

TWICE-A-WEEK TIMES

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OUR FALL FAIRS.

British Columbia is rapidly coming to her own as an agricultural and horticultural country. One has only to attend the fairs at such places as Ganges Harbor and Duncan to realize that. The people "up the line" and "over on the Island" are a most hospitable and hearty class. They welcome their visitors so cordially and enter into the spirit of their festivals with such zest and goodwill that when we think of the difference of the atmosphere at the larger shows we really feel that there is a great deal to be learned in rural communities. Still there are compensations, and when the farmers and others from Cowichan, the Islands and elsewhere come down to Victoria we think we can promise them entertainment and instruction which will more than compensate for urban indifference, coldness and aloofness. From observation and from information received from reliable sources there does not appear to be the least doubt that the provincial exhibition in Victoria, which opens to-morrow, is going to be the best of the kind ever held on the Island of Vancouver. The entry list is large and the programme of attractions extensive and varied. The work of preparation for the fair has been carried out systematically almost throughout the year by Secretary Smart, and the capable and energetic committee behind him. The weather promises to be all that could be desired throughout the week. Consequently the prospects are quite cheering.

A determined effort is to be made for the first time in the history of the exhibition to place it upon a self-sustaining basis. There is no reason in the world, apparently, why this desire should not be realized. The public of Victoria has been very generous in its support of the show and of kindred institutions because of their loyalty to the city and their desire to keep her well in the front in all important civic enterprises. But there are limits to the good nature of our people even if their purses in these plucky times of prosperity are well filled. The provincial fair, stripped of all extravaganzas in management, ought to be capable of producing receipts equal to expenditures, and with the cordial co-operation of the people of the municipality and the population of the surrounding country, we look forward hopefully to a record attendance in keeping with a record entry list.

GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

Ald. Fell proposes to take the Victoria water works out of the hands of the city council, of which he is a more or less valuable member, and deliver the concern into the hands of a commission. We do not think Ald. Fell can be quite serious in his proposition. If he is, he ought to go a step farther, and move for the abolition of the city council and to place the entire control of civic affairs in the hands of a commission. There is unquestionably a general consensus of opinion that the Victoria water works have not in the past been managed in a particularly bright and business-like manner. There has been bungling and lack of foresight for possible requirements. But public opinion is just as emphatic on the subject of the general management of civic affairs. If it would be well to have the water works managed by a commission, it would be equally well, in the light of experience, to have a commission appointed to take over the complete management of municipal matters. More than one such suggestion has been made by men high in authority, but fortunately of limited powers, and we do not know that it has ever been received with marked favor. The people have preferred popular control, with all its admitted limitations, to government by a tribunal arbitrarily appointed.

Ald. Fell would, if he is in earnest, designate as the "common people" of all control over the water works. His commission would consist of three persons, one selected by the provincial government, another by the Chief Justice of the province, and the other by the property owners of the city. The large element of the population who are not property owners, but who for the most part may be just as vitally interested in the welfare of the city and just as heavy contributors to the civic coffers as the property-owners,

would have no control whatever over the management of the water works.

Nor, we submit, have provincial governments in the past shown such a keen interest in the welfare of the capital that one-third of the control of the water works should be taken out of the hands of the people and allocated to the gentlemen who reign for the time being over the bay. The Chief Justice of the province may not even be a resident of Victoria. Vancouver has for years been clamoring for judges to take up their residences in the chief city of the mainland, claiming that her interests have suffered because of the disposition of the judges of the Supreme Court to make their homes in the capital. Various provincial governments have sympathized, whether advisedly or not we do not say, with this aspirations of the people of Vancouver. They have practically "disestablished" the Supreme Court as far as the capital is concerned, and but for the natural preference of some of the occupants of the Supreme Court Bench, who evidently cannot be affected by official pressure, all the judges might be residents of ambitious Vancouver. Therefore, we say it is inconceivable that if Ald. Fell's reactionary idea were adopted, we might find in course of time the management of our water works, to all intents and purposes, in the hands of people with little sympathy for, if not actually hostile to, the best interests of the city of Victoria. This would be completely in line with the ideas of the probably quite well-meaning persons who advocate the purchase of water by the gallon from the Esquimalt Water Works Company.

In Victoria we have had some experience already with the principle of government by commission. The majority on our police and licensing boards are appointed by the provincial government. It is not necessary to say anything derogatory to the personnel of these boards. But our experience has not been such as to warrant anyone in saying that it would be to our advantage to have the principle involved extended.

We do not think Ald. Fell can be serious. And we are quite sure of what will happen to his peculiar measure should it ever come before the people for endorsement.

