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The Colonist.

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability

27 Broad Street, Victoria, B.C.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST Six months 50

PARTY GOVERNMENT

Goldwin Smith told the Farmers' Alliance that he feared party politics would ruin the country. This is no new view for this scholarly gentleman to express. He never had anything complimentary to say about political parties. In fact he never had very nuch to say that could be called cor sentially cynical in his views or things. What he would substitute for party government he does not say. Neither do any of the others, who have Nether do any of the others, who have taken lately to declaiming against our present system. No one has even claimed that party government is ideal; but it does seem to be inevitable. Men of similar views will work together, and this leads to party organization. If we could abolish existtomorrow, new parties

would be formed the next day.

Two tendencies in political life are very noticeable. One is that of the members of parties, who are elected to legislative bodies, to subordinate selves almost wholly to the wishes of the leaders. This is especially noticeable in the Canadian House of Commons, where the Liberal majority, of the leaders. so far as questions of policy or de tails of administration are concerned. might as well consist of so man mechanical toys. On questions, which are not strictly party ones, there is a great deal of freedom of voting, which shows that in point of fact all the members on that side of the House do not think alike on a very great many questions, perhaps we might say on the majority of questions, there are wide differences of opinion, but the moment it is known that the matter to be decided is one touching the standing of the ministry, the taking of a vote is a mere formality. This paralysis of partyism goes even further, and causes private members to refrain from expressing their views on new questions, lest something they may ay will embarass the government.

ndeed the Prime Minister is no
onger simply the leader of the House. has become its master, and one not infrequently hears a member say that he will endeavor to arrange with ecting them in a special way. He is not so great a parliamentary Czar as the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, but he does not fall far-short of it. We do not know that we would like to so so far as to say that the Canadian Parliament is simply a device for expressing the wishes of the Prime Minister, although some people might think the description not inapt. Things were not so bad as this when the Conservatives were in power, whether

tives get back again, time alone can determine, but we hope for the hes On the other hand the spirit of in-dependence of party control is very much more manifest in the press than it ever was, and a larger section of he community is every year shaking tself free from party trammels. We have on a former occasion spoken of the development of an independent press, which, though in a general way divided between the two great parties. divided between the two great particles and deems its duty to be to deal fairly with both, and always to make the public welfare, as it understands it, the chief object of its efforts. The breaking down of party lines among the voters is very noticeable. It is not necessary to go outside of Victoria for evidence of this, and the man, who talks much with his neighbors on political questions will bear testimony ties sit very the sit very ties sit very that it is que to which governments have no control. Now what is the use of being a particle and the firm of Providence, Laurier & Co., if one member of the firm is restricted in his authority to draw against the balance of prosperity? Why have not our Liberal contemporaries claimed that in his inscrutable wisdom the Prime Minister decided that wisdom the Prime Minister decided that was dealt with on a former ocation in the Colonist, we were asked that the comded between the two great parties, ms its duty to be to deal fairly with talks much with his neighbors on political questions will bear testimony to the fact that party ties sit very lightly upon most of them. This state of things will soon rectify all that is wrong in party government, although wrong in party government, although we suppose it will always be the case that when a man exhibits qualities, which mark him out especially among his fellows, such as those which were exhibited by Disraeli, Gladstone and others who might easily be named, our representative system will sub. our representative system will sub-stantially be a one-man government.

servatives were in power; whether or not they will be when the Conserva-

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Admiral Evans, will on the 16th in-Admiral Evans, will on the 10th instant start on his way to the Pacific Ccean with substantially the whole of the United States navy. He will on his arrival at San Francisco, where he will be joined by the vessels now on the Pacific Coast, have under his command 18 battleships of the first class, 6 armored cruisers, 6 torpedo boats, 2 supply ships, a repair ship and a tender—in all 34 vessels. The crews of der—in all 34 vessels. The crews of the ships which will leave the Atlantic ports will be 15,000 strong, and when to these are added the men on the ships now on the Pacific, Admiral to these are added the men on the ships now on the Pacific, Admiral Evans will have nearly 20,000 men under his command. The course which the fleet will take is to be as follows:

