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The Semi-Weekly Colonist

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THE INDIAN CLAIM

A mainland contemporary is inclined to criticize the provincial government very severely for its attitude towards the claims prepared on behalf of the Indians. If there is one question upon which the policy of Mr. McBride's administration can be said to be eminently correct it is this one, and it is not so different from the policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that a political issue can very well be made of it. The rights of the Indians are entitled to respect nd they are respected. The absurd claims advanced in their behalf are not entitled to a moment's serious consideration. Those claims followed to their legitimate conclusion amour practically to a denial of British sovereignty in British Columbia. The Colonist has discussed this matter fully with Mr. O'Meara, who is the chief agitator on behalf of the Indians. Mr. O'Meara, although at present a clergyman, was once a lawyer, and he knows perfectly well that his arguments, if admitted. necessarily carry with them the conclusion that the Indians have a paramount title to every square foot of land in British Columbia, which they have not formally ceded to the Crown. This was his contention when he discussed the question with us; if he or the so-called "Friends of the Indians" do not make thi preposterous claim now, we shall be glad to be so informed.

Our contemporary deals with the

Reservations and see to think it hardship that these, when they are not occupied by the Indians, should revert to the Crown in the right of the province, as the provincial government contends they ought to. The conclusion of the late Dominion ministry was that they should in such an event revert to the Crown in right of the government of Canada. To the Indian it cannot matter on lota, whether an unoccupied reservation is controlled at Ottawa or at Victoria. There is near Victoria the Malahat Reservation. Our information is that there is not a Malahat Indian alive, or a single individual who has the slightest claim to be recognized as a representative of the tribe for which this land was set apart. What conceivable differit make to any Indian whether this unoccupied reservation belongs to the provincial or the Dominion government? No other Indians than the Malahats have any right to it. Take the case of the Songhees Reserve. Wran province bought this for that tribe, .t was expected that when the tribe becomes extinct, if it ever does, the Reserve would revert to the provincial gov--hich paid very handsome price for it. But th. Dominion government stepped in and, before it would assent to the transfer of the Indians from the old Recerve to the new one, insisted that the reversion in the latter should to the Dominion and not to the province. What possible good cor'd this do to the Songhees?

There is a provision in the original agreement between the Dominion and the province to the effect that reservations shall be reduced in area in proportion as the Indian population decreases. We venture to think that if the McBride ministry should express -s to cancel this provision, every Liberal newspaper in the country would protest vigorously. As Mr McBride was an infant when this arrangement was agreed upon, we suppose it is not unreasonable to suggest that he may not have been responsible for it.

Objection has been taken that Mr. McBride will not consent to a case being stated to settle the claims preferred on behalf of the Indians. Mr. McBride, as Premier of British Columbia is a trustee for the people of Britishish Columbia. If he is convinced that the Indian claim is without foundation, it is his duty to refuse to submit it to the arbitrament of the Courts. It is easy to prate about justice to the Red Man, who has received it in full measure already; but there is such a thing as justice to the white men. There is no man in British Columbia who has the least desire to see the Indians deprived of their rights in their reservations. I..deed, we believe there is a universal disposition to put a very liberal construction upon those rights, and if there is not, there ought to be. No question arises between the province and the Indians as to the reservations, or at least none has arisen yet. The claims made in behalf of the Indians extend beyond the reserva- manger and prevent other powers from tions, and the present provincial gover, utilizing what she herself does not trip the Bay behaved itself.

ernment does not propose to admit that such claims have any foundation in law or equity.

