

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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WHAT WILL HE SAY

What will Sir Wilfrid Laurier say when he hears that his staunch supporters in the provincial legislature have voted for the Immigration Bill? Mr. Ralph Smith said in the House of Commons that he was satisfied with the Lemieux understanding. Mr. Robert Macpherson "cooed as mildly as a sucking dove" and forgot all about his projected Boston treaty in his satisfaction at the new status in quo. Mr. Halliburton and Duncan Ross found no cause of complaint. Mr. Sloan and Mr. Kennedy preserved a silence that could be heard clear across the continent. Mr. Templeman was, of course, in harmony with his chief. Everything looked lovely; the silence of the two B. C. members named did not break the harmonious chorus of approval. But, alas, for the vanity of human expectations! Mr. J. A. Macdonald and all his clan have declared as one man for restrictive legislation. They do not want what their leader in Ottawa calls friendly understandings. Equally with Conservatives, they want legislative restriction. Last week the federal Premier told the House that the issue between the Liberals and Conservatives was this: The former are satisfied with a friendly understanding; the latter want legislative action. On the first occasion when an opportunity was offered them to vote, the British Columbia Liberals declared themselves in favor of the Conservative side of the issue. "We place ourselves confidently in the judgment, not only of the people of Canada entirely, but of those of British Columbia," said the Prime Minister. The people of British Columbia have expressed themselves through their representatives and Sir Wilfrid has his answer. What will he say about it?

A TIMID IMPERIALIST

Mr. Harold Begbie's observations in the London Daily Chronicle as to what he calls the Americanization of Canada are attracting quite as much attention as they call for. We might guess them by simply the story of a sort of nightmare, or of which an amiable, yet timid Imperialist has been a victim, if it were not that we find them widely quoted in the United States and treated as though they offered evidence that the Dominion was getting ready to fall into the ever open arms of the Republic. Mr. Begbie is so much alarmed about the future that he would like to see an effort made to settle the sturdy sons of England upon the hillsides of that fair land and keep them from wandering off to this ungoverned country. The idea of breaking up England into small farms and placing the sons of the soil upon as landowners is not a bad one, but Mr. Begbie means, but if Mr. Begbie hopes to be able to stop the emigration of Britons to Canada or anywhere else, we fear he is two or three thousand years too late to look for any degree of success. The British people are affected with what one of the North-west pioneer newspaper men used to call "the wandering foot." The uttermost parts of the world are ever calling to them and they heed the voice.

But what is it that Mr. Begbie fears? He came to Canada and spent a few weeks in the country in the course of which he journeyed from ocean to ocean, saw much and met a good many people. His journeying was a revelation to him, and he has not been able to take it all in. We are on the ground are not quite as clear as we would like to be as to how the destiny of the Empire will be worked out. We are only clear on one point, namely, that it will not be Canada's fault if the Dominion ceases to be a part of the Empire. We are a part of the Empire. As for the development of a national temperament here which may resemble that of the people of the United States, we think it is developed by the physical characteristics of a country, and as the latter are to a very considerable degree alike in Canada and the United States, the characteristics of the people in both countries must inevitably be somewhat similar. But there is nothing in this that need alarm the most timid Imperialist.

THE PREMIER'S DUTY.

The Vancouver World, which is good enough to say that the Colonist's article of Friday last on the reservation of the Bowser Bill, possesses intrinsic value, asks if we are not bound logically to go further and call upon Mr. McBride "to vindicate the rights of the people." We have tried to deal with this question with absolute fairness and to answer every reasonable question that may be asked. We had fully considered what the World asks. Had we felt logically bound to take the step which the World mentions we would unhesitatingly have done so, but we were unable to see that such a duty rested upon Mr. McBride. Let us again say that the Canadian Nippon contract has no bearing whatever upon the constitutional question. We have not discussed it in any aspect whatever. Naturally this contract looms large in the public eye, but if we are to understand the constitutional question and Mr. McBride's duty under the circumstances created by the reservation, we must free our minds from any prejudice to which the contract referred to might give rise. The question is in every erroneous conception by a lieutenant-governor of his authority under his instructions necessarily such an infringement upon popular rights that he should be removed from office. If the answer to this question must be in the affirmative it would have been necessary for us to follow up the article of Friday last in the way the World suggests, but as we could not reach the conclusion that the answer ought to be in the affirmative, we contented ourselves with stating what seemed incontrovertible under the best authorities on constitutional practice. It appears to us that if a provincial premier felt the circumstances of any