Leaving Hampton Roads, Virginia, the fleet will take is to be as follows:

The British island of Trinidad; thence to Para, at the mouth of the Amazon in Brazil; thence to Pernambuco, and to Rio de Janiero, also in Brazil; thence to Montevideo in Uruguay; thence to Montevideo in Uruguay;

Aranga in Magellan's

Aranga in Magellan's

The course while the finance Minister were at great and the Finance Minister were at great der the control of the United States; thence to Magdalena Bay in Lower. California, which belongs to Mexico, With their love for big figures, the United States newspapers are telling than its usual complement, and every magazine will be full of ammunition.
What does this signify? One of the concerned.

What does this signify? One of the saher American weeklies asks, "Will the fleet ever come back again?" and just now no one appears able to be congratulated upon the tone adopted by them towards British Columbia. It is true that their observations were peaceful manoeuvre on a very extensive scale, and in the absence of any other satisfactory explanation this will have to be accepted, but there are many people who think otherwise. presented a unanimous legislature The more moderate of these claim the when he went to Ottawa to attend the cruise to be a recognition on the part | convention, and that his course there

of the United States government that was subsequently endorsed by the set out in very clear-cut and forceful ional movement is the North Pacific Ocean. The whole eastern seaboard of country has been left practically defenceless so far as ships are concerned, the only battleships to remain being the Iowa and Indiana. This seems to be a guarantee that, what-

ever may be behind the order for the cruise it is nothing which is expected to provoke hostilities with Europe. A silly story was recently sent cut to the effect that Germany had undertaken to protect the United States against times as strong as that of Germany reckoning only battleships, which leaves out of consideration the great British cruisers, some of which can take a place in the line of battle. It is difficult to believe that any

needs except in a time eaco. Ships and men are necessary a case of war, but so also are docks, coal supplies and the paraphernalia necessary for repairs. Doubtless Ad-miral Evans has a very powerful fleet nder his command, one which is considerably greater in tonnage than that of Japan whatever it may be in point of efficiency, but if hostilities should unfortunately occur during the next year or two, he would find himself very badly handicapped for lack of the

facilities above mentioned.

We are inclined to think that in President Roosevelt has been inspired by a determination to exhibit to the world the intention of the United States to occupy a position in keeping with the greatness of its western seaboard and its overseas possessions. This is a step which can only be described as timely. The dangerous element in the case is in the character of be commander. Admiral Evans has an itch for destinction. He has never done anything much, but his admirers, and the yellow press, which finds him an attractive subject for treatment just the very acme of naval greatness. He may find the temptation o try his hand in warfare too strong o be resisted, and he may seek for an opportunity to have "the chip knocked off his shoulder.'

A REMARKABLE OMISSION.

have not claimed the existing-shall we say depression?—which is in evidence everywhere in Canada, except Victoria, as due to this same Guardiau Influence. We have been told that the country was going ahead too fast and that a salutary check was really what t needed, but no one has yet risen to say that Dr. Laurier prescribed the unpleasant medicine. It seems to be a parallel case to that referred to in the ld rhyme, which after telling how a certain physic acted, closed with these

ines:
"If the patient dies, Say that Nature did it; If the patient lives, Give the stuff the credit."

ountry gets a set-back, we are told British public ought first to be fam of all that is good in Canada, feeling that our circulation was growing slug gish from too much prosperity, decided o turn on the cold water for a little

