

The Colonist.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

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VERY GOOD NEWS

Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior, has been good enough to say that "British Columbia will next year receive more attention from the large American investors than in any previous year, and his department will make special arrangements to look after this province's interests." This is very satisfactory news and it indicates that the American public will not have lost as much by the defeat of certain candidates as those candidates and their friends would have us believe. On the principle that we should not look a gift horse in the mouth, we shall not inquire too closely into the reasons for this change of policy in regard to the province, but will attribute it wholly to the fact that Mr. Oliver has been aroused to an appreciation of the advantage which will result to Canada from the development of British Columbia. For ourselves we will say to Mr. Oliver that the Colonist has been very glad to assist him in every way it can in his proposed work. It is timely and if carried out with the same good judgment as has characterized the reviewing of the prairie region, will undoubtedly produce very valuable results. His statement is very good indeed. It is directly in line with what the Colonist has persistently advocated, and we welcome it most heartily.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

A statement has been made by provinces of the customs receipts of the past year. It is as follows:

Quebec	\$28,547,446
Ontario	12,455,674
British Columbia	5,023,783
Manitoba	4,499,510
Nova Scotia	2,324,419
New Brunswick	1,806,711
Alberta	1,446,817
Saskatchewan	334,688
Yukon	244,358
Prince Edward Island	115,264

Speaking in reference to this table the Montreal Gazette says it does not mean much especially in regard to Quebec. The same observation holds good in regard to Ontario, though it has not in the same degree, but with the exception of Manitoba, where duties are probably paid upon a considerable proportion of the goods consumed in Saskatchewan and Alberta, we think the amounts in the table were duties on goods actually used in the several provinces. The western provinces undoubtedly consume a very considerable portion of the goods on which duties are collected in Ontario and Quebec. The duties on goods paid may in round figures be stated at \$56,000,000 and putting the population of the country at 7,000,000 we have \$8.00 per head. Whether this is a high or low estimate we shall not attempt to say. If we place the population of British Columbia at 300,000, which is probably an accurate estimate, we get a direct per capita contribution of upwards of \$14.00 per head, and this does not include the duties paid on goods at Eastern Canadian ports, which are repaid by the consumer of the goods here. Perhaps if we were to place the direct per capita payment of duties by all the people of Canada at \$8, and then in regard to the payment by the people of British Columbia at \$15, we would not be very far astray and probably \$2 or \$3 per capita might be added to the latter amount for the indirect payments of duties made by the people of this province which would bring our total per capita contribution by way of duties towards the revenue of the Dominion at about twice that of the whole population of the country. We do not propose to base any argument at the present time upon this, but only to mention the fact. It is a good thing to keep some matters to the front.

AN INTERESTING POINT

The despatches have spoken of an effort to disqualify Sir Wilfrid Laurier because of certain representations made by him during the recent election in Ottawa. The ground upon which it is alleged proceedings will be taken is found in the following extract from a letter which the Premier wrote to Mr. McGovern, a candidate. Sir Wilfrid said:

I have no authority at this moment to pledge the Government. I only express my personal opinion and the course which I will recommend to my colleagues.

This was in confirmation of a promise made by Mr. McGovern that the salaries of the civil servants would be increased in accordance with the recommendations of the Civil Service Commission. We find it difficult to see how such a statement can be regarded as one which a Premier or any other public man might not properly make. The increase of the salaries of Civil Servants is a matter of public policy, upon which the electors have a right to the views of the public men of the country. No one disputes that Mr. McGovern might properly say that he personally favored such an increase, and if he might say so, why might not the Premier say so? Objection is made that for the Premier to say that he would recommend a thing to his colleagues was tantamount to saying that the thing would be done; but conceding this, and of course, however true it might be, the fact is that a matter that the Courts could consider, when did it come about that a Premier might not indicate before an election the policy of his government upon every subject of legislation? We do not suppose that the point will ever be brought before the Courts for a decision, but if it is, we should very greatly regret if a judgment were given which would limit the right of candidates in the public discussion of public questions. If it is a letter as Sir Wilfrid Laurier wrote would disqualify a man from sitting in Parliament it is hard to say where the line would not have to be drawn. The next step would be to disqualify candidates who avowed their support of any proposition for the benefit of any particular locality. There is a possibility of running things into the ground, and this will be done if the above point is pressed.

