

The Colonist.

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FRAUDULENT FLOTATIONS

A resident of this city who has recently returned from England speaks with a good deal of indignation of a number of spurious land schemes that are being placed before the British public. He says that he himself was asked by a promoter of one of them to write a report on the land, and when he said he did not, for he had never seen it, the promoter said that made no difference; they wanted a report from some British Columbia and they would be glad to pay for it. The Victorian sent him about his business without anything resembling even a verbal expression of opinion, except as to himself.

We do not know just what can be done to prevent this sort of thing. Unscrupulous promoters usually are well advised how to keep themselves out of the clutches of the law. The only thing that seems possible is to educate the investing public, and, of course, a British Columbia newspaper cannot hope to reach many people in the United Kingdom. The British press could do much, but we have seen in London newspapers of standing at least one advertisement of a British Columbia flotation that no responsible journal in this province could be persuaded to publish. We appreciate, of course, the inability of the business department of a British paper to pronounce intelligently upon the good faith of advertisers presenting flotations of properties six thousand miles away. The editorial departments can, however, do something to prevent unfortunate people from parting with their money for valueless stock by warning their readers to investigate everything before buying. This ought to be done not only in the interest of the public, but also for the sake of maintaining the good name of this province.

Of good British Columbia investments there are many, and will be more, and there is not the least necessity for any person to invest his money in fraudulent propositions. If we could reach the ear of British investors generally, we should say to them: Do not buy into anything on the strength of an advertisement, but consult some trustworthy person, who will advise you as to the responsibility of the promoters and the bona-fides of what they propose.

During the next few years there is a likelihood of many proposals from this province being placed before the British public. As a rule, they will not be put out by British Columbians. It is almost safe to say that a flotation actually emanating from British Columbia, and for which British Columbians stand sponsors, is likely to be what it purports to be, and there is a good reason for this. Every man in this province who is trying to interest capital in anything in a large way wishes to make a success of the venture from the investor's standpoint, because he is sure to be looking forward to placing other things, and he wants to make a reputation for himself. He is likely, therefore, to be conservative in his statements, allowing himself a good margin for the uncertainties attending all business undertakings. The man against whom investors ought to be on their guard is the fellow to whom "everything is fish, that comes to his net," the man who is simply looking for a profit out of the flotation, and who would sell shares in a water supply in Hades if he thought people would buy them. A man with some experience in New York once said to the Colonist that anything at all in the way of company stock can be sold if well advertised, and the more ridiculous the proposition is the more readily will a certain class of people buy. Not long ago an advertisement appeared in a London paper of an alleged B. C. gold mine. If the allegations stated in the advertisement were true, the flotation was a charitable undertaking, for the public were asked to buy shares in a mine so rich that a miner with a few sticks of dynamite could blow out in the course of a couple days more gold than the stock would bring if it was all sold at the advertised price. Recently a promoter has been telling the people of the United Kingdom that he can deliver them excellent land in this province for a price per acre less than it would cost him if purchased from the crown.

The suggestion has been made that there should be a public censor of all flotations, but this is impossible for the reason that no one man can possibly express an intelligent opinion upon any considerable number of such offerings. The only thing to be done is to warn the public to investigate before buying.

ABOUT BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. W. E. Winterbourne has written a long letter to the Whistly Gazette about the province. He gives what he says is the result of his five years' experience here. He condemns the Queen Charlotte Islands and the Mainland Coast as "exceedingly wet," and all the interior as "extremely cold." He says the Kootenay country is well populated and prosperous, but the winters are "rigorous," so that people, when they have sufficient money, retire to the milder coast region. Mr. Winterbourne can know very little about a winter in the Kootenay country, or he would not call it rigorous, although perhaps his judgment is warped by the fact that he has "spent nearly twenty years in tropical and Oriental lands." We quote the following, which is really unparagonable exaggeration:

Humid as the littoral of the mainland is, it is, nevertheless, healthy; from Vancouver to Prince Rupert, the climate is the fashionable costume of the residents, but one gets used to being half fish, and there is something to talk about when the weather is fine. Sometimes there is a short spell of frost in Vancouver, and ice-skating is advertised; but it is as well to take rubber boots along. The island of Vancouver is much drier, and colder; in two out of the four winters I have spent in Victoria, we had skating for a couple of weeks; once the thermometer fell below zero.