case arising out of such a misconception were such as to render it desirable that a lieutenant-governor should be removed, it would be his duty to inform His Honor that fact and see what would happen next. The removal of a lieutenant-governor for an act which his ministers cannot defend is an extraordinary crisis in provincial administration and we must ask to be excused from endeavoring to say until it arrives, how such a crisis should be dealt with. It is to be assumed that Mr. McBride does not consider that the Lieutenant-Governor has done anything which would justify him in asking for his dismissal. If any member of the legislature thinks otherwise, there are many methods by which he can secure an expression of opinion from the legislature. If that opinion should be against Mr. McBride he would have to choose between resigning and giving effect to the views of the House. If it supported Mr. McBride the incident would be closed as far as he is concerned.

THE UNIVERSITY.

The measure introduced by Dr. Young does not say anything about the site of the proposed British Columbia University. It is well that the constitution of the proposed institution should be settled by the Legislature without importing into the discussion any consideration of the place where it is to be established. At the same time the question of site cannot be long postponed, and it seems timely to say a few words upon that point. The University favors the selection of Victoria, and perhaps we can hardly take an unbiased view of the case, but there are certain considerations which appear to us to make it very desirable in the interests of the institution that it should be located here.

Among them is the question of climate. No one pretends to question Victoria's claim to having the best climate of any city in Canada. Our freedom from extremes of heat or cold is remarkable. There is no part of British Columbia, except the same of the islands in the Gulf of Georgia, which can boast such equable temperature as is enjoyed by the San Juan Peninsula, and especially the southern part of it. In addition we have less precipitation than any other part of the province, and this is of itself a matter of importance in connection with an institution where thousands of youths will make their temporary homes, and spend years in which out-of-door life will play a very prominent part. It would be singularly unfortunate if a choice of location should be made which would give the students of the University any less than the best which the province can offer in the way of climatic advantages.

It is established that Victoria is already looked upon by educationalists and parents as the best place for the location of private schools. Within a few months one large private school has been removed from Vancouver to this city, and the reason, doubtless, is that the parents of the people who have sons to send to school, this city possesses exceptional advantages. Victoria is exceptionally situated as a site for a great educational institution. No other city in the province is so well located in a commercial way, the natural contour of the country is such that a large university could be located in the city, and a thing apart from commercial activity and yet be near enough to the social and domestic life of the city. It is not a bad place to place all the advantages of spacious grounds and access to the water, and yet never likely to be built upon with commercial or industrial establishments, or be cut off from aquatic privileges. No one will venture to dispute the proposition that there are within easy reach of the centre of the city sites for the location of a great university which would be ideal, and cannot be duplicated in any other part of the province.

It is desirable that the University shall be located in an educational centre. For some years the British Columbia University will not have a very long roll of students, not sufficient of itself to make the place where it may be located a centre of educational activity. Victoria is already such a centre, the strongest centre of the kind in the province, and its position in that respect is deserving more important. Place the University here and the city will become conspicuous all over the country, in an educational way. There would be no division of interest between localities. We would have here a University surrounded by high-class private schools, and to the city would be attracted youth from all parts of the Northwest coast, and even from the prairie provinces. We divide our educational establishments, if we have the collegiate, university and other private schools here and the University somewhere else, we will not be able to claim for the province that it has in one place all the facilities for giving an education to the elementary grades, with the advantages of what in England is called public school training, up to a post-graduate course. In a new country like ours, there will be an increasing number of parents who would like to have their children educated amid the best available surroundings; that is, surroundings that are not to be looked for in the hundreds of new places that will be occupied during the next half century. Pioneer life in this province is different from what it has been in the other provinces. The pioneers are largely men and women of education, who will in hundreds of cases desire to have their children educated under conditions that cannot be expected to prevail in newly-formed communities. Young boys and girls will be sent to Victoria in greater numbers every year to receive elementary education at private schools. This is no reflection upon our common school system. It is simply the recognition of a set of facts that cannot be disputed. In this way our city is assured of a very prominent place in an educational way, and we submit that this of itself constitutes an excellent reason why the University ought to be placed here. If it is, the province will be able, in the course of a very few years, to boast of the finest educational centre in all Western Canada, if not upon the whole Pacific Coast.

