The Week

A British Columbia Newspaper and Review

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Appalling

THE admissions made by the chief actors in the drama staged in the committee room, where the enquiry into the expenditures of the Pacific Great Eastern is carried on, form unusually interesting reading. The frank statement made by Mr. D'Arcy Tate, the lawyer-promoter, that the contractors had given him half a million dollars for use as a reptile fund is hardly believable. If the statement had been made by Mr. Tate's implacable enemy in order to injure his reputation, charity and fair play would require everyone to suspend judgment. Mr. Tate himself declares it and in addition gives some details of its use, and suggests more. The astounding character of the crime against the people of this Province is such as to demand the most searching and complete enquiry. The uses made of the fund, its beneficiaries, and the purposes of the payments made, must be fully disclosed. If—as partisans on both sides aver—the money was used to corrupt both Conservative and Liberal members, then the people should have the facts plainly stated. The prompt denials made by the Attorney-General as to his participation in $25,000, and of Mr. John Hart, campaign manager of the Liberal party, cleared the atmosphere in some degree, but the Legislative chamber would have been purified still more had the leader of the Opposition made an opportunity for a like disclaimer. It must not be assumed, however, because Mr. D'Arcy Tate stated that the money was given to him for electoral campaign purposes, and that he used it for such purposes, that therefore either of the political parties profited by the fund. The man that receives money for a corrupt purpose is not of the class whose word should be taken at its face value. It is easy to throw mud, and thoughtless people are ready to condemn the persons that are dirt-bespattered before hearing their defence. What is certain and safe to conclude is that the man who had the moneys paid to him for improper purposes and who openly and without any shamefacedness avowed it, might and probably did, devote a good portion of the fund for his own private and personal ends. It was well that he made tracks for parts unknown before the gathering indignation of an outraged public expressed itself. The cowardice of his flight is only equalled by the cool nonchalance of his attitude towards a transaction that is bordering on rascality. Apologists may suggest that because the money came from contractors who were paid for services rendered to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company there was no great wrong done. The contractors and Mr. D'Arcy Tate knew that the money paid was derived from funds voted and provided by the Province of British Columbia for railway construction. Each and all knew that the people would have to provide more money and eventually pay the interest thereon. Each and all knew that the object of any contribution made was to unduly influence the Government that might attain to power to further subsidise the road or guarantee further bond issues. If the corrupt fund was paid—directly or indirectly—to party treasurers for political purposes, it can safely be assumed that Mr. D'Arcy Tate intended to get a *quid pro quo* for his beneficence. In the enlarged modern cyclopedias and dictionaries there are phrases and words to be found that are expressive of abhorrence, contempt and disgust: but THE WEEK confesses that the strongest possible invective that could be used and applied would be inadequate to describe the shameless character of the transaction which Mr. D'Arcy Tate admitted to the P. G. E. Committee.

Disastrous

THE influence upon the moral sense of the community of such disclosures is simply disastrous. Fear and distrust permeates the air. Is there any honesty left in public life? Are all public undertakings worm-eaten with corrupt influences? Were the then leaders of the Government, Sir Richard McBride and his chief adviser and confidant, Mr. Bowser, privy to this use of public money? For under whatever guise the money came, through whatever channel or conduit it flowed, the money originated from public sources, and was voted by many in the then Legislature for public good. What must be their chagrin then, their astonishment to find that $500,000 of the Provincial income was set aside to corrupt the electorate? The P. G. E. Railway may or may not have been conceived in the public interest. Sir Richard McBride and his colleagues may have thought that it was and courageously acted up to their belief. The influence of the Government carried weight even to doubting members of their own political persuasion. Scarcely a dissenting voice was raised in the House, and with a whirl and a whoop the Bill authorizing its construction passed. It is inconceivable that the men who voted for the measure believed that it would become a political miasma from whence the most deadly immoral malaria would arise to infect the moral life of the Province. THE WEEK openly challenges such scandalous transactions. THE WEEK calls upon honest men of all parties to denounce such crimes against the body politic, and specially urges Liberal and Conservative members to probe to the utmost the disgustingly shameful wrong inflicted upon the people of this Province.

Minor, Yet Unpleasant

THE unexpected intrusion of the late member for Vancouver, Mr. A. H. Macgowan, into the P. G. E. enquiry is disconcerting to his best friends. He states that he received about $9,000 as a sharer in profits made by a firm of sub-contractors at the time when he was a member of the Legislative Assembly. For this sum he certainly gave no adequate return. He "toiled not, neither did he spin." He provided no capital, nor gave any professional ability. He wielded no axe, nor shovelled any dirt. He was innocent of driving spikes, and guiltless of sawing wood. But his bank book swelled its receipts by a cool $9,000, an amount not to be despised by the thrifty Vancouver member. In a vague, unimpressive fashion, the committee were assured that he had practically called off a strike promoted by the I. W. W.'s. Whether the Independence of Parliament Act has been violated by Mr. Macgowan is not for a humble editor to pronounce upon, but it may be hoped that the erstwhile member for Vancouver may be ready and willing to disgorge his ill-gotten gains. In these hard times, $9,000 is not a sum to be despised, and the Provincial Treasury would be pleased to place it to the account usually described in Government bookkeeping as *Conscience Money*. Incidentally, it may be observed that the respected member used to boast of his independency in the Legislature. The letter from Sir Richard anent this $9,000 cigar-money transaction sheds a little radiance upon the boast. Still, Macgowan might fairly claim that he was very moderate in his profiteering adventure into railway contracting. Like Mr. Bumble, in *Oliver Twist*, he might have exclaimed, "I went cheap, dirt cheap."

