be sharpened on this unrivalled Strop.

CYRUS H. BOWES,
CHEMIST 1228 GOVERNMENT ST.

WEILER BROS.

Five Floors of Home Comforts.

WEILER BROS.

Six New Buffets

Chosen From the New Styles Just In

WE LIST here a half-dozen of the new buffet styles just added to our stock of Dining-room Furniture. You'll find these the creations of master furniture craftsmen—find them picturing the very newest and latest ideas in the furniture world. Other styles we have—just in—but we have chosen these as representative of the offerings. Come in and inspect them at close range—they'll stand it. Third floor.

Golden Oak Buffet Priced at \$32

This Buffet is made of selected quarter cut oak, finished a very handsome golden. It has 1 large and 2 small drawers, one lined for cutlery. Also 2 large cupboards and a bevel plate mirror the full width of buffet. Price \$32.00

Golden Oak Buffet Priced at \$45

This stylish Buffet has 1 large and 3 small drawers, one lined for cutlery. It also has 2 cupboards with wooden doors and one with glass door. Made of selected oak, finished handsomely in golden. Bevel plate mirror of liberal proportions. Price \$45.00

Golden Oak Buffet Priced at \$38

This is a very attractive design and a well made and finely finished piece of furniture. Made of selected oak, finished a light golden. Has 2 cupboards, 1 large and 2 small drawers and a bevel plate mirror of first quality. \$38.00

Mission Style Buffet Priced at \$38

A very neat and attractive design, finished in the very popular Early English finish. Has 2 small and 1 large drawers and 2 cupboards, and a bevel plate mirror of best quality. A dainty style you'll like. Price \$38.00

Mission Style Buffet Priced at \$35

Made of selected oak, Mission design and Early English finish. Has 2 cupboards, 2 small and 1 large drawers, and bevel plate mirror of best quality. Trimmings and pulls of old brass. A stylish little buffet. It is priced \$35.00

Mission Style Buffet Priced at \$45

This one has 2 small lined drawers for cutlery and silver, 1 large drawer, 2 cupboards with wooden doors and one with a leaded glass door. Has a bevel plate mirror, finely made and of stylish design. A handsome buffet, and specially priced at \$45.00

Splendid Values in All-Wool Blankets

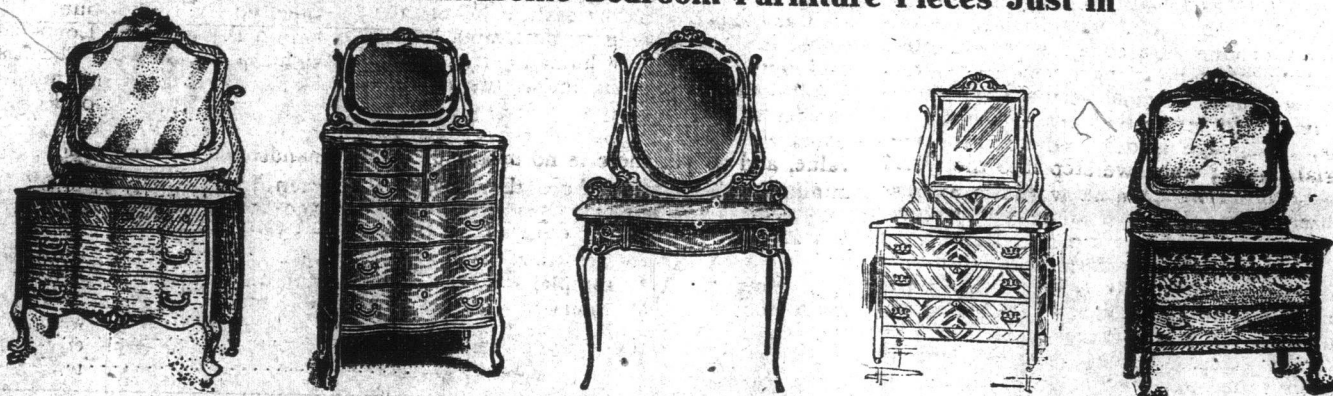
Guaranteed Blankets of Superior Quality at Popular Prices

We have lately added some great values in blankets to our bedding stock, and we now offer you what is without doubt the best assortment in both sizes, qualities and values, to be found in the city. Come in and let us show you our line of all-wool blankets and quote you our prices on these.

We guarantee the qualities, and you'll find the prices are decidedly reasonable. At \$5.00 and \$6.00 per pair we show some particularly good values. Then we have them at higher and lower prices—down as low as, per pair, \$3.75.

Some "Swell" New Princess Dressers

And Other Handsome Bedroom Furniture Pieces Just in



We Are Now Showing a Splendid Choice of Styles

THE new arrivals in bedroom furniture disclose some particularly pleasing designs in princess dressers, dressing tables, and dressers. We feel confident that our present display of bedroom furniture has never been excelled in the West. The very newest creations from the leading furniture makers are represented in this showing, and we invite you to come in and inspect the offerings.

Come, knowing that there is not the slightest obligation to purchase incurred in so doing. We shall be pleased to show you through, and assure you you'll not be asked to make a purchase of any description. Bedroom furniture on Third and Fourth Floors.

