

**The Colonist.**  
The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability  
27 Broad Street, Victoria, B.C.  
**THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST**  
One year ..... \$1.00  
Six months ..... .60  
Three months ..... .35  
Sent postpaid to Canada and the United Kingdom.

**THE BRITISH SITUATION**  
Telegrams received through United States sources have stated that surprise was expressed at the delay of Mr. Asquith in announcing his new cabinet, and all sorts of reasons were assigned for it. The strange thing about these despatches is that they have been accepted by Canadian papers as if they were accurate. During the election we were told that Mr. Asquith would refuse to take office again unless certain things were promised by the King. Mr. Asquith has not yet been out of office. He did not have to form a new cabinet. The condition in the United Kingdom after a general election is exactly the same as it is in Canada. If the government, which is in power when the house is dissolved, has, after the election returns are in, a working majority it remains in. There is also a good deal of speculation in the same papers as to what is going to happen, and all manner of extraordinary positions are suggested. It will be found that the government of the country will go on. Mr. Balfour would not accept office if it were tendered him under the present circumstances and Mr. Asquith could not think of deserting the ship of state as long as he has an apparent majority, even though it is composed of heterogeneous elements. The standing of the new house is:

Liberals, 274.  
Unionists, 273.  
Nationalists, 83.  
Laborites, 40.  
As against the Unionists the Labor members may be expected to vote with the government on all principal issues, which would make the safe government vote 314. If the Nationalists chose to vote with the Unionists, the government could not stand; but apart altogether from the probability that the party, which is avowedly for Home Rule, would form an alliance with the party that is avowedly opposed to it, we have the extreme unlikelihood that Mr. Balfour would make any such alliance in order to get into power. It would be quite another thing for him, if he were in power, to accept Nationalist support in the house, as Lord Salisbury did at one time; but no such condition is likely to arise. If on any issue that could be taken to imply want of confidence the Nationalists and the Unionists united to bring about a government defeat, the probability is that Mr. Asquith would ask for another dissolution, and if he did, it would be granted. While it would hardly be in keeping with parliamentary reasons for the Prime Minister to ask for two dissolutions within a short time of each other, it must be remembered that the recent election was forced upon Mr. Asquith by the action of the House of Lords and was not sought by him.

Our forecast of the immediate future in British politics is that the Budget, as introduced last session, will be passed with possibly a few changes, and that an attempt will be made to bring about certain modifications in the character of the House of Lords as well as to pass certain measures necessary for social reform. We anticipate that Mr. Balfour will not seek to embarrass the government needlessly; for we do not think he is in any great hurry for another general election. He would like time for a campaign of education, for no one knows better than he does the fickle nature of the English constituencies. What Scotland, Ireland and Wales will do can be reckoned on before-hand with some certainty; but the constituencies of England are almost certain to do the unexpected thing. We do not look for any sensational developments in regard to the House of Lords, and are disposed to think that Mr. Asquith will seek some solution of the problem presented by the Upper Chamber that will be acceptable to both parties, neither of whom can wish to run another election with the Peers as an issue. Both parties will desire, we think, when next they go to the people to have a clear-cut issue between Free Trade and Protection.

The following statistics taken from the election handbook of the London Times will be of interest. Since 1832 the Liberals have been in power 44 years and the Conservatives 34. The Liberal majorities have been as follows:

Year	Majority
1832-1835	3 years
1835-1837	2 years
1837-1841	4 years
1841-1852	5 years
1852-1859	7 years
1859-1865	6 years
1865-1868	3 years
1868-1874	6 years
1874-1880	6 years
1880-1885	5 years
1885-1886	1 year
1886-1892	6 years
1892-1895	3 years
1895-1905	10 years

The Conservative majorities have been as follows:

Year	Majority
1841-1847	6 years
1847-1852	5 years
1852-1859	7 years
1859-1865	6 years
1865-1868	3 years
1868-1874	6 years
1874-1880	6 years
1880-1885	5 years
1885-1886	1 year
1886-1892	6 years
1892-1895	3 years
1895-1905	10 years

And now it is Pease's turn. He will begin to wish he had never found the Poie.