Another challenge for the America Cup has been issued and accepted. Sir Thomas Lipton is the challenger, of course, and the New York Yacht Club will be the defender, equally of course. The Irish baronet has challenged under new conditions as to measurement, which he believes will improve his chances of success. The competing yachts will not be such marine monstrosities as the Reliance and Shamrock. They will be constructed upon different principles, which may or may not prove satisfactory to the British. We are convinced that the result will leave all the satisfaction on the American side. There was a time when we ventured to indulge in hopes for the success of the challengers; but, modify the rules as they may, the fact is the great advantage must always remain with the defenders. The challenger must sail across the ocean under her own canvas, and no mere "thin-skinned" vessel can do that. She must be substantially built. Furthermore, Herreshoff has been experimenting for several years with yachts constructed according to the new rules of measurement. He has demonstrated in several contests in American waters that he is just a trifle superior to Fife of Scotland as a designer. There is just one element of uncertainty: It may be that Fife's boats have not been handled in the best style of seamanship by Canadians in contests for the Canada Cup. British professional sailors may be capable of accomplishing better results. We shall see. The races will take place in the autumn of next year. We wish Sir Thomas the best of luck with what will probably be his last Shamrock.

Mr. T. C. Patteson, postmaster of Toronto for a great many years, a report of whose death has just been received, was at one time a notable figure in the political affairs of Canada. Mr. Patteson was in his prime an exceptionally able man. He was the first editor of the Toronto Mail, established as the Dominion organ of the Conservative party, a newspaper whose influence has never been the same since Mr. Patteson severed his connection with it. He was the most intimate personal friend of Sir John Macdonald ever possessed. Old Conservatives aver that but for the constant attendance and deep solicitude of Mr. Patteson the Conservative chieftain would not have survived the revelations in connection with the historical Pacific scandal, culminating in the downfall of Sir John's government in 1873.

The British government has not only evolved a new type of battleship for the world to copy. It has produced a new form of gun which the world will have some difficulty in duplicating to arm its improved Dreadnoughts with. The new style of artillery is fifty feet long and of 13.5 calibre, a ball from which will pierce 20 inches of Herr Krupp's best armor at three thousand yards. Let the Kaiser put that in his biggest German pipe and smoke it.

Japan simply hates to deal hardly with Korea. She would very much prefer benevolent assimilation of that doomed nation—after the manner of the big snake in the zoo in his amicable relations with the rabbit.



Charming Presentation of Fashions Latest Dictates in Ladies' Fancy Evening Gowns

THE CROWDS THAT FLOCK INTO TOWN during Exhibition Week will have a rare chance of seeing a magnificent showing of Ladies' Stylish Evening Gowns. We have used our utmost energy and skill in making the showing one of the leading features of the Big Store. The many handsome modes we are showing rival all former creations in the elegance of their style, workmanship and finish. Below we are describing two very handsome ones, but purposely omitting prices; to ascertain these a visit to this department is necessary. Prices range however from \$47.50 to \$85.00.

LADIES' EVENING GOWN of pale blue chiffon, lined throughout with white satin, low neck bodice with rosettes of chiffon, and loops of black velvet ribbon, short puff sleeve with frills of deep white lace and finished with bands of black velvet, deep tucked girdle, full pleated skirt with two rows of beading and black velvet baby ribbon around the bottom.

LADIES' FANCY EVENING GOWN of black taffeta and all-over lace. Waist made with high collar and pointed yoke back and front of white valenciennes lace. Short elbow sleeves with puff of chiffon and white lace cuff, deep full from shoulder of back edged with frills of deep white lace and finished with bands of black velvet, deep tucked girdle, full pleated skirt with two rows of beading and black velvet baby ribbon around the bottom.

An Exhibition of Special Attractions in the House Furnishing Sections

THE HOUSE FURNISHING SECTIONS of the Big Store have developed into a most important feature of this business. Larger stocks and better assortments are being constantly added to these departments. For this Fall a very large shipment of Carpets have just been added to the stock, also a large assortment of Curtains, Grilles, Brass Goods, etc., and are now on display. Take elevator to second floor.

The New Carpets Have Arrived

Among them are many handsome and entirely new designs. We invite inspection of our Carpet values. Feeling assured that you will appreciate the offerings made for quality, color and design. In all points we have used our utmost energy to keep to the highest standards of carpet worth, not overlooking the necessity of retaining our usual modest price scale, as follows:

Wilton Carpets

A handsome range in Florals, Orientals and seiltoons, with 27 in. stair and 22 1-2 borders, at, per yd. \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.25 and\$2.50

Brussels Carpets

A weave universally known for its sterling worth, we show in over 50 choice patterns, with 27 inch stair and 18 inch, and 22 1-2 borders, every color combination, at, per yd. \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50 and\$1.50

Special Exhibit in the Furniture Dept.

