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Is Victoria Prepared?

Former Chief Deasy Contributes A Little Hot Criticism on Fire Department Affairs.

Editor Progress:—In reply to your inquiry with reference to the present condition of the Victoria fire department, permit me to state that any criticism made by one who resigned, for the reason that the call system was considered a menace to the safety of the city, might be construed as the emanation of a prejudiced mind. It is, therefore, with diffidence that I express my views on a matter which causes a divergence of opinion between the chief of the fire department and the secretary of the board of underwriters. When you state that the interests of the city demand a reply from one who has always taken an interest in fire fighting, then my duty to fellow citizens becomes paramount, and I am compelled to state that Mr. Elliott gives his side of the case too mildly, and that the published account of the chief of the fire department is, to say the least, misleading.

When a public official places before the public a statement that there are two steam fire engines in service in the fire department, and one in reserve, he means that two engines are ready at a moment's notice to respond to an alarm of fire, and that one engine is on hand for emergencies. When Chief Watson took charge he had two steam fire engines, two drivers, and two teams of horses for the same. He disposed of the horses and discharged the driver of one of the engines. How he can make the statement that he has two steam fire engines in service I cannot understand.

Further: It is stated that the fire department is in possession of 8,000 feet of fire hose, in good condition. How does anyone know whether hose is in good condition unless the hose is tested to stand the strain that might be placed on it at fires? The usual way to test hose, before the present chief took office, was to place a gauge on one end of the line of hose and ascertain whether the whole line of hose would stand from 150 to 200 pounds pressure to the square inch. The present manner of testing hose is to place the open end of the line of hose in a sewer and take the pressure at the engine. A large quantity of the fire hose has been in use for years, and leaving cotton hose out in the weather, for weeks, is not conducive to the requirements of this adjunct of the fire department.

I am sure that there is not hose enough to work at an ordinary fire, that can be depended on.

The rules and regulations governing the firemen are a by-word amongst the men. They are simply ignored and overlooked. I have no reason to find fault with the call men individually—a good call fireman is worth more than he receives from the city; but the call system is a farce, and was only installed, as an experiement, twenty years ago when the volunteers declined further service as such. It is all very well for our people to say that we never had any serious fires. I imagine the people of Baltimore, Toronto and Fernie thought so too; but the record for this year should be a warning. We have had disasters and all of them might have been avoided; but carelessness and hiding things from the public caused the loss of many lives and much valuable property.

If the people on the outside only glance at the fire alarm boxes and hydrants that are to be seen on the street corners they will have reason to wonder whether all other parts of the equipment of the fire department are in a similar condition.

I believe the permanent firemen, or, at least a large majority of them, do their work to the best of their ability and that they are underpaid. The permanent fireman is all the city has to rely on. With what he has, and what it is, he does his best. Night and day he is ready to risk his life and health, and deserves more recognition than any other workman. Many years ago the drivers and engineers received $10 each per month more than they receive to-day. Through lack of funds the firemen stood a reduction, without protest, and it is in the interest of the city that the men who work day and night, Sunday and Monday, to protect life and property should receive proper remuneration.

The call men are different. Their livelihood does not depend on their salary. They are not compelled to attend fires, and can take their time answering roll call. Under existing circumstances they can have their residences where they please. Some of them have homes miles from any fire hall. They work and go where they please, and, as the foremen or captain are call men also, they may not be over-anxious in having their coworkers fined and can delay the roll call until they arrive at the fire hall.

As I stated before, and repeat now, it is a farce to have call firemen. With a fire alarm system, horses, drivers and every means to respond to an alarm of fire the presence of men, drilled, and ready for an emergency, should commend itself to everyone. The cry has been cost. Permit me to go further into this matter and state that the additional cost would not total $2,500 annually. Should the insurance companies decide to raise their rates this sum would be a mere bagatelle, and a full-paid fire department might even mean a reduction in rates, as the recent improvement in the fire departments of Portland and Vancouver was met in that way. The insurance companies are not in the business for pastime. They watch every fire, and the cities have their rates raised, or reduced, according to the amount of losses, as was seen in Toronto and other places.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, permit me to request the citizens to take more interest in the affairs that concern them. A great many run away with the idea that their duty is done when they cast a ballot at the beginning of a year and elect a mayor and nine aldermen. The gentlemen they elect are placed in charge of the work of governing the city; but they are business men who devote their time to the general public and may not be more conversant with the details of any branch of civic government than the average citizen. Let your readers see for themselves where they stand, and a little interest will show whether those in office are doing their duty, or letting things run along until another disaster occurs.

THOMAS DEASY.

PENDRAY PROPERTY BOUGHT.

Canadian Pacific Company Makes First Buy of City Land in Vicinity of Projected Hotel.

During the present week the officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have given a practical demonstration of their intention to make the surroundings of the palatial new tourist hotel which they are to erect on the once execrated James Bay flat's all that they should be, by acquiring by purchase from Mr. W. J. Pendray the first item in the land fronting on Humboldt street and now decorated with as miscellaneous a collection of disfiguring structures as one can well imagine. The Pendray property ,and that of the Messrs. Weiler Brothers, make the singular exceptions. Very little has been said publicly of the negotiations for the purchase of the Humboldt street land from Government street to the Reformed Episcopal church, all of which it is understood to be the railway company's determination to possess. This is not to be wondered at perhaps. It was at the suggestion of Mayor Barnard, it is understood, that the Pendray property was bought, at a figure somewhere near $73,000, the city conceding a small strip of land, in order that the new hotel building may be erected in the centre of one of the finest squares in all the west.

The city ought to purchase a block of land in the neighborhood of the Gorge before it is too late, and improve it with walks, seats, flowers, landing places, and so on. Curtis' Point is gone, more's the pity. Then we hope by and by to have that portion of the Indian Reserve which lies above Point Ellice bridge converted into a park. These things will add vastly to the attractiveness of the Arm.

If you want the Best in Preserves, try Price's Purity Brand.

First Port And Last.

Victoria Takes the Proper Place in New Canada-Mexico Line.

It affords "Progress" considerable satisfaction to announce that the arrangements for the establishment of a Mexican-Canadian direct steamship line, assisted with liberal subsidies from both interested governments, are now so far advanced that the assurance is given from Ottawa that the service will very shortly be inaugurated. The final negotiations were conducted at the federal capital this week, between Sir Richard Cartwright, Minister of Trade and Commerce for Canada, and Senor Santiago Mendez and Senor P. Mendarais, sent north by the government of Mexico for consultation with the first party to the contract. Mexico promised to expend dollar for dollar with the Daminion in fastering the new avenue of reciprocal international trade, and at the same time arrangements were made for penny postage between the two countries, and an exchange of regular trade reports. "Progress" having started the ball rolling in this city, impressing upon the community the fact that since Victorians were the initiators of the idea, this city should enjoy the chief trade advantages accruing, the daily newspapers were sufficiently patriotic to fall in line with "Progress," and the Board of Trade took precisely such action as was advised. As a result—the representations in this regard having been promptly wired to Ottawa—it is promised that Victoria will be the first and last northern port of call for vessels of the new line, sailing monthly until the development of a trade sufficient to justify yet more frequent sailings. In connection with the completion of the negotiations at Ottawa for the new line, a press dispatch from the Capital says:

"The privy council have practically agreed on the terms of the subsidies to be paid to the steamship lines to be established on the Pacific and Atlantic. The Mexican congress has already voted $50,000, and will vote more, if necessary. Canada will do the same. Tenders will at once be called for and it is probable the two lines will be established before the end of this year. There will probably be monthly trips between British Columbia ports and four or five ports in Mexico. A great deal, however, will depend upon the activity of the business men of the coast in taking advantage of this opportunity for trade. Railway ties, lumber, coal and fish can be sold in large quantities in Mexico, if the prices are right. Senor Mendez leaves to-morrow for St. Louis, where he represents his government, but may return to Ottawa again. Senator Templeman is endeavoring to get the delegates to return home via the Pacific coast."

MAKING PROGRESS.

Songhees Reserve Committee Has Sympathy of Local Government.

The Songhees reserve committee, Messrs. Stewart, Kinsman, Oddy, Hanna, Kingham and Lugrin, Messrs. Paterson and Helmcken being unavoidably absent, waited upon the government on Wednesday last, the Mayor and Secretary Elworthy, of the Board of Trade, accompanying them. Hon. Messrs. McBride, Green, Tatlow and Wilson were present. Mr. Lugrin, chairman of the committee, introduced the subject, and all the members of the committee as well as the ministers took part in the informal discussion which followed. The Premier expressed his readiness to meet the views of the committee insofar as he could, and the result of the conference was that the committee will be furnished with a copy of all important correspondence on the subject, after which they will present their views to the government in writing. This step is preliminary to the opening of correspondence with the federal government.

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Terse Tales of the Town

Odds and Ends of Interest in Victoria and Its Suburbs.

Motorman Commacher, of the B. C. Electric Railway has invented a very convenient motorman's seat, which it is possible will be adopted generally on the company's cars. It is made with a long support hinged to the floor in front of the standing place of the motorman. To this a second piece of wood is hinged which spreads back and acts as a support to the first piece, on the top end of which a round seat is attached. The second support has a sharp piece of iron, which keeps it from slipping and thus letting the seat down. As the whole is hinged it turns up out of the way entirely. The company has for some time been experimenting with seats for motormen, but so far any samples received from the east and elsewhere were not found satisfactory. This invention of one of the company's employees has practicability to recommend it. The first seat of the kind to be used seems to work well. The B.C.Electric Company seems peculiarly fortunate in the possession of extra-intelligent employees, as is evidenced in the fact that half a dozen useful and practical inventions in connection with the tramcar business stand to their credit—the automatic switch, the revolving street indicator and the Watson fender being familiar examples.

Up to the hour of going to press, the waiting hackmen have not had their souls made glad by the declaration of a dividend to wipe out the last election score of the Conservative committee. And there are others in business locally who also evince no fear of ghosts, if only they could be prevailed upon to promenade. The explanation of the delay in settlement with the hackmen is that they have refused to take what has been offered them. They for their part declare that a bargain was made at $15 per carriage, and they do not see why it should not be adhered to, especially since workers on the other side were engaged at the same figure—and got it. As the delays complained of are subjecting a number of hard working men to no little inconvenience and embarrassment, it is to be hoped an early settlement will be brought about. The waiting creditors can be found at any time. Their place of business is on Yates street near Government.

Owing to a shooting accident some time ago in which his arm was badly shattered, J. R. Phillips has been unable to follow his usual occupation as a monumental sculptor. His father, Joseph Phillips, after the disabling accident, installed an air compressor and set his son up with a pneumatic tool for working the chisel. With this tool strapped to one wrist, and the chisel guided with the other hand, he is able to do much more and finer work than he was ever before able to accomplish. It is simply wonderful to see the art decorations grow under his hand, first the rough outline, then the detail. It is well worth a call at Phillips' Monumental Works to watch the work progress.

An important public meeting is arranged for Thursday evening next at Victoria West, to discuss and take some action upon two new and patent examples of injustice of which the western suburb bears the burden. The first of these is in connection with the location of the promised septic tanks. The other is in relation to school affairs. Acting on the parrot's celebrated advice: "One thing at a time, gentlemen," Craigflower road controversies on this occasion will be barred. It is hoped that all progressive, wideawake residents of Victoria West will turn out to support the efforts in the district's behalf.

After "Progress" went to press last Saturday, the unsecured creditors of the Lenora held their promised meeting and ratified and confirmed the revised terms presented by the liquidator, Mr. Matson, for the sale of the mine and associated properties to the new English and Welsh syndicate. The acceptance was opposed by the majority of the individuals present, but carried by the preponderance of represented shares. And it has since been confirmed by the court.

Messrs. Munsie, Sayward and Turpel, representing the Victoria lumber interests, were present by invitation at a meeting of the Council of the Board of Trade yesterday morning to suggest a line of action that the Board could take to relieve the lumbermen from the disadvantages they are under in competing with United States millmen in the Northwest. The case was very strongly presented by Mr. Sayward, and there was a general discussion. The conclusion arrived at was to endorse the suggestion of the New Westminster Board of Trade that a delegation shall be sent to Ottawa to press the requests ?

About the acme of eugenuity in cruelty is a device invented, but scarcely patented, by a Victoria tinsmith resident near Cedar Hill, to facilitate the weaning of young calves. A working model of the instrument of torture, now in possession of President A. J. Dallain, of the S. P. C. A., shows it to consist chiefly of needle-sharp spikes for the irritation of the mother cow, the calf wearing the apparatus on a rod driven through its nostrils. It is nto yet decided whether or not the inventor will be prosecuted for his systematized cruelty.

A pretty innovation which deserves to be followed by other schools was made by the Victoria West school on Tuesday, when the entire primary class and their teacher went picking wild violets—and incidentally learning more botany to be understood and remembered than could have been gained from books alone in a month of Sundays.

It is understood that a new work of fiction by Col. Andrew C. P. Haggard—brother of H. Rider Haggard—who some years ago spent several weeks in this city, will shortly make its appearance. All of Col. Haggard's stories have individuality, charm and interest. The new one should prove particularly alluring to Victorians for reasons which will at once become apparent upon perusal.

The Bishop of Columbia has sufficiently recovered from his recent serious indisposition to be about again, and will assist in Sunday's srvices. Rev. Canon Beanlands is now expected back from the Old Country almost at any time.

The dust nuisance on Esquimalt road is becoming a very active grievance of residents and of travellers on that popular thoroughfare. As this is in Victoria West, it will probably remain unabated.

Mr. D. R. Harris, C.E., is leaving today for the north, being one of the engineers chosen by Mr. W. F. King to look after Canadian interests in the marking of the new British Columbia-Alaska boundary line. The several surveyors are to meet Mr. King for consultation and instructions, at Vancouver.

This neighborhood is going to be a wonderful place for wild strawberries in the course of a year or two. Not long ago the blossoms along the roadside were few and far between; now they are everywhere.