HINDU IMMIGRATION

When the question of admitting

into Canada the wives and Joung children of the Sikhs was first mooted, the Colonist was disposed for humanitarian reacons to think it one that should receive favorable consideration. We were under the impression at that time that special regulations had been made to prevent immigration from India. Inquiry shows that we were in error. The wives of Hindus and Sikhs have the same right of entry into this country as other persons possess. They can come provided they come by a continuous journey. It is not necessary for them to come all the way by the same ship. The regulation regarding the continuous journey was not made to keep out immigrants from India. The reason of its adoption was the arrival at Vancouver of a ship with 1,100 Japanese on board. These men had come from Honolulu. The Japanese government was told of this and the claim was made that it was a violation of the agreement limiting the entry of Japanese to 400 a year. That government replied that it had no control over Japanese living in other countries. Thereupon the regulation providing that persons entering Canada should come by continuous journey from their country of origin was made. There is nothing to prevent a man or woman, native of India from entering Canada if he or she comes on a continuous journey, the evidence of which is the possession of a through ticket, provided that the person so coming has \$200 in his or her possession. Whether \$200 is too much or too little may be an open question. We think it is not too much for an immigrant to have, who comes half way round the world, and who is unfamiliar with our language and customs and unused to our climate.

It is said that the Sikhs are men who have fought for the flag in many cases, or the children of men who have done so. This may be quite true, and we honor them for it, but who can tell how many people of our own blood, who fought for the flag, or whose fathers did so, are not admitted into Canada because they are in the class called "undesirables?" We are informed by persons qualified to speak on the subject that the better men among the Sikhs here have no desire to bring their wives to this country. We do not know that this is true, but it has been so stated by one who appears to be competent authority. Under all the circumstances we do not favor any change in the existing regulations, which, as we have men tioned, are not prohibitive, as we at one time thought they were, but only reasonably restrictive.

A NOTABLE HONOR Sir Edward Grey has been created

a Knight of the Garter. This is the

highest honor that His Majesty can bestow, the Order of the Garter being the oldest and most exalted of all the Orders. Its establishment is attributed to Edward III. and the date fixed is 1348, another account makes Richard Coeur de Lion the founder of it, and says that its origin was in a white lions with the Ottawa ministry, has been leather strap, which the leaders of the English Crusaders wore to distinguish them from the Saracens. If this is correct, the order dates from about the year 1200. That the Foreign Secretary should have been selected at this particular time for this signal honor has excited much comment and will undoubtedly call forth much more. Nomination to the Order is vested in the Sovereign personally. While in common with everything else the King may do, his ministers must be prepared to justify such a nomination to Parliament, there has probably never arisen an occasion when they were ever called upon to do so. Hence we shall not be wrong if we regard the distinction conferred upon Sir Edward Grey as a mark of the personal approbation of His Majesty. This gives it very great significance in view of the surrounding circumstances.

His Majesty has just returned from India, and during his absence Sir Edward made his remarkable speech on the Morocco question. This speech excited surprise in every European chancellery, for it was a distinct notice to the world that while her aims were peaceful, the United Kingdom did not propose to permit any international question affecting her interests to be settled without her wishes being consulted. Still later Sir Edward made another speech, and this one did not call forth as much commendation at home as his previous utterance. It has been described as a notice that Great Britain did not propose to constitute herself a guardian for weaker nations, although a more natural construction of it might be a declaration that she did not propose to stand in the way of the reasonable territorial expansion of other powers. Having room and to spare for the scope of her own people, she does not propose to play the role of dog in the

want. It is to be assumed that the foreign policy thus outlined meets with His Majesty's hearty approval. The King, though he has been on the throne only for a short time, is in his forty-seventh year and is a man of wide experience, extensive observation and sound judgment. He is three years the junior of the Foreign Minister, but has devoted his attention to public affairs for quite as long a period. We mention this because the personal equation must always be considered in matters of this kind, and the conferring of the distinction by such a sovereign as George V. is very much more than an empty compliment. It is an indication of the future policy

of the United Kingdom. We must not lose sight of the fact that this mark of high approval has been extended by the King to a member of the ministry that is responsible for the abolition of the veto power of the Lords and on the eve of a parliamentary session at which a Home Rule measure is to be introduced by the same ministry. It has followed close the heels of Mr. Winston Churchill's announcement of the navalpolicy of Great Britain and is synchronous with the return of Viscount Haldane, Minister of War, from his mission to Berlin. All these circumstances will be taken into account by those who endeavor to determine the significance of this great honor for the Foreign Secretary, who is by this act of the Royal Prerogative placed in the most conspicuous light possible before the people of the United Kingdom and the various European governments.

