

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL.

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY AT VICTORIA, B. C.

SUBSCRIPTION - - \$1.00 PER YEAR.

Advertising Rates on Application.

Address all communications to
THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL,
Victoria, B. C.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1891.

TO OUR READERS.

ENCOURAGED by the reception which THE HARBOR LIGHT has met from the people, the publishers have determined to still further enlarge their field, and to accomplish this it is believed that a name more significant than THE HARBOR LIGHT is desirable. Therefore, hereafter the name of this paper will be THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL. In the future this paper will publish a weekly retail market report. This will make the VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL an invaluable visitor to every household in this city. It might here be stated that nearly all the literary work of this paper will be by contribution, and is not supposed to voice wholly the sentiments of the editor, but rather those of the contributor. As has been intimated, the paper will be enlarged to twice its present size as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

IN OUR LAST ISSUE, we called attention to the fact that in Canada, as in every other of the great commonwealths into which the Anglo-Saxon race is divided, the people are turning their attention to the question of taxation, its effects upon commercial intercourse between ourselves and our Southern neighbors, its bearings upon the relations of the citizen to the State, and of one citizen in the State toward every other. Taxation in Canada, as in every other English-speaking country at this day, may be aptly described as a hybrid system, being a combination of two separate and distinct ideas, each representing opposing schools of economic thought. The Pitt system of indirect taxation collected upon imports, exports, excise and licenses, and the direct taxation

advocated by J. Stuart Mill, levied upon real and personal property. The first we have no hesitation in denouncing as pernicious and unjust, wherever and however applied, and the good effects of the latter are largely nullified because of a misconception as to when and how it should be applied. The system of indirect taxation we denounce because it was first called into existence, and is still maintained for the purpose of concealing from those who pay it the amount of their contributions to a revenue of such proportions as no intelligent people would submit to under the direct system without the clearest evidence that they received full value in return. Because of the enormous and unnecessary expense of its collection, of its necessitating the maintenance of an army of men in semi-idleness, or, what perhaps is worse, in espionage of their fellow-citizens, its placing at the disposal of partisan governments a patronage temptingly efficient for the purposes of corrupt politicians, its setting up a standard of justice which has no foundation in the higher ethical law, making that a crime which in itself is not only not a crime, but a virtue, its interfering with honest industry in its efforts to obtain a fair and equitable exchange for its products, because it begets in the minds even of its advocates a contempt for the law itself—where is the defender of the system who will not, when opportunity presents itself and self interest points the way, sneak some dutiable article through, in defiance of the customs regulations, with scarcely a twinge of conscience—and because it places before men in a peculiarly tempting form inducements to commit fraud and perjury.

And not only is the indirect system wrong in principle, but, as naturally must follow, it is unjust and hurtful in practice. It affords to those engaged in manufacturing an enhanced market by quite or nearly the amount of duty levied, by restricting competition from abroad, thus enabling them by combination at home to keep up prices to the tariff line. The advocates of the system claims for this arrangement that the manufacturer shares his increased prosperity with his employees, by paying better wages, which he is enabled to do solely on account of the tariff;

but the falsity of this contention appears in the fact that employers pay, not what they are able to pay, but what the labor market compels them to pay, and as importations of laborers are not subject to duty, gives employers a privilege in buying their services that is denied to those who must buy their productions.

This system of taxation operates adversely to men who begin business with small capital, increasing their difficulties at a time when they are least able to cope with them. The man who goes into business under any system of tariff taxation must have not only money to buy goods with, but money to pay duties with, and, as has been shown, this is true whether his goods are manufactured at home or abroad, and as small credits are limited to the limits of the law for their collection, the man lacking capital must buy at home. By thus limiting the power and opportunity of small capital, and as a consequence the number of those engaged in trade, the system tends to create a monopoly and its consequent effects. The advantages of this arrangement to business men of capital they clearly understand.

One of the speakers at the opera house in the last election campaign made the statement that Victoria was at one time a free port, and that during that time the city was flooded with cheap goods, people buying what they wanted almost at wholesale rates on board ship in the harbor even before they were landed. The speaker asked the question: "Who was it that kicked against this thing until it was done away with?" and answered it himself: "Why our own merchants circulated a petition praying that the duties be again imposed," with the result that the prayer of the petition was granted and the people of Victoria were no longer pestered with very cheap goods. This champion of tariff taxation, himself a merchant, made no claim that the authors of this petition were actuated by other than selfish motives. They saw in the imposition of duties an agency for placing the trade of the city in their hands at an enhanced profit, and of course were eager to employ it. But the merchants of Victoria form a very small