"A CLOSED BOOK."

Speaking at the Mansion House London, Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux said: "The life, opinions and aspirations of our fellow subjects should cease to be

what they practically are today—a closed book." Something must always be allowed for exuberance of language, especially when the speaker is an eloquent French-Canadian and his subject an imperial one, but Mr. Lemieux was not very far astray in his characterization of the mutual understanding of each other, which prevails between the component parts of the Empire. We do not know nearly as much of each other as we ought to know and consequently we do not understand each other as well as we ought to. Many residents of this Western part of Canada can hardly appreciate this as they ought to. A considerable number of them came directly from the Mother Country and not only have brought with them the ideas inculcated in their former homes, but kept in touch with what is transpiring through newspapers and personal correspondence. This leads to some notable incidents. A certain lady from an English shire subscribed to the Colonist on her arrival here, but at the end of the first month she discontinued it because she said she got all the news in her weekly home paper. This is an extreme case, of course, but the closeness with which some of our newer residents keep in touch with what is transpiring in the United Kingdom varies from such an extreme case to something closely resembling indifference, because the news supplied telegraphically is necessary exceedingly limited in its scope and very scrappy. In the older parts of Canada there are hundreds of thousands of people who have absolutely no perception of the advantage which is being secured in the United Kingdom, except so far as it forms part of the general news of the world, and this is natural enough because the news of the day has passed since any of their ancestors lived on the eastern side of the Atlantic. On the other hand it is not to be expected that the present expensive means of telegraphic intercourse the very great majority of the people of the United Kingdom will keep in touch with what is transpiring in Outer Britain. Their interest in the British lands beyond the seas is growing, but it must increase a great deal before it assumes any great proportions. It is no one's fault; it is the misfortune arising from the cost of telegraphic communication, for while cheap postage increases correspondence by letter, in these days we look to the telegraph for the transmission of our news.

President Castro, of Venezuela, is apparently just a little bit happier than most people gave him credit for. He is in Europe to try and adjust all the outstanding differences between his country and the various Powers having interests therein, and there seems every prospect that he will return home with a clean slate.

Sir Montague Allan, interviewed at Montreal the other day, refused to either confirm or deny the rumor that he had been offered the appointment of High Commissioner to the Dominion of Northern British Columbia. This would appear to lend color to the suggestion upon which Sir Montague was approached on the subject.

A SMALL BUSINESS.

There is a section of the eastern press, which seems to be instant in season and out of season in its efforts to misrepresent the conditions in this province. We quote the following from the Ottawa Free Press:

The Free Press unwittingly did the Conservative party an injustice on Friday when in its query as to whether anybody had heard of a move by the Conservative Government at Toronto, Frederick or Winnipeg to abolish the patronage in the respective provinces, it omitted to also mention the Conservative Government at Victoria. Anybody who knows anything about the conditions in this province of British Columbia under McBride, Bower and Company is conducted upon the principle of the "closed door" except by the consumer of the goods here.

The Free Press has "unwittingly" or otherwise done a great injustice to itself in its desire to say something cutting in regard to the Conservative Government. We do not know from what source the Free Press gets its misinformation about matters political in this part of the world, but it has a supply of it, which for veracity and absolute untruthfulness is without parallel. If there is an administration in Canada which can afford to throw its cards down upon the table and invite the whole world to look at its hand, it is the Government of British Columbia. The department under which the expenditures are the greatest and by which the great natural resources are handled is that of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and we defy the Free Press or any one else to lay a finger upon a transaction by that Department during the last ten years that will not be the light of day, or in which political friendship has influenced decisions, and we have purposely gone beyond the McBride administration in making this statement. We might go further back with perfect safety, but beyond ten years is ancient history in this part of the world. We know that all manner of wild assertions have been made, but we also know that when it has come to a matter of proof it has not been forthcoming. It is not to defend the McBride Government that we make these observations. It is to defend the province from the calumnies, for if things were as the Free Press say they are known by all men to be, it would be a disgrace to the name of the province, to the Liberals as much as to the Conservatives, that there has not long ago been an exposure, and the guilty parties have not been driven from power. There is a feeling of being unable to understand the object which the Free Press can have in calumniating this province; we do not see what it and certain others of its contemporaries hope to gain by representing as they do that the administration of affairs in British Columbia is rotten to the core, unless it be that the exceptionally excellent financial position of the province, the general feeling of satisfaction among the people, the popularity, which the present government has won by its businesslike and unselfish conduct of affairs, has excited the jealousy of a certain lot of would-be politicians, who give vent to their spleen by poisoning the minds of eastern people. It is a mighty mean piece of business and the Free Press ought to be above it.

