

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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THE PRINCE RUPERT SALE.

It is stated in a paragraph in Collier's Weekly that only government lots in Prince Rupert were sold, the lots belonging to the company having been withheld, the impression left on the mind of the reader being that the company has managed the sale so that the province would get no advantage from any appreciation in values that may result from the completion of the railway. It is an open question whether this appreciation will materialize as rapidly as some people might anticipate. The experience of most western towns does not warrant any sanguine expectations on this point. That there will be an increase in the value of Prince Rupert real estate may be taken for granted, but how rapid it will be will depend upon circumstances to be developed in the future. But be this as it may, it is not correct to say that the only lots sold belonged to the province, for an equal number belonging to the company were also sold.

There are, in sections 1 to 8, 9,239 lots of which 2885 belong to the province and 6954 to the company. The selection of government lots in section 9 has not yet been made. Of these 9239 lots somewhat less than one-third were sold. The number put up at auction having been 2,900, some of which were not sold, because the upset price was not bid. Of the 2,900, one half belonged to the province and one-half to the company. At the Vancouver sale each owner offered 1,200 lots; in Victoria each offered 250. At the Vancouver sale \$1,169,975 were realized; at the Victoria sale \$232,130. We are not advised what proportion of these sums will go to the province but understand that the government lots brought slightly the better price.

THE INDIAN TITLE.

We have placed the evidence bearing upon the Indian title to the Songhees Reserve before the public because of the importance of a clear understanding on that point. There can be no legislation on the subject until the next session of parliament, and we surmise that the Ottawa authorities are uncertain as to the course they ought to adopt. A clear understanding of the case as it is seems essential to a proper solution. We assume that the Dominion government has no desire to thwart the wishes of the people of Victoria in this matter; at least, it is from that point of view that we are regarding it. There is no question between the federal and the provincial governments involved in the settlement of the question, and we venture to think that if politics could be forgotten in this connection, and we could all get together upon the case, which can be sustained upon its merits, something might be accomplished. The obstacle to a settlement of the reserve question is the assumption that the remnants of the Songhees tribe have certain rights therein, of which they cannot be divested without their consent; and we are told that as Canada has never broken faith with the Indians, the government cannot be a consenting party to any breach of faith with the Songhees now. To the latter contention we give unqualified assent, and it is because we assent to it that we have endeavored to discover from the records what good faith with the Indians requires of the crown. From these records we have ascertained the following facts:

That in 1850 certain Indians surrendered to the Hudson Bay Company, which at that time exercised sovereign rights on Vancouver Island, the land west of Victoria Arm, but that from this surrender their village sites and enclosed fields were exempted;

That the gifts to the Indians to induce them to assent to this surrender were only to prevent ill-feeling, and not in recognition of any right of the Indians to the land;

That the Songhees were not the aboriginal occupants of land west of the Arm, but were induced to settle there by the Hudson Bay Company;

That in 1859, certain of the Indians, having attempted to sell their individual holdings to white people, the governor of Victoria Arm, then acting as governor, declared the reserved areas to be crown lands;

That the governor of the province determined that the best use to be made of the reserved areas was to permit the Indians to remain in possession of such parts as they actually occupied and to lease the rest for their benefit, which course was approved by the imperial government;

That the occupation of the reserved areas was recognised as individual, and not tribal;

That commissioners were appointed to lease the unoccupied areas, and did lease them; but on a question afterwards arising as to the right of the governor to delegate his authority to commissioners, the leases were allowed to lapse;

That at no time was any agreement, treaty, or arrangement of any kind made with the Indians to vary the conditions of the tenure as established in 1850, and explained by the governor's proclamation and despatch of 1859;

That by the Terms of Union, the Dominion government assumed the control of Indian affairs in this province

on the understanding that the treatment extended should be at least as liberal as that of the provincial government.

