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BASEBALL GROUNDS TO BE BEST ON COAST

Gang of Men at Work Repairing Grandstand and Grounds

That the Victoria baseball team will have one of the best ball grounds on the Pacific coast is the intention of the management of the club, which was decided upon at a recent meeting, and with this end in view the officials have already obtained an expert groundsman, who is at present at work engaged in smoothing out the rough spots and levelling the entire field.

A large staff of men are engaged on this work, and it is expected that the grounds will be in fair condition next Sunday and in perfect condition when the first match of the season is played on May 9. It is expected that Premier McBride will be asked to pitch the first ball of the year at this game and that the premier will consent.

Besides the levelling and rolling of the ground a hose is being continually played on the diamond, and a fine coat of grass will be in evidence when the first game is called. The management have forbidden all athletes from playing on the Oak Bay field during the remainder of the season particularly the football players, although an exception may be made to accommodate the lacrosse men at practise. The junior football game between the championship of the province will have to be played elsewhere as a result of this ruling.

It is also the intention of the management to make extensive repairs to the grand stand and the bleachers, and the wire netting in front of the stand will be renewed and a perfect protection afforded for the ball loving public from foul balls. This work will be started immediately, and will also be finished when the signal to "play ball" is announced by the premier on May 9.

The next practise of the team will be held on Sunday, and it is predicted that a larger turnout than last Sunday will be on hand to answer to the roll call. Plummer, the star second baseman, arrived yesterday from Omaha, and will turnout at this practise. Plummer has a fine record, and has played on several of the teams in the Eastern leagues, but migrated to the West to follow his profession last year. He is going into business in the city, and will be a fixture here.

BRITISH OPINION

Mr. Redmond's speech in the House of Commons last night, proposing a resolution in favor of Home Rule, gave rise (says the London Morning Post) to an instructive debate. The avowed purpose of his motion was to enable "all parties to find their bearings." The debate did not issue in the way hoped for by Mr. Redmond. Neither the Government nor the Opposition rose to the occasion. Mr. Birrell, repudiating the theory of the "mandate" on which the Government has based so much erratic legislation and making a present to the Opposition of the electioneering advantage, argued that statesmen were not able to dictate the subjects on which the country would pronounce judgment at a future general election. He would only say that the Liberal party would remain strong advocates of Home Rule, waiting for the Nationalists "to make it perfectly clear what their proposals are." Most men will agree that the demands of the full colonial status is a sufficiently explicit substitute for a detailed plan. But Mr. Birrell touched a vital point when, alluding to the Unionist rally on tariff reform, he asked how Ireland was to come into this "great idea." Unionists could have desired no better opening for showing how tariff reform fits in with the problems of national life. It is unnecessary to point out how the Irish agriculturalists would benefit as producers by having some degree of preference in the United Kingdom against all over-sea competitors, foreign or colonial. But from a Unionist standpoint the greatest gain of all would be that Irishmen would feel that the Union did not mean economic disaster, but salvation. As in the self-governing dominions, a moderatelly protective tariff would prove the most potent instrument for welding discordant provinces or jealous races into one nation. History shows that, not protection, but free trade has coincided with the depopulation of Ireland. Unionists have done much to remedy the economic evil of the old agrarian system. It remains for them to complete their work through the automatic influence of the great reform to which they are committed.

London Daily Mail.—Yesterday's debate in the House of Commons on Mr. Redmond's resolution, instead of resulting in the triumph of Home Rule, may be said to have ushered in its funeral obsequies. The Government decorously protested goodwill, but they hurried the undesirable corpse—with their blessings—into the hearse. Mr. Birrell pronounced their final decision in a cloud of vague words from which two points emerged. The first is that the present Parliament will waste no more time upon Home Rule Bills. The second is that Home Rule will not be the issue of the next general election. The question is thus buried for ten years, which for all practical purposes means eternity. Mr. Birrell protests that he is governing according to Irish ideas. The popular pastime of the rural districts has lately been cattle-driving, law and order has in many counties ceased to exist, property is a sinecure, efficiency is secured by dismissing Sir H. Plunkett from the post where he labored to serve the Irish peasant, and replacing him with a politician. The Irish in themselves are a simple, generous, loving people, but, if they really desire more of this condition of things, they must be determined to commit national suicide. That the demand for Home Rule is dying was shown by the tone of the Irish speeches yesterday, which no longer rang with the old fervor or conviction. John Bull is still abused, but even the Nationalists are beginning to realise that Ireland will have to live in the Empire, and that the British people are neither to be bored nor bullied into setting up "the curse of dual government" in the United Kingdom.