Speaking especially of the McBride administration, its record in this regard has been especially good. One manner in which patronage is exercised is in the appointment and dismissal of officials. The record of the government in that respect will bear the closest scrutiny. Of dismissals from office there have been very few and none for partisan reasons, while in the promotion of deserving men the political leanings of individuals has never been considered. Perhaps as convincing a proof as can be given of the good faith of the government in this regard is afforded by the Civil Service Bill which has been under consideration for nearly two years, and which will probably be laid before the legislature at its next session in its matured form. As for the abuse of patronage in other directions, we can

say to the Free Press that the legislature will meet on January 21st and that between now and then the members of the Liberal Opposition, who are about as aggressive as any Opposition in any Canadian legislative body, will have an opportunity to act upon the knowledge, which the Ottawa paper says every one is agreed is a clause which is inserted specially at Germany. Baiting the Kaiser is apparently a pastime which is just now very popular with both the great political parties in England, and of public opinion which is not without its significance to those who have watching the trend of events in Europe.

Mineral prospectors have during the past season paid a considerable amount of attention to the West Coast of the Island. Their reports are very encouraging.

Austria-Hungary is planning the construction of three thirty-thousand ton warships of the first month of the year. A ravenous bird the Dove of Peace is getting to be!

The All-Red cable project started after the All-Red fast steamship project, but there seems to be a likelihood that it will pass the winning post first.

The Colonist's mathematician has figured out that the Victoria shows the same ratio of growth as the rest of the Dominion since December 11, fifty years ago, that in 1958 it will have a population of 14,764,987.

President-elect Taft promises a thorough revision of the tariff. With Roosevelt hunting big game in South Africa and the various Powers having interests therein, and there seems every prospect that he will return home with a clean slate.

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Rev. Dr. Pringle, of Yukon fame, has been lecturing in St. John, N. B., where he declared that the whole of the Klondike would be discovered some day and the world would be ruled by its immensity. Dr. Pringle's theory is one that has been held by most mining men, who declare that the immense districts in the north of the continent are only waiting for the prospector, but it is only a theory.

In the same fashion that scouts are sent out in front of an advancing army, so the first of the host of settlers which are to follow are taking up their positions in the north of the continent. The British Columbia of Northern British Columbia. Given adequate transportation facilities, there will be an inpouring of population into the north of the continent, which will usher in a new era for the greatest and richest province in the whole of Canada.

The growing habit, which Victoria has contracted in chronic form is decidedly embarrassing to the Board of School Trustees. The body had no sooner uttered a sigh of relief at the announcement that a way out of the difficulty had been found, over the matter of the construction of the new Chambers street school, than the trustees of the southern portion of the city another school will have to be erected next year.

Highly significant of the growth of shipping in local and adjacent waters is the announcement that the Puget Sound Navigation Company has determined to build a turbine passenger steamer of the speed of 21 knots. While no announcement has been made as to the route upon which it is intended to operate this craft, it is not improbable that she will be run between Seattle and this port. The interests of the travelling public will be splendidly catered to next summer.