**TAXING IMPROVEMENTS.**  
There is a good deal to be said on both sides when the taxation of improvements on real estate is concerned. We do not propose to take either one side or the other upon a question which is as yet purely academic in this province, and shall only present some of the considerations which may be advanced in favor of the continuation of such a tax. It seems hardly fair to suggest that a man is being fined because his buildings are taxed. Doubtless the erection of a building, that is a real improvement, enhances the value of adjoining property, but it cannot be denied that the existence of buildings increases the cost of administering the affairs of a community. If all our lots are vacant we would not need any fire department for example; it would not be necessary to expend anything in the up-keep of streets and sidewalks. Of course if we adopt the single tax principle in its entirety and place all the burden of maintaining the government upon the land itself irrespective of the condition it is in, the matter becomes very much simplified, but the country is hardly ready for such a plan, and in the meantime we must do the best we can. There is not the least use in expecting that any one will be able to devise a system of taxation that will be absolutely satisfactory. Taxation in any form is an evil, but a necessary one. If we would all do our duty we would voluntarily pay into the public treasury our fair share of what was necessary to pay for public services. But as yet we see no reason to suppose that the approach of a day, when this will be done, is measurably near. In the meantime people must be made to pay their fair share. The theoretically correct system of taxation is one that makes income its base. If it were possible to ascertain exactly what every man's income was and then tax him pro rata, it would be absolutely fair all round; but this is impossible and therefore taxation has to be imposed in various ways. We are not particularly enamored of the tax on improvements, but it is one thing not to like it and another to suggest a better expedient.

**ABOUT ACCENTS.**  
An eastern contemporary quotes a lady as saying that, when she went to England on a visit, she felt ashamed of her Canadian accent, but as she was not going to remain long there, she did not try to acquire the English accent. One is tempted to ask why she felt ashamed of her Canadian accent, and what is the English accent? What are we to understand is the English accent? Is it the deep throaty tone, which some Englishmen have, or the high, clear-cut one of others? Is it the soft, flowing voice of some, or the crisp, clean-cut one of others? Is it the sturring over of the letter R, or its insertion in places where it does not belong? Is it the omission of the final G in participles, as we used to be told some twenty-five years ago was up-to-date English, and of the use of which Dr. Huxley in his lecture tour was a bright and shining example? If it is that rare and exquisite tone like that of Olga Netherstole, which one only too seldom hears from cultured Englishmen, and often, and yet not frequently enough, from cultured Englishwomen? Or is it the plain every-day tone used by such persons as the Duke of York and many of the high nobility? But, say some, the Canadians speak with a nasal tone, and they illustrate their meaning by saying that Canadians say "chance" just that way, while most English people say "chance" and a few of them "chawnce." But "chance" is not necessarily nasal, and "chawnce" may be. What is frequently called a nasal tone is simply a difference in the pronunciation of the vowels. This is largely a matter of environment. A bank manager's wife once said that she divided her children into two sections. Those who said "cahn" and those who said "can't," and she used to add that the first section were born in Halifax.

While we would not advise any Canadian to endeavor to cultivate any other pronunciation than that of his environment, and never be ashamed of that, there is one thing about most English people, which Canadians might well emulate, and that is the carefulness of their speech, even when they use slang. They speak with deliberation and sound all the syllables. Canadians, on the other hand, are apt to speak hurriedly and to slur over syllables. In this we have much to learn from English people, who have had educational advantages. They do, as a rule, speak with distinctness. Of course there are exceptions, too many of them; but as a general thing, the educated Englishman or Englishwoman speaks with clearness of tone. We might copy them with advantage also.

in another way, namely in the modulation of the voice. For Canadians are apt to be somewhat flat. The latter fault seems to be indigenous to a new country, for educated people in the Eastern States, where not very long ago every one spoke stridently, have much the same modulation of tone as educated people in England.

**THE MARKET.**  
The proposal to remove the dog pound from Chambers street to the City Market has given rise to some objections. Before doing anything the city authorities might find out how other places deal with canines which violate the ordinances in such case made and provided. Of one thing we are very sure, and that is that the pound ought not to be in a residential part of the city. If the Market Building is not the proper place for it, let it be moved further out of the way, and when the city grows out to it, move it again. It is not a very costly thing anyhow, and if it has to be torn down every half dozen years or so, no one would complain of the cost.

In regard to the use to which the market might be put, a member of the Fruit Growers' Association suggests that it might be placed in the hands of that organization, we assume at a reasonable rent, on condition that it should be maintained in part at least as an exhibit of the products of the vicinity during the seasons when they are at their best. This might be worth thinking over.


There are certain causes which operate against the establishment of a regular market here. Among them are the following. Very many householders order their goods over the telephone, which could not be done from a public market. Very many persons are accustomed to buy on credit, settling their bills once a month; this would be almost impossible in the case of a market. Many of the fruit-growers dispose of their product through the instrumentality of the Fruit Growers' Association; they would not bring their fruit to the market. Most of the butter is made at creameries, and of course would never be offered in the market. The question of delivery would lead many people to continue to buy at the stores. Many householders prefer to buy from Chinese gardeners at their doors. We are not arguing against a market, but are only pointing out some of the reasons why one in Victoria might not be as successful as could be desired. Everything in this matter depends upon the custom of the people, and the custom of housekeepers in Victoria is not in keeping with the patronage of a public market.