The Colonist has terminated its arrangement for simultaneous publication of the London Times and New York Herald despatches from the front.

It is the intention of the Tourist Association to make the experiment of providing glass bottomed boats—similar to those in use at Catalina Island—as an attraction to visitors at Oak Bay.

Wednesday evening after electing officers for the coming year the employees of the B. C. Electric Railway Company sat down to a supper which had been provided by a few of the members. There were a large number present and a jolly time was spent. The officers elect are: A. T. Goward, president; W. Gibson, vice-president; W. H. Smith, secretary; J. G. Battersby, treasurer; T. N. Corder, W. Armstrong, V. Dempsey, D. Dewar, managing committee.

Last evening in St. James' hall a very pleasing entertainment was given under the auspices of the James Bay Epworth League. The feature of the evening was an amateur presentation of the trial scene from "The Merchant of Venice," the characters being fairly well sustained and the staging and scenery adequate. The following was the cast: "The Duke," Mrs. C. Wight; "Antonio," Mr. Fred Ware; "Bassinio," Mr. Harvey Schroeder; "Nerissa," Miss Helen Emery; "Gratiano," Mr. Tom Gawley; "Salereo," Mr. J. Lewis; "Shylock," Mr. F. Schroeder; "Portia," Miss Bertha Fick. In addition to this the following ladies and gentlemen added to the pleasure of the evening: Miss Kneeshaw, Miss A. Morris, Miss A. Lewis, Mr. H. Boorman and Mr. H. Kent. Mrs. Mesher was unable to take part owing to illness.

Mr. Colby, an eminent hydraulic engineer, left for Quatsino Sound Thursday for the Quatsino Power & Pulp Co., accompanied by Mr. W. F. Best, one of the local directors.

Mrs. Weir and family went up to Cumberland to join Mr. Weir, who has charge of the grocery department of Simon Leiser's store in that town.

TO RESTORE SAGHALIEN.

Japan Preparing for Recovery of a Lost Island to Her Flag.

Increasing hardships and very real distress are the portion of the unfortunate foreigners who elected to remain in the vicinity of Vladivostock, according to Mr. P. Crompton of that Siberian city, who was among the passengers by the recently arrived Empress of India. As has been previously told, all foreigners were requested to leave, at the outbreak of war, unless thoroughly well provisioned. Quite a number, including numerous Japanese, remained rather than sacrifice their business interests, but quickly learned that their proven possession of sufficient supplies to meet the governmental requirement was but regarded as an invitation to the unscrupulous Russian troops to plunder them wantonly. Virtually all the Japanese with many others were forced to flee to Habarovsk, the manager of the Russo-Chinese Bank of Vladivostock leading the exodus.

There the little colony of refugees is said to be facing slow starvation, such food supplies as are available being held for military uses and only securable by civilians at fabulous prices. The Habarovsk unfortunates have recently sent representations of their condition to the Japanese and the British consular representatives, with requests for immediate aid, which it is hoped to get to them in some way—although how is a most perplexing problem.

Less acute but nevertheless anxiety-exciting conditions prevail at Saghalien, where the convict-recruited forces are requisitioning all food supplies, and sickness as well as hunger is making sad inroads into the Japanese and foreign colonies. To succor the Saghalien folk a British steamer was to have been dispatched from Japan last week. The greater number of the 700 Japanese fishermen who wintered on the island had gone some time ago to Wakanai, whence the steamer was to take them to Hakodate.

The Japanese meanwhile are quietly perfecting plans for a sudden and early descent upon the island so soon as the ice melts, it being regarded as unwise to leave the Ainus—in reality kinsfolk of the Japanese and natural subjects of the flag—a single day longer than necessary under Russian government and control. Japan also has not forgotten that she was robbed of Saghalien by Russia, and aims to make a most popular stroke by restoring the island—which she is just as anxious to possess as any of the southern islands in her chain—to the flag as quickly as possible.

Just what body of Japanese troops will be detached for the restoration of the Rising Sun flag in Saghalien, is not yet known outside the hermetically silent officialdom of Japan, but the invasion of the island will be watched with especial interest, it being a moot point whether the political exiles who have recently been converted into Russian soldiers there, will forego their grievances for love of Russia, or desert their fatherland of cruelty and injustice to join her enemies.

A STORY OF MASSACRE.

Arrivals by the Empress Bring Horrifying Tale of Butchery.

Missionary passengers by the Empress of India, arriving here from Hongkong this week, bring advices of an atrocious massacre on the west coast of British North Borneo. The facts set forth by one correspondent are: On March 31st at 10 o'clock at night, a band of 150 rebels from the interior, armed with guns, parangs, spears and blow-pipes, swept down upon the little colony at Kawang railway station, midway between Jesselton and Papar. The band divided into two parties, one of a hundred remaining concealed as a reserve on the top of a hill, while the other fifty rushed down upon the settlement, butchered the inmates of the Chinese shops, attacked the railway station, smashed the telephone, and killed the wife and child of the stationmaster, the latter saving his life by hiding in the bush. The band of murderers then turned their attention to the coolies, most of them Chinese, killing and wounding savagely right and left. The English railway driver was the next victim, a speedy and terrible end coming to him and his wife. The carnage then became general, males, females, and innocent babes being butchered in the lust for blood. The houses and huts in the Kampong were set fire to next in the brutal career of the savages, and when nothing was left but dead bodies and cruelly wounded people, ashes and desolation, the sanguinary wretches went their way. The survivors—one native fireman, the stationmaster, with a few of the wounded coolies, ran down the line in the direction of Jesselton for their lives. By putting all steam on the construction engine stationed there, the terrible news was carried to Jesselton, putting all the inhabitants of that place in panic. The total number of killed was one hundred and twenty. No record is available of the number of wounded.

The Unobservant Jassack.—"All books look alike to a mud-hen, while a jackass could not tell a Grecian sculpture from an old citizen of Victoria."—New Denver Ledge.

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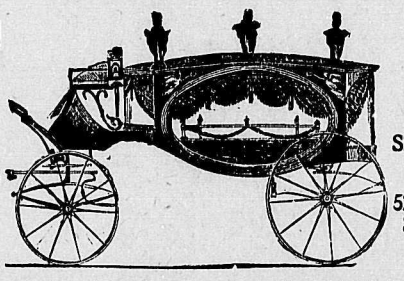

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THE TRAVELER AND THE NATIVE.

The traveler stepped out of the car to stretch his legs a bit while the trainmen were doctoring a hot box.

"What town is this?" he said to the solitary native on the station platform.

"Name's on the sign up there," replied the native.

"Oh, yes—Drearyhurst. How far is it to Chicago?"

"You'll find that on the sign, too."

"So it is—fourteen miles. Much business done here?"

"Not much. Keeps us pretty busy, though, mindin' it."

"Had a great deal of rain in this section?"

"Well, we ain't growed webs on our feet yet."

"Any newspaper published in town?"

"No, sir. Nothin' but the Drearhurst Democrat."

"Much building going on here?"

"Some. Abe Syfert put up a chicouse last fall."

"You don't have much business do yourself, do you?"

"Yes, sir. They keep me down hat the deepo to answer fool questio

"So I perceive. Well, my frie you're rather too many for me. Do ever take a drink?"

"Sometimes."

"Then suppose you go to the pu there and help yourself. I see the tr is moving off. Good-bye."—Chic Tribune.

Immigration Problems.

What British Columbia is Doing Towards Settling up the Waste Places—Small Holdings Favored.

(By R. E. Gosnell.)

The question of immigration is more or less a political one, and I do not care to discuss it in that light. As you have asked for my views, on the subject, however, I can give you them in a general way.

Conditions are so different in British Columbia to those in other provinces that there can be no fair comparison of methods, and whether methods pursued in settling up the Northwest, for instance, are good or bad, ours cannot be the same. In fact, in my opinion, they should be quite different here.

In the Northwest there are millions of acres in compact areas more or less uniform in character, and it is only necessary to invite the world to come in and share them. In British Columbia, apart from teh northern interior, not yet available for settlement on account of lack of communication, there are no definite areas of unoccupied land of any extent upon which you can honestly ask people to come and settle. Indiscriminate, wholesale advertising, however effective it might be in bringing people here, would, under such circumstances, be a mistake; because we could not absorb rapidly a large population and bitter and general disappointment would be the result.

Very few persons outside of the province understand the conditions here, and the policy of the Department has been to point out the disadvantages as well as the advantages incident to settlement, and all our literature is framed on those lines, so that no man can say he has been deceived, as is often the case in the Northwest. It is often a kindness to discourage persons, with certain preconceived notions of the province—rather than encourage—from coming. Hundreds and hundreds to-day, without a word of warning, would start off, with their families and effects, for British Columbia, knowing not in the least what they are coming to or where they were going to settle. It would be cruelty not to first advise them to make a preliminary visit and see the country for themselves. When a man has a fair notion of what to expect, if he does come, he is not disappointed, which in most cases makes all the difference in the world. Should he come, the climate, the favorable market conditions, the scenery, the growing crops, the game, or something else may decide him to remain and purchase, which is what usually happens.

The Government is often blamed for not advertising more extensively. In my opinion the necessity for advertising this country for farmers has passed. The great western movement, which has set in is irresistible as a tidal wave, and the difficulty is not in getting people, but in placing them when here. The civilized world is land hungry, and is moving as rapidly west to the unoccupied areas as is possible. The requirements now are rather in the way of supplying exact and full information; and the task of satisfying the varied wants in this respect is not a slight one. The immigration department sometimes gets as high as 70 enquiries a day; and real estate men, Boards of Trade, Tourists' Associations and others throughout the province get a great many more. The demand for specific, reliable information is becoming yearly more exacting—as to land regulations, climate, soil, crops, wages, cost of living, transportation, the nature of particular localities, etc., etc. One letter recently from a man with £4.000 to invest, contained no fewer than 32 mienquiries. Many of the persons writing writing for information represent from half a dozen to fifty persons, who wish to come as colonists.

The majority of enquiries are for homesteads and free grant lands and come from the western and Pacific Coast states, from Manitoba and the Northwest, more largely from the other side of the line—and nearly all from practical, hardhanded and hardheaded farmers. A great many of the enquiries from the United States express a strong preference for residence under the Union Jack and Canadian law—a most significant fact—and are evidently in most cases from expatriated Canadians or sons of the same. Thos ein Manitoba and the Northwest frequently express themselves as tired of the cold weather there. My belief is that British Columbia will ultimately be largely settled from the prairies.

Some think that the Government, in view of the difficulty of clearing up land in this province, should adopt the principle of free grants. Personally, apart from the fact that re require to offer no inducements to settlers, I believe it would be a mistake. Settlements in this country must necessarily be detached and scattered, and what with the cost of making roads, building wharves, supplying railway communication, building school houses and furnishing teachers, and administering adequately all these communities, from a bookkeeping point of view, the settler costs more than he comes to; and the local government must get a revenue from the land to keep the account at all straight. It is the Dominion Government which makes the profit on the new settler.

The conditions in this province—the adaptabilities for fruit growing, poultry raising, dairying and the like—point to smaller holdings and more intensive cultivation as the solution of the immigration question and the attainment of our agricultural possibilities. Some day British Columbia will be a series of great fruit orchards and gardens. It will outrival Denmark for dairy products. It will produce immense quantities of poultry and eggs for export. Its numerous islands and waste places will teem with sheep and goats. If linen continues to grow in favor it may outdistance Ireland for flax. If chemicals do not entirely supersede hops in the making of beer, it should eclipse English Kent in fame for hop fields; and out of these natural industries will grow others, such as great tanneries, glue factories, fertilizing plants, condensed milk factories, breweries, preserving, canning, evaporating and pickling establishments, woollen mills and linen factories.

In a careful estimate of the more or less arable land in the present settled districts, I place 1,900,000 acres as the limit. Not one-tenth of this is under cultivation, and very much less is producing under careful methods. The Dominion census of 1901, which gives 470,000 acres as "improved" is entirely misleading in the sense that it is all under culivation.

Of wholly undeveloped areas, from Bella Coola north to and including the Naas, Ootsa lake country, the Bulkley valley and Kispyox valley, there are 1,500,000 acres, a good deal of which is only pastoral. The Nechaco, Canoe River and Peace River valleys, and the country around Stuart's Lake, gives us about 6,500,000 acres more, or something like 10,000,000 acres for the whole of the province. It is not by any means all farming land, but it represents about the limit of what can be used in some way for agricultural and pastoral purposes. Out of a total area of 350,000,000 acres, 10,000,000 acres is not much. Compared with the arable lands of Ontario it is still small, but nevertheless it means a great deal to the province of British Columbia. If for purposes of calculation we may accept the figures of the Dominion census as approximately accurate, by which it is shown that in 1901 470,000 acres of "improved" land—and we know what that means at the present time—produced in values $14,000,000, then half our available area, or 5,000,000 acres, under cultivation would represent a value in production of $150,000,000. So that, after all, our agricultural possibilities are worth considering.

The problems connected with the settlement and development of those 10,000,000 acres in the most effective way and for the best results, are the greatest and most important the province has to deal with.

I am often asked if all the advertising the province is doing is having tangible results in the way of settlement, and if we can trace them. This is, of course, a very difficult question to answer, but in a general way I would say "yes," quite emphatically. Nearly every district is counting its new settlers year by year, in some, like the Okanagan, a great many. In some cases it represents substitution, in most cases, however, it means addition to the population. It is not substitution we want, unless it may be a better class of farmers. It is expansion. The key to the problem is the division of large holdings into smaller ones, such as is going on in the Okanagan. I long ago advocated that; and in the long run it will probably be found necessary to undertake it in a comprehensive and systematic way, possibly under governmental control.

Fraternal Societies.