During the past week quite a number of carloads of fine furniture have been added to our already large stock. We therefore want to emphasize the fact that visitors to the fair will do well to take advantage of the special offers which will be found in this section of the store for Monday.

Special Showing of Brass Bedsteads

BRASS BEDSTEADS, Bow front, full size and 3-4 size\$33.00
BRASS BEDSTEADS, Bow front, full size and 3-4 size\$40.00
BRASS BEDSTEADS, straight front, rounded top, full size\$50.00
BRASS BEDSTEADS, straight front, heavy filling, full and 3-4 size\$65.00
BRASS BEDSTEADS, round and square tubing, repousse panels, full size\$75.00
BRASS BEDSTEADS, "Sheraton" type, square and round tubing, mahogany paneling, beautifully inlaid, full size\$135.00

A Large Assortment of Feather Pillows

Our "VICTORIA" PILLOWS, 6 lbs. filled with turkey down, covered with extra fine ticking. Per pair\$35.00
Our "COLUMBIA" PILLOWS, 6 lbs. filled with turkey down, in strong Belgian ticking. Per pair\$35.00
Our "STANDARD" PILLOWS, 6 lbs. filled with goose, duck and turkey down, in handsome pattern ticking. Per pair\$45.00
Our "SANITARY DOWN" PILLOWS, 4 lbs. down of the finest quality being used for filling in. Pure linen ticking. Per pair\$60.00
Our "ISLAND DUCK" PILLOWS, 7 lbs. duck feather filling, best ticking. Per pair\$65.00

Mattresses Fall in Line

Our "WOOL TOP" MATTRESSES, in extra strong ticking, 4 ft. 6 in. size\$4.00
Our DOUBLE WOOL TOP MATTRESS, 4 ft. 6 in.\$5.50
Our VICTORIA COMBINATION MATTRESS, 4 ft. 6 in. Special\$10.00
Our VICTORIA COMBINATION MATTRESS, 3 ft. 6 in. Special\$9.50
Our SANITARY COTTON SPECIAL MATTRESS, 4 ft. 6 in. Special\$12.00
Our SANITARY COTTON MATTRESS, 3 ft. 6 in. Special\$10.00
Our ELASTIC COTTON FELT MATTRESS, 4 ft. 6 in.\$12.00

EXHIBITION WEEK AT THE BIG STORE

NEW and worthy goods popularly priced is the leading feature at the Big Store this week, also many new goods at attractive sale prices that should appeal to visitors not being able to take advantage of our special sales at various times during the season.

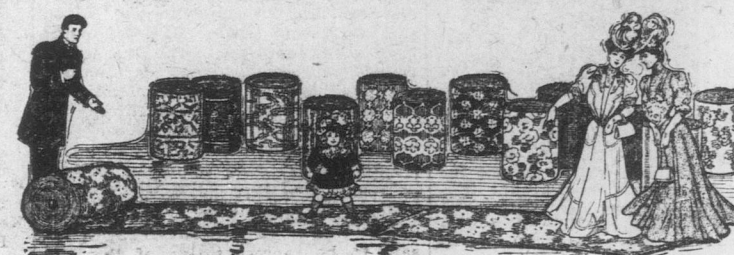
Charming Presentation of Fashions Latest Dictates in Ladies' Fancy Evening Gowns

A Worthy Exhibit of Ladies' Opera Coats, Portraying Distinctive Style Features

THIS WEEK WILL BE GALA OCCASION in this department and includes a showing not to be equalled elsewhere in the City, the comprehensiveness of the assortments offers an unlimited range for satisfying individual taste. It is impossible to mete out words sufficiently impressive to do justice to this magnificent showing, but we are giving the description of two of the most attractive ones which should awaken your keen interest, and then, too, it comes just when the opera season is starting, making it all the more of special interest to lovers of exquisite style. Here again we are purposely omitting prices but you will find them indeed reasonable. The prices range from \$35 to \$100.

LADIES' SEVEN-EIGHTH LENGTH OPERA COAT of cream chiffon broadcloth, full bias back with black silk strap around arm-hole, forming new kimono effect, flat collar and deep cuffs of black satin, trimmed with cream applique and edged with cream silk braid, lined throughout with white tamaline silk.