Insurgency

ONE of the surprises of the present Legislative Session has been the insurgency of two Liberal members, Dr. McIntosh and Mr. Cowper. Rumours are rife as to the reasons for this insurgency. The two gentlemen chiefly concerned openly state that their reasons are chiefly that the Premier and his colleague, Attorney-General Macdonald, are not living up to their pledges regarding an investigation into the alleged political misconduct of the Attorney-General during the elections at Vancouver. There may be merit in this statement, although it does appear that there were reasons why undue haste could not be made. An Act creating a Royal Commission of three Judges is not a measure that could be passed in a day. The consent of the Judges must be obtained, the Act must be so framed as to give ample powers of investigation, and it must be of a character that will ensure confidence in the results. THE WEEK, however, protests against any gibes or jeers diverted towards insurgent members of any party. Freedom of speech and liberty of action in representative assemblies are bulwarks of pure democracy. The "thumbs up" brigade in any Legislature is a menace to good Government. The party caucus is a useful organization and gives steadiness and assistance to concerted action, but if it attempts to throttle free discussion, to suppress unwelcome statements, to prescribe for members the limits of conscience and speech, and proscribe the men who dare to take independent action, then it should be relegated to the dust-heap of political oblivion. Better far the blunders of freedom, than the niceties of precision induced by the party whip.

Better Late Than Never

THE Dominion Government has passed an Order-in-Council placing wheat, flour and semolina upon the free list. The object to be attained is not so much the relief of taxation—for there is naturally but little importation of wheat or flour into the Dominion—as it is to automatically let down the bars for exportation of wheat to the United States. In the latest Tariff Act enacted by the U. S. Congress provision was made that these products should be admitted free when other countries also admitted them free. The Prairie wheat growers have for some years agitated so that advantage should be taken of this concession, and although it has been a "long pull," it was also a "strong pull," and at last the concession has been made. "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war," but although peace tried to win the fight for reciprocal free wheat and flour for commercial reasons, it was reserved for war to create conditions of transportation and food problems that enabled the flag of victory to be waved.

Civil Service

THE ACT providing for the establishment of a Civil Service brought down by the Premier is a fulfilment of pledges given to the electorate during the campaign. In this respect it is a proof of the honour and loyalty of Mr. Brewster to his ante-election manifestoes. The patronage system was denounced by him in no measured terms. It was the cause of much corruption, the source of much injustice and the medium through which the public was robbed and the fair name of the Province disgraced. The Civil Service Act is designed to remedy some of these evils. It is but an instalment of reform, and does not rid the Province of the accursed thing—called the Patronage System—root and branch. It does, however, write in plain terms upon the legislation of the Province the principle of an educated, efficient public service. Details of the Act are, of course, open to amendment. The main purpose of the Bill is excellent, and deserves support. This was recognized by the House, for although the Leader of the Opposition offered some trenchant criticism, and Mr. Cowper, the leader of the third party, interjected some bitterness, yet the House passed unanimously the second reading of the Bill. THE WEEK does not agree with the provision which contributes a one-man commission. The gentleman—we beg pardon of the ladies—the commissioner may have great experience and wisdom, but he is not likely to be infallible. There is safety in two or more persons. "In the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom" is an ancient proverb, but experience shows the old writer has grasped the truth. Autocracy is not good, and tyranny often results from concentrated authority. Nor from the standpoint of economy should this be urged. It is not necessary to appoint one man with large ideas of salary. Engineers with $15,000 a year for park purposes are not popular appointments just now, and the "man on the street" is muttering that he could do the work of a $15,000 Agent-General for half the amount, and then save money. There are three methods by which the commission could be enlarged. The first is by enacting that one of the Cabinet Ministers should be a Commissioner without additional salary, and two others on reasonable salaries. This plan is, in the opinion of THE WEEK, the best. The Minister would be the medium through which the Legislature could obtain information of all Civil Service employees, would co-ordinate the business of administration, equalize salaries, and promote efficient work. This plan would not interfere with a Minister's control over his own department. The second method is to appoint two Commissioners, one of which would be chairman and the other secretary. The practical effect of such plan would be to ensure unanimity in all appointments and decisions. To quote again an old proverb, "Two heads are better than one." The third method is to appoint three Commissioners. This appears to be the most popular in the House, judging from the gossip of the lobby. It is doubtful whether this method would not entail a larger expenditure than is necessary. There should be no necessity for a larger salary list than $6,500 for the Commission: $3,500 and $3,000; or, at the outside, $4,000 and $3,500; and the middle course of two appointees would be far better than one man highly-salaried, or three men under-salaried. If three are appointed, then it is most desirable that one of the Commissioners should be from the ranks of the newly enfranchised women. Another criticism of the Act is that the civil servant is not declared independent. His position is held "during pleasure," or he may be removed by authority of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. There should be some proof of misconduct, some enquiry or investigation at which the offender may make his defence before dismissal is decided upon. Democracy protests against bureaucracy, and the well-being of the community is bound up in an independent Civil Service. Other criticisms of a minor nature might be offered, which will probably be dealt with as the Bill passes through Committee. We repeat, however, that the main purpose and object of the Bill meets with the cordial approval of THE WEEK, and we think, too, will win support from all well-wishers of the Province.