The Daily Chronicle describes Mr. Birrell's speech as "a powerful appeal to the Irish Nationalists" to which they would do well to respond. If Home Rule is to be prominently before the electorate, the move is (according to the Chronicle) with the Irish Nationalists. Let them make it clear, as Mr. Birrell suggested yesterday, "what their proposals are and what they would accept." Mr. Birrell mentioned as one point specially needing elucidation for the sake of converting "the predominant partner" the proposed safeguards for the minority in Ireland. Another reason in support of Mr. Birrell's plea is supplied by Mr. Redmond's acceptance of Mr. Simon's amendment. It will be remembered that in 1898 Sir William Harcourt opposed Mr. Redmand's Home Rule resolution because it did not reserve the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament. Last night Mr. Simon moved to add that reservation. Mr. Redmond accepted the words, though he regarded them as superflous. Everyone who remembers the Home Rule controversies of former years knows that this is not a mere matter of words, but that it goes deep into the question. It becomes therefore all the more desirable that by the production of an actual scheme English opinion should be reassured on this vital point. Last night's debate was interesting, and may be very important for the future of English politics. But we cannot help regretting that, instead of discussing abstract resolutions about the importanc eof leaving Ireland to deal with Irish affairs, the Nationalists had not accepted Mr. Birrell's Bill, under which by this time they might have actually been administering many of those affairs.

The Daily News says:—Yesterday the House of Commons, by an overwhelming majority, affirmed its allegiance to the principle of Irish self-government. There are those who are still living in the memory of twenty-five years ago, and who still are frightened at the idea of incorporating a demand for Irish self-government in the active Liberal programme. We believe that these fears are groundless. If Ireland has changed in a generation, so has England. The new generation may have less hopes of this change; it has certainly less fear of it. The cattle-driving of the autumn was used for an organized attempt to work up a new anti-Irish agitation. The whole thing failed deplorably. The people refused to be moved. They are no longer afraid of a self-governing Ireland being revealed as a menace to the safety of the country. Loyalty has everywhere proved itself a legitimate child of freedom—in South Africa, in the Transvaal, and throughout the Empire. No kind of practical alternative was offered by the Tories' speakers, except the old dolorous round of wretchedness, "strong government," repression, coercion, the ruling of Ireland as a Russian province in the interests of England rather than in the interests of its own development. The system has been judged and condemned by history and all the world. No Colonial Premier has been persuaded to defend it. An "Imperial Senate" would bestow Home Rule on Ireland tomorrow. It is the only way out of the position everywhere recognized as impossible.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, during his residence in this city as lieutenant-governor, took a special pleasure in experimenting in the cultivation of walnuts, and on more than one occasion he drew public attention to the field which lay open to British Columbians in this line of horticulture. We are reminded of Sir Henri's efforts in this direction by observing that in a recent bulletin issued by the Portland, Oregon, chamber of commerce there is an interesting article on walnut culture in Oregon. It will be surprising to many people to learn how extensively the matter has been taken up in practical fashion. Says the Portland Evening Telegram:

Considerable tracts of land in Western Oregon are now cultivated to the growth of young walnut orchards. Expert growers from the walnut districts of California declare that we have all desirable conditions; and, as we know, from the record of that crop in the Golden State, where conditions are favorable, it is always a profitable enterprise. Walnut money in California is among the easiest money made in a horticultural way. When the trees are at maturity there is less labor and less expense than is required for almost any other tree crop; and, as the article in the Chamber of Commerce bulletin points out, the product is not perishable, if properly cured, and may be held without loss for a favorable market. There are no cold storage charges nor depreciation in quality. It is the prediction of The Telegram that the interest now awakened in walnut culture will eventually result in the development of an additional and splendid source of wealth for this section of the state. Throughout the entire western section of Oregon, from Southern Oregon to the Columbia River, there is an abundance of excellent land to be obtained at a low price, comparatively speaking, which is well adapted to walnut culture. Thousands of acres of such land can be made profitably productive, a fact that needs to be advertised. In this matter of horticultural profit-making Oregon cannot have too many strings to her bow.