LADIES' FULL LENGTH EVENING COAT of white venetian cloth, yoke of white silk, torchon lace extending over shoulder, full length of sleeve, collar, vest and cuffs of black velvet piped with cerise cloth, trimmings of large fancy buttons.



New Fall Carpet Squares

This season we purpose to excel in our assortment of Carpet Squares, and if you decide to furnish your rooms with this convenient and sanitary method of floor covering, you cannot afford to pass our range, as we have designs and weaves to suit any room.

Brussels Squares

Sizes 3 yds. x 3 yds., at \$16.75 and\$18.50
Size 3 yds. x 3 1-2 yds., at \$19.50 and\$21.75
Size 3 yds. x 4 yds., at \$22.50 and\$24.50
Size 3 yds. x 4 1-2 yds., at \$26.75 and\$28.00
Size 3 1-2 yds. x 4 yds. at \$28.00 and\$32.00
Size 3 1-2 yds. x 4 1-2 yds. at \$32.50 and\$35.00

Axminster Squares

Size 2 1-2 yds. x 3 1-2 yds., at\$35.00
Size 3 yds. x 3 yds. at \$21.00 to\$36.00
Size 3 yds. x 3 1-2 yds., at \$23.50 to\$42.50
Size 3 yds. x 4 yds. at \$23.00 to\$48.00
Size 3 1-2 yds. x 4 yds., at \$48.00 to\$57.50

Our Boot and Shoe Dept. to the Front

We are justly proud of this department, new shipments arriving daily to which we exert all our energy in unpacking as quickly as possible. The class of footwear to be found here is of more than passing interest, and gives prestige to our rapidly increasing business.

WOMEN'S KID LACE BOOTS, low heel, patent tip, medium soles. Per pair\$5.50
WOMEN'S PATENT COLT BLU LACE BOOTS, dull kid top, military heel, welt sole. Per pair\$4.50
WOMEN'S PATENT COLT BUT-TON BOOTS, open toe, welt sole, Cuban heel. Per pair\$5.00
WOMEN'S GUN-METAL BUTTON BOOTS, welt sole, military heel. Per pair\$4.50
WOMEN'S BOX CALF LACE BOOTS, welt sole, extra heavy sole. Per pair\$3.00
WOMEN'S VELOUR CALF LACE BOOTS, calfskin lined, double sole, welted, military heel. Per pair\$4.25

EXTRA SPECIAL - WOMEN'S VICI KID LACE BOOT, whole-foxed, military heel, arch support in boot, for people with broken arch or flat insteps. Per pair\$5.50
WOMEN'S KID LACE BOOTS, welt sole, patent tip, military heel. Per pair\$2.50
WOMEN'S KID LACE BOOTS, welt sole, patent leather facings, military heel. Per pair\$3.00
WOMEN'S VELOUR CALF BLUCHER CUT LACE BOOTS. Per pair\$4.00
WOMEN'S CALF LACE BOOTS, whole-foxed, heavy sole, military heel. Per pair\$3.50

DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED

What Other People Think

TO THE EDITOR:—Recently in London Peter MacLaren and Harry Jackson, who are considered to be Australia's champion tree fellers and two-handed sawyers, have been giving exhibitions of their skill. I wonder if they may claim to be champions of the world. They saw through a log of five feet in circumference of Australian hard wood in just half a minute. Single-handed, MacLaren has chopped through six and a half feet of iron-like wood in twenty minutes! Can any British Columbia lumber camp produce such results, or even the whole of Canada? Incidentally, MacLaren showed his axe

to be as sharp as a razor by shaving a man of his beard and whiskers.

Blenvenida, Millstream, B. C.

WATERWORKS.

TO THE EDITOR:—In spite of the exhaustive letters and articles which have been published on the above subject, the property owners in the city appear to have the vaguest possible idea of the rights conferred on the corporation by chap. 51, 1882 (Waterworks Act). It has been publicly stated that should the corporation exercise its powers and notify the company to furnish from 500,000 to 5,000,000 gallons a day the contract must be for five years, no more and no less, at the expiration of which period the city would be at the mercy of the company. There is no foundation for such a statement. The act explicitly says: "The company shall not be required to furnish

water for any period less than five years." In the following paragraph the words "for the period specified in such contract" appear. It would seem that while five years is the minimum period, the maximum is not specified.

Suppose notice is given specifying ten, fifteen, twenty or any other period you choose. I fail to see anything in the act which forbids the expropriation of the works during the continuance of the contract, and until such expropriation takes place our only necessary expenditure would be on the redistribution system, which will have to be incurred under any circumstances. Had this course been adopted in 1905, when first suggested, is there not a fair probability that the late disastrous fire would have been extinguished before it gathered headway and that the insurance rates would not have been increased? Now as to cost for household use, the charge per 6,000 gallons at city rates is \$1, and the payment to the company

would be 36 cents, leaving a profit to the city to meet current charges of 173 per cent., surely not less than a handsome income on the investment.