We do not propose to deal with this interesting subject at all exhaustively this morning, but many to bring up the question of the site, and place on record a claim on behalf of Victoria. The institution can only be in one place. Every one wants to have it in the best place. We do not believe there is any place which can make out as good a case as Victoria, and we wish to add that the question is not merely a temporary one in the event of which immediate financial assistance ought to play a dominant role. The decision when made will be for all time practically speaking. Therefore it should be made upon those considerations which are permanent in their character.

THE CASE REVIEWED.

The reservation of the Bowser Bill created no surprise and evoked very little comment at the time. No one expected that the Dominion government would permit the measure to go into operation, and most people, who thought about the matter at all, were inclined to the view that it was better that the Bill should not become law than that it should find a place on the statute only to be struck out a month or two later. By its passage the legislature had renewed its protest against Asiatic immigration, and was all that was intended in the first instance. The incident would have passed out of public notice, and, in fact, had done so, when certain prominent members of the Liberal party endeavored to lead the people to think that the reservation of the Bill was due to Mr. McBride's advice, and with what we shall only characterize as great irregularity, although a much stronger term could be very justly employed, made government and legislature take a step which was not intended by the Lieutenant-Governor, and undertook to repeat a part of a private conversation between the Premier and the provincial Premier. Discussion was at once precipitated. We shall not endeavor to epitomize what others said, but confine ourselves to the position taken by this paper. We presented ourselves with an attempt to demonstrate that, wherever the responsibility might lie, it could not be the Lieutenant-Governor for the act of a Dominion official under the influence of the Premier. We held responsible, as far as we remember the Colonist was the only paper in Canada, and the question was discussed by the press of every province in the Dominion, which took this position, which is now the attitude of every one, and has been shown by unanimous authority to be the correct understanding of the constitutional practice. No one now seriously contends that Mr. McBride is in any degree whatever responsible for the reservation.

The discussion had not proceeded far until Mr. Mackenzie King, in the course of his investigation, brought to light the Wellington Collieries contract with the Canadian-Nippon company. Immediately the batteries of the Liberal press were turned from Mr. McBride upon the Lieutenant-Governor, and with extreme violence of language he was charged with having exercised the power of reservation to his personal ends. It was not the Colonist refused to join. It refused to discuss the Lieutenant-Governor at all in connection with the matter, for, as it pointed out, the Lieutenant-Governor had not yet had an opportunity of being heard on the subject. Moreover, the last thing which the Colonist desires to discuss is the secret motives of the Premier. These are not matters of inference only. During the discussion of the constitutional question which arose out of the action of the Lieutenant-Governor, we have not only did the Colonist refuse to join those who insisted in dragging his possible motives into the question, but he plainly told its political friends that they must be satisfied in attempting to mix up such considerations with an important constitutional question. The burden of this struggle fell upon the Premier, and we have satisfaction in securing a triumph for popular endorsement of our position at the general election.

The Colonist had insisted that the Ottawa authorities must assume the responsibility for the reservation of the Bowser Bill, and that the Minister of Canada had asked in Parliament if the government had advised reservation, to which he replied in the negative. In due course the Lieutenant-Governor would be laid before Parliament, and from this it appeared that he had acted without specific instructions, at least he did not say that he had received such instructions. All the evidence being in, it was time to express an opinion, and The Colonist said that in the opinion of the Colonist, the reservation had not arisen to justify His Honor in reserving the Bill without specific instructions. We do not think this position has been successfully questioned.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite gave notice of a resolution, the terms of which were such that the Premier very properly objected that it was out of order, and Mr. Speaker so held. From some of the language used by Mr. Speaker, it might have been inferred, but we wish to be understood that we do not think such an inference warranted, that there might be a doubt as to the right of the Legislature to express itself upon the construction put upon the constitution by any person or body of persons. From such a suggestion, which seems to meet with some support, The Colonist absolutely dissents. The right is not one which the courts have anything whatever to do with. It is not a question of statutory construction. It is a part of the essential right of self-government which is the birthright of every British subject. There is no power in the British Empire which has the right to take away the right of representation of the people when they wish to express an opinion as to the constitutionality of any administrative act, nor have the people of British Columbia surrendered to the Ottawa government their power to say whether or not a Lieutenant-Governor has acted constitutionally. The contention that, if the Ottawa government does not object to the manner in which a Lieutenant-Governor exercises his functions as a Dominion official, the Provincial Legislature must stand by cannot be sustained by even the ghost of an argument, and is based upon an entire misconception of the fundamental principles of constitutional government.

