

that money is very tight, that he must have the best of security and must receive what is a usurious rate of interest. Having gone thus far the small store-keeper does not see how he can go back. So he states his whole case, announcing that his stock is worth so much, if it be not already held under a chattel mortgage; he has so much out owing to him, and this he enumerates in writing and if he has any other possessions he puts them also on the list. The petty financier then announces with all the palaver which he thinks necessary that he will think the matter over and if his would-be customer will come in the next day he will give him an answer. No sooner is this done than the note shaving shark goes to some bank or private money lender with all this "stuff," and tries to deposit it as collateral for a loan which he desires to effect. He may or may not succeed; but the result is that business men get wind of the whole business and the credit of the small trader is utterly ruined. This is not an exaggerated presentation of the case, and fully shows how necessary it is for storekeepers—no matter how small an amount of money they may require—to finance with reputable institutions or individuals only. These pettifogging note shavers only destroy them, and, in many instances, are not even the means of affording the temporary relief which is sought. As we have before said, let all who owe little bills settle them, if it is possible to do so, and then will it be the more easy for those who have larger engagements to meet to discharge their obligations. This is an effective means of helping to remove the depression."

A respectable broker will not stoop to such practices; he invariably has sufficient standing with the banks to enable him to negotiate any loan he recommends, and will not promise to obtain or ask the bank to make the loan, unless the securities are *bona fide*. In any event it is always his wish to save his client from the prejudicial effect of prying publicity. By the time a man's affairs have been peddled around half a dozen money lending shops, his credit may well be said to have gone a begging, and it would be just as well when one wants a small temporary loan to apply either direct to a bank or some broker whose business methods and record will bear investigation.

It used to be said that an Englishman was never satisfied unless he had something to grumble about, whether or not his complaints were justifiable. I suppose we in British Columbia come by this characteristic honestly, for if we are not all Englishmen or the children of Englishmen, we are Britishers, and by association have acquired much of this greatly to be deprecated quality. I have heard a good deal said about depression; but much of what I hear is arrant "rot." It is the working out of an old and inherent characteristic, and by letting it loose we begin to think that matters really are as we hear and say they are. There ought never to be a word said such as one is accustomed to hear, and I blame the city corporation and employers of labor for endorsing the ridiculous sentiment by cutting down salaries as they have done.

They could not have adopted a worse policy than they have followed, and if there is even the slightest ground of complaint, it is their own fault. The times are as they have made them.

Talk about corporation retrenchments. The idea is childish; there is nothing of the kind. The officials have been "robbed" of their just dues, and the money filched from them has much of it been expended in improvements in the vicinity of the residences of certain favored persons and of properties in which they are interested. Of course this has given extra employment to another description of labor; but it has correspondingly reduced the income of some of those who are accustomed to spend their salaries pretty freely.

I assert that it is only fools who act and talk as many whom I could name. Their doings and deliverances are the means of making other people dissatisfied with themselves, their condition and prospects. Let those who doubtless unthinkingly have wrought this mischief—for mischief has, to a certain extent, been done—retrace their steps and begin as before. Then will they cause a revival of times for which their grumbling and buttoning up of their breeches pockets are to a large extent responsible.

I am not one of those who desire to see the credit of the city exploited to an excessive extent; but inasmuch as there are certain loan by-laws pending for needed improvements let the public endorse them. I say let them "plump" for them all. No doubt the "mossbacks" will do their best to secure an adverse decision on one or more of them, for they will touch their own pocket nerve, without, as they fear, giving them the advantage which they consider adequate. But they are not the parties whose interests should alone be consulted. The objects sought are needed by the city and now is the time to get them. The merchants can help themselves by bringing their influence to bear in their behalf; and we all of us can have what we regard as good times if we only go to work in the proper way. It is not by standing still that we may hope to accomplish anything; let everyone consider the objects which the electors are called upon to vote as their own concern. Then something will be done and everyone will be benefitted.

Coming down Johnson street the other day I was impressed with the great necessity that exists for improvement at both ends. It begins with a lane and ends in a nuisance. At the upper end two or three property owners have erected themselves into obstructionists. One of them has built a substantial stone wall so as to prevent the widening of

thoroughfare except, as I am told, on such extravagant terms as the exorbitant price he has asked for his frontage will necessitate. Then another, a lot or two further down has repaired and repainted his fence which still occupies the old line, although it was known that the contemplated improvement was a much needed one. Why, I ask, should these property owners, when all their neighbors had come to a settlement with the Municipal authorities, have gone to this extra expense and thus flaunted their flag of defiance? It looks to me very much like "bulldozing." The old divisions, or at least some of a merely temporary character would have been ample, and it is certain that if the parties expected that they would not obtain the cost of these "improvements" they would not have gone to the expense which they have done. But these are a few Victorians regarding whom every citizen would be amply justified in praying for a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

The suit instituted by Mr. R. W. Gordon against Mr. Cotton, of the *News-Advertiser*, has been so often before the British Columbia courts that readers of the daily newspapers are rather disappointed, if the announcement is not made at least twice a week that "Mr. Cotton is to be committed for contempt of court." No one appears to know what the whole matter is about, and so that readers of THE HOME JOURNAL may not remain in darkness like the readers of the daily papers, the following condensed statement of Mr. Gordon is published: "Mr. Cotton and I met in Vancouver in the end of 1886, and the following spring we engaged together in two enterprises in this city, I finding the money for both of us. I also put up collateral security to the bank for overdrafts, and contributed other monies from time to time up till July, 1889. The total amount in hard cash put into the business by me, was about \$9,750 up till July, 1889; after deducting a small amount paid by him for me since that date. Until that date, so far as I am aware, Mr. Cotton neither contributed money or security, with the exception of about \$300, and of that I have no proof except his own statement. In November, 1889, I left for England, Mr. Cotton consenting to take charge of both enterprises in my absence. Up to this time, as I may here say, we had such full confidence in each other, that we deemed it unnecessary to have the slightest scrap of agreement between us, but I held, and still possess the share certificates issued to both of us in the San Juan Lime Co., and also a chattel mortgage on the good will and plant of the *News-Advertiser*. In the early part