BETTER TERMS

We reproduce from Hansard those parts of the speeches of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fielding during the debate on the Address, which referred to British Columbia's claims for Better We do not print what our correspondents and the right of way. We do not print what our correspondents say about this railway because we wish the Colonist to have the freedom of the mails. In all seriousness, the condition of the road and the seriousness, the condition of the road and the seriousness. province each of whom will find them antagonistic to the attitude taken by make this so clear that no argu-ment is necessary. The Liberals assembled in provincial conven-tion, following the action of the tion, following the action of the Liberal members of the Legislature, ting in his place the other day and its declared in unmistakable terms in favor of a continued agitation for justice to British Columbia. They are face to face with a very serious dilection of the action of the serious dilection. It is the serious dilection of the serious dilection of the serious dilection of the serious dilection. They are face to face with a very serious dilection of the serious dilection of the serious dilection of the serious dilection. They are face to face with a very serious dilection of the serio California, which belongs to Mexico, and thence to San Francisco. The distance is 13,772 nautical miles and the time, which it is expected to occupy is 135 days, that is, the fleet is expected to reach San Francisco on May 1st, unless a long stop is made at Magdalena Bay for target practice, with their love for hier former. The former the little of the manufacture of the large of the Legislature, declared in unmistakable terms in factor of the Legislature, declared in unmistakable terms in factor of the Legislature, declared in unmistakable terms in factor of the Legislature, declared in unmistakable terms in factor of the Legislature, declared in unmistakable terms in factor of the Legislature, declared in unmistakable terms in factor of the Legislature, declared in unmistakable terms in factor of the time, which is the support the large of the Legislature, declared in unmistakable terms in factor of the time, which it is expected to occupy is 135 days, that is, the fleet is expected to reach San Francisco. f they propose to support their Leader With their love for big figures, the United States newspapers are telling their readers that the fleet represents \$100,000,000 in value and is going to burn up \$1,300,000 worth of coal on the voyage. The fleet when it sails out of Hampton Rads will form a line three miles long. Every ship will have from 100 to 150 more menthan its usual complement, and every magazine will be full of ammunition.

What does this signify? One of the

facts, they might carry weight with them; but the people of British Colum-bia know how ludicrously absurd it is to pretend, as he said, that the proermany vincial premiers were a competent tri-which bugal either from absence of bias or great because of their knowledge of the because of their knowledge of the subject to deal with the special claims of this province. Mr. Borden's position is one that is eminently fair. He It is difficult to believe that any warlike intent is behind the crulse. has made no promise except that our When the fleet reaches San Francisco the ships will be foul, and the dock-tage facilities are not equal to their is all British Columbia has ever asked, and with pathing less than this will it of profound and with nothing less than this will it be contented. For Mr. Fielding to charge that, in making this promise, Mr. Borden sought to bribe the elec-torate of British Columbia is a gross nisuse of language and a gross reflection upon the people of this province. Mr. Fielding was very unfair to Mr. McBride. He represented him as

Mr. Frieding was very unfair to Mr. McBride. He represented him as taking an attitude hostile to the prompt settlement of those features of the business of the conference which applied to all the provinces alike. "Mr. McBride's proposition." lities above mentioned.

Ve are inclined to think that in ding the fleet to the Pacific Ocean, whole matter to the winds and leave whole matter to the winds and leave of their inability to dispose of their inability to dispose of their surplus stocks at this time, and their surplus stocks at this s or twenty years." Mr. McBride pro posed nothing of the kind. He voted for the resolution relating to all the provinces, and these were all disposed of before the special claims of this province were taken up. It is a mater of great surprise that the Finance Minister should have placed n a position which is utterly untenble and, not only cannot be supported. but is absolutely disproved by official reports of the proceedings of

BRITISH TARIFF REFORM.