EDWARD MOHUN, C. E.
Victoria, B. C., 21st September, 1907.

LONELY WIDOWER'S QUEST.

TO THE EDITOR:—The act legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister has now become the law of the land—i.e., of Great Britain—and with the King's approval, although opposed by the Upper House, as it has been for half a century or more. Having endeavored for a lifetime to obtain an explanation as to the reason of the Lords' opposition without avail, can you, or any of your correspondents, enlighten me on this important point, as I have now reached my seventy-fifth year, and am still in ignorance; and if I should take advantage of this salutary act am anxious that no individual or

religionist should brand me as a law-breaker.
A LONELY WIDOWER ON THE LOOK OUT.
Victoria, B. C., Sept. 21st, 1907.

RESCUED IN NORTH.

Party of Two Hundred and Forty-Three Taken Onto Revenue Cutter.
Washington, Sept. 23.—A message today from Capt. Munger, commanding the Behring sea fleet of revenue cutters, dated Unalakleet, says the Cutter McCulloch had rescued 243 persons from the ship John Currier which was wrecked August 9th in Nelson's Lagoon, Behring sea. They were transferred to the cutter Thetis Sept. 16th, and she had discretionary orders for landing them at either Seward or Seattle.

For Fift

THE CHARACTER
CONSPICUOUS

USA

BLACK MIXED

COWICHAN FAIR GREAT

(Continued from page 4)

when compared with in which British Columbia use.

In vegetables the most collection was that shown by Smith, whose husband is the Cowichan Leader. The ties were all grown on and the cucumbers and well as the squashes and vegetables were large and Smith also exhibited some in the comb and in the she intends bringing it to try to wrest honors from the aspirants.

The cabbages shown by son, and the sweet corn were both worthy of special notice as was also a variety of produce by Mrs. J. Maitland potatoes were a sight to eyes of an Irishman. The ties by the bushel and potato, the finest tubers of sibly wish to see. And serving of particular merit exhibits of the Messrs. W. Bassett and the bushel of A. Robinson. Muskmelon too, ripe ones, with a ye beneath the green. Ripe good enough for a dark melons of enormous size much attention. Of the those shown by J. E. Hall and to the uninitiated specimens than the prize.

At one end of the bush of cocksfoot hay of in length, and near it end feet high—yet this has been son. The wonder is that and vegetables are so large supposed to have been dried seasons the Island years.

In roots there were some quality that were prize won by A. A. Mutter, W. C. D. E. Norcross, but there were almost double the size, sh Hall. These had grown so they were puny in the m harring them from taking Hubbard squash, the prof Wilson, were not the less of the good things shown.

Doubtless the dryness made the exhibit of flowers. There were some very fine shown by Miss M. Dunc were also nicely arranged could not be said of all. They looked as if they had been many of them jammed in box without the slightest artistic arrangement. Boxes were very crude, but only come direct from the they had been receptacle bars of soap or some of commodity. Mrs. Elkins roses was pretty and would have been worth a covered up the old box w per or ivy leaves. It is for wonder that in a com artistic taste is known a little care should have in the flower exhibit. A str the place and judging of hit would scarcely have were artists in the comm.

Passing to the little-roo of the main hall and the very evident. The gen exhibit was the little e Christ, Praying," which itals C. de T. C., but seemed to know anything water color work, showe and ability, although it doubt about the wisdom. In alloting both prizes to it. Some of the exhibe tainly more effective th which obtained the second very fine game pictures w John Spears and Mrs. A while Mr. Spring's vie home on Somes Lake v ceedingly high grade.

Of the needlework too be said, but there shou more of it. It is hardly a man should be a critic of but the fine eyelet embro by Mrs. Dickie, and the centrepiece, were bound attention of the most Hadwen's handker wor most invisible stitches of dress made by Miss B. both works of art of wh well be proud. Another done by a little girl of el crocheted shawl by Miss which was very cleverly Kingstons' drawn wor worthy of special mention Colvin showed two shawls which was grown on th thread spun and the fab home industry of which ple of to-day usually kno The writing exhibit need the criticism. The pen very good but the way work was put up was able. Nearly all of the p tern or cut along the little cone, and the abse margins at the top and of the exhibits showed el ness or lack of knowledge of the exhibits were ve showed great care in the Some clever work in fine shown by John Spears. The people of Dunca