

The Colonist.

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UNREASONABLE CRITICISM

Mr. Andrew Wright sends us the following letter:

"In the Sunday issue of your paper there appears a series of articles on English Sovereignty. Now anyone publishing treatises on historical subjects should endeavor to avoid mistakes, but when week after week the palpable misstatement appears of British Sovereignty being described as English Sovereignty, it is time the inaccuracies were brought to your attention. The writer of these articles must surely be aware that in 1706 the Treaty of Union between England and Scotland was signed and came into effect, and that James VI. of Scotland became James I. of Britain, and that all the Sovereigns occupying his throne since were British Sovereigns and not English Sovereigns."

This is a very unreasonable criticism. The articles referred to are correctly entitled. They form a series beginning with the reign of William the Conqueror. It is quite correct as Mr. Wright says that since the legislative union of the two kingdoms the sovereigns, who have sat upon what was before that time the English throne, are properly called British. To suppose that writer of the series of articles in question is ignorant of this simple fact in history is to raise doubt as to his ability to understand simple English words. But in order to meet the possible objections of just such critics as Mr. Wright, it was mentioned in the article dealing with James I. that he was king of Scotland as well as of England and that some people might think the fact that the kings of England were from this date onward also kings of Scotland ought to be recognized by a change in the title of the series; but it was added that for the sake of continuity the title would not be changed. If Mr. Wright has read the whole series he will have observed that care has been taken all through them to use the word English when that word ought to be used. On our library shelves are several histories of "England," but none of the writers thought it advisable, when they reached the year 1706, to change the title to "History of Great Britain." Goldwin Smith has written a "History of the United Kingdom," but he almost invariably uses the word "English" and rarely says "British."

But, we must now ask our correspondent to submit to the correction of a few inaccuracies on his part. There was no Treaty of Union between England and Scotland in 1706; Scotland was united to England, that is the two kingdoms became one, by virtue of an Act of the Parliament of Scotland passed in 1706 and afterwards, in 1707, passed by the Parliament of England. James VI. was not then king of Scotland, for he had been dead eighty-one years. Mr. Wright confounds the union of the crowns of the two kingdoms, which took place when James VI. of Scotland became James I. of England, with the parliamentary union of the two kingdoms, which took place when the crowns of both kingdoms were worn by Queen Anne.

AN UNDEVELOPED COUNTRY.

The Fort George Herald says a North-and-South railway in British Columbia "would open the greatest undeveloped portion of the Province," and it points out that the Peace river country is in approximately the same latitude as Glasgow. "What our contemporary has in mind is the area lying north of the route of the Grand Trunk Pacific, but there is a great region lying south of this railway for which probably quite as much can be claimed as the most ardent admirers of the more northerly center can advance on its behalf. The great triangle bounded by the route of the G. T. Pacific, the sea coast and the Fraser river contains about 50,000 square miles, and only a little fringe of it has been occupied. Here we have an area as large as the three eastern maritime provinces, almost unutilized. Very large parts of it are unexplored. This is the region which it was the hope of the promoters of what came to be known as the British Pacific railway would be developed from Victoria. It was an unhappy day for this province when this project was allowed to lapse for want of a little assistance. An undertaking on the part of the province to assume an annual charge by way of guaranteeing \$250,000 a year was all that was necessary to float this great undertaking. This region is yet undeveloped, and the determined effort of the people of this city should be to see that, when its development takes place, Victoria will derive its share of the resulting benefits."

GREAT CITIES.

New York has a population of more than 4,000,000 people. London is a long way in the lead, but the American city is undoubtedly the second city in the world in the number of its inhabitants. Naturally our neighbors are greatly elated over the immensity of their biggest city, but is it after all a subject for congratulation? It has always seemed to us that the marvellous growth of London, so far as being a subject of pride, is a terrible thing. Within a short radius from the Tower there are fully ten millions of men, women and children living, or nearly a quarter of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom. In the two cities of New York and Chicago more than fifteen per cent. of the whole population of three and a half millions of square miles of territory are lived. From present indications we may infer that 10 per cent. of the residents of the United States will before the close of another decade be living in three cities, and it is very doubtful if the population of the United Kingdom outside of London will increase as rapidly relatively as the population of that city.

We wish we could think such conditions favorable to the best development of manhood and womanhood, but we cannot, and as the maintenance of the standard of the people is one of the chief aims of our civilization, we seem forced to the unwelcome conclusion that there must be something radically wrong with our whole social system, using the word "social" in its broadest sense. It is a serious thing to contemplate that millions upon millions of people are growing up with little more knowledge of what life means in the open spaces than the blind fish of the Mammoth Cave know of the starry heavens. We do not know that any one can do more than speak of this matter; but perhaps some good may come from speaking of it. The people of the Twentieth Century have been congratulating themselves upon the high advance they have made in civilization, but when we think of all that is implied in great cities, we are not so sure that congratulations are in order.

Mr. P. D. Monk, M. P., seems to have reached the conclusion that Canada does not even need a militia.

Roosevelt has expressed his approval of Taft. Taft has not yet expressed his approval of Roosevelt.