Now that Mr. Balfour has commited the Conservative party in the United Kingdom to tariff reform, it is in-teresting to note how much more care-fully the Conservative press ap-For several years our estimable cussion was limited to phrase-mak-taken to find out about it? Surely a friends of the Liberal press made all ing, it was easy to be forcible, but decision, calculated to render nugatory manner of claims for the government since Mr. Balfour has brought it a piece of legislation upon which the proaches the subject. While the diswhich they support; because of the within the scope of applied politics, prosperity which Canada has enjoyed. those who were so free with their declarations as to the only patriotic polwhich they supposed to decupy in the affairs of supposed to occupy in the affairs of mankind, with just a suggestion that leader for refusing to identify himself British Columbia is chiefly concerned, mankind, with just a suggestion that only modesty prevented a claim being with the new movement, and these made that he really came first. By the exercise of a forbearance, as the exercise of a forbearance, as wait," indulged in sarcastic references to the superior attractions of golf as compared with those of constructive compared with those of constructive statesmanship. The truth of the matter is that Mr. Balfour appreciated what they did not, namely, ingly great difficulty attending what is called British tariff reform, but is, in point of fact, a tariff revolution When, in his Birmingham speech, he confined himself, as we pointed out at the time, to the enunciation of a prin ciple, considerable disappointment was evident on the part of the Chamberlainite press, although they deavored to conceal it. right in declining to be stampeded by his party into a discussion of details. If tariff reform is what the United If the country is prosperous, we are told that it is because of the superb wisdom of the Liberal cabinet; if the

> pany had time to make the admittedly necessary improvements. It was re-presented that the railways was a sort of poor relation of a great concern of poor relation of a great concern presided over by Mr. James J. Hill. and if in the multiplicity of his affairs he forgot the wretched little orphan out on the Saanich peninsula, we ought not to be surprised. We were also told that when Mr. Louis Hill had relieved his father of the active man-agement of the Great Northern, we might look for better things. The latter statement seems to be about right. We may look and apparently keep on looking until the V. & S. fades to two streaks of rust and the right of way. vice rendered is abominable

Mr. Fielding had the pleasure of sit-

Our Syrup of

Hypophosphites

the year. Try it for that run-

One Dollar per Bottte

which will last a month.

CYRUS H. BOWES

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British Columbia electorate in a man-ner that cannot be mistaken. Under The moral of the incident is that when there that cannot be mistaken. Under these circumstances reflections upon Mr. McBride's course can only be understood as reflections upon the people of this provnice, who will know how, when occasion arises, to show their condemnation of them.

Mr. Flelding's contention on the subject of a commission to investigate the claims of this province are specious but not sound. Presented to a body of men, who are not conversant with the facts, they might carry weight with

In view of the statement by Sir Thomas Shaughnessy in regard to the All-Red project, the following extract from an interview with Lord Strathcona, published a week ago in a special cable to some Eastern Canadian papers will be read with interest. His Lordship said he had not heard anything from an authentic source of the intention or plans of the Imperial government, but, inasmuch as they were committed to the scheme by resolution of the Imperial conference the government could not continuous ignore the project, the friends of which were waiting now for some definite announcement which might remove all dubiety, and set on foot a practical organization of the service He and his friends, and not any par ticular ticular company, meant to accom-plish a fast service which might prove adequate to meet the rapidly growing demands of the expans

ciation fears that United State urges that the authorities be on the alert to the alert of undervaluation. be on the alert to cases of undervaluation. dians of all classes will endorse the position taken by the Manufacturers' Association in this matter, which might easily menace Canadian industries to a very serious degree. Just to whatever extent the "dumping" process is allowed to be carried on, will Canadian workmer suffer through the corresponding slackening of the demand for their own manufactures. At this particular juncture it would be worse than folly to neglect any measure to ensure em-

The Dominion government had no up to yesterday the judgment of the Nova Scotia court May we ask why steps have not been government greatly prided itself, ought to have been known in Ottawa almost immediately after it especially as it touches a matter of the administration of the immigration laws by Dominion officials. But as

A rude jolt to the calculations ministered in London last week by Mr. Haldane, the Secretary of War. In discussing the organization of an In ifficulty in computing the territoria orces distributed throughout the Em oire. Canada, he pointed out, was eading the way, but he was actively egotiating with Australia. All the olonies, he was glad to be able say, were enthusiastic in their loyalty

That the Federal government should use no time in amending the law to neet the situation due to the recent adgment of the Supreme Court of ova Scotia re the status of Chines who gain entrance to Canada withou the announcement from New West nster that a Chinaman at that point vill endeavor to take advantage of the lling. It ought not to take very long make the necessary amendment the act, and the government will be esponsible for the results of delay.