Too Much Paternalism

A BILL introduced by the new Attorney-General entitled *An Act Regarding the Maintenance of Sick and Destitute Persons by Near Relatives* is one which will bear the very closest scrutiny. The Bill provides that the cost of maintenance of persons in necessitous circumstances who need medical aid, and persons who are physically or mentally incapable of maintaining themselves, shall be charged against any near relative or relatives who may happen to reside in the Province. A near relative is defined as "Father, mother, brother, sister, half-brother, or half-sister." Under the bill a sister or half-sister is made liable for the support in perpetuity of any brother who happens to be in necessitous circumstances, irrespective of whether those circumstances were self-induced by laziness, dissipation or otherwise. The cost of such maintenance can be collected by legal process through the courts of the land, even if distress of goods and sheriff seizures have to be resorted to. Such legislation is doubtful in the extreme and should be passed on for maturer consideration in another year. There are surely matters of wide national importance urgently calling for attention without consuming time with such hastily conceived legislation as this. Unless the necessitous circumstances of one brother can be directly traced to the wrong doing of another brother, why in the name of justice should the latter be made legally responsible for his support? Brothers do not bring brothers into the world, nor do they have any say in their subsequent course of life. To economic conditions, education, and environment, over which the state properly exercises considerable influence, can be traced most of the human wreckage strewn along the path of life. Let the state therefore assume the burden of salving the wreckage thus caused. Another serious objection is that the burden will fall unequally upon the near relatives. Only those relatives who chance to live in the Province will be reached. Thus an indigent person with ten brothers, only one of whom lives in the Province, will fall exclusively upon the latter, even if the other nine are in much better financial circumstances. Where is the justice in distributing burden in this arbitrary manner.

Editorship

THE arrangements necessitated by a change of control and policy naturally occasions some difficulty. Readers of THE WEEK will doubtless exercise a little patience. It is not easy to secure a permanent Editor who will have the intellectual and educational qualities possessed by the late Mr. Blakemore. THE WEEK is, however, fortunate in securing contributions from several able writers whose views on social, moral and economic lines will be of great value to the citizenship of the Province. Signed articles will appear from time to time expressing the personal views of the writers, which views in the main accord with the general policy of the paper. In this issue are presented articles by "The Rambler," Dr. Ernest Hall, Mrs. Alice Christie and an address by Mrs. Irene Moody, chairman of the Vancouver School Board. THE WEEK hopes to enlarge its staff of writers with each succeeding issue.

SOTTO VOCE

By the Hornet

That the Provincial Government has a hard row to hoe.

*

That the Minister of Agriculture is urging additional cultivation for food, but finds that Ploughmen Cowper and McIntosh have declared a strike.

*

That the P. G. E. revelations make very interesting reading, but the cost of the revelations is too high.

*

That D'Arcy Tate and Pat Welch are "slick and slim" brethern in distress.

*

That Pat Welch must not be confused with "Soapy" Welsh of undying notoriety.

*

That a contribution of $500,000 for political purposes may be considered generous, but not thrifty.

*

That the public generally want to know, "don't you know"!

*

That D'Arcy Tate would rather say "No," or skip out.

*

That the new way to build railways is for the Railway Company to contract with itself under another name to build, and the second company to contract with a firm of Railway Contractors to build, who will sublet to small contractors to build, who will arrange with smaller contractors to bleed the poor devil of the underdog who does the work.

*

That
"Little fleas have smaller fleas
Upon their backs to bite 'em.
And smaller fleas have lesser fleas
And so ad infinitum."

*

That shades of Harry P——— and Soapy W——— and Mrs. Jimmy A——— are saying, with mingled sorrow and regret: Oh, for one hour with that $500,000 roll; what fun we could have!

*

That Mayor Todd is doing the right thing in pushing the vacant lot cultivation business.

*

That Mayor Todd and all the aldermen are expected to blaze the way.

*

That The Week is prepared to publish free of charge the locality of the vacant lots cultivated personally by any member of the City Council.

*

That the same offer holds good with the School Board.

*

That the School Board, High School teachers and pupils might get busy on the unsightly mounds in the High School campus.

*

That such campus is a disgrace to all concerned.

*

That Chairman Jay should start the business.

*

That Superintendent Paul should organize the work.

*

That Trustee Riddell should "blow the pipes."

*

That Premier Brewster, from all reports, looked well "holding forth" in the Baptist Church on the woman franchise question last Sunday.

*

That Mrs. Grundy "doesn't like that sort of thing."

*

That it is not true that the Pastor of the church offered to get Mr. Brewster a job as preacher when he retires from politics.

*

That Brewster's private opinion is that his job is good for a quarter of a century.

*

That Bowser says "not while I am camping on his trail."

*

That "Insurgency" is considered patriotic or scandalous according to which side is helped by it.

*

That Bowser once led the "Insurgent" ranks against Sir Richard, and is now receiving Insurgent Liberals into his fold with open arms.

*

That "birds of a feather flock together."

That Brewster did the graceful thing in securing Lieutenant MacKenzie's seat in the Legislative Assembly, and in signing the cheque for his sessional pay.

*

That Bowser did not oppose.

*

That Cowper did not oppose.

*

That McIntosh did not oppose.

*

That the Cabinet is "mum" on the Prohibition question.

*

That the "Wets" are hopeful.

*

That the "Drys" are hoping.

THROUGH THE WOMEN'S WINDOW

By MRS. ALICE M. CHRISTIE

It is rather new to me to take up my pen to write about woman's work. I have been more accustomed to write about the "Woman's Cause" or "The Woman's Movement," but thanks be to Providence, there is now no longer any need for that work, and women can use their energies for something more practical. We must begin to think how woman's work may be organized for national ends.

