The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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NEWSPAPERS AND READERS

The rumor that So-and-so did such-and-such a thing is rapidly growing, is the way an editorial in a recent newspaper began, only the person was named as was also the thing to which the rumor was said to apply. The probability is that until the writer of the article set down the words and they were handed to the compositor the rumor existed in his own fertile imagination. This sort of thing is justified on the principle that all's fair in love, war, and politics. It pleases extremists, who are glad to read something derogatory to their opponents. When they read something derogatory to their friends or themselves, they do not like it a little bit. "If I were running the Colonist," said a man not now in public life, "I would attack So-and-so in every issue;" yet when some one ventured to attack him he was the sorest man anywhere in the Nine Provinces.

Inexperienced newspaper writers and near-journalists are given much to the policy of personal attack. The public, if it reads such attacks at all, laughs at them, if they are cleverly written, despises the man who writes them and votes just the same. A sensibly conducted newspaper endeavors to gain the confidence of its readers by fairness; the newspaper man or near-near-journalist, who thinks he is winning anything either for himself or his party by personal abuse and misrepresentation, makes a big mistake. All he gains is contempt. An honorable profession is degraded by personalities.

The profession of journalism is also degraded by a constant effort to discover improper motives in one's opponents. The mere fact that a person has by some chance come to fill an editorial chair does not qualify him as a censor of other people, and the editor is all kinds of a jackass who runs away with the idea that the public think he is so qualified. The editorial pages of the newspapers have lost their influence to a very great extent because few people read them, knowing in advance what they are likely to contain. Great opportunities are lost by newspapers, which fail to take advantage of their facilities of leading public opinion along right lines, by the intelligent discussion of public questions. During the last two elections in the United Kingdom the numerical strength of the press and the major part of its one-time prestige were against the Asquith ministry, and managed to defeat its own party by the violence of its attacks upon its opponents. The public looks upon violence as a mask of weakness. A violent newspaper is a donkey in a lion's skin. It deceives no one.

Our own estimate of the province of a newspaper, considered editorially, is to assist its readers to what seem from the standpoint of the paper to be right conclusions. It never occurs to us that what we think about any public man is of the slightest importance. Only very rarely do we feel called upon to express any opinion on any subject without giving fully the reason upon which that opinion is based, so that readers can judge for themselves if it is sound. If the Colonist has any influence, and we sometimes have reason to think it has, we attribute it wholly to this method of treating public men and public questions, and to our recognition of the fact that our readers, when they know the facts of a case, are quite as capable of forming a correct conclusion as we ourselves are, and in some cases probably more capable. The only advantage we think we may possess is that which comes from experience.

MR. HILL ON RECIPROCITY

Mr. James J. Hill is reported as saying in effect that the reciprocity agreement will prevent imperial trade federation. The opinion of so profound an observer of events is well worthy of deep consideration. In arriving at this view Mr. Hill does not appear to have considered it necessary to examine the details of the measure. Probably like the Colonist he does not think the details very material, except as they may affect certain localities. What he has in mind is that any reciprocity agreement with the United States must of necessity influence all our future trade relations. In proportion as we shall build up an international trade under such an agreement, any effort that we may hereafter make to build up an inter-imperial trade will be handicapped, and the natural difficulties to be overcome in building up the latter are sufficiently serious of themselves without any artificial ones being created.

The reasons for this may be briefly stated and each reader can judge for himself if they are sound. Let it be assumed that the reciprocity agreement is put in force and that, as its supporters claim, a great and valuable trade is developed under it. All persons in Canada participating in the benefits of that trade will be interested in preventing it from being interrupted in any way. All our future trade agreements will have to be considered in the light of the manner in which they will affect this particular agreement. We will have to consider if any trade bargain we may make with the United Kingdom or Australia or any other part of the British Empire will be likely to be construed by the Congress of the United States as affording a reason for the rescinding of the agreement. Our hands will be tied by the agreement anyway, for it is to be assumed that we will be expected to live up to it in good faith, and they will be the more strongly tied the greater the trade developed under it. We submit that this is a reasonable proposition, and in it we find the explanation of what Mr. Hill had in mind. He probably went further in his thought than we have gone, and that he was inspired by the belief that Canada will not want inter-imperial trade after having secured free access to the United States for her principal products; but it is not necessary to consider that aspect of the question at present, for we wish to deal not with what may be speculative but with what is certain; and nothing seems to us to be more certain than that the handicap of which we speak will operate very potently, and we fear only too successfully, in preventing the consummation of any inter-imperial trade agreement, at least until the United States gets down to a free trade basis, and there is no use in shaping present-day policies in the hope of any such consummation being realized.