A few words may be said of Sir Edward personally. He is said by his admirers to be a cold man, one who has few friends and no intimates. He is intensely English in his point of view; that is, the guiding influence of his public life is what seems to be best for his own country. Press correspondents would have us regard his elevation as indicative of his forthcoming succession to the office of prime minister. We have much doubt if he desires such a position. Certainly he has never yet disclosed any ambitions in that direction or exhibited those qualities which are thought to be essential to the position of leader of a party, which devotes itself chiefly to the consideration of domestic

THE MORNING SUN

The Morning Sun, a daily newspape published in Vancouver, has made its bow to the people of British Columbia Its first issue is a highly creditable production of 24 pages. From the standpoint of news it is bright and written in a thoroughly up-to-date fashion, Liberal in politics, its editorial columns display restraint, and are penned in very able fashion. The new publication is attractive from a typographical viewpoint, the arrangement of news and advertisements dovetailing well. If the production keeps up to its early premise it should go far towards achieving suecess. Mr. John P. McConnell is the managing editor, and Mr. Richard S. Ford the managing director. The Colonist extends its congratulations to the new venture, and wishes it prosperity.

The return submitted to the legislature, giving the result of the namelic received by almost universal expressions

A contemporary says it is "one of the most virile critics of the administration." It is surprising how typographical errors will creep into the newspapers How the "ri" in the word "virile" came to escape the notice of the proof-reader is one of those things that no fellow can find out.

The amount of building in progress in Victoria at the present time is really surprising. People who keep to the beaten tracks between their homes and their places of business can form no conception of what is in progress else-

The discussion of the Forest Bill in committee has been a complete answer to those opponents of the government who asserted that the intention was to force the measure upon the house just as it was drawn, Mr. Ross, Minister of Lands, has welcomed criticism, and has snown admirable judgment in meeting it.

Mr. Theodore Roosevelt in replying to a delegation of state governors asking him if he would accept the presidential nomination if it is tendered him, said he would decide in a week, probably. He delights in keeping people guessing. Perhaps he would like to hear from the country first.

Being a Queen has its drawbacks. Her Majesty was very ill in the Bay of Biscay on her way to India, and she wanted to leave the ship on the return journey somewhere in the Meditterranan, and go home by way of France. But some one who knows all about such things pointed out that for Her Majesty to cross France incognito, before she had paid an official visit to the country, would be unprecedented, not according to Hoyle, and a lot of other things like that, and so the idea had to be abandoned. Happily on the return

"GOOD VALUE" HERE IS MORE THAN "BARGAINS" ELSEWHERE

EXTRAVA-

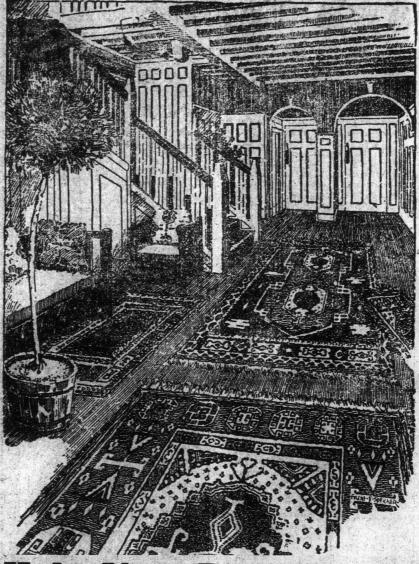
GANCE IS PAYING

MORE AT ONE STORE THAN YOU HAVE TO PAY AT

ANOTHER

QUALITY

TELLS THE STORY OF A TRUE BARGAIN



SINCERITY IN WORD AND DEED, THAT IS WHAT MAKES FRIENDS, WINS CUSTOMERS GROWS BUSINESS. **INSURES** SUCCESS WE MAKE NO CLAIM WE CANNOT SUBSTANTIATE DECLARE NO VALUES WE CANNOT

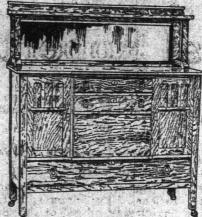
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SHOW