Woman's speciality will always be the conservation of human life, and this work is of prime importance to the nation, particularly in days like these. The woman's work in government should be the safe-guarding of the human family. The time has come for women to take their place as the heart and soul of the nation, just as they have been the heart and soul of the home.

To those who have the welfare of humanity at heart, today is bright with promise and all women should awake to their duty as citizens, for they will now be responsible to a far greater degree than ever before for existing conditions. The salvation of our cities will depend largely upon their efforts, for women will have the opportunity to become public forces for the betterment of human conditions.

The time has come for the women of British Columbia to make application for registration. Let no woman neglect this opportunity for every woman who has her name on the voters' list will be able to do her bit for her country when the time for action comes, and that time is not far away.

In their hands has been placed a new power for the social and moral uplift of the human race, and more particularly for the betterment of the community in which they live; and the more women that are placed on the voters' list, the greater their power for moral and social reform.

Women should claim their full share in the general life of men, not alone for the removal of their own disabilities, but, rather, for the privilege of offering the fullest service of which they are capable.

As I remarked in the beginning of this talk, that it was God, and not man, or woman either, who inaugurated this reform, and placed men and women on a more equal footing. Men and women, parties and organizations, are but instruments and channels that are used to bring about His purpose for humanity.

Therefore, because it is God's doing, let the women not slight the call that has come, but take up the new responsibilities that has been placed upon us, in the right spirit: not for the gratification of our ambition, but for the spiritual enrichment of mankind.

The chief work at present is to get ready for the fight for righteousness and we can only do this through the power of the ballot: so let me remind the women again that now is the time to register.

PANTAGES THEATRE

The bill which will be presented at the Pantages commencing with the matinee on Monday is one offering many points of attractive interest.

The Texas Round Up, which consists of the greatest aggregation of cowboys, cowgirls and horses ever presented on a vaudeville stage, featuring some startling work. It is described as "The Wild West De Luxe."

Adler and Arline will present "A New Idea," which is offered for laughing purposes only; it is one of the cleverest comedy acts presented in some time. A surprise is also connected with this number which it would be unwise to divulge.

Bruce, Duffett & Co. will present a sensational scenic comedy playlet entitled, "A Corner in Wireless," which is sure to please and interest; a practical wireless outfit is used in the act, which should prove worthy of attention.

Webster, Beck and Frazer will offer a combination singing and comedy number; Le Hoen & Dupreece have a novelty attraction which will be appreciated; and the eighth episode of "Pearl of the Army" will complete a most splendid programme of vaudeville.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of James Kidd Simpson, late of the City of Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claims or demands against the late James Kidd Simpson, who died on or about the 3rd day of September, 1916, at the City of Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, are required to send by post prepaid, or to deliver to the undersigned, agents for the solicitors herein for James Garland Kidd and Joseph Kidd, Executors under the will of the said James Kidd Simpson, their names and addresses and full particulars in writing of their claim, and statements of their accounts, and the nature of the securities, if any, held by them, duly verified by Statutory Declaration.

And take notice that at expiration of one month from the date hereof, the said James Garland Kidd and Joseph Kidd, will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice, and that the said James Garland Kidd and Joseph Kidd will not be liable for the said assets or any part thereof to any persons of whose claim they shall not then have received notice.

Dated at Victoria, B. C., this 31st day of March, 1917.

BARNARD, ROBERTSON, HEISTERMAN & TAIT,
Tenth Floor, B.C. Permanent Loan Bldg., Victoria, B.C., agents for George E. Kidd of Ottawa, Ontario, solicitor for the above named Executors.

March 31 April 21

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Applications for a lease must be made b ythe applicant in person to the Agent or Sub Agent of the District in which the rights applied for are situated.

In surveyer territory the land must be described by sections, or legal subdivisions of sections, and in unsurveyed territory the tract applied for shall be staked out by the applicant himself.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of $5, which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available, but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

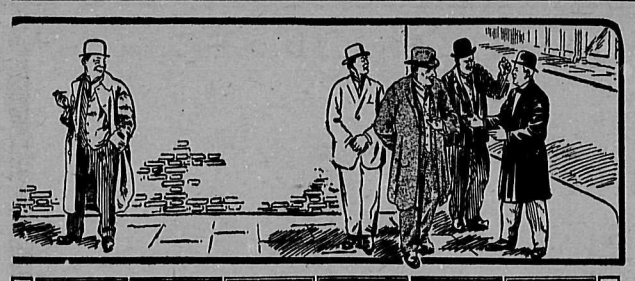
The person operating the mine shall furnish the Agent with sworn returns accounting for the full quantity of merchantable coal mined and pay the royalty thereon. If the coal mining rights are not being operated, such returns should be furnished at least once a year.

The lease will include the coal mining rights only, but the lessee may be permitted to purchase whatever available surface rights may be considered necessary for the working of the mine at the rate of $10.00 an acer.

For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.
March 31.