We submit that these facts show:

1st.—That the Indians have not and never had any title to the Songhees Reserve;

2nd.—That such rights as arise from possession are held by the Indians in severalty, and not in common;

3rd.—That such possessory rights only extend to such tracts as are actually in the occupation of the Indians individually;

4th.—That the Crown has the right to make such disposition as it sees fit of any part of the reserve, and that the obligation to administer the reserve for the benefit of the Indians is a voluntary one;

5th.—That the Crown is the sole judge of how the reserve can be administered to the best advantage of the Indians;

6th.—That the Crown in this matter is represented by the Department of Indian Affairs, as a branch of the Dominion government;

7th.—That if the Department of Indian Affairs should decide that the best interests of the Songhees required that they should occupy part of the reserve and that the remainder should be leased or sold for their benefit, it would not be guilty of any breach of faith, but would be carrying out the spirit of the original understanding made between Governor Douglas and the Indians as interpreted by the governor and approved by the British government;

8th.—That no question between the province and the Dominion government as to revolutionary rights enters into the question;

9th.—That no legislation is necessary to carry out the original conditions as above set out.

Concluding this statement of the case, we wish to add that the Songhees are not savages, but are men who earn their living much as white men earn theirs. While they may be wards of the government, they are not children. They can be made to understand what is best for them, and would readily understand it, if their minds could be disabused of the notion that they have certain sacred rights with which no one can interfere.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

The members of the Imperial Conference are certainly having the time of their lives. That they will be able to settle down to the common relations of this mundane sphere, when the round of festivities is over, is not to be expected. They will feel like the fellow whom Butler represents as saying:

"My roof restrains me not,
'Tis air I tread
And at each step I feel my head
Knock out a star in Heaven."

But speaking seriously, the Conference is likely to be productive of excellent results. Lord Northcliffe says the result will be the appointment of a permanent committee to secure cheaper cables. If this is the only concrete outcome the Conference will have been justly well known.

The other benefits will be large but they will be indirect, and must not be expected to see evidence of them immediately. There are a good many people in the United Kingdom, and they are not what might be called impressionable, except in the matters of their own newspapers. The men seem on every occasion to have spoken with good effect, and their speeches and the personal contact of so many intelligent persons from the overseas dominions with the British people at home must sow the seeds of a better appreciation of each other.

The effect upon the visitors cannot fail to be profound, and it must necessarily be reflected to some extent in the colonial press. But it must not be forgotten that Imperial questions are large; they cannot be disposed of in an off-hand way; they have to be considered and reconsidered above all the formative influences of time must be permitted to work. At this distance and with the necessarily meagre accounts of the busy weeks spent by the press men in the Mother Country, we can only say that to all appearances the Conference has been a success. It has certainly been free from those objectionable features which certain persons anticipated. No political party has endeavored to exploit it for its own advantage.

An Ohio man has discovered a lively annexation movement in Canada. He had better tie a string to it, for it will get lost if ever it gets abroad.

La Presse, of Montreal, prophesies that the next contest in Canada will be against Laurier and military imperialism, and it foretells "an immense split" among the people.

If the czar is so abominably nervous when he is away from home that his gunners must shoot innocent people, who are going quietly about their own business, he would act wisely to keep within the walls of his palaces.

Lord Milner made a speech to the Press Conference, in which he characterized Lord Rosebery's dread of the rebarbarization of Europe as "dreadful nonsense." These noble lords do not get along much better than some editors.

The Vancouver World is very strong in its demand for lower rates between that city and Seattle. It says the existing rates will kill travel. The Canadian Pacific expected their boats to be pretty well occupied in taking care of through-traffic.

Wilbur Wright says that Aeronauts will cross the Atlantic Ocean in a year. He says all that is needed is a dirigible balloon or an aeroplane that will carry sufficient fuel and provisions for the voyage, although he thinks it would be wise to equip the machines with a duplicate set of engines.

The Montreal Star feels called upon to sound a warning to amateur canoeists. It goes so far as to say that no person should use a canoe, who is not a good swimmer, and that even then they should take no risks. This is going a long way, but it cannot be too strongly impressed upon young people that the ordinary light canoe is as full of tricks as a four-year old boy.

The Prince Rupert Bulletin is flourishing a large club in the direction of the member for Comox-Atlin. It says that the Prince Rupert Board of Trade is wholly without influence with the post office department, that all its requests are refused, and it wants Mr. Templeman to explain. Our experience is that Mr. Templeman does not like being asked to explain things.