"Parliament" is called together for the first week of November. As far as has been indicated, there is not likely to be a heavy programme of business.

We will have regular service by the E. & N. Railway to Cameron Lake next week, and from that time forward. This is very good news and still be the beginning of further island development.

Last Friday night there were fifty-two earthquakes near Flagstaff, Arizona, and they were very violent, and an extinct volcano has been giving off terrible noises, which seems to indicate that after a rest of ages it is about to become active.

Competitive examinations are to be held of those boys who wish to enter the Naval school at Halifax. They will take place at Victoria, Vancouver and Nelson on November 9th. Twenty executive cadets and ten engineer cadets will be admitted to the college, entrance being determined by the result of the examinations.

As a result of the visit of the Q. O. R. to England, we are told that a large number of Aldermen are going to visit Canada. Now this is a very serious business, that is if what we are told of the capacity of British Aldermen to consume the good things of earth is not over stated. It is to be hoped that sufficient notice of the invasion will be given so that the necessary steps may be taken to prevent a famine in the land.

It is stated that a wagon road is to be built from Quesnel to a point on the Fraser river, opposite South Fort George, where a ferry will be established. From that point the road will be extended by way of Port

George to Stony Creek. The latter distance is seventy-eight miles; and the former is about the same. Thus from Stony Creek to Quesnel will be between 150 and 160 miles, or two days journey by motor from Ashcroft. The grade of the road will be exceptionally easy.

Very great interest was aroused in the city by the announcement that the Messrs. Bullen hoped to be able shortly to complete their arrangements for the construction of a dry dock and shipping plant at Esquimalt. This project is a straight business one, and is not in any way connected with any attempt to get off a townsite on the market. We hope the Dominion government will see its way clear to give the requisite assistance. If Esquimalt is to be the headquarters of the Canadian navy, if we are to have a navy on this coast worth talking about, it is absolutely necessary that there shall be such a dock and such a plant at Esquimalt.

There is a great deal of talk about the Grand Trunk Pacific being blocked because the B. C. and Alaska Railway company has filed plans at Ottawa for a railway along the west bank of the Fraser. There seems to be a notion abroad that the first named company is trying to make the absurd mistake of building southward along a river valley instead of going further west where there is a good route and where business can be drawn from both sides of the railway. It is a surprising thing how in all parts of America railways are found built along routes where no land can be developed. One is almost justified in thinking that railway promoters look at the terminals only and never give a thought to the business that can be built up along the lines they propose to construct.

Although the disappointment of the people of Victoria in regard to the University is very great, it is not a disappointment that is disheartening. We all hoped to have the leading educational institution of the Province here, and presumably we counted more upon it than we ought to have done. But it is to be elsewhere. Victoria will have to dismiss such expectations as were based upon the expectation of a favorable decision. But the city is all right nevertheless. The only defect that the decision of the Commissioners ought to have upon our townspeople is to make them more determined than ever to turn to good account the advantages which are at hand. We have given one day up to expressions of regret. Now let us take hold and pull for the good things that may be won in the future if we work altogether.

We are unable to understand the attitude of certain British public men in regard to Canadian trade relations. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, if his remarks are correctly reported by cable, seems to be under the impression that the commercial treaties negotiated by Canada have been entered into in consequence of the failure of the United Kingdom to grant reciprocal preference. This is not how the matter is understood in Canada. The Dominion is seeking foreign markets for its produce, and nothing that has been done with any foreign power prevents us from entering into preferential relations with the Mother Country whenever such relations are possible. Canada did not make a commercial treaty with France, for example, because she could not get a preference in the markets of the United Kingdom, but because it seemed good business to do so; and it would have been just as good business to do so, if there had been a preference granted to Canada in the markets of the United Kingdom, for Great Britain and France are not competitors in the Canadian market.

World Wide Publicity
Illustrative of the diversified quarters from which the Vancouver Island Development League receives inquiries is the fact that in one day's mail letters were received from Central India, Brazil, Spain and as is usual budgets from eastern Canada, the United States and Great Britain.



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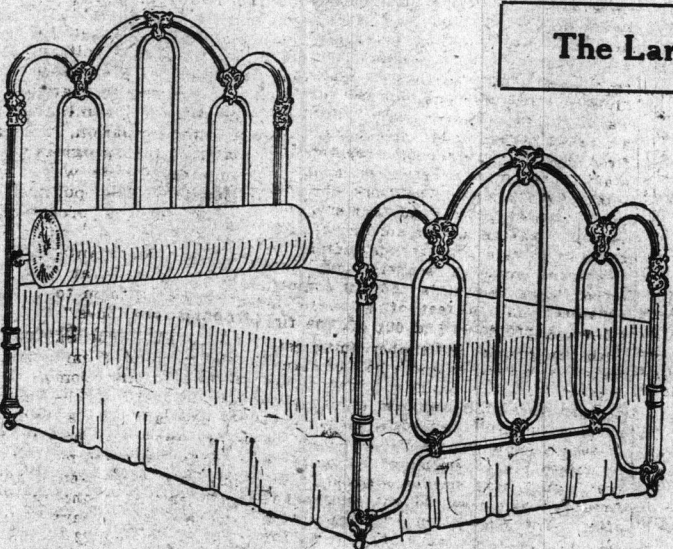
We extend a hearty invitation to all visitors in town to come to our store and have a look at our display. You will not be asked to buy—but if you care to take home a nice SOUVENIR with you, we have a large display to select from. You can also buy some nice little gifts here at a reasonable price, to take home to a friend. You will not see as large a display anywhere in the West.