At The Street Corner

BY THE LOUNGER

I have recently acquired the ownership—and still more recently, the control—of an autoombile, and it has given me a decidedly different viewpoint. In the days when I was a mere pedestrian, I was the sworn enemy of all motorists. As a matter of fact, I believed that many of them enjoyed terrifying us and that they vied with one another in seeing how close they could come to us without knocking us down. I am beginning to see that there is quite another side to the question. The apparent prevalence of idiocy and of suicidal mania in the city is positively astounding. That may sound strong, but it is hard to explain the performances of many pedestrians in any other way. Take an instance. The corporation of the City of Victoria has provided ample concrete sidewalks for the use of pedestrians. Yet it is a very common thing to see a person, walking along at the edge of the sidewalk, suddenly step off into the roadway without the slightest attempt to see whether such a proceeding would interfere with the progress of approaching vehicles. Either such a person is tired of life, or else his mind is so slightly developed that he cannot realize the possibility of his becoming entangled with a motor and the unpleasant consequences that would result from such an entanglement. If cases of this kind were rare, my comment would be unnecessary. But they are, on the other hand, very common. For instance, I have stood at the corner of Yates and Government Streets and counted as many as a dozen people crossing the street in all directions, at points other than the proper street crossings, in the short block between Yates and View Streets. If only people could learn to use what little judgment they have!

But my bill of complaint does not end there. There are a large number of people who take particular delight in crossing a street intersection diagonally, especially if they have a little youngster toddling beside them. Then, too, there is the nurse-maid, or the parent, who, taking the baby out for an airing, decides that the effort of lowering and raising the "pram" at each street crossing is too great, and who accordingly takes to the roadway, "pram" and all.

I wish some way could be devised for protecting these people from themselves. I admit that the problem is too much for me. Certainly the man who ultimately solves it will earn the undying gratitude of every motorist. Conditions could hardly get much worse; if they should, it may become necessary to inaugurate a system of examining the hearts of all drivers of motor vehicles, otherwise the rate of mortality from heart failure among that class will increase to a most alarming extent.

*

One of the notable things about this war is the way in which the people who have had to stay at home have met the many demands made upon them. Whether it has meant money or time or personal effort, the response has been prompt and eager. There has lately come to my notice, however, one thing which seems to have been rather neglected. A short time ago it was announced that the men at the Esquimalt Convalescent Home would be grateful to any motorists who could take them for drives from time to time. There has been some response to this appeal, but only slight. Apparently each motorist thought that a number of others would be attending to the matter; in the result, the men have been doing without the drives that would do them so much good. That is not as it should be. Especially now that the good weather seems to have come at last, every one who has a car should make an effort to do this little thing to help make life a bit more pleasant for these men who have done so much for us. If motorists could realize the pleasure it gives the men, I am sure the matron at the Home would be overwhelmed with offers of motors.

*

I hear that there is a possibility of a Provincial championship series between the so-called soccer champions of the mainland and the local champions. In view of the situation on the mainland, there are many who think such a series would not be very desirable. It seems that the 231st Battalion team, which was conceded the mainland championship beyond the shadow of a doubt, was compelled to leave for active service before the conclusion of the series. There was a strong feeling that, on account of their undoubted superiority, the championship should be awarded to them as a matter of courtesy, or at least that no other team should be named as champions for the year. The league officials decided, however, that the schedule must be finished and points awarded to opposing teams when ever the 231st should default. An unsuccessful effort was made to have a reconsideration of this decision, and now we have the spectacle of a team of stay-at-homes, who could not beat the soldier team, taking advantage of the fact that the soldiers have been called over to take part in the Great Game, and allowing themselves to be named champions. Surely the wise course would be for our local soccer people to ignore a team whose ideas of sportsmanship are so perverted and whose appreciation of true patriotism is so far short of what is fitting.

Lounger.

WOMAN'S RELATION TO THE POLITICAL WORLD

By MRS. IRENE MOODY, at Conservative Banquet at North Vancouver

By MRS. IRENE MOODY

May I first be allowed to express my pleasure at being present this evening. This, I believe, is the first occasion in the West, where the men have recognized their new comrades in the political world to the extent of including one in the list of speakers at a banquet held under the auspices of one of the great parties. It is one of the indications of the beginning of the new era, and I congratulate you on having accepted the inevitable so promptly, and thank you most sincerely for conferring this honour upon me.

It is not my intention to speak at length this evening. My subject, "Woman's Relation to the Political World," is one that would be intensely interesting to consider, from the period early in the world's history, when the supremacy of woman was unquestioned, and the people lived as one large family, through the time when private ownership and the retention of wealth through inheritance brought the slavery of women into existence and then down through the long ages when women were discounted generally. And yet, through all the years, the influence of some woman,—wife, mistress, or even of a slave,—has been the power behind the throne, to mould policies, make or unmake dynasties, or even to change the map of the whole civilized world. However, such is not possible this evening, and I must, of necessity, leave much unsaid.

The world, at times, moves rapidly indeed. Five years ago, the franchise for women was something to be longed for, hoped for, worked for, but it did not appear to be very emminent. But what seemed in those days a distant possibility, is today, by the gift of our splendid men, an accomplished fact, and woman's place in the political world is a subject demanding immediate consideration.

There are many and divers opinions as to the position women will take in regard to politics. Some think that women should stand aloof from the present parties, and form a woman's party. Many claim that greater good can be thus accomplished. Others believe that married women will vote as their husbands desire, and that married men will thus have a double franchise bestowed upon them. It might be just as truly said that the married men will vote as their wives wish them to.

Then, again, it is believed by many that the women will ally themselves with one or the other of the two great existing parties, and possibly this is the most reasonable prediction.

Political history of all democratically governed countries for many years past, has been that of government of the country by one or the other of the great parties. While there have been other parties formed, none have developed sufficiently to have any material bearing on the political history of these countries with the possible exception of Australia. And so I believe that women's place in the political world will be by the side of the men, in one or other of the established parties in existence today.