Congratulations are in order to the anagers and directors of the B.C. rotestant Orphans' Home at the very fth annual meeting. The public, w sure, will be pleased to this additional evidence that the con duct of the affairs of so worthy an in itution is in competent hands. ope is expressed by the manageent that the institution may so

The toll of the sea paid by the St. Pierre fishing fleet on the banks of Newfoundland was two hundred and fifty men this year. It is as true now as it was when Kingsley wrote it that 'Men must work and women must weep, And the sooner it's over the sooner to

Yet next year the fishing fleet will be as fully manned as ever. A wonder-ful type are those splendid toilers of

A collision between steamers in New York harbor—the men rushing to safety—the women and children left

Near Yates St

DRACTICAL XMAS DRESENT Are Much the Best to Buy—The Most Appreciated TE CANNOT ADVISE TOO STRONGLY the wisdom of buy

PRACTICAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS—articles that are needful a useful every day of the year. Articles of usefulness, such as furnition pieces, rugs, drapes, china, etc., will find an unusually warm welcome in an home. The utility side of the gift will be the means of making your gift remembered and blessed many days after this Christmas has been forgotten. Newness. style and quality, combined with money-saving prices should appeal to you whose heart is large—and purse limited. To those citizens of moderate come this store offers innumerable GOOD THINGS at moderate price For months past we have been gathering together from the world over Christmas stock of "usefulness" such as is not offered elsewhere in this big province. We extend to everyone a very hearty invitation to spend as much time as possible at this store. You are most certainly welcome.

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10c. 15c. 25c. 35c. 50c-China Gifts-50c. 35c, 25c, 15c. 10c

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Why not buy, before Christmas, that Buffet you have been promising yourself? Just at present we are displaying an unusually fine assortment of pretty styles in Buffets. These come in various sizes and in two popular styles of finish, Golden Oak and Early English Oak. We offer some real fetching designs. These are moderate in price too. The best possible workmanship and materials have entered into their construction. Large purchases enables us to price these low. Come in and let us show you through. Shown on third



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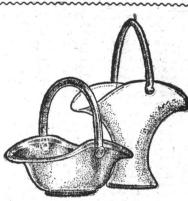
We can satisfy every fancy in the matter of holiday gifts if something in pottery, art glass, china or bric-a-brac is favored in the impulse to buy.

Never before has our collection of beautiful wares been so large-because. never before have the great factories of Europe turned out such a number of exquisite styles and we couldn't resist buying most of them.

You'll appreciate this when you come to view them and will agree with us that while our purchases have been lavish. every piece meets the requirements of good taste.

Make Purchases Now, And We Shall Deliver When You Wish. Do It Now!

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¶ Some of the most interesting of the new fall productions are to be found in the glassware

¶ There is no doubt about the popularity of crystal glass at present, extending to the plain, engraved, cut and gold decorated, with impartiality. Inexpensive wedding and holiday presents abound in each of these classes

irrespective of cost. Clad to have you come in and ook them over.

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here with preconceived ideas as to what he wants in den "fittings" will have no trouble satisfying them The man who comes with an open mind will find us willing to show him the latest grotesques and quaint bits which are most always practical as well as fanciful.

We make a point to secure all the new things worth while, as they appear, so you may drop in often and gather in the "real finds." Just now our line of Tobacco Jars, Beer Steins, Pipe Trays, etc. is exceptionally good.

The Windows Contain Gift Suggestions of Much Merit.
Watch the Windows!

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Uncommonly nice gifts are these beautiful new Mohair Rugs, and a gift, too, with which any home keeper would be delighted. There isn't a better wearing or a more artistic rug made. One would go a long way towards brightening any room. The almost everlasting wearing qualities of these rugs means that your gift would be in evidence long after the usual "gift ideas" have passed into nothingness.

We have made a big purchase direct from the largest manufacturers, and are in a position to offer you some unusually good values. The range of colorings and sizes is very large. We shall be pleased to show you these splendid rugs if you can spare us a moment of your time. Shown on Second Floor.

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