Possibly Mr. Kipling didn't mean to do it, but he has succeeded admirably in rubbing the untamed press of Canada the wrong way. The concensus of opinion amongst the newspaper men of the broad Dominion who have spent some considerable time in a study of conditions in this country is that Mr. Kipling simply don't know what he is talking about when he sets out to tell all about Canada and her people after regaling himself with some hasty car-window impressions. The Toronto Star says, in the course of an editorial article:

When Mr. Kipling has time to let things simmer; when he nurses his inspiration; when he spins a tale because he has a tale to spin, for the pleasure he takes in it, and the pleasure he gives to others; when he deals in his own choice wares, romance, sentiment, human nature, and a plot like a golden thread to string them together; when he does not take himself seriously as the chief weaver of Empire; when, in a word, he is the old Rudyard Kipling back at the thing he does better than anyone else in the world, then, no doubt, the straight-eyed youth would not dare to jest. He would be dumb in the presence of so much excellence. But Rudyard Kipling hitched to a political party; Rudyard Kipling regaling himself with hasty car-window impressions of the few Canadian newspapers preaching the sort of thing Rudyard Kipling favors; Rudyard Kipling talking about a business he knows very little about; Rudyard Kipling, by those very slow-brooding qualities which make him great in his own line, showing his unfitness for the quick, centre-fire thinking of the daily press; such a Rudyard Kipling, we submit, was more than the straight-eyed youth could take with a straight face. We give the interview as it is set down. Mr. Kipling has been finding fault with our prose.

"We know that," said the straight-eyed youth. "Remember we haven't the sea all around us like you. The postal rates to England have only just been lowered. It will all come right."

The straight-eyed youth was good at a josh. He handed that out to Rudyard, so far as we can learn, without batting an eyelid. And Rudyard Kipling, wrapped up in his own importance, didn't see the laugh the straight-eyed youth had up his sleeve. We should like to meet the straight-eyed youth and shake hands with him. Those straight Canadian eyes of his seem to have seen through Rudyard Kipling.

It is only in recent years that we have commenced to hear it urged from scientific sources that the common, ordinary housefly was a menace to mankind. It had long been the popular belief that the tiny creatures, while a source of annoyance in many ways, wer doing a very necessary scavenging work in ridding the air of houses of the presence of smaller insects which were much more harmful. But now we are told by people who ought to know that flies disseminate disease and ought to be exterminated. Physicians of Seattle have sounded a warning, advising citizens to prosecute a campaign against the housefly. In this connection, the Post-Intelligencer says:

There are few more harmful insects than the house fly, and they do no good whatever. The fly is not even a decent scavenger, for he will scatter more filth than he consumes. The coming of warmer days will mark the fly's advent in the home, and the housewife should be on her guard against him. Of course screens will keep flies out of the home; but there is a better way of combatting this winged disease-bearer. Flies feed on filth. They cannot live in a perfectly clean environment. Keep the house and the yard perfectly clean, and the fly will either starve to death or desert the place. Cleanliness is the deadly enemy of this pest. The citizens of Seattle ought to make special efforts during the summer to exterminate the house fly. They are dangerous. Chicago has set a good example in this matter, as New Orleans did in the case of the yellow fever mosquito. Moreover, Seattle has been doing good work in the popular effort to rid the community of rats, and the city can very profitably devote some time to the extermination of the house fly. The fly is largely a home problem, for if the fly can be kept out of the home, the power of the insect for harm will be very greatly restricted.

CHARTER WAS CANCELLED

Loudon Hill Lost Valuable Fixture by Delay at the Quartermaster Drydock

Unable to complete repairs to her rudder and the holds in time, the wheat charter of the British bark Loudon Hill was cancelled on Tuesday. The vessel was fixed by Balfour, Guthrie & Co., several months ago at the union rate of 27 shillings a pence to the United Kingdom. The loss of this charter means a heavy loss to the owners.