We Can Help You Beautify Your Home

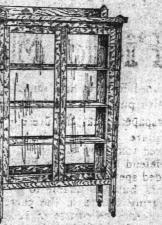
Indications point to an early Spring this year, so you will be doing your Spring housecleaning earlier than usual. Begin your planning now and let us advise and assist you. Our whole organization is at your service-we can help you with interior decorations, your draperies, etc.-we can make suggestions for the re-arranging of your rooms-we can show you how to make your kitchen more up-to-date so that your daily work will be easier. The new goods are beginning to arrive now, and we will be pleased to have you call to inspect them. The carpets and rugs for this Spring are here in great variety and you will be interested in the new designs and color effects. Several shipments of fine grade Furniture are here, and the samples are on our floors ready for your inspection.

You are welcome at all times to come and walk through and examine our stocks.



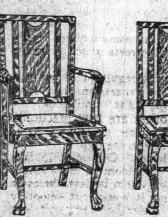
FUMED OAK BUFFET, \$55.00

Top measures 19 x 49, British bevel mirror 12 x 38, has two cutlery drawers and I large linen drawer, double doors, to cupboard. The newest designs, well made, handsome and attractive. Good value. Similar to illustration. Shown on our third floor.



FUMED OAK CHINA CAB-INET, \$37.50

Has double glass doors and glass sides. Mirror at back. Cabinet measures 16 x 40, height 5ft, 6in., 3 adjustable shelves, latest design which is very attractive. This cabinet is shown on our third furniture floor. Similar to illustra-



FUMED OAK ARM CHAIR, \$6.00 DINING CHAIR TO MATCH, \$4.00

Upholstered seats in Spanish leather. Panel backs. good, strong, well made, attractively designed chairs. These are on our third floor and are similar to illustration. Arm chair, each......\$6.00 Dining Chairs to match at, each\$4.00



SQUARES SEE OUR WINDOW DISPLAY FOR EVERY ROOM A Splendid Display

Awaits You

Our 1912 display of Rugs and Squares is worth your investigation. If you have not already tried those popular floor coverings, we suggest an early visit to this magnificent display.

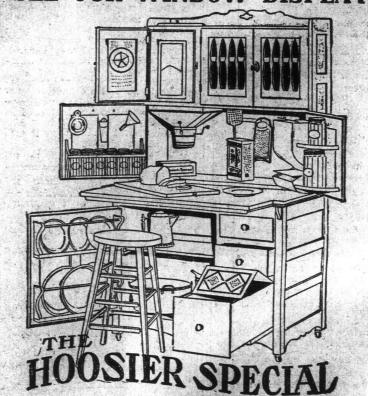
If is no trouble to us whatever to show you these. We have hun-

dreds of rugs displayed on our specially constructed Rug Racks that permit the showing of the entire lot in a few minutes. You'll therefore take but little of our time and lose but little yourself. There is a rug style, a rug size and a rug price to suit you, and we would appreciate an opportunity to show it to you in these beautiful new 1912 designs.

HERE IS THE RANGE OF PRICES

	중속 없는 그들은 사람이는 사람이 가는 사람들의 그래프 이 가는 사람들은 보다고 있다. 아니라 되는 사람들은 그 아니는 이 그리고 있다는 그는 그리고 있다면 가는 사람들이 만든 사람이 있다면 모든 사람들이 되었다.	
	Ingrain Squares, \$15.00 to	\$8.75
	Tapestry Squares, \$25.00 to	\$8.50
	Kensington Squares, \$29.00 to	
902.152	Velvet Squares, \$42.50 to	\$24.00
	Smyrna Rugs, \$40.00 to	
	Heavy Scotch Wool Squares, \$55.00 to	
	Brussels Squares, \$45.00 to	\$14.00
	Axminster Squares, \$65.00 to	\$25.00
10年世纪1	Wilton Squares, \$95.00 to	

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It is not the other merchant's fault. He would sell you a better Cabinet than the Hoosier if he could get it. He can't. To protect yourself, see that the Hoosier trade mark is on your

Many of them- are not particular.

Victoria's Popular Home-Furnishers



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