At the Canadian Club banquet in London the other day, Mr. Hamar Greenwood proposed and seconded Colonel Seeley, in responding paid a tribute to the services of Lord Strathcona, Hon. Mr. Lemieux and Mr. MacKenzie King to the Empire. These three men in the province, to the Liberal as much as to the Conservatives, that there has not long ago been an exposure, and the guilty parties have not been driven from power. There is a feeling of being unable to understand the object which the Free Press can have in calumniating this province; we do not see what it and certain others of its contemporaries hope to gain by representing as they do that the administration of affairs in British Columbia is rotten to the core, unless it be that the exceptionally excellent financial position of the province, the general feeling of satisfaction among the people, the popularity, which the present government has won by its businesslike and unselfish conduct of affairs, has excited the jealousy of a certain lot of would-be politicians, who give vent to their spleen by poisoning the minds of eastern people. It is a mighty mean piece of business and the Free Press ought to be above it.

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that their beloved sovereign may be speedily restored to full health and strength.

It is said that the Bill prohibiting the use of hop substitutes in the manufacture of beer, which has just passed the second reading in the British House of Commons, contains a clause which is inserted specially at Germany. Baiting the Kaiser is apparently a pastime which is just now very popular with both the great political parties in England, and of public opinion which is not without its significance to those who have watching the trend of events in Europe.

Premier Fisher of Australia takes a broad and eminently statesmanlike view of the problem of the consolidation of the British Empire. He is not object to the unification of the Imperial forces provided each Colony retained its own identity and control. He explains that the British government of Australia favors co-operation with the other partners in securing state-owned cables, and also a Canadian land line, and supplies reducing cable rates as far as commercially possible. This attitude on the part of our antipodean cousins may be described as sympathetically generous in a policy which concerns the whole Empire.

Replying to a question as to what was the effective tonnage of the navies of Great Britain, France, Germany and the United States, the Admiralty states that in the case of Great Britain the tonnage is 1,882,885, of which 1,749,874 tons represent vessels under 20 years of age, and 133,011 tons of vessels over 20 years of age. The fighting naval tonnage of France is 707,573, of which 592,699 are under, and 114,875 over 20 years old. The fighting tonnage of Germany is 623,304, of which 561,982 tons represent vessels under, and 61,322 tons over 20 years of age. In the case of Russia, the tonnage is 1,077,773 and 48,543, making a total of 290,321.

In illustration of the slowness with which news of interest and importance permeates through the Empire, mention may be made of the fact that on October 28 the government buildings at Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange River colony, were destroyed by fire. The loss of nearly \$500,000 directly, and possibly an incalculably greater loss by the destruction of land and other records, although this had not been ascertained, was reported. The news would also have been reported if the Kaiser sneezed in public. But an important incident like the destruction of the Bloemfontein structures is not thought to be worth mentioning by the people who scribble telegrams for Canadian contemporaries.

"One whose very high position precluded any mention of his name" was interviewed by the London Standard apropos of Lord Roberts' stirring appeal to his countrymen not to neglect the lessons of "Mafeking" in the destruction of their homes, and is quoted as saying: "It is not new to us, this situation as we find it today. I was a lieutenant in India when the British Empire was being built up, and I have seen the same thing happen over and over again. The Kaiser sneezed in public. But an important incident like the destruction of the Bloemfontein structures is not thought to be worth mentioning by the people who scribble telegrams for Canadian contemporaries."

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The \$1 Stocking

Silver Butter Knives
Sterling Manicure
Plates
Sterling Vaseline
Jams
Shaving Brushes
Silver Mounted
Vases
Silver Toast Racks
Silver Pickle Forks
Silver Olive Spoons
Austria Bisque
Figures
China Cups and
Saucers
Glass Flower Vases
China Flower Vases
Pretty Jardiniere
Grass Card Trays
Pretty Cushion Tops
Tray Cloths
Bed Spreads
Napkins—Per dozen

And down the list we might go, for the list of Dollar Gifts is a long one. Spend that dollar here where values are "better."

Have the Xmas Gifts Been Purchased

This week just about settles the matter. The holiday gift must be selected immediately.

Our stocks present one of the most interesting points for selection to be found in the city.

The collection of china, glass and art wares is comprehensive of every good and handsome style the season offers, and the variety is still intact.