Mr. Winterbourne is quite wrong when he says the thermometer has fallen below zero in this city during the past five years, and we have a good deal of doubt about the two weeks' skating in two years. The statement about the costume of the inhabitants is not true. It was probably intended to be funny; but Mr. Winterbourne should remember that some people have not a very well developed appreciation of humor. To add to the pleasures of life in Victoria he informs the Whistly folk that "cougars and wolves infest the woods within a few miles of this city," a statement which is calculated to deceive, for it conveys the impression that these animals are numerous near at hand and are a peril to be reckoned with, whereas not one person in 10,000 in Victoria has ever seen a cougar in the woods, much less a wolf.

Mr. Winterbourne's observations about the treatment accorded a newcomer here, who has a little money, absolutely misrepresent the situation. He says such a person will be beset by the promoters of "get-rich-quick schemes" and will soon be relieved of his money. The objection to this is that it is not true. He is also not keeping to the facts when he says it does not pay to grow strawberries here. He says land is held too high, oblivious of the fact that land values are not fixed arbitrarily, but are governed by the law of supply and demand, except, of course, in the case of subdivisions. In regard to the condition of workingmen and education, Mr. Winterbourne is very fair. It is a pity that he felt called upon to misstate climatic conditions and give the business community so bad a name.

RUSSIA AND PERSIA

Is history repeating itself in Persia? The record of that ancient kingdom shows that on more than one occasion an alien race from the North has swept over Iran and dominated it. Indeed, it is very probable that the Persians are themselves descended from a people who in the twilight of history invaded the land and subdued the ancient inhabitants. Be this as it may, the events now transpiring in that eastern land are full of interest and possibly of deep significance. A report comes of a massacre of Persians by Russians at Resht, a town situated not very far from the southwest shore of the Caspian Sea. Tabriz, where there is said to have been some fighting, is in Northern Persia, and not far from the borders of Russia. Tabriz is 350 miles from Teheran, the Persian capital, and Resht is about half that distance from it. They are both within the Russian sphere of influence, as delineated by the treaty with Great Britain, and so also is Teheran.

A telegram says there is trouble at Shiraz, arising out of the attitude of the Mullahs towards the British force sent from India. Shiraz is in Southern Persia, about 50 miles inland from the Persian Gulf. The presence of a British force there is due to the fact that this part of the kingdom is within the British sphere of influence.

THE CHINESE SITUATION

The situation, as it has developed in China, is very remarkable, and is calculated to challenge the attention of the world. The Chinese character is being revealed in a new light by the negotiations now in progress between the representatives of the imperial and revolutionary parties. The representative of the former has declared his great object to be the maintenance of a united China, and if that is brought about, either under a monarchical or republican form of government, the effect upon the world may be tremendous. Hitherto, while nominally united, China has really consisted of a number of satrapies governed by Mandarins, whose relations to the Peking authorities were

not very clearly defined. China as a consolidated and united nation has not existed for centuries and it seems very evident that the result of the revolution will be to cement the people together, even though it may be possible that much blood may be shed before that result is accomplished.

The leaders on both sides of the dispute have displayed ability of the highest order, and the rest of the world may well wonder what the consequences will be when these leaders unite in carrying out a common policy.

AN INSPIRING INCIDENT

San Francisco has a fashion of celebrating Christmas eve by appropriate singing in the streets. A despatch thus tells the story of the incident as it transpired on Sunday night:

"Oh, come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant." One hundred thousand people, singing with solemn exultation, joined last night in the Christmas hymn of faith and adoration, standing bareheaded under stars that smiled down as kindly as they did over Bethlehem nineteen centuries ago.

They sang from the city's heart, where Market, Kearney, Geary and Third streets meet, sang from the windows and the dimly visible tops of tall buildings that cluster about the square of open ground, and while they sang the traffic of the city paused until the great chorus ended in a solemn "amen."

The singing of "Adeste Fideles" came at the conclusion of the city's open celebration of Christmas eve. It followed a full programme of music rendered by a trained chorus and the members of the French Opera company, which is holding its winter season in San Francisco.

Jan Kubelik, the violinist, played to the vast audience crowding the radiating streets with a solid mass of humanity; David Bispham, the baritone, sang to them; the chorus voiced the glad Christmas carols and then the great voice of the multitude lifted the rolling melody of the hymn before the thousands separated, each to make Christmas cheer in his own particular niche in the world.