Two weeks ago last Friday the Loudon Hill arrived in tow from Vancouver, B. C. where she had discharged general cargo from Liverpool. While on the British Columbia side the vessel had extensive repairs made to her rigging. Upon arrival here it was decided to send her to Quartermaster to drydock and have her steering gear repaired.

Under the charter party the vessel had ten days in which to make ready for loading. However, she was delayed at Quartermaster, a number of steamers having prior claims on the dock. Consequently she did not return to Tacoma until Monday night and workmen are still engaged on her. Under the circumstances the charterers declined to take the ship at the rates for which she was fixed.

IN CHAMBERS

Question of Territorial Jurisdiction of County Courts is Raised

(From Thursday's Daily.)

In chambers yesterday H. D. Helmcken, K. C., obtained a temporary writ of prohibition, returnable next Tuesday, forbidding the county court judge of Vancouver from proceeding with the trial of the case of Walkem & Co. vs. Henderson. The question involved is one of the territorial jurisdiction of county courts.

The facts appear to be that the plaintiffs, through a traveling agent, sold the defendant, who lives at Duncans, some machinery, payment on which has been refused because of its alleged failure to conform with the contract. The contract was made and signed at Duncans, and delivery of the machinery taken there, consequently, according to Mr. Helmcken's contention, the county court judge at Vancouver, where the plaintiffs reside, cannot try it, his position being that the case must come before Judge Harrison, the county court judge for the Nanaimo district. The question will he finally settled next Tuesday on application to make the rule nisi absolute.

On the application of Mr. Goward, Mr. Justice Martin appointed W. Peden guardian of Janet Peden.

OAK BAY BOAT CLUB TO HOLD BIG REGATTA

Formal Opening of New Club Will Take Form of Novel Programme

The first regatta of the season will be held under the auspices of the new Oak Bay Boat club on May 9 at Oak Bay and the management promise that this regatta which will constitute the formal opening will be one of the best that has been held in local waters.

The big feature of the regatta will be a motor boat race open to all motor boats in the city which will start from the inner Victoria wharf and finish at the club house at Oak Bay. Other features will be elaborate decorations and the presence of one of the best bands in the city to furnish music for the occasion.

An exceptionally fine programme of events will be presented although these have not been decided upon as yet the officers of the club say that they will include every kind of race in which local boats can participate and will be open to all of the local boating organizations. The arrangements have been left in the hands of a committee of five consisting of Messrs. Newton, Cook, Woods, Johnston and Kennah.

There was a large attendance of members of the club at the meeting held last night at the Oak Bay hotel and much important business was transacted. It was finally settled that the new club house would be completed by day labor and the contract of Messrs. Moore and Wittington was accepted.

A new float has been purchased by the club and boats will be rented from here until such time as the boat house is completed. J. H. Brown was appointed as caretaker for the season and will assume his duties immediately.

The by-laws, as submitted by the committee were thoroughly gone into and adopted with but slight amendments. These, of course, will be subject to the approval of the Oak Bay council. C. E. Baxter signed the lease in the name of the club and will appear at the council meeting on next Monday night to represent the association.

The club have issued fifty more debentures at ten dollars each for the particular benefit of the residents of Oak Bay and all those who are interested in the success of the club and intend purchasing these should communicate with the president or secretary.

Henry Young & Company

Henry Young & Company

Price Surgery for Friday and Saturday

Clear Up of Odd Lines in Ladies' Hosiery

LADIES' BLACK CASHMERE HOSE, 8 1-2 and 9 1-2 inch, only, regular, 40c pair. Friday and Saturday.....25¢

LADIES' 2|1 RIB CASHMERE HOSE, 9 and 9 1-2 inch, only, regular, 45c pair. Friday and Saturday, 3 pairs for.....$1.00

LADIES' CASHMERE HOSE, with Lace Ankle, 8 1-2 and 9 1-2, only, regular, 60c. Friday and Saturday, pair.....35¢

LADIES' BLACK LISLE HOSE, with Vertical Rib, sizes 9 and 9 1-2 inch, regular 50c pair. Friday and Saturday.....35¢

A stitch in time saves nine, but a purchase here saves money. Sagacious ones always watch our ad. for Friday and Saturday Bargains. These prices on good Hosiery will make them stop to wonder if dollars are as elastic as stockings.