CONDITIONS IN IRELAND

In view of the approach of greater activity in the campaign for Home Rule, it is very interesting to learn that conditions in Ireland are very much better than they have been in a long time. The population of the island, which is naturally one of the most fertile spots in the world, has fallen off from about 8,000,000 in 1800 to 4,381,951 as shown by this year's census. It is true that the increase was much less during the last decade than for some time past, but hopes were indulged that it would be found to have stopped, and that there had begun an increase. Notwithstanding this continued falling off in the population, Ireland is much more prosperous than she has been in a long time. There is a larger acreage in crop, and it is remarked that the census shows the average size of families to be greater than heretofore. The people are said to be happy, and trade is good in all lines. A correspondent of an eastern contemporaryy writes: "Ireland is a pleasant land to visit just now."

Contentment is the most potent enemy of diplomacy, and with a contented Ireland Home Rule would not be likely to militate against the adherence of the Kingdom to the British crown. On the contrary it would be likely to stimulate it. Irishmen will readily give their loyalty, but it cannot be wrested from them. We have a very lively hope of seeing the day when the Green Isle will show herself to be one of the most prosperous and most loyal parts of the Empire, in the building up of which her sons and daughters have played so honorable a part.

Twenty-seven years ago the people of the State of Maine adopted prohibition as a constitutional provision. Long before that a prohibitory law had been in force in that State, but it was no part of the Constitution. On September 11th the people will vote upon a repeal of this provision. This vote is the result of the Democratic victory in Maine last fall, the Democrats as a party in that State being opposed to prohibition.

Some experiments conducted in London and Chicago seem to establish that there is such a thing as an "aura" surrounding our bodies. Dr. Walter J. Kilner, of St. Thomas Hospital, London, was the first person of scientific attainments to declare that by the use of certain chemical screens the "human atmosphere" could be discovered, and experiments conducted by Dr. Patrick J. O'Donnell, of Chicago, have shown the same thing. Dr. O'Donnell's experiments were made in the presence of several physicians and five nuns. All observed the "auras." One of the physicians said: "At first I was of the opinion that the light I saw around the body of the young woman might be the result of auto suggestion. After the third of fourth model had been shown and the stream of light that seemed to flow between the finger tips extended toward the young model and her figure, there could scarcely be a doubt that there was a visible force present. However, I am anxious to make a further study of the subject before I draw final conclusion." Dr. O'Donnell himself thinks the discovery is the most important that has been made since that of the x-ray.

LEAVES TO REJOIN IMPERIAL NAVY

Commander J. D. D. Stewart, R. N. and Mrs. Stewart are Recipients of Presentation from Petty Officers

The petty officers of H. M. C. S. Rainbow presented two handsome silver rose bowls, suitably inscribed, to Commander J. D. D. Stewart, R. N., and Mrs. Stewart at Esquimalt yesterday as a token of regard and esteem for the retiring commander, who leaves here on August 5th at the expiration of his term of service with Canada's navy to rejoin the imperial navy, being replaced by Commander W. Hose, who is expected to reach this city on August 30th.

The presentation took place at the warrant and petty officers' club at the canteen grounds at 5.30 p. m. When the petty officers were gathered Commander Stewart arrived, accompanied by Mrs. Stewart, and the officers of the Rainbow, and as Mrs. Stewart entered Torpedo Instructor W. J. Aitken presented her with a handsome bouquet. After the toast to the King had been drunk, G. W. Silvester, ship's steward, made the presentation of the silver rose bowls. They were inscribed:

"From the chief and petty officers H. M. C. S. Rainbow to Mrs. Stewart as a token of regard and esteem to Commander James D. D. D. Stewart, R. N., August, 1910, to July, 1911.

The following address was read by the ship's steward:

"Madam,—We have very great pleasure in handing to you this small token and hope you will accept it as the expression of our appreciation of the kindly interest Commander Stewart has always taken in our welfare, and a happy year under his command.

"He brought us from England, and we would have liked him to have remained with us, but in the navy it is always a matter of parting. We hope though at some future time we may serve under his command again.

"We take the opportunity of wishing yo both all possible happiness, and give you an assurance of our loyalty."