S.O.E.—Alexandra and Pride of the Island Lodges will meet for their annual church parade on the 22nd inst. most likely to the Centennial Methodist Church. The procession will be headed by a military drum and fife band. At their meeting next Wednesday, Alexandra Lodge will initiate four new members and several applications will be considered.

F.O.E.—A cheap excursion has been arranged to carry local Eagles to take part in the dedication of the new Eagle Home at Seattle to-morrow. It is a great event in Eagledom, and will be worthily celebrated. A large number intend to go from here, in fact the local Aerie will be represented almost en masse.

W.O.W.—Victoria Camp initiated one candidate at their last meeting and Columbia Ladies' Circle received one application for membership. This circle has just received its long-looked for charter, which it has obtained by taking advantage of the amended clause in the constitution.

Maccabees—Victoria Tent on Tuesday evening initiated one member and considered several applications. Officers were nominated and the election will take place at the next regular meeting.

Another Attempted Hold-up.—"Last Tuesday two deer, probably with the idea of holding up the evening special between Cumberland and Union Wharf, evidently miscalculated the force of Cumberland coal, and were sent hurling lifeless into eternity."—Cumberland Enterprise.

News of the Province.

Fernie's Fire Loss Materially Reduced—The Week in British Columbia.

Thrilling was the experience of Mary Olheiser, the 7-year-old daughter of Mrs. Olheiser, of Nelson, last week. She was carried 400 feet down a flume and swept into Kootenay lake, but beyoud a few bruises was not seriously hurt. Those who saw the accident marvel at the child's escape from death. The little one was playing around the flume after afternoon school. She slipped into the flume, in which water to the depth of two feet was running rapidly. She screamed for help as she was borne swiftly towards the lake, but after the first few seconds was unable to make any outcry because of being so often knocked against the bottom of the flume. Close to the entry to the lake the water rushes over rough rocks and there is quite a fall. Here she was dashed against boulders and turned over and over by the swirling water. As she shot out into the lake men, attracted to the waterfront by the cries of the child's schoolmates, observed her. One of these, an employee of P. Burns & Co., jumped into the lake and brought her ashore. Much to the men's surprise, the little girl was able to walk two blocks to her home. There she was medically examined and the doctor said she would soon be able to play again, as her injuries were only a few bruises. From the time she fell into the flume, travelled the four hundred feet and was rescued, only three minutes elapsed, so it can be seen with what speed the water in the flume travelled.

Sandon thus vigorously protests against the favored freight rate now enjoyed by Nelson; Sandon, New Denver, Silverton and Slocan City are nearer to the coast than Nelson, and yet they will have to pay 25 to 35 per cet. more freight on their goods than Nelson does. Kaslo and Ainsworth are nearer the east than is Nelson and yet they will have to pay from 15 to 25 cents more per 100 pounds for their freight than Nelson does. People of the Kootenay, how do you like it? It is now definitely known that all Slocan and Kootenay lake points and intermediate towns are to pay a higher freight rate or all their goods, with perhaps a few exceptions in car lots. Powder and mining machinery are the only definite items mentioned at present. The advance in freight from the coast, where the larger portion of supplies at the present time is shipped from, to Sandon, is 35 per cent. From the east it is 15 per cent. on a freight rate that is already too high. Nelson is going to get protection with a vengeance. People of the Slocan, how do you like it?

Several dynamite explosions have occurred at Morrissey at intervals during the past few weeks and in each case the blame rested with foreigners celebrating in drunken sprees. Two weeks ago two houses were badly shaken by an explosion of several sticks between them, but the perpetrators could not be located. On Sunday night last the culmination of these crazy freaks was reached when an attempt was made by Slavs to blow up a fellow countryman's house. The effort was frustrated by the drunken stupidity of the operators. At about one o'clock in the night they discharged a large amount of dynamite which shook the people in seven houses surrounding it, and immediately after they commenced to place the sticks to demolish the house, the occupants of which at once becoming suspicious made their appearance on the scene. Two men were seen to run away. The police gained certain evidence against M. Gorek and Mike Garbar, and they were brought to Fernie and tried on Wednesday. The magistrate let them go as he found insufficient evidence against them.

Capt. W. W. West, pioneer of Nelson, died at Balfour a few days since, of heart failure. He had been a resident of the Kootenays for fifteen years, during most of which time he was engaged in steamboat business. He owned the tug Halys and other steamers. Before coming to Nelson he was seven years in the royal navy as a seaman, and also had served in the British army, and was one of the survivors of Majuba hill—1881, and also was a soldier in the force that suppressed the Riel rebellion in the Northwest in 1885.

Nanaimo's church-goers have had the memories of the lively days of yore revived by the sensational utterances of Rev. Mr. Hughes (Methodist) on the subject of gambling. The sensation reached its climax last Sunday evening, when the pastor from his pulpit called Chief of Police Crossan a liar, because that official had informed the commissioners that he knew of no public gambling or gamblers in Nanaimo. The minister inclines to the opinion that there are numerous card sharpers in the town, and his insinuation is that they are in a measure protected by the officers of the law.

The prisoner Hendricks, convicted of assault upon and robbery of Miss Warner, of Aldergrove, has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment at hard labor. His Lordship Mr. Justice Duff in pronouncing sentence, commented upon the absence of any violence in the assault and also upon the several most peculiar circumstaces under which it was allegedly committed. Many still incline to the opinion that Hendricks was not alone to blame in the affair.

The confidence of the owners that the sealing schooners Triumph and Umbrina had not met with shipwreck, despite the long interval since definite news of their movements had been had, appears to have been justified. Captain O'Leary has wired from Clayoquot that he sighted the long missing Triumph at sea on April 25th, and although he did not speak the vessel he is sufficiently familiar with her peculiarities to make a mistake impossible. The Umbrina has also been reported by the Alaskan steamer Santa Ana, repairing and outfitting for the Behring sea, at Yakutat. So are the sad apprehensions of a large community of relatives dispelled.

By the Fernie Free Press it is learned that the losses through the great fire there, not covered by insurance, will not exceed half a million—which, however, means much in a town of Fernie's proportions. Now that the horse is stolen, Fernie proceeds to lock the stable door. The coal company and the town fathers have got together and a plan of incorporation has been agreed to, in addition to which the preliminary steps are being taken to provide the new town that will arise with adequate protection from any future fire. Victoria avenue will be widened twelve feet, fire-proof buildings will be insisted upon, and in other ways the town will be prepared for possibilities. In the agreement as to incorporation, it would seem that the coal company still has very much the best of it.

May Day was picturesquely celebrated at New Westminster this week, on the 9th, when old folks became children for the nonce to participate in the general and time-honored frolic. Miss Manuella Briggs is now the reigning queen, receiving the royal insignia at the hands of her predecessor, ex-Queen Winnifred Keary. There were the usual May Day sports to mark the festival.

The famous street ends dispute in Vancouver City is set for trial on the 17th. It stands as Attorney-General vs. C. P. R., and is for the purpose of authoritatively determining the ownership of the harbor ends of Carrall, Abbot and Cambie streets, and the right of sewer outlets which the city wishes to place there.

James Muir has been sent to the provincial jail for six months for the successive robberies at the bakery of W. D. Muir, Vancouver. It would seem that whenever funds ran low, Muir—who although a namesake is no relative of the victim of his operations—would rob the premises of his former employer.

The expected has happened in that the government offices for Southeast Kootenay have been removed from Fort Steele to Cranbrook. This is unquestionably hard on Fort Steele, but the blow had to fall sooner or later. A town that is shunned by railways is heavily handicapped.

Very general and sincere sympathy will be felt for the relatives of Thomas Scott, of this city, who met his death by drowning this week, between Sooke and Otter Point, through falling overboard from the sloop in which he and a companion were making their way to Jordan river. The body has not been recovered.

Magistrate Williams, of Vancouver, has dismissed the action brought against the Vancouver Engineering Works by the labor unions, under the contract labor act. Advertising for "men wanted," in the opinion of the court, did not constitute an engagement of employees.

John Houston, M.P.P., has formally resigned his membership in the Nelson Conservative Association. Until a very short time ago he was the association.

Vancouver ratepayers have authorized new loans of $200,000 for general street improvement and to assist in building the new public hospital.

Vancouver City is negotiating for a portion of the C. P. R.'s water frontage at Greer's beach, English Bay—although half a mile in length—having grown too small to accommodate the summertime crowds.

A sixteen pound gold brick is the result of a ten days' run at the Oyster-Criterion.

A use for a portion of the Pilot Bay smelter site has been discovered. It has been acquired by the federal government for a lighthouse station.

Haslam's mills at Nanaimo are reported damaged by fire to the extent of $50,000.

VICTORIA DAY

CELEBRATION

VICTORIA, B.C.

MAY 24TH, 1904.

Lacrosse

VICTORIA vs. VANCOUVER

Baseball,

Regatta,

Naval and Indian War Canoe Races, Four-oared Amateur Senior and Junior, B. C. Championship. The warships of the Pacific squadron will be open to visitors.

Fireworks

At Beacon Hill Park at 9 p.m.
Band Concerts afternoon and evening.
Reduced rates from all points.

G. H. BARNARD, Mayor.

W. C. MORESBY, Secretary.

Victoria's

Continentally-famed and Strictly First-class Hotels.

The Dallas

Situated on the Dallas Road—Victoria's ocean drive, is pre-eminently THE favorite summer resort of British Columbia.
The Centrally Located

Vernon

Is the Commercial Hotel par excellence.

Unrivalled Cuisine.
Luxurious Guest Rooms.
Every Modern Comfort and Convenience.

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Thorough Instruction. Graduates Filling Good Positions. Shorthand, Typewriting, Book-Keeping Taught.

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JUST IN

The Latest in Leather Wrist Bags

J. WENGER, Jeweler,

90 GOVERNMENT ST., next to Bank of Montreal.

THE DAY WE CELEBRATE.

Business depression was probably responsible for the lack of interest in the Victoria Day celebration during the earlier part of the spring. Now that trade is moving again, business men and others are responding readily to the call of the committee for funds. Preparations are now nearly completed, and it is possible to give an outline of the manner in which Victorians can entertain themselves and visitors on the great fete-day. Cheap rates have been arranged from all outside points, and special time schedules to suit those coming from any direction. The following is a general outline of what the programme is expected to be:

Monday afternoon—Baseball at Oak Bay.

Tuesday morning the Victoria lacrosse team will play Vancouver at the Caledonia grounds. The plan of the grand stand may be seen at Campbell & Cullin's cigar store, where tickets may be bought next week.

Tuesday afternoon the regatta on the Arm will have the usual features, the most prominent being the Indian war canoe race.

The festivities will close in the evening with a grand pyrotechnic display at Beacon Hill by Hitt Bros. The committee have contracted with Messrs. Hitt to supply a show which will excel all previous efforts in this line for the modest sum of $5 25. Programmes are being printed, as well as badges, and all the necessary paraphernalia for the committee. If only the weather bureau can be arranged with in order to insure favorable consideration from that quarter nothing will be lacking to make this year's one of our greatest celebrations.

Progress

A weekly newspaper published at 35 Fort street, Victoria, B.C., by C. H. Lugrin.

C. H. Gibbons ..... Associate Editor
H. F. Pullen ..... Advertising Manager

Subscription Price .... $1.00 a Year

Advertising rates on application.

A NEWSPAPER RUMOR.

Some little merriment has been occasioned by a Victoria despatch to the News-Advertiser stating that Messrs. J. J. Hill and W. R. Hearst propose to start a great daily paper in this city; but there are things further out of the range of possibility than something of this kind, as a little hitherto unwritten history will show.

About twenty years or so ago, a tolerably vigorous annexation propaganda was inaugurated in New York. The Sun published numerous long and cleverly written letters advocating such a step, and a proposal was made by some wealthy New York people to raise a fund of $2,500,000 for the purpose of establishing a chain of newspapers across Canada, which should cultivate in as delicate a way as possible, a feeling in favor of the union of Canada with the United States. More than one person in Canada, identified with newspaper work, was sounded as to his willingness to enter into the service of such a syndicate. The proposal met with so little favor in Canada that it was dropped. It is quite probable that, if the presidential aspirations of James G. Blaine had not met a chilling frost, more would have been heard of it.

Hearst is rich and ambitious. He has apparently made newspaper work a financial success. It is quite intelligible that he should look upon the inauguration of an annexation propaganda as a patriotic task, which would commend itself and him to the people of the United States. He is a young man and can afford to wait for results. In view of the immense growth now taking place in Canada and the influx of thousands of people, who are American citizens, and also in view of the additional fact that the possibilities of Canada are being better understood every day, it is not difficult to see how readily a movement in favor of annexation might be made very popular on the other side of the boundary, and the man who was spending his millions to cultivate such a sentiment among Canadians might become very much of a national hero. So much for Hearst.

As to Hill, it is not easy to suggest a reason why he should embark in such an undertaking. He is getting to be an old man, but he is also a very rich man. He is a Canadian by birth, but one of the most intense Americans in the republic, using the term American in its narrow sense. Yet it seems absurd to suppose that he would at his time of life unite with Hearst in such an enterprise.

Probably the whole matter is the emanation of the fertile imagination of some newspaper correspondent, and this reference to it is made only to direct attention to the almost certain probability that a subtle and persistent attempt is likely to be made to convince the people of Canada that the time has come when they ought to throw in their lot with the United States. There is nothing more unlikely in the whole range of international politics than that the United States will be content to watch the development of a great power in the northern half of the Continent, without a powerful effort to unite its destiny with the republic. The effort is not likely to be accomplished even with a suggestion of coercion. Against such a movement all people who cherish the idea of a United Empire must be on their guard.

THE SENATE.