It is well that it should be so. The gift of the vote marks the final emancipation of woman, and she takes her place in the world as the comrade of the man, sharing his responsibilities, not only in the home, but in the government of the country.

I believe that woman's association with man in political activities will be for the betterment of every department of the world's work. I believe that in this as in other lines, woman will tend to raise the moral tone and the ethical responsibility, and if this alone is accomplished, then it is the world's loss that the franchise was not conferred many years ago.

As to any lingering superstition against woman's equality with man, the last thirty months of war has dissipated such forever, and has proven that she has the ability to take her place beside him, in practically every department of the industrial world—therefore she should share with man all the privileges of civilized life that we enjoy today.

The advent of woman into politics will bring to the front legislation much needed from a woman's standpoint, such as:—

1. International Peace, which may well head the list.
2. Property rights of women.
3. Labour laws, affecting both women and children.
4. Mothers' pensions.
5. Improved marriage laws.
6. Better babies, a raising of standards in child culture.
7. Elimination of prostitution through education.
8. Prison reforms and convicts' wages.
9. Education for the prevention of tuberculosis, and its care in the home.
10. Asylum reform.
11. Nationalization of the professions of medicine and dentistry—to put it tersely, that the skill of the two professions be controlled by the state, to keep our people in health.
12. National schools of agriculture and stock raising.
13. Pure food laws.
14. Forest conservation.

All of which will benefit the nation at large, man as well as woman; and women urging such legislation will, by reason of their vote, receive that consideration which has been denied them in the past.

Let me appeal to the ladies present tonight to take their political responsibility seriously. As women we can accomplish so much for the betterment of the world, that it overshadows any consideration of trouble involved.

A well known writer has said: "All the reasoning of man is not worth one sentiment of woman." And if today we feel we lack the experience of man, time will remedy this, and ours is the opportunity now of demonstrating our woman's desires for the betterment of humanity, and doing it through the medium of the world of politics. The opportunity is great, and the women of British Columbia will rise to it.

Pte. James. Henry Taylor, who was reported missing on November 16, 1916, is now officially mentioned as a prisoner of war at Dulmen, Germany. He left here with the 67th Battalion, Western Scots, having been employed for some years as a surveyor in the Alberni district.

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LAND ACT
Form No. 11

Form of Notice

Victoria Land District. District of Cowichan.

TAKE notice that G. C. Grubb, acting as Agent for the Canadian Explosives, Limited, of Victoria, B. C., occupation Manufacturers, intend to apply for permission to lease the following described lands:—(Tidal)

Commencing at a post planted at low water mark, about one (1.) chain north of a post planted on high water mark, Lot 64, Cowichan District of British Columbia, and distant one hundred and twenty-eight and thirty-eight hundredths (128.38) chains more or less in a direction about North thirty-eight degrees and forty minutes, West (N38°40'W) from the survey post on the West shore of aforesaid Lot 64, thence North eight degrees and forty-six minutes East (N8°46'E) four and seven-tenths (4.70) chains thence North eighty-one degrees and fourteen minutes West (N81°14'W) four and twenty-four hundredths (4.24) chains, thence South eight degrees and forty-six minutes West (S8°46'W) three and seventynine hundredths (3.79) chains more or less to low water mark, thence following low water mark to point of commencement, the whole containing one and seventy-nine hundredths (1.79) acres more or less.

G. C. GRUBB.

Name of applicant (in full), Acting as agent for Canadian Explosives, Limited.

Date, 12th February, 1917.
Feb. 22 April 21

LAND REGISTRY ACT

In the matter of an application for fresh Certificate of Title to Lot 1, in Block "A" and Lot 28 in Block B, Fairfield Estate, Victoria City, Map 340.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of my intention at the expiration of one calendar month from the first publication hereof to issue fresh Certificates of Title in lieu of the Certificates of Title issued to Michael Dowdall on the 17th day of December, 1906, and 14th May, 1908, and Numbered respectively 13484 C and 17825 C, which have been lost.

DATED at the Land Registry Office, Victoria, B. C., this 22nd day of March, 1917.

E. S. STOKES,
Deputy Registrar General of Titles.
Mar. 24. Apr. 21.

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All Sorts of Men and Things

By "RAMBLER."

I have been invited to occupy a little corner in "The Week," and on making my debut I want to say a word about myself and my intentions.

I shall write under the pseudonym "Rambler." I do this not because I am ashamed of my real name: nor because I wish to be able to say things which can more easily be said from behind the dark defences of anonymity. People who write anonymous letters and articles to the newspapers and say ugly things about their neighbours ought to be shut up in an asylum. Personally, I would scorn to stoop to such meanness. Neither do I choose the name "Rambler" because that describes me as an individual. A Rambler may only be polite for hobo and hoboing is not my occupation, although I have often looked with envious eyes upon the professional hobo. Betwixt millionaire and hobo it would be hard for me to choose. The name Rambler, however, appeals to me because it aptly describes the kind of contribution I would like to make to this paper week by week. I shall write a good deal about books, but I shall want also to write about all sorts of things and all sorts of people and ideas and movements. If readers of "The Week" care to go with me and will be patient and docile, and not too critical, or fractious, or grouchy—they can be as inquisitive as they like—I shall do my best to take them on some rambles through the world of men and things in which we live.

