

# THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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## THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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## ALL THE WORLD OVER.

*"I must have liberty,  
Withal as large a charter as the wind—  
To blow on whom I please."*

It is a queer commentary on the state of affairs that while hundreds of thousands of men are idle and half-starving in our cities, the farmers of the country are crying for help to do the necessary work on their farms. In many localities in the Northwest, it is impossible to get farm help at prices that would have been considered large five years ago. Is it possible that we are nearing a time when farming will be looked upon as a menial pursuit which self-respecting men will not engage in? It is to be hoped not, for when that time comes, we will see the beginning of the end. In old times, the farmer was looked down upon, and was, in fact, a slave. In many countries, he could not leave the manor upon which he was born, and was subjected to any privations or indignities that the owner of the land felt like afflicting him with. Then, with civilization, the tiller of the soil came to be recognized as an important factor in the prosperity of his country, and began to receive more consideration, until within the last century he has come to the front, chiefly because of the high place he has won for himself in our country. The farmer on this continent won his place as one who must be recognized as the cornerstone of prosperity, and from his success the farmers of all the civilized world have profited. It is a noble calling, and it is to be hoped that the workers of our country will never be

so blind to their own interests as to begin to despise farm work. There are places on thousands of farms for men to work at a calling that is no harder than many that are found in the forges and factories of the large cities, and if every farmer who needs a hired hand could find one among the idle masses of the cities, we should hear much less about suffering there.

The history of panics and trade depressions in this country and the United States shows that they are undoubtedly due, in a large measure, to periods of speculation, and are coeval with a new generation of traders. Those who speculated so largely in the United States from 1830 to 1836 were not the men who had gone through the trying times of the war of 1812 and the few succeeding years to 1820—a period that history tells us was one of great mercantile peril. At the latter period these olden dealers had mainly passed off the stage of action, and the younger ones had to have their experience of the disastrous results of speculation. From 1845 to 1856, when the tide was running up again, these men of '36 had passed away, or the few who remained were looked upon as "mossbacks." So those who suffered the anxieties and losses from 1857 to 1861 were cautious all through the inflation from 1863 to 1870; but a new generation of traders was then coming forward, lacking this experience of their elders, and their ambitious desires to push things brought on the speculations that culminated in the panic of 1873. A "burnt child dreads the fire," and the men in business after the panic of '73 proceeded upon a cautious and conservative basis and trade and commerce proceeded upon a stable plane until the new generation of traders and men in business came upon the scene of action, and their experience led to the wild speculation that began in 1886 and culminated in the panic of 1893. Like the girl whose mother had "been to balls and seen the folly of them," she must also go "to see the folly of them." The sons will not heed the advice of their fathers, but must see the folly of speculation for themselves. Stable methods and consequently safe ones may be confidently looked for, and trade and commerce will move in natural channels and universal prosperity will be the assured result.

I made a trip into the country not long

ago and as in my custom once a year I visited several stores in the places where I stopped. The attempts at window displays were noticeable and it must be said also that they were very creditable. It was pleasing to observe the success that had attended efforts in this direction. The facilities were well utilized and the most was made of them, generally speaking. In some instances it was evident that the dealer was a little mixed as to proprieties, but so long as the value of window dressing was recognized I am not going to complain.

When the inside of the store was reached results were often different. I don't like a store that is arranged "back-end-to." I want the goods in their proper places and that is where the best general effect of the stock can be obtained. When I stub my foot over a bushel of potatoes just after entering the store I conclude at once that the merchant doesn't know his business. This feeling, I found, grew as I examined the stock in places where I stubbed my foot. Stock was out of order on every side, and the mixture was par excellence for a mix. Why isn't it as easy to have order in a store as not to have it? That is what I fail to understand.

I would like to run a store. Do you know how I would arrange the stock? We are talking of an average general stock of ordinary proportions. I prefer the right of entrance for dry goods. Instead of a kerosene vat and a truck garden as a "starter," I would introduce the customer to a clean looking store, nicely painted, clean and inviting. I would secure this effect by having the dry goods nicely arranged at the front, and all heavy cloths and sheetings in convenient form adjacent to the dress goods. A stock looks nicely if a display of small notions, such as buttons, etc., can be arranged in an even tier between the fine and coarse dress goods, say about midway of the stock. If this plan is adopted it is well for convenience to have the thread cases as the foundation for the notion stock. On the opposite side hats and caps go well for a first display. I would never put crockery there; it is too coarse and ugly. A crockery stock must be kept clean in order to look well.

If show cases are used let them be properly placed so as to preserve an effect of neatness, and let the goods in the case be kept in order. I would have no cheap-