There are five vacancies in the Senate, one of them being in the representation of British Columbia. These are not likely to be filled until after the next general election, that is, if we are to have an election this year. A few words in regard to the composition of the Senate are always timely. It is said that the United States Senate has become a "rich man's club," and there is danger that the Canadian Senate may become "an old man's home." If the elective system has not produced a statesmanlike senate south of the 49th parallel, it can scarcely be claimed that the appointive system has produced any better result north of it. Both systems are beautiful in theory, and both break down in practice. The spectacle of the chosen representatives of the people in the several states choosing from time to time men, distinguished for their ability, their nobility and their mental virility, to keep the popular branch of Congress in check, is charming to contemplate in imagination. In practice the filling up of the United States Senate is either a struggle between parties or between rich corporations in so many cases that it may be accepted as the rule. So likewise is the spectacle of the Crown selecting men, tried and true, to become Senators, and to curb with their ripe judgment and sober common-sense the impetuosity of the aggressive Commons, a thing to gladden the hearts of all true patriots, but in practice—well, not to be offensive, that is just how it is not done. The Senate is not much more than a party machine, and upon its partizanship death alone can effectively lay its hand. When the Liberals came in they found a Conservative Senate, and when they go out, the Conservatives will find a Liberal Senate, and if the future may be judged by the past, the spirit of party will be more potent than the spirit of patriotism.

The Canadian Senate is an anomaly. It is founded upon a false idea, being a compromise between an hereditary chamber and one that is elective. For the House of Lords there is good historical justification. It is the direct successor of the gathering of Barons, who at Runnymede made John sign the Great Charter. A senate selected by the representatives of states is also on the wrong basis. There is only one body in a free country which ought to have the right to say who the lawmakers shall be, and that body is the whole electorate. All the people know more than some of the people, and all the people are far more likely to reach sound conclusions as to the fitness of men for representative positions than any portion of the people, no matter how they may be selected.

Without commenting upon any appointments that have recently been made to the Senate or any of the applicants for the vacant positions—not that such comment is not perfectly legitimate, but because in considering a principle it is well to avoid reference to persons—there are some things which ought not to be regarded as Senatorial qualifications. The fact that a man has served in the Commons, but cannot reasonably hope for re-election is not a qualification; neither is the desire of a government to get rid of someone, who may be in the way; neither is mere partizan activity; neither is the fact that the applicant "lags superfluous" on the floors of the Commons. To what extent these considerations have influenced appointments in the past, it would be invidious to suggest; but it is proper to say that the Laurier administration is strong enough, or, if it is not, it ought to be, to disregard every other consideration than a desire to place in the Upper Chamber men in whom the country will have confidence. The Canadian Senate ought to be a political aristocracy, using the term as the ancient Greeks used it, as signifying the government of the best. It should be a body to which the people of Canada could point with pride, whose deliberations would voice the ripened sentiment of the country. If it were made such, its continued existence would be justifiable; if it is to be a refuge for those whose usefulness elsewhere is gone, then the sooner it is replaced by a truly representative body the better.

DUTY ON LUMBER.

There are probably two sides to the question raised by the British Columbia lumbermen in regard to the imposition of a duty on lumber imported into Canada, because there never was a case to which there were not two sides. At this stage, however, it does not appear necessary for the people of this province to consider more than one side, namely, that which affects themselves. The strongest possible arguments for the enforcement of such provisions as will secure the market of the Northwest for the product of our mills ought to be made. The people of the Northwest may be trusted to make out the other side of the case, and it is probable that between the two something approximately equitable will be arrived at. One may readily admit that a British Columbian can hardly take an unbiassed view of the matter, and may claim with equal readiness that the people on the prairies are open to the same criticism. It is also to be remembered that Eastern millmen, who have no chance of reaching the Northwest and are quite satisfied with the tariff as it stands, are not likely to assist our mill owners. This is all the greater reason why the people of this province, regardless of political proclivities, should unite in pressing the case for the provincial mills.

Very grave reports are made to "Progress" of the demoralization of the Victoria Fire Department—laxity of discipline, improper condition of apparatus and equipment, hydrants unoiled, cisterns unfilled, misrepresented water pressure, fictitious attendance of call men at fires, card playing for money at the halls, etc. The fire wardens must be aware of these reports when they reach the newspapers as matter of common scandal. Indeed many of the conditions complained of speak for themselves to any observant eye. Can Victoria afford to trust to luck for avoidance of such fire visitations as have brought home their lessons to Toronto, New Westminster, Vancouver, Seattle and Fernie? Is such a policy business policy?

The Victoria Westers are "wanting to know, you know." Their latest conundrum is after this sort: Why should Victoria West be taxed for improvements to the city water works, seeing that they do not use city water, but have to pay for what they use to the Esquimalt Water Company?

Eyres for Enlargements.

SCANDALUM MAGNATUM.

Lese Majeste and Divers Other Crimes and Misdemeanors Rampant in the Community.

The times are out of joint. Scarcely had the shock of the deplorable Kamloops incident, which is really non inter Christianos nominandum, died away, before one of the Justices of the Supreme Court was stopped in broad daylight by a detective in plain clothes, who demanded his name, surname and titles and a variety of other things like that. The said justice had been caught in flagrante delicto and was trotting his horse across a certain bridge within the limits of this city against the by-law in such case made and provided and against the peace of His Worship Mayor Barnard, his panama hat and dignity. The justice aforesaid, instead of asking the officer how he dared speak to him without an introduction, proceeded in all due humility to avow his identity, whereupon he was permitted to proceed and his name was enrolled in a little book along with certain other of His Majesty's lieges, both male and female as the case may be.

Now, my lords, how long shall these things be? By our halidom—we are not quite sure what a halidom is, but let that pass—likewise 'sdeath and gadzooks, shall the justices of our high court be treated in this ignoble fashion by mere solicitors and detectives in plain clothes? It is time to sound the tacsin, and if we have no tocsin, it is time to find out why the McBride government has not bought one, seeing that second-hand tocsins as good as new can be bought in any junk shop in Europe. Verily evil days have befallen us. Knighthood is in Flour, likewise in tobacco, whiskey and other things too numerous to mention, and the ermine is not safe from the sacriligious touch of minions of the law.

These reflections recall a tale, which is told apropos of nothing in particular, but because it is true and because it illustrates how the fact of being dressed in a little brief authority affects some minds. A certain Justice of the Peace in an eastern province was once walking down the street, when a man, a mere common man, on the sidewalk called out: "Hullo, Judge, are you on the way to your law shop?" The Justice paused and said severely: "Mr. Smith, I fine you $5 for contempt of court." Smith was taken aback, but managed to ejaculate, "Why, Judge, your court is not in session." "No matter," was the reply, "this court is always an object of contempt." Now the Justice of the Peace may have been right in his own case, but usually courts are not objects of contempt, but it is possible to make them so, and nothing will do the trick sooner than by combining mediaeval arrogance with modern poppycock.

GOVERNMENT INTERVIEWED.

Province May Make Grant Toward Life Saving Stations on Vancouver Island.

Messrs. H. D. Helmcken, K.C., James A. Douglas and Edward Pierson were granted an interview with the premier and members of the government a day or so ago, when they sketched briefly and in outline the programme and intentions of the Lifeboat and Life Saving Association, organization of which is now on the tapis. It is not intended to make the scope of the association purely local by any means—indeed its chief usefulness would probably be along the west coast of Vancouver Island, that graveyard of Pacific shipping. For Victoria and vicinity it is hoped to have a suitable lifeboat added to the equipment of the new Federal government tug attached to the William Head quarantine station. The delegation is not very definite as to the nature of the aid the association would expect to receive from the Province. It would probably have to come in the form of a grant included in the estimates to be voted by the legislature at its next session.

Up to date the roll of aspirants for the vacant senatorship for this province, as far as their names have been disclosed is: Hewitt Bostock, of Ducks, ex-M.P.; Dr. Milne, of Victoria, ex-M.P.P.; Dr. Sinclair, of Rossland; G. C. Buchanan, of Kaslo; Robert Kelly, of Vancouver; and Dr. Watt, of Barkerville. If his ability to get the senatorship is equal to his ability to get other good things, Mr. Kelly can give the bunch cards and spades and win easily. All these gentlemen have fought for their party, and Mr. Bostock has bled pretty freely. It is whispered in some quarters that our genial friend, George Riley, could be persuaded to seek the seclusion which the Senate grants.

"Progress"—thanks its local contemporaries for the compliment paid it—while Victoria's dailies strenuously avoid mention of "Progress'" existence, they do not carry the ostracism to that extreme that they decline to take the news from these columns and offer it second-hand to their appreciative readers. But why not have it first hand?

SPRING AND SUMMER SUITINGS.

Our finest stock of West of England and Scotch and Irish Goods is most complete, and cannot be duplicated elsewhere.

Suits to Order $20 up. Overcoats to Order $25 up. Pants to Order $5 up.

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Why Not Camp on Your Own land? Call and See Our Plans.

150 Lots Royal Bay (Kanaka) from.....$87
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50 Lots and Acreage Cadboro Bay from....$100
50 acres in five-acre blocks "North Dairy" suitable for fruits.....$100 per acre

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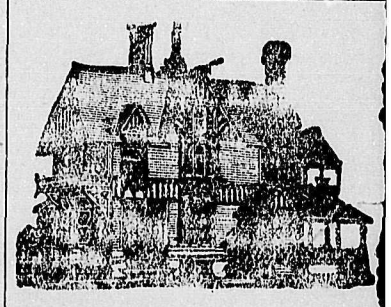
Chemist, N. W. Cor. Yates and Douglas Streets.



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The Week in Society.

Afternoon Teas and Evening Dances the Popular Dissipations—Garden Parties on the Tapis.

The Tuesday Evening Club gave their closing dance of the season Wednesday at Assembly Hall, made peculiarly bright and attractive for the occasion by the restoration and freshening of the neat decorations of flags and evergreens. The well-known hospitality of the club was at no time more effectively demonstrated, and "the best of good times" was the general verdict upon the result. An excellent 3-piece orchestra provided entrancing music for the dancing, which was entered into with zest until the early morning hours, while a recherche buffet supper served at midnight was just what had been required to refresh the merry company. The committee in charge, to whom be all praise and commendation of those so fortunate as to be among the bidden, included Messrs. W. Yorke, Sydney Child, Fred. White, A. D. Belyea, H. W. Lang, and F. C. Clarke; while the invited guests of the occasion were: Mesdames Dickenson, Grant, Kilpatrick, Rathom, and Watkis; Misses Atkinson, Andrews, Austin, the Misses Brooker, Bowron, E. Brown, Camsusa, L. and F. Clarke, Cullin, Carr, Carter, Chambers, the Misses Cameron, Crocker, Duncan, Dunlevy, L. Davies, Foot, the Misses Fawcett, the Misses Fraser, Futcher, Fell, R. Fell, the Misses Garvin, Gibson, the Misses Goddard, Green, Grey, Gowen, George, Grimmason, Heaney, Henderson, Hardie, Jay, John, Jesse, Kermode, the Misses Leiser, Lang, Lindsay, Lubbe, Lowe, Langley, the Misses Leeming, McQuade, Munroe, Moresby, Morley, Munsie, McDonald, M. Mackay, H. Mackay, McKenzie, the Misses McMicking, Mactavish, Marsden, McDonald, McLean, Macfarlane, Mills, the Misses Nicholles, Nason, Nubbe, O'Keefe, Powell, K. Powell, Raymond, the Misses Roberts, the Misses Spencer, the Misses Sehl, Smith, Saunders, Scott, the Misses Sparks, Strongrim, Stannard, Wilson, White, and Walker; Messrs. H. and P. Austin, A. D. Belyea, L. Bell, E. Brown, W. Burnes, Brooker, F. C. Clarke, J. Cambie, C. L. Cullin, S. Child. F. T. Cornwall, P. Cudlip, H. Dalby, P. Dickenson, G. Dickenson, L. Dickenson, S. Dunlevy, Roy Dier, Emmerson, the Messrs. Foote, T. Fawcett, R. Fell, the Messrs. Goddard, N. Gowen, A. George, R. Gibson, Grant, Gordon Grant, Grimmason, C. Harris, L. Henderson, N. Hardie, E. Hardie, W. Heath, K. Hughes, G. Howell, H. and R. Jesse, the Messrs. Keefer, F. King, H. W. Lang, the Messrs. Lawson, H. Leiser, the Messrs. Leeming, R. Lowe, Mulford, G. Morley, J. Mackay, the Messrs. McConnan, L. McQuade, E. Mul'ord, J. Mactavish, Alex. McLean, Alex. Moss, D. Mackay, C. McKilligan, G. Mills, L. Netherby, S. Nason, L. O'Keefe, Alex. Purvis, the Messrs. Patton, B. Prior, S. Porter, L. Pope, Dr. Quay, R. Raymur, H. Redfern, G. Simpson, A. Stewart, W. Sweeney, F. Stevenson, J. Sweet, B. P. Schwengers, Fred. Smith, E. Townley, J. W. Thompson, Alex. Vaughan, J. Virtue, the Messrs. White, M. Ward, the Messrs. Wilson, Chas. Wilson, James Wells, Frank Watkis, the Messrs. Winsby, J. Woods, and L. and W. Yorke.