The resolution which Mr. Oliver proposes to move has no bearing whatever upon the question.

ever upon the constitutional question, but is an attempt to drag a herring across the trail of the Laurier government, and is proposed in the hope that it will be defeated. Therefore we do not intend to discuss it in this connection. What we have aimed to do, and we think we have done, is to show that there are certain acts which are inclined to the view that it was better that the Bill should not become law; but that there is nothing which he may do in connection with the affairs of the Province against which the Legislature may not enter its solemn protest if it sees fit.

THE A-Y-P. EXPOSITION.

We are not yet advised that anything is likely to be done at Ottawa in the way of seeing that Canada is properly represented at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, to be held at Seattle next year. We assume that Dr. Thompson, of the Yukon, will urge the matter very strongly upon the attention of the government, and we hope that his hands will be strengthened by the representatives of British Columbia, who would naturally be regretted if that exposition should be held and Western Canada, at least, should not be represented there. We have seen an absurd reference to this enterprise in the Ottawa Citizen, which treats the Exposition as a scheme on the part of Seattle to grab the trade of the Yukon. Such a narrow provincial view of the question is a surprise coming from a paper like the Citizen. The Exposition will set forth the resources of the Northwest Coast, whether the Yukon contributes a dollar to it or no, and if we want to lose the trade of the Yukon the best way to go about it is to refrain from making an exhibit. As a matter of fact, the trade of the Yukon is in Canadian hands and cannot be taken away unless we allow our province to out-advertise us so completely that people will forget that we are in existence. But the Exposition is more than an advertising scheme for a lot of wholesale houses. It is designed to make known to the world what the great Northwest Coast is, and as Canada owns the most valuable part of this splendid region, we ought to make the fact known.

A MUCH-ABUSED WORD

We all remember the good lady who said that she always derived much comfort from that blessed word "Mesopotamia," and we know of a good many people who take a special and somewhat similar pleasure out of the word "Constitution." In a happy day a draftsman called a certain piece of provincial legislation "The Constitution Act," whereas, in fact, it was only a statute regulating the political machinery of the province. Following the example of our United States neighbors we have got into the habit of speaking of the "Constitution" as if it were a thing, and we have not only made a mistake, but we have made a mistake which we really mean is that they are intra vires or ultra vires of the legislature enacting them. The British North America act defines the Constitution as the provisions of that act certain lines of procedure are fixed, there is no distribution of legislative and executive power, certain offices are created and certain lines of procedure are laid down; but we are deprived of nothing by the Act, and we are given no greater constitutional rights than we already possessed. There are provisions in the Act, such as those relating to the Royal Assent, Bills, which restrict the powers of certain officials, but do not in any sense restrict the constitutional rights of the people. An official may follow the opinion of a cabinet minister, but he is held by the people to have acted in an unconstitutional way. As an illustration of the distinction between constitutional power and Constitutional procedure, we note that the Act says that the Governor-General may withhold assent, but if he should withhold such assent except by special instructions from the Queen, he would be acting unconstitutionally, and under the principles of parliamentary government as they have been evolved, his advisers would not be justified in advising him to disregard the will of Parliament as expressed in a Bill regularly passed. In other words, while there is a statutory power vested in the Governor-General, he has that power upon the same terms as the Crown is said to hold a similar power in respect to Bills passed by the British Parliament, that is "upon condition that it shall never be exercised, and as a matter of fact it has not been exercised for over two hundred years. By the strict letter of the B. N. A. Act the Governor-General has what amounts to a right to veto; but constitutionally, we all know that he has nothing of the kind. The British Parliament has reserved to itself for imperial reasons a right to suspend or annul the legislation of the Canadian Parliament, for similar reasons it has conferred a like power of supervision of provincial legislation upon the federal government. To that extent neither the Dominion nor any province enjoys the absolute right of self-government. What is known as the omnipotence of parliament is to that extent qualified in Canada, but subject to the qualification we have every other right vested by the British Constitution in the residents of the United Kingdom.

Brant County Council is at a deadlock over the election of a warden.