Singers and chorus occupied a low stand, raised against the looming bulk of the Examiner building, facing outward toward the intersection of the four streets and toward Lotka's fountain, the old landmark which survived the earthquake and fire, and beside which Tetrastin stood just a year ago last night to sing Christmas carols to the gathering thousands. Across the way from the stand the huge buildings which house the two other morning dailies showed lights and crowding heads in every window.

All around, other buildings, standing where the twisted ruins left by the great fire smouldered a little less than six years ago, flamed with light, every window adding its quota of humanity to the massed thousands in the street below. Overhead at all but cloudless sky was brilliant with stars, while a gentle wind from the north brought a bracing hint of the far-off snow peaks from which it had travelled.

EAST AND WEST COMPARED

The Rev. J. W. Aikins has been telling people in Toronto that it is unfair to compare the West of Canada with the East in point of temperance and morality, but that the comparison ought rather to be with the Western States. The West does not fear comparison with the East. It is possible that there is less smugness in the West than in the East; that men are more frank here in their way of living than they are there; but the man, who asserts that there is more drunkenness in our Western cities or that the social evil is more rampant than in the Eastern cities, either does not know what he is talking about or is very careless about his facts. Indeed we venture to say that when everything is taken into account, the great number of single men in the West, the sense of irresponsibility that Eastern men bring West with them, the proportion of the floating population the greater freedom with which money is expended here, the excitement of frontier life, the advantage of comparison from every point of view is with the West. We tell the Eastern critics of the West that the average standard of morality here is as high as anywhere else in the world, that our young men are just as good, our young girls just as lovable, one's family ties just as much respected, our communities just as safe and orderly as they are anywhere. We shall not deny that occasionally "bad men" temporarily here commit serious crimes, but the West is not to be judged by them any more than the East is to be judged by the serious crimes committed there. The test of the standing of a community is the average not the extreme cases, and judged in this way the West has no reason to blush in comparison with the East. Mr. Aikins to the contrary notwithstanding.

The West Coast Lumber Manufacturers association of Washington is contemplating a reduction in the cut of 1912 by 524,250,000 feet, representing 64 days' cut of the mills represented in the Association. This is a pretty serious piece of business.

Sir Donald Mann has been telling the people of San Francisco that the Canadian Northern will have steamships on the Pacific in a large way. Of course, they will. Sir William and Sir Donald will not rest content until they have put their own "girdle round the world."

Increased pay is being asked for the employees on the Dominion government telephone and telegraph lines in this province.



READ ABOUT IT

YES, READ ALL ABOUT IT, FOR IT IS THE BIGGEST PIECE OF NEWS IN THE PAPER TODAY. THE NEWS OF THE GREATEST SHOWING OF

Furniture and Housefurnishings Ever Seen in This City

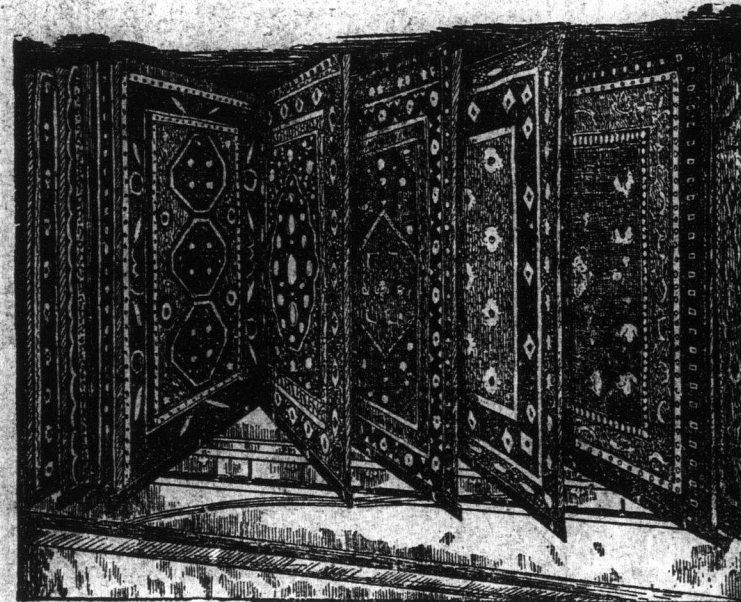
This is the time to visit our furniture department. It means much to us, but more to YOU who have needed furniture and house furnishings to buy. If there is one single thing that your home needs—or if you have a home ALL your own in mind—here is opportunity knocking at your door. Embrace it now while 'tis knocking. Hundreds of new pieces arriving daily. Come today.

