

## CLIMATE AND SCENERY OF VICTORIA.

It has been said that the climate of Victoria may be summarized by a dry, warm summer, a bright and beautiful autumn, a wet, open winter and spring; although the occasional severe winters dispel all faith in uniformity. Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, is situated at the south-east of Vancouver Island, where there is a sheet of water like the mouth of a river, winding picturesquely for about half a mile, when it opens and forms the harbor. The city covers a large extent of undulating ground, gradually sloping toward the harbor. To the south, between the city and the sea is Beacon Hill, which is set apart for a public park; it is covered with pine and oak trees, reminding the English immigrant of some privileged spot in his far-away home. On emerging from beneath their shade, the stranger is amazed at the beauty of the scene; the foreground is a fine, open space, with a mound some hundred feet high in the centre, round which is a carriage drive a mile in length. The eye rests but for a moment on the foreground, notwithstanding its attractive undulating beauties, for the range of the Olympia Mountain skyward breasts the horizon, some forty miles across the Fuca Straits. These huge mountains raise their snow-capped heads high into the clear blue sky, while their base is lost in dark and deep ravines, casting their shadows on the water, and thus apparently lessening the distance across the straits. The continuation of the harbor extends some miles above the city, winding in graceful turns to a gorge over which is a bridge. This continuation or reach, being sheltered from the winds, its clear and placid waters reflect the hues of the verdant banks; and as the boats of pleasure seekers or picnic parties smoothly glide upon its polished surface, the occupants dreamily contemplate the spiritual reflections of the leafy shore. The memory of a few hours spent in this lovely spot leaves an impression upon the mind which lasts forever. It shines out amidst the gloomy haze of hardships and rough trials of life in a colony, and makes the heart grateful to the God of nature for these touches of light and purity in the picture of life.

## THE KOOTENAY SMELTER.

The Kootenay, B. C., Smelting and Trading Syndicate smelter here was the scene of considerable stir this week. On Monday, fires were started in the furnace, and for two days following the firing continued. Then the furnace was closed below, it being heated, and tons of bar lead thrown into it, and, soon after the ore, charcoal, coke, limestone, sand etc., were shovelled into the cauldron of fire. Since that time, this shovelling process has been continued day and night. The air from the bellows helped the fierce fire, and, on Thursday, the first bullion was drawn from the big crucible. The "slag" also flowed freely, and Dr. Campbell was covered with smiles, sweat and perspiration, when he told a *Star* representative, with evident satisfaction, that there was the first slag drawn from a

smelter in British Columbia, an evidence that all was going well.

As was stated in the *Star* last week, the ore being treated carries a high percentage of zinc, 15 per cent., more than can be safely counted on to run. Friday was looked upon as the critical time, when, if the ores were not going to run freely, they would "freeze" and the fires would be blown out. The ore continued to run, however, and, at the time of writing, smoke ascended from the smelter stack and nearly a dozen men were kept busy feeding and attending to the furnace.

The smelter was thronged with visitors, and numerous pieces of bullion and slag were taken away as souvenirs of the first output of the Kootenay smelter.—*Star*, July 25.

## THE BEST WAY TO VENTILATE.

Eight persons out of ten will endeavor to rid a room of its noxious gases by making an outlet for the air near the top of the enclosed space. The result is that the room is cooled, but the impurities remain practically where they were. The reason is this: As the air of a room is heated, it rises, but the impure gases, being generally heavier than the ordinary air, settle to the bottom of the room. A great amount of harm has been done, in schoolrooms particularly, by lowering the upper sashes in windows, thus causing cold drafts upon the overheated heads of the pupils. A room is best ventilated when the heavy and impure air is drawn gradually away from the lower part of the room through an opening into a chimney, the heated walls of which cause an upward current. An open fireplace is thus one of the best ventilators known. When this is not convenient, an opening covered by a grate should be made in the chimney near the floor. Low rooms frequently become so overheated as to require an outlet near the top, but this should be used simply to cool the room, not to ventilate it. In close buildings occupied by animals, ventilation can be secured by a close shaft six or more inches square, according to the size of the room, extending from within about twelve inches of the floor up through the roof of the building. The wind blowing across the top of this will cause an upward current, which will draw off the impure air.

Interesting experiments can be made by testing the effectiveness of various kinds of ventilation. Let the doors of a room be closed to keep out drafts; then with delicate tissue paper cut in long strips and held by one end, or with a lighted candle, note the outward current of air through an opening near the floor into a heated chimney, or from the room into an open fire. Note also the outward current of the upper air when a window is lowered, and at the same time the downward rush of cold air to the floor near the window. If a sleeping room has been closed all night, as too many sleeping rooms are, go out into the pure air for fifteen minutes; then go back into the closed room and note the unpleasant change. The first seeds of disease are too often sown in unventilated bedrooms.

There are five prosperous colonies of Mormons in Mexico.

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BUSINESS MAN.

It is a good plan for every business man to use printed stationery in carrying on his correspondence, no matter how large or how small may be his trade. Most merchants do this, but now and then a letter is received having nothing but the chirography of the writer to indicate his name and place of business. When name and address are written plainly, which is done in the great majority of cases, they can of course be readily deciphered without the supplementary work of the printer, but the fact will not be disputed that the writing of many persons cannot always be read easily by those unfamiliar with it. When words in the body of a letter are ambiguous, they can usually be deciphered without great difficulty by examining them in relation to the context, but such a key is not obtainable in an attempt to read the name. A printed note head makes the name plain, looks business-like and the cost is insignificant in proportion to the benefit derived. This is a cheap mode of advertising that dealers should not neglect to improve.

Enterprising business houses make it a point to preserve all correspondence. Letters written are copied in books provided for that purpose, while communications received are filed systematically for future reference, in case they should be wanted. The wisdom and necessity of this policy are exemplified every day. The memory of a correspondent is at fault. He feels sure that the terms of a contract have not been complied with, that he ordered something different to what he received. A reference to his letters corrects the defect in his memory and convinces him of his error. If the letter has been destroyed it may be impossible to make a patron believe that he is mistaken, and the careless business man may be compelled to choose between the unpleasant alternative of losing the trade of a good customer or yielding to an unjust demand. Few letters may ever be required for perusal after they have been answered, but when a man does want an old letter, he wants it. So it pays to give close and exact attention to the preserving and filing correspondence.—*Ex.*

The United States have 1,000,000 miles of telegraph wires.

The implement dealers of Manitoba are anticipating an immense business this season. If the hopes of the farmers, based on present prospects, are realized, the dealers will scarcely have enough stock on hand to supply the demand for binders and twine. One dealer said, recently: "The farmers are extremely hopeful this year, and we will not have to push trade to clear out our stock. All the implement firms in the city have as many machines spoken for as they can supply, and it is the same with the provincial agencies. With regard to binding twine, we have both the Canadian and American factories to draw from now, and there is not likely to be a serious shortage, as the firms who handle that article will be prepared to meet the demand in view of the large harvest promised, though an unusually large amount of twine will be required if the crops mature successfully."