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INVITE OUTSIDE CREWS FOR BIG REGATTA HERE

J. B. A. A. Active in Having Scullers Take Part in the Civic Celebration

That the regatta will be one of the features of the civic celebration on May 25 and 26 goes without saying and one of the big attractions at the regatta will in all probability be the four oared race between crews from this city, Vancouver and Seattle.

Coincident with the public meeting that was held in the city hall last night was another held at the J.B.A.A. when it was decided that if the celebration was decided upon with the regatta as one of the attractions that the club would invite four oared crews to race here on the day in which the regatta will take place. The crews that will be invited will be a crew from the University of Washington, Seattle.

One of the prominent officials of the J.B.A.A. last night stated that there was no doubt but that both of these invitations would be accepted and that some of the finest races that have been seen here in a long time would take place. So enthusiastic is the management of the association for the coming season that the probable candidates for both of these crews will be asked to take their first spin tonight on James Bay when it is likely that the two crews will be seen in action for the first time this season.

It is stated from Seattle that an invitation has been received there from the secretary of the J.B.A.A. asking the manager of rowing at the University of Washington if a race can be arranged between the women crews of Victoria and the university at the time of the big regatta in Victoria on May 25. This would be a four-oared race in barges, as neither of the women's crews have gathered the temerity as yet to take chances in the light shells.

No reply has been made by Manager Albers to the local rowing enthusiasts' latest proposition, but he is making a quiet investigation of the matter to find out if the university co-eds care to row their British cousins and if the faculty of the university would approve of such a contest.

One of the women oarsmen at the university, when asked yesterday what she thought of the idea, grew very enthusiastic and said: My! Wouldn't it be great fun to go up to Victoria when the male crew goes and row against those English girls. I believe we could win from them, too, as we are in good shape, having been in training nearly all year, and I understand they are just getting started up there. I don't see why it isn't just as proper to have a race of this kind as it is to have international tennis tournaments, in which the women are always such a necessary and conspicuous part. Besides this, if the men should lose their race it would give us a chance to retrieve the day's loss and save the reputation of the university."

CANADIAN HORSES ON PARADE IN NEW YORK

Fine Animals From Southern States, England and Canada

New York, April 22.—Horse owners of Kentucky and other states in the south and west and of Canada and England, as well as those of the metropolitan district, will compete for first honors in the seventeenth annual horse show, opening last night. The show will be continued today and Thursday evenings.

An innovation is the class for horses suitable for chargers and officers' mounts to be judged by Capt. Martin Grimsgeard of the Norwegian cavalry.

This year for the first time, on account of the large entry the saddle horse classes are expected to attract the committee has thought best to eliminate all but one of the harness classes. This single class will be for a challenge cup valued at $200 to be competed for by gig horses. It is the second contest for this trophy which was won last year by Miss Emily H. Bedford's champion high-stepper, Hildreth. There are eight saddle classes, which include one for the best trained animal, to be judged for conformation, style and action, and by way of going at the walk, trot and canter.

There will be three classes for ponies under saddle, one being for branded ponies, and an additional class for cobs up to carrying 200 pounds, not exceeding fifteen hands. The cobs are to be judged carrying full weight. A novel class will be for trotters under saddle, to be judged in two divisions, one of fifteen hands and over up to carrying 100 pounds, and the other for horses 15.2 hands and over up to carrying 200 pounds. As these horses are to be speeded in the ring, it is expected that this will be an entertaining exhibition.

In the classes for polo ponies the riders must be members of the Polo association and the entries must be members of the same body. There will be two novice classes and a combination class, in which the horses will be first driven, and then changed to saddle and ridden. A seven-foot water jump, with a hurdle, which will be surrounded by bushes and present a natural appearance, suggestive of an obstacle to be met with riding across country, is to supplement the eight ring jumps in the judging of the jumping classes. One of these classes will be a Corinthian trial, in which the horses must be ridden by members of some recognized polo or hunt club.