A Prince Albert despatch says that the Hudson Bay and Pacific Railway Company is about to file its plans at Ottawa and will begin the construction of the line. The despatch is very circumstantial in its details, and alleges that the enterprise has been financed in London and New York. The survey of the line will be begun, it is said, as soon as the plans are approved. The charter of this company was granted in 1896, and has been renewed on several occasions. It authorizes the construction of a line from Fort Churchill to the Pacific coast by way of Yellow Head Pass.

The Manchester Guardian has an article from its Ottawa correspondent dealing with the Hecla Strait question, in which the extraordinary mistake is repeated about the width of this strait being six miles at its northern end and only twenty-eight at its southern end. The Guardian illustrates the letter by a map, and according to the scale of miles on the strait is more than fifty miles wide at the north and a hundred at the south. The map is, however, more nearly correct than the correspondent's letter. By the way, the only city shown on the map is New Westminster.

It is no part of the Colonist's business how other papers are edited. We have quite enough to do to look after ourselves. But when a New York paper publishes a Canadian edition, every Canadian has a right to ask that it shall deal with Canadian affairs sometimes as if they were of a serious nature. The Canadian edition of Collier's presents brief paragraphs on Canadian subjects, and they are certainly written with an easy and graceful pen, but their chief characteristic is flippancy. Now flippancy of touch in newspaper writing is a delightful gift, and the writer of the paragraphs in question certainly has it. He is also a pretty good insight into the inner parts of current events, and is certainly able to call up a smile; but really it ought not to be reasonable to expect him to treat a Canadian question sometimes as if we had real issues in Canada.

Apparently we have misunderstood the Evening Post in regard to what it refused to sanction legislation to remove the Songhees from their Reserve. It explains that what it intended to convey was that remedial legislation was not introduced last session in consequence of "an intimation from the highest authority that such legislation would be distasteful to the Imperial authorities." It is the explanation it is somewhat strange that the apologists for Mr. Templeman did not make the fact known earlier. But even if it is the case, we think our contention is a good deal for granted when it assumes that the Imperial government had before it the correspondence referred to and gave out its intimation in view thereof. We think our contemporary would find it difficult to show that any officer of the Imperial government knew anything whatever of the status of the Songhees Reserve, and even if by some remarkable accident one of them might know something about it, that fact would furnish no reason why any one in British Columbia should not advance a contrary view. Our local contemporaries are within their rights in treating the Songhees question from the standpoint of the Indians, as that standpoint has come to be regarded. The Colonist is endeavoring to show that the Indian idea is wrong, and that the settlement of the question has been approached from a mistaken standpoint. The Colonist stands exactly where Sir James Douglas did fifty years ago.

Our prices are just as low as is consistent with quality, accuracy and purity. We believe our system of dispensing and safekeeping prescriptions and avoiding errors in dispensing is the most perfect possible to devise.

We do not ask you to let us put up your prescriptions without knowing that we can give you absolute satisfaction.

CYRUS H. BOWES, CHEMIST

Chemist 1228 Government St.

Let Us Fill Your Prescriptions

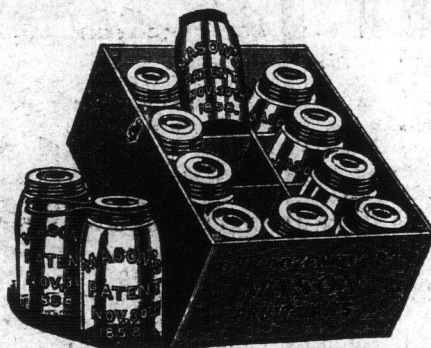
Our prices are just as low as is consistent with quality, accuracy and purity. We believe our system of dispensing and safekeeping prescriptions and avoiding errors in dispensing is the most perfect possible to devise.

We do not ask you to let us put up your prescriptions without knowing that we can give you absolute satisfaction.

CYRUS H. BOWES, CHEMIST

Chemist 1228 Government St.

How About the Fruit Canning?