* * *

A charming tea was given on Friday last by Mrs. E. E. Wootton at her home on Richardson street, in honor of her niece, Miss Agnes Wootton, who is here from Eastern Canada for an extended visit with her Western seaboard relatives. The color scheme was in yellow and exceedingly well carried out, Victoria's golden glory, the wild broom, being employed to splendid advantage in the adornment of the tea room, and also being much in evidence in the other decorations of the house. Mrs. Webb poured tea, while Miss Heisterman, Miss Hunt and Miss Wootton served. Among the ladies present were Mrs. P. T. Johnston, Miss Johnston, Mrs. Floyd, Mrs. Courtney, Mrs. George L. Courtney, Mrs. and Miss Kitto, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Erb, Mrs. Goward, Mrs. Toller, Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. J. E. Wilson, Mrs. Goulding Wilson, Mrs. D. R. Ker, Mrs. Haynes, Miss M. Lawson, Mrs. McKilligan, Mrs. J. D. Helmcken, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Mactavish, Miss Mactavish, Mrs. W. Ralph Higgins, Mrs. J. L. Raymur, Mrs. Charles Kent, Mrs. Hunt, the Misses Hunt, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Vincent, Mrs. Worlock, Miss Wark, Mrs. Atkins, Mrs. Going, Mrs. King, Miss King, Mrs. Webb, the Misses Wood, Mrs. Garesche, Mrs. Baxter, Mrs. Innes, the Misses Christie, Mrs. Creighton, the Misses Barron, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Herbert Kent, Mrs. Bennett, Miss Agnes Deans Cameron, Miss Speers, Mrs. A. E. McPhillips, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Matson, Mrs. Beaven, Mrs. Thomas Tye, Mrs. (Major) Phipps, Miss Dupont, Mrs. (Canon) Newton, Mrs. Jay, Mrs. D. E. Campbell, Mrs. George Jay, Miss Jay, Miss R. McB. Smith, Mrs. Ella, Miss Ella, Mrs. Woodgate, Miss Scott, Mrs. C. F. Todd, Mrs. Hartnagel, Miss Wrigley, Mrs. Church, Mrs. Berkeley, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. C. Spencer, Miss Spencer, Mrs. Walter Fraser. Mrs. Day, Mrs. Walbran, Miss Walbran, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Waitt, Mrs. Stuart Robertson, Mrs. Devereux, Miss Devereux, Mrs. (Captain) Irving, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Conrad Schwengers, Mrs. Ray Wilson, Miss Nuttal, Mrs. Gaudin, Miss Gaudin, and Mrs. Mess.

* * *

The Misses Christie gave a very pretty tea last Saturday at their home on Blanchard street, in honor of their sister, Mrs. Creighton of New Westminster. The very dainty decorations of the drawing and tea rooms were in pink, white and green, apple blossoms playing a noticeable and effective part in the floral arrangements. Mrs. G. T. Roberts presided at the tea table, assisted gracefully by Miss Hickey, Miss Hunt, Miss Ethel Brown and Miss Edith Lawson. Among those present were Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. S. Robertson, Mrs. D. R. Harris, Mrs. Tuck, Mrs. B. Allen, Mrs. Heisterman, Miss Heisterman, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. G. W. Taylor, Mrs. Maclure, Mrs. E. E. Wootton, Mrs. Innes, Mrs. C. S. Baxter, Mrs. King, Mrs. Moresby, Mrs. Windle, Mrs. Courtney, Mrs. George L. Courtney, Mrs. Keast, the Misses Keast, Mrs. Vincent, Mrs. Herbert Carmichael, Mrs. Uriah Nelson, Mrs. P. T. Johnston, Mrs. Floyd, Mrs. J. H. Todd, Mrs. C. F. Todd, Miss M. Lawson, Mrs. J. L. Raymur, Mrs. Gore, Mrs. Gaudin, Miss Gaudin, Mrs. Frank Higgins, Mrs. McMicking, the Misses McMicking, Mrs. W. R. Higgins, Mrs. Hickey, Mrs. Holt, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Roberts.

* * *

The ball at Assembly hall on Friday of last week was one of the best attended of the season, about four hundred young and not-so-young, being present, the supper tables having to be reset four times. Miss K. Roberts danced the Irish jig in character with much vivacity, and the five-figure cotillion was particularly effective, especially the ribbon figure. Those taking part in the cotillion were: Stanley Langley, Leslie Ellis, Charlie Brown, Tom Brown, Jack and James Gray, Cuthbert Allen, Norman Dickinson, Alice Robly, Amy Conyers, Ella John, Mary Adam, Juanita Sears and Genevieve Bone. The following are a few of the special characters taken by children: Masters Sehl and Johnson, princes; Cuthbert Allen, a bee; Miss Gladys Gray, Japanese; Miss Muriel Hall, tambourine girl; Miss Stella Davidson, folly; Winnie Windle, Pierrette; May Cornwall and Mary Renouf, ladies of olden times; Nellie Joel, old time lady; Elsie Joel, old lady; Mary Corson, peasant girl; Florence and Evelyn Dickenson, Dutch girls; Hilda Simpson, summer; Ada Schwengers, peasant girl; Nora Gray, ivy. Others present were: Lorna, Eilene and Gladys Dumbleton, Winnie and Dolly Fox, Dolly Dixon, Marjorie Le Page, Marjorie Carne, Irene Sabin, Dorothy Moore, Mrs. Maynard and children, Mrs. Langton and children, Mrs. Cameron and children, Mrs. Anderson and children, Mrs. and Miss Mackay, Mrs. and Miss Schwengers, Mrs. Renouf, Rev. Baugh Allan, Mrs. Baugh Allan and family, Mrs. and Miss Reynolds, Mrs. Dumbleton, Mrs. Marvin and daughter, Mrs. and the Misses Maynard, Mrs. Roberts and family, Mrs. Brooker and daughters, Mr. John Hall, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Langley, Mr. Cecil Hall, Mr. Bernie Hall, Mr. Fred White, Miss G. White, Mr. Cleve White, Mrs. Sparks, Misses Sparks, Mrs. William Wilson and family, the Misses Nicholles, Mrs. Andrew Gray, the Misses Lucas, Miss Irene Newlings, the Misses Monteith, Miss Hanington, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kent, the officers of H. M. S. Grafton and Flora, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Sabin, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Demers, Miss Grace Laing, Mrs. and Miss McQuade, Mrs. P. Briggs and family, Mrs. A. Briggs and daughter, Mrs. and the Misses Gray, Mrs. Walter Sparrow and family, Mrs. Oliver and family, Mrs. Moresby and daughters, the Messrs. Norman Seabrook, Cambie P. Keefer, H. Keefer, R. Wilson, C. Wilson, Basil Prior, Leeming, J. H. Lawson, L. Yorke, H. Laing, Miss Camsusa, Mr. Child, Miss Atkinson, Mr. King, Mr. Murie, Mrs. Sullivan, the Misses Sullivan, Mr. F. White, Mr. Herbert Leiser, Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Dickenson, Mrs. G. and the Misses Fawcett, Messrs. Richardson, Leslie Bell, A. Raymur, W. [illegible], L. Netherby, H. Dalby, Sweeney, Mrs. and the Misses Moss, Miss Fell, the Misses Ella and Jessie John, Mrs. R. John and family, Mrs. Vincent and family, Mrs. Belyea and daughters, Mrs. and Miss Bucket, Mr. Finch, Mr. and the Misses Cullin, Mr. A. Courtenay, Mr. W. Cullin, Mrs. and Miss Lee, Mrs. and Miss Vaio, Miss Heaney, the Misses L. and P. Garvin, Mr. R. B. Powell, Mrs. Langton and family, Mrs. Conyers, Mrs. Speck and son, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sehl and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. Jackson and daughters, Mr. Johnson and children, the Misses Sehl, Mr. Chas. Wilson, Mr. Cornwall, Miss Hewitson, Messrs. T. Jamieson, Norman Carmichael, Sargison, Mrs. Cameron and son, Miss Edith Brown, Miss Lawson and Mrs. Gilbert.

* * *

At the Church of the Holy Saviour, Victoria West, last Saturday evening, Rev. W. D. Barber, the rector, solemnized the marriage of Mr. Norman Norcross, of the editorial staff of the Vancouver World, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. James Norcross, of Somenos, and Miss Ethel Bellamy, daughter of Mrs. E. J. Bellamy, of Burnside road. The bride, who was unattended, was attired in a very stylish travelling costume of dove-colored lady's cloth, embroidered in pale blue and white, with which she wore a large picture hat of white chiffon trimmed with pale blue velvet. The groomsman was Mr. Robert Service, of the staff of the Canadian Bank of Commerce—himself well known in the world of letters as one of the minor poets of the Empire who has done work bearing the hall mark of genius. A wedding supper was served after the ceremony at the home of the bride's mother, a reception to a few intimate friends following. Mr. and Mrs. Norcross are temporarily making their home at the Hotel Badminton, Vancouver.

* * *

At the dance given by Mr. Semple at his hall, Victoria West, a few evenings since, there were present among others: Miss Lewis, Miss J. Anderson, Miss Semple, Miss Alice Simpson, Miss N. Furman, Miss T. Humber, Miss N. Robertson, Miss J. McDonald, Miss M. Furman, Miss Mabel Furman, Miss T. Droob, Miss J. Droob, Mrs. Haucke, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Halpenny, Mrs. Maynard, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Brickle, Mrs. Lawrie, Messrs. C. Kirk, W. Duncan, C. Geiger, Smith, Schnoeter, Laurie, Hollier, Mr. and Mrs. Colby, Mrs. Lelievre, Messrs. A. Willard, H. Stratford, C. Furman, J. Anderson, J. Robertson, W. Fairall., B. Carroll, R. Semple, J. McKenzie, A. Semple, Mr. and Mrs. Randolph, Miss V. Young, and Mr. J. Ross.

* * *

The marriage was solemnized this week, at the residence of the bride's parents, of Mr. Frank Campbell, of Esquimalt, and Miss Mabel Dowdell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dowdell, of Harris street, Vancouver. Rev. R. Newton Powell was the officiating clergyman, while the bride was given away by her father and was gowned in pale blue silk, her bridal bouquet being of La France roses. Miss E. Kelly was her attendant maid of honor, while the groom was supported by Mr. F. Dempsey, a friend of long standing.

* * *

The marriage is to take place in Quebec next Thursday of Mr. F. T. Collings, of this city, and Miss Grace Hemming, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. T. Hemming, of the ancient city. Mr. and Mrs. Collings will spend their honeymoon in Europe, and returning will take up their residence on Esquimalt road, where Mr. Collings will build a pretty bungalow.

* * *

The engagement is announced of Miss Maud Ellis, sister of Messrs. W. H. and A. Ellis of this city, to Mr. J. N. Ellis, son of Senator Ellis of St. John, N. B., a promising young barrister and politician of the Terminal City. The wedding date is not yet settled upon.

* * *

Mrs. David A. Edgar, of New York, and Mrs. Byron Z. Holmes, of Portland, Ore., daughters of the late Hon. Allen Francis, first United States consul in Victoria, who came here in the stirring days of 1862, have been spending the week with friends here.

* * *

Mr. John H. Smith and Miss Alice M. Coughlin, of this city, were the principals in a pretty home wedding on Thursday, the wedding coming as a surprise to many friends. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have left for Whitehorse, where they will make their home.

* * *

Mrs. Oliver, of Quebec, who spent some time here recently as the guest of her sister, Lady de Lotbiniere, at Government House, was the guest this week of Mrs. H. G. Ross, of Vancouver, a former Victorian. During her visit Mrs. Gamble gave a tea in Mrs. Oliver's honor.

* * *

Mrs. Simon, of Rockland avenue, gave a tea Thursday for her sister, Mrs. Johnson, of Cincinnati, who with Mr. and Miss Johnson, is visiting here. In the evening there was progressive euchre, some sixty or more participating. A dinner in Mrs. Johnson's honor was also given, on Monday evening, by Mrs. Wm. Fleet Robertson.

Mrs. Arthur Spragge and Miss Florence Spragge, of Toronto, who have a very pretty cottage in the Selkirks, this province, will spend the summer there, entertaining extensively.

* * *

The Misses Dupont, of Toronto, their departure from that city for the West having been several weeks delayed, left the Queen City yesterday for Victoria, and intend spending the summer here.

* * *

His Excellency, the Governor-General, with the Ladies Eileen and Violet Elliot, Major and Mrs. Maude, attended the horse show in Montreal this week, Lady Violet Elliot driving her own ponies in the ring parade.

* * *

Lady Tupper and Mr. Charles Tupper went to New York to meet Sir Hibbert and Miss Frances Tupper on their return from England.

* * *

Mrs. Maitland-Dougall has returned from a three months' visit to England and is for a few weeks a guest of Mrs. Donald, Vancouver.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Becker, who have taken Mr. Ambery's residence on Fort street, gave a small but delightful Welsh rarebit party on Tuesday, after the theatre.

* * *

Price's Preserves are Pure, Wholesome and made from B. C. Sugar and B C Fruit.

The WHITE HOUSE

HEADQUARTERS for MILLINERY

HENRY YOUNG & CO.

THE B C. FURNITURE COMPANY

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First-Class Furniture, Carpets, Linoleum, Oilcloth, Window Blinds, Crockery, Glassware, Cutlery, Etc.

Extension Din. Tables from $5.50 up, Sideboards from $14 up, Iron Bedsteads any size from $3.50 up. Good Linoleum from 50c. up INLAID LINOLEUM $1 a yard.

Call and be convinced that you will be saving money by placing your orders with us.

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Manufacturers and Dealers in Silk and Cottonware, Children's Dresses, Etc. Silks, Laces, Etc. for Sale by the yd. or piece

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A. GREGG & SON, Merchant Tailors

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FINE WOOLLENS

CLARKE & PEARSON

17-19 YATES STREET, VICTORIA, B. C.

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Stove Dealers and General Furnishers, Tin Roofers, Gas and Water Pipe Fitters and General Jobbers.

Circulating Boilers, Steel Sinks, Baths and a full line of Enamel Ware in stock. A few second-hand Cook Stoves for sale. Country orders receive our careful attention.

The Glass That Cheers

and refreshes on a warm day is the glass of cold, sparkling soda water drawn from our fountain, and flavored with pure fruit juices. It is the draught that gives life to the weary shopper and business man, when the heat makes them unfit for further effort. Our ice cream soda is both food and drink, and is luscious and palatable in the most sultry weather. When you can't eat, you can drink; and ice cream soda fills the bill.

H. A. LILLEY, 105 DOUGLAS ST.

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FIT-REFORM CLOTHING

FIT-REFORM SPRING SUITS.

It is not alone because of the saving that men buy FIT-REFORM, but because they get better fit, better finish, better style—Because Fit-Reform better suits critical taste.