A class for high-school horses, educated in the gaits of the Vienna riding school, is on the card, and the entries will include one horse especially imported from the continent and not before exhibited at this style of equestrianism at an American show.

LADIES FOR SEATTLE

Fair Hockeyists Will Meet Team From University of Washington on Saturday

The Victoria ladies' hockey team will go to Seattle Friday evening to play the University of Washington ladies' hockey team on the university grounds on Saturday. The locals are in splendid condition and are confident that they will be able to lower the colors of the Americans.

Yesterday a fine practise was indulged in at the Oak Bay grounds and the ladies never showed better form than at this turnout when they exhibited good combination and great speed.

This is the way the team will line up: Goal, Miss J. Vincent; full backs, Misses Love and Dalby; half backs, Misses O. Vincent, Nason, Crook; forwards, Misses Hall, Nicholles, Raymond, Lubbe, Hiscocks.

How Much Do You Wish to Pay for a Spring Suit?

$15 to $35 is the Fit-Reform range of prices. $15 marks the lowest—and $35 marks the highest—that any man should pay. Fit-Reform Suits at $15 mean reliable fabrics, handsome patterns, perfect fit and absolutely correct styles. Fit-Reform Suits at $35 are the finest that Fit-Reform makes—and that means the finest in Canada.

No matter what price you pay, the Fit-Reform trademark guarantees satisfaction. 312

Special Shipment of Easter Suits Just Received

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Women on Railway Work in Denmark

Denmark now accepts women as railroad employees of all grades for outside work, such as guards, ticket inspectors, porters, and even station masters. Women in Denmark have for some time past worked among men in repairing gangs on the state telegraph service. One may see occasionally girls nimbly climbing up telegraph poles to effect repairs, and they do their work satisfactorily and no longer excite public curiosity.

Human Hair Exports from Japan.

The British commercial attache at Yokohama has written a report on the subject of the Japanese export trade in human hair, which is an industry of recent growth in Japan. The total export in 1904 amounted to a little over $1,000, but in 1906 the total reached $60,000. Although this rapid rate of progress was not maintained during 1907, yet the industry was well sustained. The hair exported is all black in color and rather coarse and consists almost entirely of the combings of women of the lower classes. A French brush manufactory at Osaka exports large quantities to Paris, where the hair is made up into wigs and other articles, which find a ready market.

School Gardens in Texas.

The school garden system of San Antonio, Tex., is on an established practical basis. It is said that city has more gardens attached to its schools than any place of its size in the world. There are 949 of these cultivated plots attached to the twenty-nine public schools. The gardens are in charge of school superintendents, but the work of planting, cultivating, and harvesting the products of each is carried on by the pupils of the school to which the garden belongs. The gardens vary from one-tenth to one-quarter of an acre. It is estimated that the total acreage is more than 100, or equal to that of a good sized farm.

The boys of the schools take a great pride in their gardens. The teachers declare that since the gardens were established the boys are much more industrious in their studies, that they learn more readily, and that they all show evidence of material improvement in their health and physical condition.

The climate of San Antonio is peculiarly adapted to the operation of the school garden system. The work can be carried on during practically the whole school term. Certain vegetables can be grown successfully during the fall and winter. The spring gardens are planted early in February, and the products are matured and harvested by the time the school term ends in June. An enormous quantity of vegetables is grown. The boys take such a keen interest in the work that they give little time to playing the games that usually consume a good part of the time of young students. There is much rivalry among the different schools over the gardens.

Text books on agriculture now are used in the public schools of San Antonio. The youths are given a basic training in farming and gardening, and are enabled to put their knowledge to practical use in the gardens that are provided for them. Energetic boys who become interested in the work do not confine their labors to the school garden, but many of them have converted unsightly back yards and vacant lots at their homes into cultivated plots.

Potato Patches Again in Favor

Gov. Pingree's potato patch suggestion for the hard times of 1894 is, says the Springfield Republican, having a revival under the similar conditions of unemployment now prevailing. Chicago public officials are urging that people possessed of vacant plots in the city throw them open to the unemployed for cultivation this season.