You'll Require Some New Jars, Rubbers or Jelly Tumblers

YOU ARE bound to need some new jars, rubbers, jelly tumblers, etc., for the fruit canning this Summer and you are surely interested in knowing where the fullest assortment of canning accessories can be found and where your wants may be supplied with the least possible delay.

These are the principal items and they can be had from us in the best qualities. There are many grades in these as in all other lines of household needs and it has always been the policy of this establishment to handle only the best. Some glass will crack when it is heated, some when it cools off. Try ours—it's the safest.

These are the principal items and they can be had from us in the best qualities. There are many grades in these as in all other lines of household needs and it has always been the policy of this establishment to handle only the best. Some glass will crack when it is heated, some when it cools off. Try ours—it's the safest.

Strawberry canning shortly—get a supply of jars now. Try these Mason Jars.
PINTS—per doz. .80¢ QUARTS—per doz. \$1.00 HALF-GALLONS—per doz. \$1.35

SPECIAL VALUES IN SAMPLE LINE ART POTTERY

TEA POTS, TRAYS, CHEESE DISHES, BON BONS, VASES, ETC.

WE ARE offering some very special values in a sample line of art pottery. These items are displayed on a table in the china store and you should have a look at first time you are in the shop. Many useful pieces are shown—items for everyday use around the home. Prices are very low on every piece.

We show such items and values as—

TEA POTS, at each \$1.00 to 50¢
CHEESE DISHES, at each, \$1.25 to 50¢
BON BON TRAYS, at each \$1.00

OVAL TRAYS, at each, \$1.00 to 35¢
VASES, at each, \$1.75 to 50¢
ROUND TRAYS, at each, 50¢ to 25¢

Hemstitched Sheets \$5.50 Per Pair

A SPECIALLY FINE QUALITY—FINE VALUES

This is an excellent value in Hemstitched Sheets. Quality is very fine—Weiler quality.

Size, 2½ x 3½ yards. Each pair packed in separate cardboard box. An ideal gift suggestion for some friend of yours about to be married.

Come up to the second floor and see these and ask to see other lines of Sheets and Sheetings. These are priced at, per pair \$5.50

THIS STORE IS HEADQUARTERS FOR SUMMER FURNITURE



Summer Attractions At this Store

The policy of this store provides for attractions that will interest our public, every one of the three hundred and odd business days of the year.

Thus, during these summer days we are busy. Not so busy as around Christmas time—but normally busy.

New goods arrive and are put forth for your delectation, these days just as in December. Not in such great quantities to be sure, but in splendid proportions, nevertheless, and at more economical prices.

Something new all the time—something that will interest you to-day or to-morrow or any day.

A delightfully cool store, too.

WATCH THE WINDOWS SOMETHING OF INTEREST—ALWAYS

Keep your eye on the windows for there is always something of interest to housekeepers in these windows of ours. You keep in touch with the newest and best in homefurnishings by watching these window displays and by strolling through the showrooms. Handsome Brass Beds are shown in one of our Broughton Street windows today, Jap Rugs in another and Summer Furniture and other "seasonables" in another.

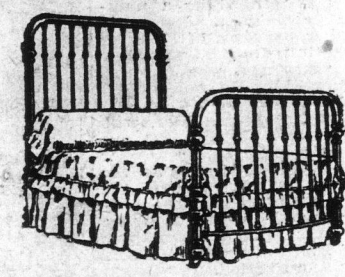
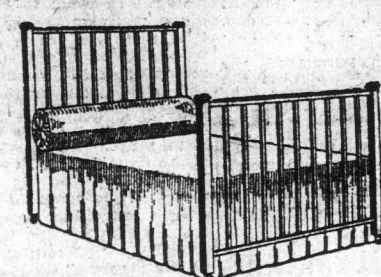
BAMBOO PORCH SCREENS SUMMER ITEMS YOU'LL REQUIRE

TRY ONE of these Porch Screens for you verandah this Summer. Take one with you to camp. You'll find that you'll get heaps of comfort from their use and you'll soon forget the little price you paid for it.