ALLEN'S "FIT-REFORM," WARDROBE

73 Government Street, Victoria.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Lamford M. Richardson, of the Royal Bank of Canada, to Miss Hanington, daughter of Mrs. Frank Hanington.

* * *

Mrs. C. S. Baxter gave a small but pretty tea yesterday afternoon for Miss Wollaston, who is shortly to be married. The tea took the form of a kitchen shower.

* * *

The engagement is announced of Mr. Joseph Pemberton, of this city and Miss Baiss. The wedding will probably not take place until the late autumn or the early winter months.

The Tuesday Evening Dancing Club will reorganize in November for 1904-5.

* * *

The young ladies' basketball team of New Westminster have invited their sister players of Vancouver, Seattle and this city to enjoy with them an outing to Pitt lake.

* * *

Mr. Douglas Macdonald, son of Senator W. J. Macdonald, is enjoying a vacation at Armadale, the family residence here.

* * *

Miss Brignall, of Vancouver, is visiting with Victoria friends.

Random Reflections

Wise and Otherwise Upon the Story of the Week's News—"A Little Nonsense Now and Then," Etc.

NOW is the day of the yellow invasion—tan shoes.

* * *

POSSIBLY the dogwood tree is so named on account of its bark.

* * *

IT IS only a short step these days from battleships to bottleships.

* * *

VANCOUVER is to build a distillery and thus manufacture its own civic enthusiasm.

* * *

THE vice-presidency does not appear to be so much of a burying ground as it used to was.

* * *

"HOIST with his own petard" as a newspaper heading is about due for superannuation, along with the "long-felt want."

* * *

DIAMONDS are now found on the streets of Vancouver. The street railway people have just put them in.

* * *

STRAWBERRIES are already in the local market and may be enjoyed by anyone with a few ounces of radium to spare.

* * *

THE Poplar Nugget, just enlarged and very considerably improved, is the only nugget in the camp with nothing yellow about it.

* * *

LUCKILY the Province prints the names under its portraits of local celebrities. Otherwise Magistrate Williams would undoubtedly be mistaken for Al. Larwill.

* * *

WITH THAT wind blowing all the time at the James Bay causeway, all that Victoria needs to be right in line with giddy Gotham is a flatiron building.

* * *

IF THE manufactures committee of the Board of Trade offered sufficient inducements, they might be able to get Young Corbett and Jimmy Britt to put up a mill in this city.

* * *

THE baseball match between the first and second teams drawn from "Progress'" reportorial staff has been postponed until after the Empire Day celebration.

* * *

UPWARDS of ten thousand copper cents have been received in Vancouver to be put into circulation so that everybody will soon be able to keep even with the daily papers there.

* * *

THERE is one thing about those Russian generals—no matter how hard they are hit they come up smiling with a never-touched-me chortle.

* * *

NO, GENTLE Reader, the Imperial Automatic Voting Machine you've been reading about is not the same as the Grit machine, of which Hon. Clifton Sifton is allegedly chief engineer.

* * *

WINGS Wilkinson at last reports was in Jerusalem, en route to the seat of war. He does not intend to take any risks on Russian generals, although he still cherishes the idea of writing policies for all the crowned heads of Europe.

* * *

KOOTENAY Mail publishes a half-tone portrait of Duncan Ross, and labels it "W. A. Galliher, M.P." It really doesn't matter. They're both from Bruce township, Bruce county, where the Liberal majority always is safe to run over 400 and the folks are still casting their ballots for Geordie Broon.

CLIPPINGS AND COMMENT.

The Tame Variety.—"B. Green sowed some oats last week."—Kootenay Mail.

* * *

Drinks to Come Higher.—"A second story is being added to the bar of the Kaiser House."—Kootenay Mail.

* * *

Lady or the Watch?—"A missing lady's watch is advertised for."—Kootenay Mail.

* * *

Accessories Before the Fact.—"The citizens of Camborne are building a bandstand."—Kootenay Mail.

* * *

Got the Pump Fixed.—"Charles Aylwin has his dairy in operation again."—New Denver Ledge.

* * *

Swallowed the Cartoonist.—'New Denver has a clever cartoonist in Sandy McKay."—New Denver Ledge.

The Annual Meal.—"The ladies of the Presbyterian church are planning to serve lunch on the 24th of May."—New Westminster Columbian.

* * *

Sweets to the Sweet.—"Mr. A. J. McKinnon has added an ice cream parlor to his candy store."—Kamloops Standard.

* * *

Keeping 'Em Guessing.—"It is rumored around town that the nuptials of a prominent business man are to take place shortly."—Rossland World .

* * *

Clever Clever.—"Herman Clever has put up a fence to protect the trees and sidewalk in front of his residence."—New Denver Ledge.

* * *

Lots to Smoke.—"W. H. T. Dowsing will open a cigar store at Gold Hill and act as townsite agent."—Poplar Nugget.

* * *

Infringement of Copyright.—"An agitation is on foot to change the name of Ymir to Bogustown, but the Nelson people object."—Ymir Mirror.

* * *

Catches 'Em Both Ways.—"Dr. Brandon of Trail arrived in town Monday and will locate here. He will open a drug store as well as practice his profession."—Poplar Nugget.

* * *

Smiling Superiority.—"In the dignity of its position as a wholesale centre, Nelson now looks at Kaslo much the same as a lion winks at a canary."—New Denver Ledge.

* * *

The "Ad" Always Works.—"The hen that has had the layout in the Newmarket for some time past declared a dividend Sunday. As soon as the chicks got out of the nest, each of the twelve walked up to the bar and asked Sandy for Sandon Bock Beer. They saw the ad on the blackboard."—New Denver Ledge.

* * *

Distributed by Retail.—"War makes nations generous. The Japs are buying pig lead in the States and giving it away to the Russians."—New Denver Ledge.

In Music's Realm

The Arion Club will give its closing concert of the season in the Institute hall on Monday. As will be seen by the programme given below, the concerted numbers will all be old favorites. The soloists will be Miss Spencer, of Victoria, and Mr. F. T. Hanlin, of Tacoma, Miss Spencer has not been often heard in public, for she has only lately taken a place among local singers. Her voice is a rich contralto, and has been carefully trained. On the few semi-public occasions on which she has sung she has greatly delighted her audiences. Mr. Hanlin is already favorably known to Victorians, having sung in a previous concert of the Arion Club. He is a man of magnificent physique with a bass voice to match. An interesting story is told of him. He was trained for the operatic stage, and when singing before Damrosch, that leader told him to take off his glasses. In reply Mr. Hanlin said that if he did so he could not see the beat. He was allowed to sing his number through, but Damrosch very reluctantly had to tell him that grand opera and spectacles were incompatible, and so Mr. Hanlin was obliged to seek the concert stage and the studio, in both of which spheres he has given the greatest satisfaction. In addition to the songs by Miss Spencer and Mr. Hanlin, Dr. Nash and Mr. Watkis will render, on violin and piano, Greig's Sonata, Opus 8. Following is the programme of the club's songs: "The Homeward Watch," Henry Smart; "Swedish Song," arranged by Hugo Junget; "Hush," Neidlinger; "Silent Recollection," Johannes Pasche; "Spring Is Come," Dudley Buck; "Soumi's Song," Franz Mair; "The Long Day Closes," Sir Arthur Sullivan, and "Moonrise," Johannes Pasche.

Mrs. Gideon Hicks and Mr. Albert T. Goward made a very excellent impression in Tacoma last week by their singing in "Elijah." Mrs. Hicks in her singing shows the benefit of her training in elocution, and the pure quality of her tone and admirable conception of the theme in "O, Rest in the Lord," so captured the audience that she was obliged to repeat the song. Mr. Goward took the place of Mr. E. H. Russell, who was incapacitated by a bad throat from taking part. He appears to have charmed his audience, which is not surprising, as his voice is of a quality very rare among amateurs.

A very successful pupils' recital was given by Mrs. Foot in the schoolroom of St. Barnabas' church on Thursday evening. Seventeen pupils took part, and all gave evidence of painstaking and effective training. The violin students, even those of very tender years, played uniformly with true intonations, while Master W. Bryce, in Roff's Cavatina, and in the violin part of a Reissiger trio, gave genuine pleasure by his finished work. At the piano the young performers gave gratifying evidence of the progress made since their last recital in January. Miss Gladys Shrapnel assisted with a spirited and effective violin number, which was heartily applauded.

Players and The Play.

"A Girl From Dixie" Fails to Deliver the Goods—Green-room Gossip.

If one might have the pleasure of hearing the numerous catchy and really melodious ballads that make the sole attractiveness of "A Girl From Dixie," sung by fresh, sympathetic and mellifluous voices, that much-boomed Klaw and Erlanger production of modern "comic opera" would doubtless most agreeably reward an evening given to it. Unfortunately the voices found in the company that did the piece here on Tuesday evening were absolutely disappointing, and sadly ill-chosen for an acceptable exploitation of the pretty new songs. Such harmonious bits of popularly written melody as Max Witt's "The Lovers' A, B, C," and "Bubbles," A. B. Sloane's whimsical "Dissipated Kitten," Cole and Johnson's very characteristic "When the Moon Comes O'er the Hill," and W. M. Cook's "The Sunflower and the Sun"—they all demand daintiness and taste in the interpretation or half their melody and all their charm is lost. And lost it was on Tuesday evening last. The only song in the list escaping inartistic assassination was that of "Glory" (W. E. Bock), which Mr. Charles K. French did sing with something of the fire and fervor that it demands.

Aside from the interpolated lyrics, a few of them mentioned above, "A Girl From Dixie" has no justification for its existence as a "comic opera," unless it be to demonstrate effectively the absolute and complete degeneration of that particular branch of musical composition in which the demand has long outrun the visible supply. The public is assured upon the playbill that Harry B. Smith is the responsible author. If that be so, his hand has lost its cunning since it provided the crisp and intelligent libretto of beloved "Robin Hood" and its legitimate sequel and successor, fair "Maid Marian." There is indeed no evident libretto to call for commendation or to be condemned. The dialogue is but a slender peg to hang the lyrical interjections and choruses upon, and might with equal fairness be accredited to stage carpenter, press agent, property boy or electrician—indeed to anyone save and except a recognized literateur and a respected playwright.

"A Girl From Dixie" was evidently slapped together to fit a chosen catchy title, regardless of all artistic quality, consistencies or harmonies—the purpose being to equip a show for a quick run through Southern territory, to gather in Southern dollars and be seen no more. And even so, it is to be regretted that the northern scene-shifter impressarios should have so ill-conceived the Southerners' sentiment for the tattered uniform of Confederate grey, into each cherished shred and patch of which is woven the heart of the gallant South, a treasure for lavender to sweeten and perfume with the years, and only for loving and understanding fingers to caress in secret.

The opera—if by a strain of conscientiousness it may be so designated of necessity—was materially altered for its presentation here, out of commendable regard for British feeling, the "Lord Dunsmore"—of which Mr. Clifford Leigh made the only convincing character in the cast—being quite otherwise than admirably developed in the finale for American consumption.

* * *

It is conceded by the ruling majority of show critics that the "Four Cohans" and their company put up one of the best entertainments on the stage today. With "The Governor's Son," in which they first blossomed as stars, they set a pace almost without rivalry. Now comes the second attempt, "Running For Office," which was produced for the first time on the stage when Vermont voted for its local option bill, which was carried victoriously. "Running for Office" has been styled a rural comic opera by many writers, and, by the way, the term is most correct. The scenes of the play are all laid in Tigersville, Vermont; it is not on the map; but it is in the play, nevertheless. The characters are in keeping with the surroundings and not overdrawn, as in most cases, where the author depicts rural atmosphere. George Cohan pictures life there in a most alluring light. The musical numbers from his pen are most tuneful and have already become popular. "If I were Only Mr. Morgan," and "Sweet Popularity," "I'll Be There in the Public Square," and "I Want to go to Paree, Papa," are selling briskly and one hears them whistled wherever the company has played. The Cohan company, which is under the direction of Mr. Fred. Niblo, is now on a tour of the United States and Canada which will cover a distance of 20,000 miles. The company consists of 72 people and will be seen at the Victoria theatre on the evening of the 23rd.

* * *

The husband of Lillian Nordica, Herr Zoltan Dochme, is fighting in the New York Supreme Court his wife's recently obtained divorce. Dochme claims that he has not only advanced Mme. Nordica from a $50 a night concert singer to a prima donna commanding a hundred times that amount, but that he has spent $33,000 on her since their marriage in Indianapolis in 1896. His statement was a revelation of the making and maintenance of a prima donna. He declared that Madame Nordica carried upwards of $100,000 life insurance, on which he had in eight years paid out $40,000 in premiums. He also says he has lavished $50,000 in jewels on his wife, besides paying $80,000 in dressmaking bills and other proportionate expenses. Her living for the past eight years—since she gained prestige—had averaged $20,000 a year.

* * *

On Thursday evening The Victoria presented another of the Sunday comic supplement musical farces, "McFadden's Flats," this being the second trip of an offering of the name through Pacific Northwest territory. This time it is "revised right up to date," and in the process made infinitely worse. The company, the writer is informed, was hurriedly made up by Mr. J. Murray Smith out of the people upon the roster of his two ten-cent variety theatres at Vancouver when he closed them owing to the ever-increasing competition. Three days' rehearsal of the so-called comedy, a job lot of second hand lithographs and paper picked up in metropolitan Seattle, and the attraction was ready for its conquering tour. Need any more be said?

* * *

Now that it is generally and positively known that this will be the last season that the famous family of farceurs, the Four Cohans, will be seen together, the question naturally arises, "In what different directions will these talented people travel next season?" Manager Fred Niblo, who has directed their business interests so successfully for many years, comes to the rescue with the following statement: Miss Josephine Cohan will star next season with her own company in a new, high class American comedy, "The Leading Lady," which is now being written for her by Mr. Leslie Corbin, the New York journalist. Geo. M. Cohan is making stellar preparations in his new musical comedy, "Little Johnny Jones."