Tribute to the Crew

Commander Stewart replied: "Chief petty officers and first class petty officers of H. M. C. S. Rainbow: I thank you most graciously for this token you have so kindly offered, and assure you of how greatly we appreciate having this token you have given us. As you all know this time we have spent here has been exceptional. Most of you, all possibly, have done your twenty years' service, as I have, and you have seen the ups and downs as I have done. You have started in at the lowest rung, have gone to sea as boys, and while you have seen what has gone on on the lower deck you have seen how it has gone, too, with officers as they have started as midshipmen and worked their way upward. We all pull together because we have been, as it were, brought up together. We have had the same hardships. You have seen how the commander has berated the midshipman when occasion required, as the seniors have done when occasion required on the lower deck. Our service here has been exceptional. We have come to help start a new navy. It is hard to see how things are coming on. We have come here to give our best to the people of Canada to help them train their people, and it must be understood here, as in Australia, that we have got to receive the necessary assistance to carry out the training. We have come to do all we can to assist in bringing about a navy that will be ready in case the Empire ever requires assistance. Of course there is the militia and the army to assist in defence, but it does not take anything like as long a time to train men ashore as at sea. A militiaman ashore can be trained in six months, but in six months the recruit on board ship has hardly become used to the ship's routine. It requires longer to train men for sea service than for service ashore. It is for the colonies to try to bring out men of like experience to yours to assist in training the personell here, and if they do not assist you as the forerunners of this new navy, it may be difficult to induce others to come out. Of course the pay seems enticing when you are overseas, but when you come out here and see how things are, matters look different. I have done little for you, but I have done my best. I am sorry to leave you. Since we have been together there has not been the slightest hitch. You have done your routine duty, and when there has been call for extra duty you have been uncomplaining; in fact there has never been a murmur on the ship, although you have done your steaming with a reduced crew. The petty officers have always come off with great credit, and this token of your respect will be greatly appreciated." (Loud and prolonged applause.)

Three hearty cheers were given for the retiring commander and Mrs. Stewart, and after a group photograph had been taken the gathering dispersed.

Barrel Navigator Balked

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., July 24.—With the police on both sides of the Niagara river searching for him, Bobbie Leach, the barrel navigator who announced his intention of going over the barrel was forced to abandon his trip. Horseshoe Falls this afternoon in a

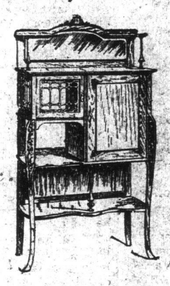
Proposed Municipal Workhouse

MONTREAL, July 24.—At a caucus of the aldermen today the question was taken up of establishing a municipal workhouse. The city is now contributing money to maintain a number of charitable institutions, and the council is to decide if it would be well to abolish these grants and have a general institution controlled and operated by the city.

Think Before You Buy and You'll Visit

Our Pre-Inventory Sale

As to values, you can settle all doubts by examining these offerings for this third week of our Pre-Inventory Sale. They speak stronger than we can ourselves. There is something suspicious about it when you are offered something for nothing. We are not doing that, but we are certainly giving you exceptionally good values. There is a point where cheapness ceases to be economy, but when you buy at Weiler's Quality Store at this Pre-Inventory Sale prices, you are getting something at an exceptionally reasonable price, The banner of high quality and reasonable prices waves over every department. We would be very pleased to have you come and visit our store and let us show you our offerings.



A Few Pieces of Our Quality Furniture With Red Tags Attached

These Will Please You to See and Pay You to Possess

Mahogany Dresser, top 46in., British beveled mirror 28 x 32, bow-shaped front, two large and two small drawers, round glass. Price reduced to **$47.50**

Mahogany Stand, to match above. Reduced to **$18.50**

Mahogany Parlor Chair, upholstered in tapestry. Reduced to .. **$10.00**

Hall Seat, solid quarter cut oak, Early English finish. The back is handsomely carved. Reduced to **$27.50**

Arm Chair, large size, upholstered in tapestry. Suit any room in your house. Reduced to only.. **$22.50**

Handsome Parlor Tables, large size, in either solid mahogany or quarter cut oak, golden finish, handsomely carved centre part in pedestal. Reduced to **$32.50**

Beautiful Inlaid Tables, with figures in centre inlaid, in either oblong or octagon shape, Reduced to **$23.50**

Library Tables, oval shape, solid quarter cut oak, in either square or pedestal style. Reduced to ... **$41.00**

