

## NOTES ON THINGS IN GENERAL.

HAVING been absent from the city for a considerable period, of course I find a great many changes, and shall jot down a few things that have come under my observation. I got back just in time for the dog and poultry show, and, as far as quality was concerned in both, it would be hard to beat. What I admired most was Mr. Perrin's setters, Dr. Hine's cockers and Mr. Chambers' collies, and although the latter did not carry off a prize he was well represented as the leader of Mr. Miller's fine bitch pup.

One thing I notice is that that patriotic and noble citizen, Mr. Beaven, has been placed in the mayoralty chair by Mr. Davie, who, so far as I can see, has not been overwhelmed by the dignity of his office and can still be as courteous and polite as heretofore. There is also more of the *suaviter in modo* in the council and altogether an improvement in the proceedings. The worst of it is that Mayor Beaven, now that he has been defeated for the mayoralty, has allowed his temper to get altogether the better of him, and the only place of course he can get rid of his bile is in the Legislative hall, and, this session, I notice that he is more venomous than ever.

Another thing I notice is the large number of unemployed in the city, and surely this thushness should not be. As you are aware, I am not at all down on the Chinese themselves, it is on the employer of Chinese I am down on. This \$100 a head business will never stop them coming into the country as long as they are allowed to come at all; but fine every white man that employs them \$100 and you will soon see how scarce they will get. I don't doubt there is a great deal of distress in the city, and all honor I say to such men as Rithet, Riley & Patterson, the C. P. N. Co. and the Sayward Mill Co. that have come to the rescue. But, at the same time, these people who write to the papers running down employing men at \$1 a day are doing the poor more harm than they imagine. It should be remembered, nobody asks them to work for \$1 a day; they are given the option of doing so, and what able-bodied man would not rather work for fifty cents a day, even, than loaf on any one? I heard of one case the other day of a poor woman who was destitute and could not pay her rent and was going to be turned out on the streets by a merciless landlord, when a benevolent old lady came to her rescue and offered to pay the rent for her till times got better. The poor woman thanked her with tears in her eyes, and said she would bring down her book to show the time she had paid the rent up to. She did bring down a book, but, unfortunately, it was the wrong one; it was her savings bank book she brought by mistake, which shewed \$250 to her credit!

I attended a meeting of the Legislative Assembly the other day, and must say I was both edified and impressed. When I shut my eyes, I thought of "Home, Sweet

Home," and imagined I was once more in the Billingsgate fish market, but then I remembered the proceedings had been opened with prayer by a venerable divine, and I knew it could not be Billingsgate, and then I knew it must be either the Legislature of British Columbia or New South Wales. The words "fool," "idiot," "liar," "thief," "purloiner," "making away with the funds of the Province for private purposes" came in rapid succession. I have shorthand notes of the proceedings, and intend to send them to my noble friend, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to see if there is not just cause why New South Wales should not be ousted from the championship.

I had the Victoria papers sent to me regularly during my absence, and I must say that neither the *Times* nor *Colonist* are of much interest to any one but the rival editors, as nearly the whole of the editorial columns were devoted to black-guarding one another. "But thin they're paid for it sure," remarked a countryman of mine. In either case, I could exclaim with both Davie and Beaven "Save me from my friends." THE HOME JOURNAL. I see, is still distinguished by the purity of its language, its nobleness of ideas and purpose, its unbiassed criticisms, and, as of old,

"For the cause that lacks assistance,  
For the wrongs that need resistance,  
For the future and the distance  
And the good that it may do."

Long may it live to be a comfort to the fireside on Saturday night.

If all the candidates who are coming forward could only get into our Legislative hall we should have a rare time of it:—A Single Taxer, (I take this sort of animal to be something like the old Puritans that landed on Plymouth Rock in the olden time, so as they could pray as they liked themselves, and make everybody else do the same—local option is a fool to it in my opinion); then there is to be the workingman's candidate. (If there is a word in the English language I hate it is that word "workingman"; are we not all workingmen? If not, we are loafers). The next time I get on the stump I shall commence: "Workingmen and Loafers"—Then the so-called Independents; I have no use for them, and I am quite sure they are no use to either the Government, Opposition or their constituents. They just sit on a rail and cannot be trusted by anybody, and go whichever way the cat jumps.