* * *

A cablegram from Mr. Leon Mooser, "the Chas. Frohman of the Orient," states that after a complete circuit of the earth, he has arrived safely back at his headquarters in Shanghai, China. While in America he concluded arrangements with Fred Niblo, the New York theatrical manager, whereby the latter will organize an English Comic Opera company for a two years' tour through China, Japan and India. The company will sail from San Francisco about the middle of the coming August if the existing troubles between Japan and Russia are settled by that time. Mr. Mooser, who is a careful student of Eastern affairs, confidently believes that all will be serene before then.

* * *

An incident of passing interest is the dissolution of the old musical team and business partnership known all over America as "Weber & Fields," which has existed and amused New Yorkers and visitors to Gotham for the last twenty-six years. Weber carries on the business, and Fields has formed a partnership with Mitchell & Hamlin, and the new firm will open a new theatre.

* * *

The attention of Mr. Boscowitz no doubt need only be directed to the fact that there was much complaint Tuesday evening at the delay of his house patrons in being ushered to their seats, in order to obviate a recurrence of this seemingly general and not unjustifiable complaint.

* * *

A fair musical vaudeville show by a company of hurriedly scrambled together third class stock people of limited experience about describes the Klaw and Erlanger production of "A Girl From Dixie" to which Victorians were treated—that is if one can believe it Klaw and Erlanger's in any degree of fact.

* * *

M'lle. Marie Floubet (Countess du Vigney) the Parisian chanteuse, has signed contracts with Fred Niblo to appear in his coming production of "The Leading Lady," in which Miss Josephine Cohan is to star next season. This will be M'lle. Floubet's first appearance in America.

* * *

George H. Trader, whose character work in the original Alcazar Theatre Stock company, in San Francisco, demonstrated his possession of unusual powers of observation and portrayal of peculiarities, is prominent in the upport of H. Reeves-Smith in "The African Millionaire."

* * *

Cranbrook's amateurs composing the Choral Society of Knox church, have been giving very satisfactory performances of H. M. S. Pinafore. The opera is not altogether new, but was nevertheless much appreciated.

* * *

E. R. Phillips, who is playing the Wind Man in "The County Chairman," has signed a three years contract with Manager Henry W. Savage.

Strong Argument—"As an instance of what can be done with small farming in the Okanagan valley, J. Cosarso took $3,500 off less than four acres with a crop of onions last season."—Kootenay Mail.

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AN OBJECT LESSON.

Barren Looking Hills and Repelling Valleys Converted Into Fertile Fields.

A few years ago Mr. R. P. Rithet, in conversation with a then newcomer to Victoria, said that he was endeavoring to demonstrate a little way out of town what can be done with the very unattractive-looking land in this vicinity. If one drives out towards the Royal Oak any day, summer or winter, he will see the demonstration. There could not be anything much more forbidding to look upon than "Rithet's Farm" was when the energetic owner undertook to reduce it to cultivation. There is nothing anywhere finer now. Valleys and hills alike bear heavy crops where the great flock of sheep are not feeding or the sleek horses are not in pasture. But some will object and say that Mr. Rithet is a man of large means and could afford to make a farm, which is true; but it is also true that everyone does not want to have a farm on so large a scale. What is still more important is also true, namely, that Mr. Rithet's means did not make the soil fertile. All he did was to bring an extremely refractory piece of land under cultivation. Doubtless it cost a good deal of money per acre to do it, but the thing is done and will remain done for all time to come, if cultivation is continued. The thing demonstrated by Mr. Rithet is that land, which to the casual observer appears valueless from an agricultural point of view, is well worth clearing. What he has done on a large scale an increasing number of people are doing every year in this vicinity on a smaller scale, so that at the present rate of progress it will not be long before all the region round about Victoria is under cultivation, except where the rocks come to the surface, and this is not in nearly as many places as most people think. How much of this progress is due to the example set by the gentleman named cannot, of course, be told, but so good an object lesson cannot have failed to have had an excellent effect.

WAYWARD YOUNG WOMEN.

A Peculiarly Sad Sequel in Victoria to Vancouver's Late Sensation.

A peculiarly sad sequel to the recent case in Vancouver in connection with which John Christopher, a photographer, was arrested for taking photographs of supposedly respectable young girls in "the altogether," developed last week in this city, where two of the girls who had posed before the Vancouver camera came to visit friends until their unexpected notoriety should have somewhat faded. These two girls—Maggie Woods and Bertha Robinson—had no sooner reached Victoria than Dame Gossip here was busy with their names and the poor tattered remnants of their reputations. They became the object of special attentions from a coterie of fast young men, and a few days ago Chief of Police Langley received information that they had rented a house in a disreputable neighborhood and openly embarked in a business of vice. And they but fifteen and sixteen years of age respectively! Detectives Perdue and Palmer brought the girls to police headquarters, where they were detained until, the facts having been telegraphed to Chief North of Vancouver, Mrs. Robinson, the mother of the younger girl, arrived to take the wayward pair back to the Terminal City.

END OF ALL ARGUMENT.

Practical Evidence Presents Itself of the End of All Argument.

A good deal of cross-fire has appeared recently in the daily papers with regard to the permission from Ottawa for the operation of fish traps this season. It seems, however, that the mater was settled some time ago insofar as the business men are concerned, for work has already begun and the traps are under actual construction. Just what this means to Victoria it is hard to estimate. This year Messrs. J. H. Todd & Son state in connection with the trap-nets which they intend to operate this season in the vicinity of Sooke harbor, that work is rapidly proceeding. A large net house is in course of construction at Sooke Harbor under the superintendence of Mr. Rocket, of Victoria. Net racks are being erected on a large scale in fields secured from Mr. William Muir. The pile driver, scows and other outfit used in construction work are already at Sooke Harbor, and necessary piles, 600 in number, from 60 to 110 feet long, arrived last Thursday.

Necessary netting is mostly all on the wharf at Sooke Harbor and a gang of men will start making it up next week. It is expected that the driving of piles will start next week, and it is hoped that the traps will be built and ready for operation by the 15th of June. Messrs. Todd also state that they believe theirs will be the only traps operated this year, but purse seines will be fished by the B. C. Packers Association and others. This year is known as the "poor run year." Next season, no doubt, operations will be continued on a much larger scale, but, of course, future work will largely depend upon the result of this year's operations, which are, to a certain extent, experimental. The Messrs. Todd state that they have secured a first-class plant and expect their expenditure this year will amount to about $25,000. This season it is proposed that the catch will be taken care of at the canneries on the Fraser, but if their experiment proves successful, canneries will be erected nearer at hand next year. The location has not yet been determined, but they will doubtless be as near as possible to the base of operations in order to get the salmon packed as soon as possible after catching, and to save transportation.

READY FOR OPENING.

Terminal Railway Route Clips Half an Hour From Victoria-Vancouver Run.

Within the next few days the trip to Vancouver over the Terminal Railway route will be shortened by half an hour. The new line connecting Vancouver with New Westminster has been completed some little time, and was inspected by Dominion Engineer Keefer over three weeks ago. As soon as the formal permission to use the road is given by the railway commission, it will be opened for traffic. President John Hendry is now in Ottawa making arrangements. Trains over this line will make the trip from Westminster to Vancouver in fifteen minutes less time than the electric cars, and owing to the improvement in transfer facilities another fifteen minutes will be saved.

The present Vancouver terminus is on the west side of False Creek, near Westminster avenue, the bridge across False Creek being only half finished. As soon as it is completed the terminus will be at the foot of Columbia street, near the Royal City mills.

At the other end freight will be transferred from South Westminster by ferry until the Fraser river bridge is formally opened for traffic, when it is expected that the trains will run direct from Port Guichon to Vancouver. The Great Northern will also use this line to tap Vancouver. The management anticipate handling a large amount of traffic. The line passes through some of the finest land in the province, and this will make the road a profitable investment right from the first.

LA ALLIANCE FRANCAISE.

Organization of Victoria Branch Is Now Well Under Way.

M. Duponey gave another lecture on Tuesday evening to those interested in the French language and literature. A goodly number assembled in the Balmoral parlors and were charmed with the lecturer's brief but interesting talk on "Girls in French Books." At the conclusion Miss(Leiser was appointed secretary pro-tem. and a committee, consisting of Mrs. O. M. Jones, Miss Dunsmuir, Miss Mahrer and Mr. Leverson, with Lieut.-Col. Gregory as chairman, was commissioned to proceed with the organization of a branch of La Alliance Francaise. As stated before in this paper, the aim of the society is to encourage the study of the best in French literature. All who are interested in the higher education should take advantage of this opportunity to study one of the fine arts. Miss Leiser has just sent to Paris for some books to be the nucleus of a library to which all of the Alliance members will have access. Branches have already been formed at Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane and Vancouver, but the local society is to excel all these in work and interest, if not in numerical strength.

George Sheldon-Wililams, editor of the British Columbia Mining Exchange, Vancouver, and a journalist and gentleman of rare discrimination, called upon "Progress" this week to present his compliments and observe that this is one of the brightest and most wide-awake and interesting papers in the Canadian west—and getting better with each successive issue. Mr. Sheldon-Williams knows. And his own paper is evidence that he says just what he thinks. For the British Columbia Mining Exchange is unquestionably one of the brightest and most interesting, most wide-awake and best informed and reliable and accurate and honest, and in every other way commendable mining journals in all of Canada.

Mr. Gus Hartnagel, for so long a time manager of the Hotel Driard that he has become almost recognized as a feature and a fixture of that famous hostelry, has retired from the control of its affairs, which henceforward will be directed by Mr. C. H. Harrison. The latter has leased the house from Mr. Dunsmuir for a five-year period, and will conduct it on the alternative—American or European—plan. The new proprietor has had some 22 years experience, notably as the head and mainspring of the Rosslyn and the Abbotsford Inn, Los Angeles, although he has also conducted with marked success the new St. James, at San Jose; the Hot Springs and Upper Geyser Basin hotels, Yellowstone National Park; the Nicholas House, Minneapolis; the Hotel Chilberg, Tacoma, and the Rainier-Grand, Seattle.

Have you seen the dogwood blossoms around Elk Lake and along the road leading from that sheet of water to Cordova Bay? If not, you have missed something very fine.

Random Notes of Sport.

Cricket promises this season to retain all its old time prestige in Victoria, the club with its new grounds and appointments apparently having taken on a new lease of vigorous life. The committee of schedules for seniors and juniors has presented the following draft of engagements:

May 14th—Victoria vs. Navy, at the Canteen grounds.
May 21st—Victoria vs. Garrison, at Work Point grounds.
May 28th—Victoria vs. Seattle, on Jubilee hospital grounds.
June 18th—Victoria vs. Navy, on Jubilee hospital grounds.
June 25th—Victoria vs. Seattle, at Seattle grounds.
July 1st—Victoria vs. Vancouver, at the Terminal City.
July 2nd—Victoria vs. Garrison, at the Jubilee hospital grounds.
July 9th—Victoria vs. Navy, at the Canteen grounds.
July 16th—Victoria vs. Garrison, at the Work Point grounds.
July 30th—Victoria vs. Vancouver, at the Jubilee hospital grounds.
August 6th—Victoria vs. Seattle and Tacoma (combined), on the Jubilee hospital grounds.
August 20th—Victoria vs. Navy, on the Jubilee hospital grounds.
August 27th—Victoria vs. Garrison, on the Jubilee hospital grounds.
September 5th—Victoria vs. Seattle, at Seattle.

* * *

Fourteen members of the Toronto lacrosse team of last season have been professionalized by the C. A. A. U. after an investigation of charges against them. The men declared professionals are: A. Farley, W. J. Henley, F. McBride, A. Collier, C. Queerie, F. McLaren, H. Adamson, Hugh Lamb, A. Kirkdoow, E. McLaren, W. Selby, G. Henderson, C. H. Pringle and W. Jeffreys. This decision practically wipes out the Toronto Lacrosse Club, the representatives of which, at the annual meeting of the Eastern League, admitted that they had been paid last year for playing. Two important resolutions affecting amateurs were adopted. One was that hereafter no man once declared a professional shall be readmitted to amateur standing. The second resolution declared that such applications can only be considered at the annual meeting of the union.

* * *

No one who appreciates the intent and purpose of game laws can admit for a moment aught but erroneous argument in Mr. Young's contention that the prohibition of sale in the close season should be made so elastic as to exclude game birds held over from the open season. He says that rigid enforcement of the prohibitory law will strike at the industry of canning game birds for the market! That is precisely why it should be enforced. If such an industry be encouraged, why good by to our game in British Columbia.

* * *

[illegible] bit is clipped from a local paper: Capt. Sears, of the steamship Iroquois, reports that while passing Reef point, Thetis island, Tuesday, on the trip from Nanaimo, he saw a mallard duck with a flock of nine young birds about four weeks old ahead of the steamer. The steamer was going straight towards them and the mother bird would not leave them only a few feet, so he changed the steamer's course to avoid running over them, as they could not fly. The steamer ran within five feet of them.

* * *

The city schools baseball league, of which the Centrals are last year champions, has drafted a schedule for the season as follows:

May 14th—Central vs. North Ward.
May 21st—North Ward vs. South Park.
May 28th—South Park vs. Central.
June 4th—Central vs. North Ward.
June 11th—North Ward vs. South Park.
June 18th—South Park vs. Central.

* * *

A salutary lesson will no doubt be taught by the conviction of Robert Erskine for laying poison without complying with the formalities of general notification required by law. There were, perhaps, many who did not know of the law in this regard. And it is a law of which there cannot be too general knowledge for the public protection.

* * *

Pheasants are unusually plentiful at Colwood. Farmers there complain that they cannot sleep o'mornings because the cocks salute the day beneath their windows. With a good breeding season there should be an abundance of sport this autumn with the long-tailed ones.