**THE DALLAS ROAD.**  
The conditions of the bank along the Dallas Road is growing very serious and the City Council cannot delay action much longer without incurring a very serious responsibility. Something must be done at the earliest possible date to check the inroads of the sea, and the city authorities may as well face the situation now as later on. Absolutely nothing is to be gained by procrastination. We can very easily understand what the Aldermen might desire to avoid, the very considerable expenditure necessary, in view of the number and pressing nature of other demands upon the city treasury; but the matter is growing worse year by year and the expense can never be less than now, and may well be greater. Not only is this the case, but very serious damage may be done that cannot be remedied at all. The sea-front along the Dallas Road is one of the most attractive places in Canada, and it is a valuable asset to the city from the tourist and residential point of view. We hope that the City Council will take it up with the determination to discover, and apply some means of providing a remedy.

The Bobcaygeon Independent pleads for the coming of half-cent pieces. We assume that they are intended for the collection plate on Sunday.

Ottawa people are congratulating themselves upon the sale of property at \$2,000 a front foot. There is a lot of property in Victoria that could not be bought for that figure.

# WEILER BROS



## Springtime Blossoms

IN THE NEW CURTAIN AND DRAPERY MATERIALS

**DELIGHTFUL** Springtime brightness and freshness woven in these new cretonnes and other curtain materials just received yesterday. Never a nicer assortment ever opened in this city. Here in excellent time, too, for the first Spring changes in the home's adornment.

Delightful new effects which give richness and harmonies never hinted at before in cretonnes, chintzes and the other lines. Designs and color combinations suitable for any decorative scheme and prices that'll fit any purse. What more could you ask?

Here's a special invitation to come in and inspect these latest additions and to see the magnificent stock of spring curtain materials we offer here, get acquainted with the Weiler offerings—you'll find them mirroring the very newest ideas of the leading fashion centres. And now is the time to purchase Spring Curtains and Curtain Materials.

Just try the Weiler Store.

### Reversible Chintz 65c

REVERSIBLE CHINTZ in pretty Art Decoration—Peacock, in reds and blues on jasper grounds. These are charming pieces, and very pretty curtains can be produced through the use of this. Reversible, too, 50 inches wide and for such stylish creations, is priced very fair at per yard.....65c

### Pretty Wool Challis

WOOL CHALLIS is ever popular because it hangs so softly—it is one of the easiest materials to "drape," that we show. These new arrivals are bound to be popular—they are so dainty. We have some pretty effects in blue and green and blue and gold. Priced at per yard.....\$1.50

### The New Cretonnes Are the Best Yet

THE new cretonnes are unquestionably the finest we have ever displayed—the best assortment of patterns and the best in quality that has ever been offered Victorians. And direct importing of very large quantities enables us to offer these at prices that'll permit every home to "brighten up" this Spring.

Charming floral effects, dainty rosebud and ribbon patterns, new School of Art designs—floral designs in rose and mauve on white, cream and jasper grounds—in gold and green, combinations of blue and green, red and green and in two-tone blues, Portuguese and Old English Chintz patterns. There's a wealth of choice in both patterns and price—something to suit you and your home.

These materials are suitable for bedroom curtains, loose covers, cushion, casement curtains, etc. Don't fail to see them. Price dat, per yard, 60c, 50c, 40c, 35c, 30c, 20c.

### Poplin—A Rich Material At Small Price

If you want a beautiful, rich curtain or drape, better try this lovely Poplin. Makes handsome, rich curtains for windows, for doorways, archways, etc., and at a very low price considering the luxurious effect produced. We know of nothing at the price that can compare with this material.

It comes in most delightful shades of champagne, pale blue, dark gold, and in two shades of green, 52 inches wide. Don't miss this. Priced at, per yard, \$1.50.

### Another Pretty Material Is Bolton Sheeting

BOLTON SHEETING is another pretty curtain and drapery material, and we have just added some pretty pieces to our stock of curtain materials. This material is 54 inches wide. It comes in solid colors—pretty shades of olive, reseda, rose, blue, brown, etc. A pretty finish and a material that will drape easily and prettily. Priced at, per yard, 60c

### Big Range of Curtain Trimmings

We stock a large assortment of suitable trimmings for curtains, drapes, etc. Simple and elaborate they are, and many are the "effects" to be secured through the combination of these and the pretty materials. We have a Curtain-manufacturing Department that is prepared to execute your orders, and we promise you the utmost satisfaction. The best houses in Victoria, Vancouver, etc., display productions of this department.

### Let Us Show You Our Lace Curtains

When in viewing these beautiful new curtain and drapery materials, don't fail to see our magnificent range of lace curtains. We have an assortment that will surprise you in its diversity of styles and prices. The very newest and smartest curtain creations from Great Britain, Switzerland and such curtain centres are on exhibition.

You'll not find the equal of this show elsewhere in the city nor in the province, and you'll find that the prices we quote look remarkably similar to those asked for curtains of very ordinary worth. Pleased to show you the stock.