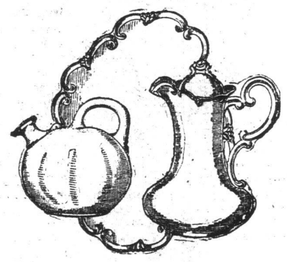
White Enamel Chiffoniere, with heart shaped British beveled mirror, five full sized drawers. Price reduced to **$37.50**

3-Piece Parlor Suite, consists of handsome settee, parlor and arm chairs, beautifully upholstered, well made and exceptionally good value at the reduced price of **$37.50**

SOLID QUARTER CUT OAK BUFFET

This splendid Buffet in solid qnarter cut oak, Early English finish, is of the finest grade produced. The work throughout is done by experts and the soft dull finish is durable and lasting. Every detail that goes to make up a perfect buffet is embodied in its construction. The buffet has a nicely designed cabinet on top with mirror in cabinet and two bow-shaped glass doors. British beveled mirror on buffet with two cupboards and three drawers. Large drawer for linen at foot. Handsomely carved throughout. Reduced to **$57.50**

These Specials on Our Main Floor are Unequalled Values



Every article we display on these tables on our Main Floor are of Weiler Quality, and at the reduced prices are values you seldom see. This is an opportunity to get some beautiful pieces to adorn your home. For a wedding gift some of these are just the thing and especially at these prices. You'll enjoy a visit to this department, and you are always welcome whether your intention is to purchase or not, Come today and make your choice—we will keep the goods for you until you want them. Is there something in this list you would like? If not, it's in the store. You'll see it if you come to look around.

READ OUR LIST PRICE AND COME AND CHOOSE YOUR ARTICLE

2 **Pickle Dishes.** Reduced to, each ..... **30¢**
1 **Dozen 6in. Plates.** Reduced to **$1.25**
3 **Dozen Soup Plates.** Reduced to, per dozen **$1.75**
1 **Steak Set,** 1 platter, 6 plates. Reduced to, set.... **$1.75**
2 **Sutherland Art Ware Vases.** Reduced to **$1.90**
2 **Iogo Ware Vases.** Reduced to **$2.25**
2 **Roast Sets,** 1 platter, 6 plates, 1 gravy boat. Reduced to, per set **$2.50**
1 **Hand-painted French China Mug.** Reduced to ... **$2.60**
1 **Hand-painted French China Jug.** Reduced to.... **$2.75**
1 **Sutherland Art Ware Vase,** Reduced to **$3.15**
1 **Sutherland Art Ware Vase.** Reduced to **$3.40**
1 **Bretby Art Ware Vase.** Reduced to **$3.40**
- **Hand-painted French China Jug.** Reduced to.... **$4.00**
1 **Sutherland Art Ware Vase.** Reduced to **$4.75**
1 **Hand-painted French China Jug.** Reduced to.... **$5.50**
1 **Semi-Porcelain Vase,** Japanese design. Reduced to **85¢**
1 **Semi-Porcelain Pitcher,** Japanese design. Reduced to **$1.00**
1 **Semi-Porcelain Pitcher,** Japanese design. Reduced to **$1.50**
1 **Semi-Porcelain Flower Pot,** Japanese design. Reduced to **$1.65**
1 **Semi-Porcelain Vase,** Japanese design. Reduced to **$1.75**
1 **Semi-Porcelain Vase,** Japanese design. Reduced to **$1.90**
6 **Ham and Egg Sets,** blue and white, consisting of 1 platter and 6 plates, Reduced to, per set **$2.00**
1 **Semi-Porcelain Vase,** Japanese design. Reduced to **$2.25**
1 **Semi-Porcelain Vase,** Japanese design. Reduced to **$2.25**
1 **Semi-Porcelain Cream and Sugar,** Japanese design. Reduced to **$2.25**
1 **Royal Saxe Hand-Painted Tankard.** Reduced to **$3.00**
1 **Hand-Painted Friends' China Mug,** Japanese design. Reduced to **$3.15**
2 **Roast Sets,** 1 platter, 12 plates, 1 gravy boat. Reduced to, per set **$3.50**
6 **Semi-Porcelain Cups and Saucers,** Japanese design. Reduced to **$7.00**

THE STORE THAT SAVES YOU MONEY

Victoria's Popular Home Furnishers

WEILER BROS

Victoria's Popular Home Furnishers