* * *

The Toronto Globe has espoused the cause of the British Columbia lumbermen, saying that aside from their request for a duty on imported American lumber their demands are reasonable. Unhappily this sums up their demands insofar as the federal government is concerned.

* * *

The Victoria Lacrosse Club, for the encouragement of the junior players, will give medals to reward the winning intermediate and junior teams of the city.

* * *

Sportsmen in the Rossland neighborhood are talking of introducing pheasants, but there is considerable doubt as to whether they would eat buds as do the grouse.

Mr. P. S. Lampman won from Mr. Combe in playing off their tie for the cup emblematic of the best average in the season's medal rounds of the Victoria Golf Club. Mr. Combe (owe 1) did the round in 82, or 83 nett. Mr. Lampman's score was 99—17 or 82 nett, he therefore winning by a stroke.

* * *

The Y. M. C. A. tennis players start practice this week at their new courts, on Mrs. Wolfenden's lawn, Menzies street. Anyone wishing to join the club should make early application to the general secretary of the Y. M. C. A.

* * *

Victoria's baseballers lost the first of the season's games last Saturday, errors, poor sticking and worse baserunning contributing to the defeat. Bellingham proved very smart in the field, and won out, 3—2.

* * *

Smith, the Victoria catcher, has got a new job at White Horse, a new wife, and a new ball team. He has been replaced on the local nine by McManus. To-day Victoria plays Columbia University.

* * *

Forty-eight senior, intermediate and junior lacrossists turned out for practice in one single afternoon at New Westminster this week.

* * *

Vancouver will send both senior and junior fours to row against the J. B. A. A. stalwarts on regatta day.

* * *

According to proclamation in the last Gazette, a close season for elk in the Kootenay is made for the next three years, from May 16th.

* * *

Good progress is being made with the preparation of the tennis courts of the Sergeants' Club, on Paradise street, Work Point.

* * *

Dan McLeod had little difficulty in defeating John Berg in their wrestling match, winning three falls, although Berg put up a game exhibition and scored once against the veteran of the mines and mat.

* * *

Nelson is planning a public recreation park with horse and cinder tracks, and ample space for lacrosse, baseball, football, cricket, etc.

* * *

H. M. S. Flora defeated Vancouver in the first cricket of the season by 96 to 78 in a single innings game.

* * *

Two Feathers lost in his match with Davies, the Nanaimo wrestler.

* * *

Washington University will send over its crack four to race the Big Four in the Empire Day regatta.

* * *

Portland has joined the Northwest Lacrosse League.

"GOLD IS WHERE IT IS."

Eagle City Stampedes En Masse—Something of a Wire Fence.

Latest advices from the North contain the interesting information that the strike made recently opposite Eagle City caused a stampede that ended in all the ground on the right limit of the Yukon being staked to the boundary. In fact quite a number who held Canadian free miners' certificates were unable to stake on this side of the line. When the news of the prospects obtained on the bar opposite Eagle was spread in the town, there were many who laughed at the idea of such riches being so near at hand, and (to them) in so unlikely a place. But "gold is where one finds it," and each one returning had such good reports of the panning done that the entire town and the garrison as well turned out to become mine owners. A barbed wire fence could easily be made now for more than ten miles along the shore, the stakes being sufficiently close together for that extravagant distance. Good prospects have been obtained along the entire shore of the river to the boundary line. From Dawson the word comes that the big hydraulic plant put in at enormous expense some years ago by Cecil Cole on Last Chance, to elevate water to Treasure Hill, will once more be started up. After remaining idle for two years, the ground has been taken by Albert Trabold on a lay which also includes the use of the pumping plant. It is known that some of the richest dirt in all the Klondike is found on Treasure Hill, which is now the property of the Treasure Hill Mining Company.

"NEE 'TRUTH'" IS GOOD.

"Progress—nee 'Truth'" published by C. H. Lugrin with C. H. Gibbons as associate editor is an interesting weekly of Victoria. The typographical appearance of the paper is attractive, and with the two well known newspapermen as editors we anticipate a most successful career for 'Progress.'"—Mount Pleasant Advocate.

NOT ALWAYS.

While house-cleaning last week the fact was made apparent that cleanliness is not always next to godliness."—Poplar Nugget.

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Independent Foresters.
Court Cariboo No. 743 meets in No. 1 Hall A. O. U. W., 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8 p. m.
Thos. Le Messeurier, Fin. Sec., Garbally Rd. R. C. Wilson, Rec. Sec., 191 Chatham Steeet.

Fraternal Order of Eagles.
Victoria Aerie No. 12 F. O. E. meets every Wednesday evening in Eagle Hall, Adelphi Block, at 8:30 p. m. Sojourning brothers made welcome. Joseph Wachter, W. President; Frank LeRoy, W. Secretary.

court North ern Light, No. 5935. A. O. F.
Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday in each month in K. of P. Hall, Douglas St. Visiting members cordially invited to all meetings.
J. P. Hancock, Chief Ranger; W. F. Fullerton, Secretary.

Knights of Pythias.
Far West Lodge No. 1 meets at their Hall, cor. Douglas and Pandora Streets, every Friday at 8 p.m. Sojourning brothers are always welcome
J.H. Penketh, C.C.; Harry Weber, K. of R.& S. Box 544.

Juvenile Ancient Order of Foresters
Court No. 1 meets first Tuesday in each month at K. of P. Hall. Adult Foresters are always welcome. S. L. Redgrave, President; J. H. Mansell, Secretary.

Court Vancouver, No. 5755, A. O. F.,
Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays K. of P. Hall, cor Pandora and Douglas Sts. Visiting Brothers are cordially invited.
Sidney Wilson, Secretary.

The Realm of Sports

Victoria is Out for the Pennant—A Sportsman's Paradise—Fishing Improving.

Lacrosse, the good old national game—and with the exception perhaps of ice hockey, the best and fastest game of all—is to boom this season in Victoria! That has a stereotype look and sound, but its a great big fact this time. The Mainland brethren are even going so far as to prophesy that this season's Victoria twelve will be the pennant winners. And on paper there is justification for their view. Anyone who takes the trouble to visit Caledonia Park these fine afternoons or evenings will see that the boys are working for a win. And it is training and team rehearsal that count most for success.

Besides the twelve promises to be the strongest, the fastest, and the heaviest that Victoria has sent on the field for many a season—all good expert stick-handlers and tried players of the best of games. With the arrival of West of Winnipeg, one is able to get something of a fair line on the prospective make-up of the team. The twelve chosen to fight for champions' distinction will be made up out of the following timber: West, a clever home man who shows up well in practice; Cullin (the captain and a veteran); Cattinaugh, Belfrey, McCorvie, White, Smith, Cowan, Williams, O'Brien, Peele, McConnell, Jesse, Dewar and Wolfenden.

This aggregation tips the hay scales at a little above a ton and a quarter—2,563 pounds to be properly precise—which makes the average weight of the individual players 170 pounds, Williams and Cattinaugh at 190 being the heavyweights and Cowan (135) the baby of the bunch. This is a good husky lot, and everyone is a player. With a continuance of the hard preparatory work that is now being done there is no earthly reason why they should not bring home the coveted pennant to the Capital.

It is practice—practice—practice that counts from this time on.

There is a little disappointment over the fact that Taylor of the Brantfords will not come here this season, as he is a star centre and would have been just the chap to hold down Turnbull of the Royal City, but even without Taylor the team will do and do very nicely, thank you.

The season was to have opened at Vancouver to-day, the locals playing Westminster in that drawn game upon the outcome of which depends the Royal City's one remaining chance of getting another try for 1903 distinction. Vancouver, like Russia, wasn't exactly ready, however, and therefore asked a necessary postponement. And the Royal City men somewhat characteristically protested that if there was any postponement they would withdraw from the championship lists.

Of course they wouldn't think of making good on any such a bluff, for lacrosse and the royal salmon are about all that keep Westminster in the eye of the world, and they cannot afford to let any pettiness of their own rob them of their one avenue of escape from civic stagnation at the same time that the fish traps seem to promise a display of the No Thoroughfare sign upon the other. Naturally, however, Victoria wanted to know just how this city stood in the event of Westminster electing to perform the spoilt child act suggested. President Hooper accordingly wired the officers of the Vancouver lacrosse club for information as to the possible effect on this year's championship schedule. The answer from both Quigley and Suckling was positive and eminently satisfying—Vancouver will play all dates, e'en should the heavens fall—particularly will she be here with bands playing and colors flying on the 24th.

Which is just as it should be.

The Victorias, through the liberal terms offered by the owner of the Caledonia grounds, Mr. Todd, will have accommodations better than ever for spectators during the coming season. The prices of admission too will be right—and no one doubts that the public will do their share.

* * *

Two historic photographs found a place on the bulletin board at Campbell & Cullin's corner during the present week, commanding the curious interest of all lacrosse enthusiasts. The one was a group portrait of the first duly organized twelve in Victoria or in British Columbia, taken in 1881, on a field not far from Christ church cathedral now covered with city buildings. The pioneer players pictured are: W. Wadhams, A. Cameron, A. Crease, W. and R. McDonald, F. G. Walker, R. D. Finlayson, H. Smith, [illegible], H. and W. Beaven, and R. Harvey. These are all a past generation insofar as lacrosse is now concerned. The other portrait shows the twelve of 1887, the first year, by the way, in which inter-city matches were played in British Columbia. In it the individuals are more of the present time, and the photograph therefore creates a livelier interest and more absorbing attention. The players pictured are: Skene Lowe, Charles Hall, the late Walter Morrow, H. Wootton, George Ledingham, Dr. Quinlan, J. McLennan, E. [illegible], W. Ballentyne, W. G. Mackenzie, C. J. Bush, Wade, Lossee, W. Ledingham, and Frank Bodwell.

* * *

Otto Schoen, who has just returned from a year's shooting and trapping in the northern part of the Island, declares that there is no better field for the true sportsman the world over. The greater part of Mr. Schoen's time was spent north of Vernon lake and at the headwaters of Davie river, from which he brought down upwards of $1,000 worth of choice furs.

"On Davie river I discovered several large uncharted lakes which drained into that stream," says Mr. Schoen. "I was the first time a canoe was ever taken over the Davie river. In many places it was necessary to portage past some of the large canyons. Some of these were over 70 feet high. I was, however, equipped with tackle and 200 feet of stout rope for such contingencies. Last June I met the Dawson survey party at the mouth of the Davie river and spent some time near them. I parted company with them in the last of June. From that time I did not see a human being or hear the sound of a human voice until April 20th, when I reached the Salmon river. At no time did I discover any traces to indicate that any person had ever been over the Davie river country. I found it in many places a beautiful, fertile, flat country, open in many places. In others there were immense tracts of splendid fir and cedar.

"The hunting is simply unparalleled. Elk abound, and so tame were they, never having seen man before, that I could almost lay my hand upon them when I approached, before they would allow their natural timidity to overcome their curiosity. Then they would back away from me until they felt safe, when they would turn and run off. It was no uncommon thing to see herds of 15 or 20 grazing together.

"Everywhere there were large numbers of bear, cougars, lynx, wolves, mountain sheep and deer of all kinds. Owing to the very heavy snow of last winter the deer found it hard to exist and fell an easy prey to the numerous bands of wolves. I think it is not too much to estimate that fully 75 per cent. of the deer in that country were killed last winter by the wolves. Their carcasses would often be lying thick where they had been slaughtered by the wolves, who had merely killed them and eaten the brains.

Mr. Schoen had many adventures which would have amply satisfied the seeker after novel experiences and exploits in the wilds. Once he had his camp established on the bank of Lake Vernon, where he built a comfortable cabin. In one night the waters of the lake rose so high that his cabin floated off as he slept. Waking he found that he was drifting out into the lake. He managed to make fast to a snag, and then tried to swim ashore where he could get his canoe. He was unable to make the distance, but fortunately reached the remains of his wood house, which was also adrift. On that he clung till morning, when he managed to swim ashore. Taking his canoe, which had fortunately been made fast, he paddled out and secured his cabin, which he towed back to dry land.

Describing the abundance of game of all kinds, Mr. Schoen said that in one day he killed five large black bear. Wolves and cougars nightly congregated round his solitary cabin and made the night hideous with their yells. Since April 1st he could not shoot them, as he had but six shells left, which he had to reserve to secure meat to replenish his larder. This fact the wolves and cougars seemed to be aware of, for they displayed greater daring when they were undisturbed.

* * *

Fishing is improving. Let the glad news be shouted throughout the land. The rivers are going down to a respectable level, the water is clearing, and the temperature of the water rising. At Cowichan recently some splendid bags have been made, the tributary streams being particularly satisfactory. Mr. Whittaker and a companion on Sunday last got over 100 fish—over 60 lbs.— to their two rods, which isn't at all bad even for the illustrious Cowichan. At Shawnigan, too, better luck was the general portion. One basket of fourteen fine fish—not a small one among them—was got by trolling, while users of the Jock Scot had no complaints to offer. At the other lakes in this vicinity the same report of better fishing is made.

* * *

Mr. F. F. Paget, who some few years ago spent a season very profitably and enjoyably among the caribou and other big game of northern British Columbia, was a passenger back to America by the Empress of India last Tuesday. He has been shooting the royal tiger and some smaller fry in India, and had his share of adventures such as one reads about in the Strand and Wide World magazines. But after all he inclines to the opinion that one can have just as good sport and come quite as close to death among the big game of this province as in India.

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See our windows for Woodenware, etc.
77 GOVERNMENT ST.

It is a rank absurdity that the small bridges within the city limits should be placarded with notices forbidding persons to trot their horses over them. To build a bridge within a city not fit to trot a horse over, is little short of criminal, because such a bridge must be unsafe for traffic. It is also absurd that people are expected to walk their horses over the Point Ellice bridge. If it is not strong enough to permit horses to trot over, it ought to have been made so in the first instance. Probably when the James Bay embankment is finished, a sign will be put up there warning the public against going across it at a pace faster than a walk.

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