PRINCESS DRESSER—Two very attractive designs in quarter cut oak and highly finished. Have 1 large and 2 small drawers. One has a large oval bevel plate mirror, and the other a large shaped bevel plate mirror. Either at \$30.00

DRESSING TABLES—In golden oak—highly polished finish. These have 1 drawer and 2 small circular cupboards. A large oval bevel plate mirror of best quality. Prices \$30.00 and \$22.50 In Mahogany at \$25.00

DRESSER—A splendid new dresser in golden oak. Has 2 large and 2 small drawers and a round bevel plate mirror of best quality. Priced at \$40.00 Many other late arrivals in bedroom furniture you should inspect

Mission Style Bookcases, New Arrivals

Put Your Xmas Books in One of These Stylish Cases

No doubt you received some books at Christmas time, and perhaps your library is growing in proportions altogether too large for the present bookcase. Here are some very stylish bookcases in the Mission design. We haven't shown more artistic cases, and believe you'll like them—especially if you are at all partial to the Mission effect. Prices are right on these, too.

BOOKCASE—Made of oak and finished in the popular Early English finish. Has an open shelf beneath and shelves with attractive glass doors. A roomy case and easily priced at \$18.00

BOOKCASE—This case has 5 shelves which are adjustable to fit any size book. The door is an attractive Mission design in oak and glass. Made of oak, finished Early English. Price \$25.00

BOOKCASE—A very attractive case in Early English finished oak. The glass door has a very pleasing appearance—a lattice effect. Four shelves with a drawer above. Well made and finely finished. \$30.00

A Few More Linoleum Remnants Are Reduced

A FEW more linoleum and oilcloth short lengths have been added to those placed on sale at reduced prices for speedy clearance. Only a limited number of these remain, and if you would share in this opportunity to secure an ideal floor covering for bathroom, hall, pantry or kitchen, you should come in at once. Many sizes are offered. In the 6 ft. wide pieces a great choice of patterns from which to choose and pieces ranging in length from 4 ft. to 44 ft.—all 6 ft. wide. Many other sizes also. See these on the second floor today.

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Clubs

The West's Greatest Furniture House

WEILER'S

Furnish-
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Churches
Schools
Boats

THE THINGS WHICH

It was the Latin poet Horace with excusable confidence, that himself a monument more of brass and loftier than the pyramids he referred only to the fact that if that were so, the fact remain as great an object of day as ever they were proves of the future was not a decee may possibly have had in con influence upon the thought of influence which is difficult of because it cannot be readily things which endure are not Pyramids stand to testify to the power and the resourceful builders; but conditions are able that would lead to their The marvellous structures of Babylon have fallen into Everywhere time, with remorse destroying the great creations of which were constructed in by-gone modern civilization in its mate ephemeral in its nature. A few desolation would leave less of cities than an equal number of have spared of Nineveh, Tyre, great centres of population of torical periods. From a mate view we cannot claim in this tury to be building what will lasting work of today is spiritus was when Horace wrote and wh men of Babylon, India, China, and Palestine propounded their and philosophy. The Parthenon but the philosophy of Plato sta ed. The Temple at Jerusalem molished; but the precepts of Hi day therein, are more potent in day than ever.

We are apt to think too much Many a man has read the Apos it is contained in the Church Prayer Book, and said to himse order to be a professing Christia cept as true the statements there would have to remain outside of thoughtful man can readily find a this "impasse." He will see that an attempt to express something be defined in words, and he will be able to accept the phraseology as meaning what he himself feels. There are certain "eternal verities" definition in terms that are a curate. Language is designed to material things; when we step in of the spiritual we have no words of the phenomena. We have to spe perfectly recognized in terms of what is tangible or demonstrable. pression "spiritual" what is knowa "ism" is not meant; but that w of human activity which lies on physical universe. It is not limite ordinarily called religion; it has n with the existence of living entit cernible by our ordinary senses. thoughts, emotions, psychic powers vast realm of the occult. It emb we ordinarily know as religion. the possibility of a future life, as operations of faith. One will on c readily see how inapplicable are t ed in relation to physical things to nature, operation and office of t which are spiritual; but one will t the latter are as real as the form history of the human race shows t more enduring. The Christian r rule of life whereby our physic may be coordinated with the laws ual world; the doctrines of the churches, with all their diversity, tempts to express those laws or t principles underlying them. The of these doctrines will of necessity time to time; but fundamentally the same. A creed expressed in of necessity be imperfect; but it d low that there is not a substantial ing foundation for the creed.

The real things, the enduring of necessity be of such a nature a perishable. It is suggested by the Draper that the rays of light whic from the stars must of necessity c and on forever, and hence he argu number of the stars must be limit were not the whole vault of the sk a blaze of light more brilliant tha and this would of necessity be t minutest ray of light multiplied b number would amount to infinite s has been suggested that the lig from the earth carries with it acro fathomable depths of the ether a what is transpiring here. If you experimented with a camera obs would find it interesting to do so enough. All you need is a room t completely darkened. Having da piece a small hole in one of the bli a fine pencil of light will enter. Pl of paper so that the pencil will fa and move it backwards or forwards in the right focus. You will then se paper an inverted reproduction of out of doors, thus demonstrating th carries along on its beams a pictu reflects it. So it may be in regard tions, our feelings, our opinions, ou in short of whatever go to make u called the spiritual side of things, projected into the future just as li reflected pictures which light make jected into space, and their effect is Therefore in building character