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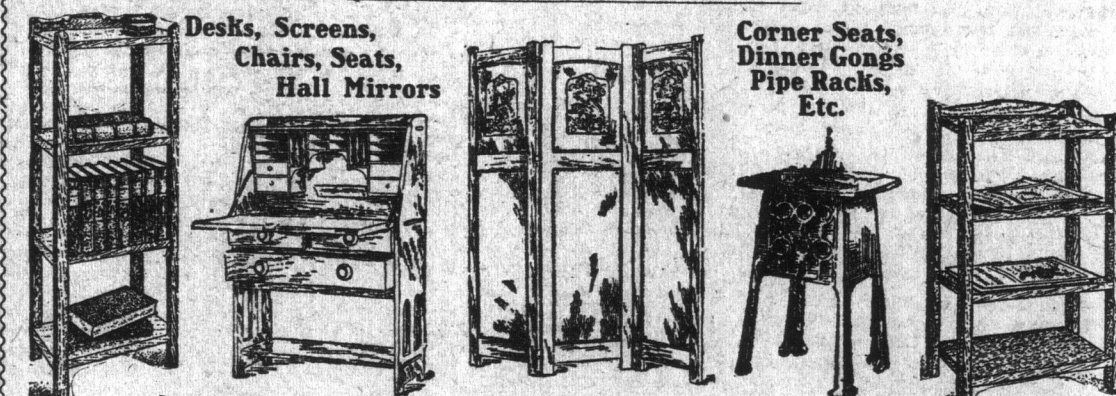
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- MAGAZINE STAND—A very stylish style, with four shelves and a cabinet, with handsome leaded glass door. In early English oak. Price \$15.00
- CELLARETTE—In early English oak we have several fine cellarettes—gifts the men folk would appreciate. Prices range at each, \$25.00, \$24.00, \$14.00 and... \$12.00

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SHOWN ON FOURTH FLOOR—OTHERS THERE, TOO

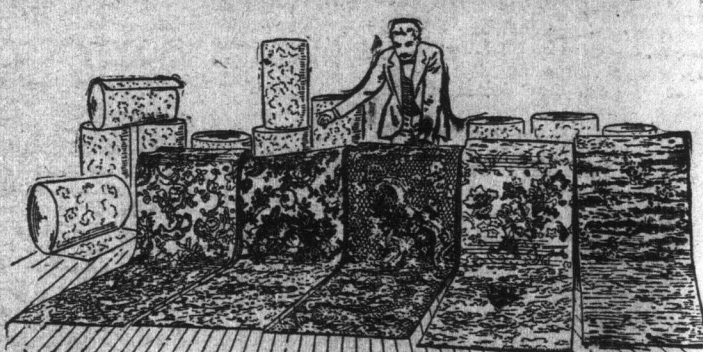
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If you have not seen the new arrivals in Dinnerware you have missed a genuine treat. We have never before shown a more interesting collection of medium priced sets or offered better values than these.

Now for the Splendid Showing of New Spring Carpets

A busy day, yesterday, showing and selling new carpets prevented us from arranging all of the new carpet arrivals, but we have some ready for you and the balance will quickly follow. There are sufficient pieces now open to show you how superior the new styles are, so come down and spend a moment on the Second Floor to-day.

These are Grossley Carpets, fresh from the looms of these famous makers, and embodying the careful thought and work of their best designers. The materials, the dyes and the workmanship are the very best possible, and, worked into such bewitching designs, make a combination almost irresistible to the homekeeper. who loves nice furnishings. And, withal, the fair pricings are the most interesting feature of the showing. For Carpets of such unusual style and quality, the prices seem low. Carpets ARE sold for LESS, but—there are Carpets and Carpets. Some wear for a year, some for many years—there's the difference. Before you invest in a yard of carpet, see OUR offerings.



THE HOUSE OF M

We sat in various attitudes. A wood fire was sending from the grate. The bill was nothing outside and storm. The air was heavy, were all half-dreaming, it so late that it soon would and, going to his small volume. Turning up the lamp, he held the book in and began to read an extract in which he describes the without a God. His heart not much more than a yo passing dramatic power, through. Soon the tensile borne, and one of the par God's sake, B—," he said shade, while I pull down light show out, we looked faces, and B— said: "Is a Father?" It was "A great preacher was add men and women, dealing the existence of a God, demolished them one by which he held his audience eloquence, he sketched a stormy night at sea. You of the waves in the impetuous of the wind, the terror of the seamen at an unknown sea on such hearts would beat with of the tempest, there ca throated siren, telling th he said, when the time co aloft upon that unknown

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