The late arrivals in Furniture disclose some unusually fine gift pieces, while the offerings of the second floor in dainty linens, cushions, rugs, curtains and such like offers a wealth of suggestions in gifts for feminine folk.

Here is the "Home of Practical Xmas Gifts"—come and settle the problem tomorrow. Welcome.

Christmas Gifts For Your Wife

If all that stands between you and a Christmas gift for your wife is the suggestion of the right thing—how about a new dinner set?

China is close to the heart of every woman—your wife included.

Select one of our "open-stock" patterns, and if a piece or two get broken, she needn't break her heart about it—for she can drop in, any time, and replace them.

These "open-stocks" of ours have saved an oceanful of bitter tears.

Yes, make it a dinner set.

Choose Now and Let Us Deliver At a Later Date

Art Cushions
Lace Curtains
O-a-k Jardiniere
Stands
Umbrella Stands
Mission Book Shelf
Mission Dining
Chairs
Large Arm Rockers
Oak Book Shelves
Child's Reed Rockers
Jardiniere
China Cups and
Saucers
Ruskin Vases
Sterling Whisks
Sterling Pin Trays
Sterling Watch Cases
Cut Glass Nappies
Linen Tea Cloths
Aminator Rugs
Pretty Table Covers

Two-fifty is a modest sum, still it is surprising what an excellent variety of gift things we show marked at this small price.

The \$3 Stocking

Sterling Pin Trays
Sterling Hat Brushes
Ebony Hair Brushes
Ebony Hand Mirrors
Oak Butter Dishes
Ruskin Vases
China Cups and
Saucers
Child's Reed Chairs
Child's Beds
(Table and 2 Chairs)
Folding Card Tables
Large Arm Rockers
Leather Seat Dining
Parlor Tables
Drawn Linen Centre-
pieces
Beautiful Pictures
Sterling Sugar Tongs
Dainty Tea Cloths

Three dollars is as much as some wish to expend and at this figure you'll find one of the grandest assortments of Xmas Gifts in the city.

A Xmas Gift

Home-made "Welsh Rabbits," likewise Lobster a la Newberg, and a hundred other dainty dishes, or just plain omelet—any of them made in a few minutes at any hour of the day or night if you own one of our ever-ready chafing dishes. They are fitted with the latest chafing dish devices; lamps have maximum heating power, are easy to regulate, absolutely safe, always clean and never smoke.

These long evenings a bite before retiring is the thing—when it is no trouble to prepare.

A gift suggestion—don't you think?

\$10 and \$12

HOMES HOTELS CLUBS BOATS

Weiler Bros

CHURCHES SCHOOLS STORES OFFICES

The \$1.50 Stocking

Perfume Sprays
Brass Vases
Cake Plates
Salad Bowls
China Cups and
Saucers
China Berry Dishes
China Cheese Dishes
Glass Vases
Steins
Jardiniere
Frilled Cushions
Sterling Table Bells
Silver Sugar Tongs
Silver Toast Racks
Silver Napkin Rings
Silver Berry Spoons
Silver Child's Mugs

In pretty china pieces we are especially strong at this modest figure. For \$1.50 you may purchase some splendid pieces here.

Gift Suggestions Economy Items

This store brings together the gift thought and economy in an unusual degree. Nowhere else in this section is there such a breadth of selection for the seeker of gifts.

From the single cup and saucer, berry bowl, cracker jar, chocolate pot, to the complete dinner service; from the little cut glass bonbon dish to the dazzling punch bowl; there is no place where the Christmas purchases may be so satisfactorily made. And never was good merchandise so reasonable.

Be sure to see everything when you come.

The \$2.50 Stocking

Art Cushions
Lace Curtains
O-a-k Jardiniere
Stands
Umbrella Stands
Mission Book Shelf
Mission Dining
Chairs
Large Arm Rockers
Oak Book Shelves
Child's Reed Rockers
Jardiniere
China Cups and
Saucers
Ruskin Vases
Sterling Whisks
Sterling Pin Trays
Sterling Watch Cases
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A Chafing Dish

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Weiler Bros

CHURCHES SCHOOLS STORES OFFICES

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