We have a big range of sizes and we have priced them at such little figures that every home may have one. Two finishes are shown—natural and green. Made of split bamboo—very serviceable.

GREEN—3 x 6 ft. \$1.25
NATURAL—4 x 8 ft. \$1.25
GREEN—4 x 8 ft. \$1.50
NATURAL—6 x 8 ft. \$1.50
GREEN—7 x 8 ft. \$1.75
NATURAL—8 x 8 ft. \$1.75
NATURAL—10 x 8 ft. \$2.50
GREEN—10 x 8 ft. \$3.00

Handsome Brass Beds Priced from \$30.00



MANY STYLES ARE EXHIBITED IN OUR BROUGHTON ST. WINDOWS

YOU WON'T find more attractive Brass Beds shown anywhere than these stylish beds offered here. Certain it is that no better values are offered in the West than the price tags on these represent.

Products of the largest metal bed factory in the World, they are a delight to the eye. Extensive purchases to supply a large wholesale, as well as retail trade secures for us very special prices and enables us to offer such exceptionally good values.

Brass Beds in plenty can be purchased elsewhere at similar prices, but compare those beds with ours and you'll see the big values we offer. It's just the Weiler Quality standard in beds as in other lines.

We are displaying some of the styles we offer, in one of our Broughton street windows. Glance at these bed styles then come up to the fourth floor and see the other interesting styles shown there, for we have brass beds from \$120 to \$30.

SEE THE EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD VALUES AT \$30, \$35 and \$37.50

WEILER BROS.

HOME FURNISHERS SINCE 1862, VICTORIA, B.C.

USE THE REST ROOM

The Ladies' Rest Room was built especially for you, so we want you to use it. Meet your friends here—read, write or rest here.



PROVE ALL T

Writing to the Thessalonians them to "prove all things and which is good." He gave in the same connection, the is not quite so clear to the Thus he told them to pray to quench not the spirit, not saying. A Persian teacher, a contral audience recently, pressed "pray without ceasing" the repetition of the Lord's breath, or, in other words, devotional sentiment with continuous prayer. But this the expression is necessarily pray without ceasing would possibility. Just what is meaning the spirit and not desist must remain uncertain, but the Thessalonians that the things and hold fast that certainly desired to convey did not claim to have spoken their guidance. The idea Christianity is to be progressive to the conditions of a change under its influence the matter for a little while reasonable this view of the members of the earliest Christians, if we may judge from hortations extended to their not people of very high praise was essential that they should be certain that, as their gain to operate upon their live characters anew, new lines be opened up. In other words Church was to be progressively its progress was to be efforts. If these were good, in the right direction. Very arisen great complaint of a the Christian religion. In E lished Church is experiencing curing a sufficient number Church statistics of New York one writer puts it, that ching the luxury of the rich as erted by the poor. But eve the church is losing its hold, district in which over twelv ies reside, more than one churchgoers. The Jews, this losing interest in the Synag ants are dropping away fro worship; only the Roman C taining their ground, and a keeping pace with the incr tion. The writer grieved condition of things in New York out that as the fashiona people have moved away f centres, they have built ch homes and installed in them, leaving the congested and the laboring element to called missions, where ine ister to the spiritual needs unattractive buildings, am roundings. There is ano work, which is very potent ganized labor. Now there Christian in organized labor verse. The fundamental pri labor is the Golden Rule. come to Victoria, He wou as much as honor, it has e of your churches, reveren mental principle of united ism not unworthy to be cal grant that it is abused othe it is frequently misunderst who claim to practice it— is of Christianity as the Chur to preserve it? There sho ism between the Church a but it is true that the artiza to year failing more and within the Church what it own experience to be goo pews are not filled; as they working men, their wives a ing from the lips of sympath as much as honor, it has e promoting. The Church ha less opportunity. On very lowering clouds which beto ish statesman has recentl barbarization of Europe. I a great proletariat, that h think, that understands its disposed to suffer tyranny sserting itself. The chur sed, while the amuseme crowded—small wonder the ing pictures to dead words, turning in one respect to t Rome, when the temples w the people asked only for b is a storm about to bre