Here Are a Few Pieces For The Parlor

3-Piece Mahogany Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$32.00
2-Piece Birch-Mahogany Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$75.00
2-Piece Birch-Mahogany Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$28.00
Solid Mahogany Upholstered Chair, reduced to	\$60.00
2-Piece Birch-Mahogany Parlor Suite, reduced to	\$27.50
3-Piece Birch-Mahogany Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$55.00
2-Piece Birch-Mahogany Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$15.00
2-Piece Birch-Mahogany Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$42.00
2-Piece Birch-Mahogany Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$55.00
3-Piece Parlor Suite, birch-mahogany, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$47.00
2-Piece Birch-Mahogany Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$45.00
2-Piece Birch-Mahogany Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$75.00
Solid Dull Mahogany, 3-Piece Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$95.00
Extra Large 3-Piece Birch-Mahogany Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$110.00
Solid Mahogany 3-Piece Parlor Suite, upholstered in green plush, reduced to	\$85.00
Upholstered Easy Chair, at \$34.00, reduced to	\$12.00
Chatterfield Sofa, at \$34.00, reduced to	\$75.00
Davenport Sofa, at \$34.00, reduced to	\$65.00

Morris Chairs, in splendid variety—	
In Birch-Mahogany and Early English, from \$11.00	
In Golden Oak, from \$15.00	
Luxury Chairs, in mission and turned oak, from \$55.00	
Reception Chair, in solid mahogany, upholstered in pretty green silk, \$12.50	
Reception Chair, mahogany rocker, upholstered back and seat, in pretty material, \$22.50	
Reception Chair, mahogany finish, upholstered in silk, \$18.50	
Reception Chair, mahogany, upholstered in denim, \$14.00	
Rocker to match, \$15.00	
Parlor Arm Chair, upholstered in denim, \$12.50; \$13.00 and \$15.00	
Solid Arm Chair, solid mahogany, upholstered back and seat in denim, \$37.50	
Rocker to match, \$40.00	
Parlor Arm Chair, upholstered back and seat in green denim, \$45.00	
Rocker to match, latest handsome design, \$47.50	
DIVANS	
In Mahogany finish, upholstered in denim, \$16.00	
In Mahogany finish, upholstered in denim, \$18.00	
In Mahogany finish, upholstered back and seat in silk, \$35.00	

BEAUTIFUL NEW
RUGS JUST ARRIVED.
VISIT OUR SECOND
FLOOR TODAY.
EVERYBODY WANTS
RUGS



ADVANCED SPRING
SHIPMENT ARRIVED
OWING TO THE
HEAVY SELLING.
SEE THESE
BEAUTIES JUST
OPENED UP TODAY

A Few Sizes And Prices For Your Guidance

Heavy Axminster Rugs, 9 x 12 ft.	\$28.00
Onion Axminster Rugs, 9 x 12 ft.	\$35.00
Victoria Axminster Rugs, 9 x 12 ft.	\$37.00
Body Brussels Rugs, 9 x 12 ft.	\$21.00
Tapestry Rugs, 9 x 12 ft.	\$16.00
Seamless Rugs, 9 x 12 ft.	\$17.50
Art Rugs, 9 x 12 ft.	\$15.00
Wilton Rugs, 9 x 12 ft.	\$30.00

Velvet Rugs, 9 x 12 ft.	\$27.50
Ingrain Rugs, 9 x 12 ft.	\$9.75
Smyrna Rugs, 9 x 8 ft.	\$30.00
Tapestry Carpets, sewn and laid, per yard	\$65
Brussels Carpets, sewn and laid, per yard	\$1.25
Velvet Carpets, sewn and laid, per yard	\$1.50
Axminster Carpets, sewn and laid, per yard	\$1.50

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Before the year 1911 goes, send your name and address to us and we will send you free one of our 1912 Catalogues. You will find them a great help to you when ordering by mail. Send today.

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OUR
WINDOWS

THE STORE THAT SAVES YOU MONEY

Victoria's
Popular Home
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WEILER BROS

The More You
Spend
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