The world is a big place to ramble in and to ramble in it is about the only thing really worth doing. I sometimes hear people of my acquaintance say that the world is, after all, a very small place. They generally say this in a slighting sort of way, and they usually say it when they happen to meet with somebody, or to hear of somebody, who came from some remote part of the world, where a grandfather's second cousin was born, or a mother's maiden aunt once kept a grocery store, and sold buttons and hair oil, and hairpins; all of which was known to the aforesaid individual who made the discovery, and then said, the world is after all a very small place. But, in my opinion, to talk of the world in this way as being a small place amounts almost to treason. It is treason against the C. P. R. and other railways that I have travelled on anyway. As a matter of fact, the world is a very big place when you come to look into it. There are a lot of people in it, and there are whole heaps of things to find out about and talk about and discuss, and so I propose, with the Editor's permission, that is, if he does not "fire" me right away, I propose, with you who care to look for this column every week, to go for some rambles and to take note of and talk about all sorts of things and people.

And yet, although I call myself "Rambler," instead of my real name, the readers need not be afraid. He will get to know me all right. In a book I am reading at present, the author says:

"All writing is autobiographical. Write, and in spite of your best efforts at concealment, your feelings, passions, prejudices, your good qualities, failings, sympathies, will become apparent; where you least expect it, you will give yourself most away; your true self will lurk between the lines and it will peep from the pages."

So readers of "The Week" may feel encouraged, I cannot hide myself altogether. I may try, but I shall fail. You will get to know me. You will know the things I like and the things I dislike. You will know the kind of people and things which in my opinion ought to be encouraged and you will know the people and things which I think ought to be consigned to the dustheaps of oblivion. My one hope is that we shall be able to do somethings or at any rate get the people who have the power and who are in the position to do things, to do some things for the general good and so for our own. Later on we shall see how all these intentions of mine work out.

When I started to write this, my first appearance, I meant to write about a book which I have just finished reading. It is a fine book and should appeal to all sorts of people. "A Student in Arms" is the title. There are stacks of books about the war, many of them worth reading and some not. Personally I cannot stand a great deal of reading about the war. It gets on the nerves and sometimes interferes with sleep. But there are some war books that stand out above all the others and a "Student in Arms" is one of them. It was written by one of the boys at the Front—Donald Hankey by name. Since the book was first published in April, 1916, the author has laid down his life on the battlefield. And a great life it must have been. The Editor of the "Spectator," who acts as a kind of sponsor for the book, speaks of Donald Hankey as "an inspiring spirit, an invisible flame that burnt in the man like a lamp." "A Student in Arms" is not a story, but a series of short articles descriptive of life in Kitchener's Army. The reader will not easily forget, once he has read the book, the chapter on "The Beloved Captain"; or the chapter on "The Religion of the Inarticulate." The characters in the book are all thoroughly human, even to the parsons and to the Cockney warriors. I laid the book down with a feeling of gratitude for the glimpse which it affords of the heights of true nobility and heroism to which men of very common and ordinary stuff can rise, in the terrible stress of the thundering guns and bloody horrors of the battlefield. And yet what a loss to the world that a brilliant writer such as Donald Hankey should have been cut off in the glory of his youth!

A CASUALTY CLEARING STATION

The Clearing Station lies on the outskirts of a large town on the farther side from the trench area. It was once located in some large buildings in the town itself, but as the German long range guns made an occasional target of the railways, close by which the Clearing Station stood, the situation became too dangerous, and a new Clearing Station was built on the present site.

The station consists of about a score or huts ranged along the railway line where convenient access can be had to the hospital trains, and no delay is caused in transhipping the wounded. The huts are large and airy, and have accommodation for many casualties, and while the passage from one hut to another is kept clear of the encroaching Flemish mud by solid metalled paths, the huts themselves are guarded from surface damp by being raised a foot or two above the ground on stout wooden props.

Here for the first time since leaving the trench area the soldier comes in contact with some of the amenities associated with home. His bedclothes are but the ordinary army blankets, and his bed may be only a stretcher supported on trestles, but he enjoys the luxury of pyjamas, and there is none of the crowding and accompanying dirt of dug-out quarters. His food is served in a much less rough and ready fashion than characterizes mealtime in the trenches and above all he is almost out of sound of the guns, and his whole being revels in the unaccustomed peace and quiet. Here, too, he comes in contact with his own countrywomen as nurses, and just to hear an Englishwoman talk and see her moving about means more to a soldier, accustomed for many months to strange women talking a stranger tongue, than people at home realize.

The title indicates the purpose which the place is meant to fill. Here the wounded and sick from the trench area are collected, and as soon as the nature of their disability is determined they are sent on to hospital where the treatment best suited to their case can be obtained. Slight cases go to hospitals only a few miles from the trench area, more serious cases go straight to the big "stationary" hospitals at the main bases of the British Army. In times of attack with the resulting great rush of casualties, nearly all cases are passed down the line to the base as quickly as ambulance and hospital train can carry them, often without a stop till hospital ships bound for England are reached. The staff and equipment provided is requisite for any necessary treatment and sometimes very serious cases have to be detained, but the place is a clearing station and not a hospital, and casualties are evacuated with all possible speed.

The place often acts as a clearing station in another sense of the term. Men from different parts of the line with no previous opportunities of meeting are now able to exchange first-hand information about their various fronts, and derive much mutual cheer thereby and often the staff of the hospital are able to give them news of friends and acquaintances. Here is a typical incident:

One large hut is nearly full of officers bound to the base next morning. Up between the long rows of silent forms quietly tip-toes an R. A. M. C. staff-sergeant. He bends over one and gently rouses him, and this conversation ensues:

"You're Maister Campbell, sir!"

"Yes, Sergeant."