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Ours are the most handsomely designed and strongly constructed with a superior finish. We have beds that are bound to please you, and we guarantee them to give satisfaction in use. We are enabled to quote these at interesting prices because of our large purchases. You get the best choice of the newest patterns. See our display on the fourth floor TODAY.

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Double size, \$120.00, \$100.00, \$90.00, \$85.00, \$80.00, \$75.00, \$70.00, \$65.00, \$60.00, \$50.00, \$45.00, \$40.00, \$34.50 \$25.00

White Enamel Beds

Single, \$11.00, \$7.00, \$5.50, \$4.50, \$3.50 \$3.00
Three-quarter size, \$15.00, \$11.50, \$8.50, \$7.25, \$5.75 \$3.25
Double size, \$48.00, \$35.00, \$30.00, \$28.00, \$25.00, \$22.50, \$20.00, \$18.00, \$16.00, \$14.00, \$12.00, \$11.00, \$10.00, \$9.00, \$8.00, \$6.50, \$5.00 \$3.50

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COLLECTING DATA ON FOREST AREAS

Mr. W. F. V. Atkinson, Forester of National Conservation Commission, Visits Province in Course of Duties.

Collecting all possible available data, published or unpublished of the forests of British Columbia, Mr. W. F. V. Atkinson, forester and forest engineer of the Committee on Forests of the National Conservation Commission of Canada, is at present visiting Victoria, interviewing members of the local government and making investigations in connection with his duties. Before taking up his present position Mr. Atkinson was inspector of forest protection in the province of Quebec.

The duties of the forestry department of the National Conservation Commission comprise the collection of statistics dealing with the forest areas throughout Canada. Special attention is being given to the branch relating to the various causes which go to deplete forest areas, notably that of fire. The causes of the losses through the latter element are of prime importance for the purpose of the commission.

The task confronting the Conservation Commission in connection with the inquiries it is making and the recommendations which it will make about the preservation of forests in the Dominion is of a large and complex character. In British Columbia, with the exception of the Dominion Government railway belt, all the timber resources are owned by the provincial government. In Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba the Dominion controls the timber. In Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the timber is provincial ownership. Thus governments of different shades of political opinion, with different timber laws and varied interests to serve will have laid before the findings of the National Conservation Commission. The Commission is an essentially non-political body, although created by the Dominion Government, its province being the collection of data which may lead to the conservation of the natural resources of Canada.

While in this province Mr. Atkinson is availing himself of all the data on forest areas possessed by the provincial government, and in addition he is visiting different points of the province ascertaining for himself among other things the causes of forest fires, and any other information which, as a forester, with a lifetime's experience, he is able to collect. This plan he will follow throughout Canada, and his report will be submitted to the committee of the Commission on Forestry.

The departments of the Conservation Commission are made up of committees on forests, fisheries, game and fur-bearing animals, minerals, waters and water powers, lands, parks and conserving organizations, and public health. Each of the committees is a purely honorary body, but has a professional man, Mr. Atkinson being the professional in connection with the forestry committee, of which Senator W. C. Edwards is chairman.

BITTER DEFEAT FOR OLD GUARD

Ex-President Roosevelt Sees Fulfillment of Prophecy that Progressives Would "Beat Them to a Frazzle."

SARATOGA, N. Y., Sept. 27.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt rode today on the top wave of victory, defeating Vice President Sherman for temporary chairman of the Republican convention and bowing over the "old guard" in the first engagement of a probable series of conflicts.

After he had named the members of the three important committees and the convention had adjourned to meet tomorrow, the Colonel turned to the former president and he would beat his opponents to a frazzle.

There were 1,011 votes cast in the convention, of which Col. Roosevelt received 568 and Vice President Sherman received 443, giving the leader of the "progressives" a majority of 115. Colonel Roosevelt did not vote. Mr. Sherman voted for "John Doe," and two of the New York county delegates did not respond when their names were called. The vote was officially announced at the convention gave Roosevelt 587 and Sherman 445, but an error in the count was discovered tonight.

In his speech as temporary chairman, Colonel Roosevelt spoke feelingly of what President Taft had accomplished in his administration, saying that the laws passed reflect high credit upon all who succeeded in putting them in their present shape on the statute books. They represent an earnestness of achievement which is yet to come; and the beneficence and far-reaching importance of this work done for the whole people means the credit which is rightly due to the Congress and to our able, upright and distinguished President, William H. Taft.

Colonel Roosevelt bitterly assailed the bosses, declaring that the difference between a boss and leader is that the leader leads and the boss drives. "The difference," he said, "is that the leader holds his place by firing the consciences and appealing to the reason of his followers, and the boss