I am not much of a politician myself, but judging from what I see the present Government have done for this place—first in stamping out the small-pox and then "anchoring the capital," to say nothing of Mr. Davie being able to sing a "capital" song—I think our house will vote for them. But remember, Mr. Editor, this is my own opinion, not yours; if the other side do more advertising in and take more copies of THE HOME JOURNAL than the Government, I should as a business man decidedly advise you to throw

in your powerful pen in favor of the Opposition.

I see a girl attempted to commit suicide from James Bay bridge, and at the time of writing she is to be brought up to the Police Court to answer to the charge. What an absurd thing! If she had been successful she would have had to answer for her crime before a higher Judge than the Police Magistrate, and a humane jury would have brought in a verdict of "temporary insanity." It was not her fault she was not successful; but was saved through the interference of some meddlers, who are always trying to spoil sport. So far as I can see the only charge against her is being "temporarily insane" and insane she must have been to attempt to drown herself in the James Bay mud flats, when the tide was out, for even the best-looking hoodlum Victoria can produce. When this paper goes to press the affair shall have been settled, as I would not think of arguing the case whilst it was *sub judice*.

Who pays for the ink in the advertising columns of the *Times* showing the amount the brothers Davie have drawn for the last eighteen months? Surely there is nothing very wonderful in two men, both admittedly at the head of their profession, in drawing \$5,000 (so it is headed in very large type *vide Times*, Feb. 15,) in that time? If you get good men you must pay for them. No doubt the editor of the *Times* would try to run both jobs, Attorney General and Provincial health officer, much cheaper. I will make an effort, in your next issue, to give the amounts drawn by a certain eminent professional politician for the last fifteen years that will astonish even that portion of the public which is of the same politics as the *Times*. I do not think even the proverbial "workingman" will be hoodwinked by such claptrap as he reads in the *Times*. In my opinion it does its level best to set class against class, labor *versus* capital and *vice versa*, for what is labor without capital? The latter never quarrels; it is only shy, and when not appreciated takes itself off to some more congenial clime; not so the workingman; he has got to stay and starve it out, and then what will the friend of this workingman do for him?

As I am working in the park at present and have plenty of spare time on my hands, I appeal to you as the true friend of the workingman to try and get me some emolument to fill in my leisure hours. I am now a literary hack, full of genius, but unappreciated. I am a first-rate hand at writing anecdotes about dogs, and as for fish and snake stories—just hear me. I have also had considerable experience in writing testimonials for patent medicines. Do you think it would do me any good to apply to the *Colonist* or *Times*? The papers mentioned do not stop at a trifle themselves. The former publication seems to be badly in need of some one to write its "labor" editorials, and having had considerable experience in this line I would be able to put a little common sense into them, if not literary flourish.

AN INTELLIGENT VAGRANT.

you certainly need to put it into condition at nature has given you. In better condition, get better lighting, secure a good, y, erase Chinatown from city; a nicer place to live und. But to do this you men of brains. Another and that is, your lead-educate men seem to. Can you say your it? What about the an eastern paper about a Central Presbyterian store! Why, if I mistake far from here I ld letters printed on and door of a doctor's Open, and near by ying a small hand-grab ge white letters was name and beneath it at as you came in I was ce given in the police e cause of death of a Manson, I think, and with the family of that g to the report, the s jury to bring in a lect against the hus- gistrate, after what a full inquiry, dis- e coroner is a doctor, edingly astute man, elligent observation. now investigating a r medical man figures g given a certificate to heart disease, al- ooked at the face of ic he not remark it tice among medical. I am forgetting, as g city and I should the rest." The fore- ated to show what toria.

football team has to its "unbroken ng defeated by the e league—that of 'hy is this the case? may be brought for- that the greatest match was conceit imittee. Another e end cause more eeling among its g else, is the little in selecting the ty club. Men of atters have repeat- retaining players sition to "funk " rit would win, or In the match at dav the team was 'except Marshall, a fixture in the on. Marshall me, tackling and e only one who I would strongly ee to reconstruct nd three-quarter trial.

RE GRINATOR.