"You're the son of Maister Campbell of ——?"

"Yes!"

"Then you'l ken whae I am? I'm Jimmy Duncan."

"Jimmy that used to sail the 'Jane Gray' fishing smack?"

"The same, sir."

A hearty handshake follows and heartier greetings, for Scots are kin the world over. News of the home town and of friends is interchanged, and the officer learns of the death of an old school chum in the same hospital a few days before. Next morning while the hospital train is filling up with the casualties, another officer is approached by an R. A. M. C. corporal. The corporal and the officer's brother were at the same university together.

Great business capacity is shown in the general management of the place. Quite apart from the medical efficiency of the staff, the multifarious details connected with the transport of the patient himself and his belongings are attended to with great care and system. An officer, for example, bringing private kit with him receives a receipt in which every article of that kit is specified, and thereafter the authorities take all responsibility for its safe delivery at the officer's destination. He will lose sight of it, say at Poperinghe, and next see it being carried in to the store room of a London hospital while he is waiting to be admitted. The manner in which records are kept of every patient and details of his case sent on after him also speak of careful organization. No matter how few or how many cases come in each day, no one is lost sight of, and when an attack sends the wounded in hundreds down the line, each case gets the necessary attention, and the system does not break down.

LOCAL CASUALTIES

Lieut. Roderick H. Finlayson, son of Mrs. W. H. Finlayson, of Verrinder Avenue, and only grandson of the late Hon. Roderick Finlayson, one of the founders of Victoria, has been wounded at the front. Neither the casualty lists nor private advices tell of the extent or nature of his injuries, although further particulars are expected shortly.

Lieut. Arthur H. K. McCallum, of Victoria, who left here in the spring of 1916 as an officer in the 103rd Battalion, has been lost while serving on the Western Front in the Royal Flying Corps, and, according to word received here on Sunday by his grandmother, Mrs. McCallum, of 657 Lampson Street, Esquimalt, he is probably a prisoner of war.

SOCIAL JUSTICE—A PROSPECT

By ERNEST A. HALL, M.D.

The entrance into the journalistic field of an independent medium for the free expression of sentiment will be appreciated by the ever-growing percentage of our population who occasionally think otherwise than in terms of yesterday. We welcome the emergence of "The Week" from the begrimed bonds of the past into the freedom of truth and progress. We have read of there being "joy among the angels over, etc.," then why should not similar reconstruction in a Victoria periodical be just cause for equal gratitude and congratulations?

The "open forum" policy of "The Week" is to be commended. It is to be the medium of free expression of opinion, a weekly non-alcoholic tonic, to brace us up, morally, socially, industrially—politically I was going to say—but nationally would be a more appropriate term. In fact, it is the policy of this paper to give an extra mural university course upon all matters that pertain to human uplift, social development and national progress.

In compliance with the request from the management, the writer has consented to give a series of articles dealing with:

1. Destitution and Its Relief.
2. Disease, Destitution and Poverty.
3. Unemployment and Poverty.
4. Moral Causes of Poverty.
5. Luxury, Its Perils and Consequences.
6. Unjust Wealth.
7. Lessening Poverty and Increasing Efficiency.
8. Poverty Attacked by Remedial Measures.
9. The Question of Distribution.
10. The Control of National Resources.

NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT.
(R. S. C. c. 115.)

The Sidney Canning Company, Limited, hereby gives notice that it has under Section 7 of the said Act deposited with the Minister of Public Works at Ottawa, and in the office of the District Registrar of the Land Registry District of Victoria, at Victoria, B. C., a description of the site and plans of a wharf proposed to be built in Haro Strait on the northerly part of Lot 10, part of Section 14, Range 4, E. Map 1170, District of North Saanich, AND TAKE NOTICE that after the expiration of one month from the date of the first publication of this notice, the said Sidney Canning Company, Limited, will under Section 7 of the said Act, apply to the Minister of Public Works at his office in the City of Ottawa for approval of the said site and plans and for leave to construct the said wharf.

DATED at Victoria, B. C., this 17th day of April, 1917.

SIDNEY CANNING COMPANY, LIMITED, by its Solicitors,
Bass & Bullock-Webster.

SKY-HIGH

By WALTER FOSTER

Farmer Grouse's wheat and oats
Once got a touch of rust.
He kept it quiet all he could,
And eased his worry sawing wood,
But the profiteers scented blood
And prices went to bust.

Another farmer lost a steer—
Forgot to lock the door.
The beast was really at the creek,
And having drunk fell fast asleep,
But one old josser noised the "leak"
And beef began to soar.

A thriftless Chink in Sen-o-link,
Who spent his time in joints,
Forgot to gather in his crop
(Which in the ocean was a drop)
His bossee Mandarin talkee shop
and rice jumped twenty points.

Our Uncle Sam has gone to war
With patriotic choler.
So everything we get from him,
Including gum, and meats and sin,
Tobacco, cigarettes and tin,
Have gone up nigh a dollar.

The miners started in to win
(The same old dreary round)
Again the profiteers step in,
They see another chance to skin,
The docile folk, already thin,
And fuel takes a bound.

The oil wells down in Tampico,
Some greenhorn shouted "fire!"
And yet 'twas but a drunken snipe
Who "took the waters," lit his pipe
And quickly started out of sight—
Yet gasoline soared higher.

One lovely day we'll all unite
And send sky-high, not steers,
Nor flour nor beans nor rise nor tea
Nor honey from the busy bee,
But just the hoggish hogs, i.e.,
Those measly profiteers.

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