# WEILER'S

**COMMITTEE REFUSES TO REPORT BILL**  
Measure of Campbell River Power Company, Ltd., Meets With Objection From Various Sources—Preamble Refused

For the first time during the current session of parliament, the private bill committee Monday threw out absolutely an application for very extensive powers, declining to recommend to the house the preamble of the bill, numbered 65, "confirming and ratifying the incorporation of the Campbell River Power Co., Ltd., under the Companies Act, 1887, and conferring other powers." Refusal of the preamble in this case means the refusal of the legislature means literally the refusal of the bill.

The application and bill of the Campbell River Power Co. are matters that have a particular and vital interest not only to the cities of Victoria and Vancouver, wherein the promoters of the company have their homes, but also to all Vancouver Island, which would naturally be concerned in such an extensive proposition as that advanced by this company. As has already been pointed out in the Colonist, the company desires to secure a record of 100,000 miners' inches of water the falls on Campbell river, for the purpose of developing power for sale for industrial purposes; while its charter-ratification and validation of which was sought, contemplates also the operation of tramways, the manufacture and sale of gas, and the disposal of water for irrigation and other purposes. "Opposition to the bill," says the committee, "was represented by Mr. J. H. Lawson (Bodwell & Lawson), appearing for Mr. John Goodfellow and associates; Mr. Charles Wilson, K. C., as counsel for the North Pacific Lumber Co.; Mr. R. T. Elliott, K. C., for the British Columbia Timber Co.; and Mr. Lawson, also for the International Timber Co."

Mr. H. B. Robertson, who appeared for the applicants and the bill, explained that the company had already been incorporated on the 17th of April, 1908, and proposed to expend a no less sum than \$3,000,000 in the construction of its necessary plant and the development of its undertaking generally. When the promoters had gone to American capitalists with the object of obtaining their co-operation, these moneyed men were not content to accept the articles of incorporation, but desired to trace the history of the project through each detail, and be doubly assured of their position in the law. It was with this object in view, this only—that the company now came to the legislature for a bill, the preamble of which contained the following words:

"Whereas, a petition has been presented by the Campbell River Power Company Limited, praying for an act to ratify and confirm the incorporation of the Campbell River Power Company Limited, with all the powers given to power companies under the Water Act, 1906, and all rights, on the Company's Memorandum contained in the B. C. Gazette of the 22nd day of April, 1909, at pages 1567 and 1568, and also confirming to the said company all water licenses and privileges heretofore located or applied for or obtained, and for the other purposes set out in the said petition."

Water Reserves  
In the regular way, Mr. Robertson continued in explanation, and the company had been given written assurance that such would be issued, although they could not be as yet, until the government fixed the scale now of fees, which only intervened. A statement of the government had been certified cheque for \$1,000 had been for months deposited with the government, which approximately covered the payment that would be required. The company had been applying for 100,000 miners' inches per second flow, but the government had declined to serve thirty cubic feet for domestic purposes in the locality, 28 cubic feet representing 1,000 inches or sufficient for the requirements of a city of 150,000 people. The company would apply for an application being granted take only 2,700 cubic feet per second, or 7,700 inches, and that there was this water available had been established by an expert report of Mr. Gray Donald, an eminent water engineer, who had investigated conditions at the lowest stage of the water.

Mr. Robertson could see no rationality or necessity in the antagonism of the bill, and the bill, he pointed out, which their interests could be adversely affected by the bill now desired legislation. The company, he affirmed, was asking no further privilege than was enjoyed under the act of incorporation, the bill now introduced being merely to facilitate large sums of money. The company could not in any event proceed with their undertaking without coming to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council when every opportunity would be afforded for protest on the part of possible adverse interests. As for the bona fides of the company, its promoters included such men as Messrs. Forman, W. H. Ker, George G. Hinton and Mr. King of Victoria, D. G. Williams, W. H. and A. B. Erskine of Vancouver—men who could and would immediately provide the required \$25,000 on their holdings of stock at any time it might be required. So far as he was aware, opposition presented itself only in so far as the company's application affected water rights; no objection was offered to those provisions touching the manufacture and supply.

The Opposition  
Mr. Lawson speaking for Mr. Goodfellow, and also for the International Timber company said that these were opposed to the bill from beginning to end. Here was a company incorporated with a capitalization of but \$50,000, of which but \$500 was subscribed and paid up, which asked for 100,000 miners' inches of water per second, and which was stated proposed to put in a plant costing three million dollars. The bill was a very dangerous one, containing much that did not meet the eye. By the Water Act, applicants were limited to a single utilization of the "rights" required; this company sought by a special act to override the provisions of the Water Act, in the public interest, and in reality secure a blanket authority to do almost anything, including the operation of tramways, the sale of water for do-