

## TALES OF THE TOWN.



I READ in a paper not long ago that conversation as an art is becoming more and more neglected every year. The fact of the matter is that conversation, like every other talent we possess, requires cultivation, or it never becomes brilliant. It is only necessary to listen to the jargon with which society of to-day whiles away so many hours, to satisfy a thoughtful person that a complete reform in this direction is needed to raise us to the intelligent level on which we should stand at the latter end of the nineteenth century. There are but few of us who, on our return home from some social gathering, would wish to repeat to our children, sensible themselves by nature, in their uninitiated childhood, the ridiculous stultiloquence we have been exchanging with our friends as rational conversation. We all too frequently part with our companions without leaving on their minds one sensible impression, one thought worthy of reflection; and find that they have equally failed towards themselves.

These remarks are made as the result of an exception to the general rule that I found in the person of the charming young soubrette, Miss Belle Inman, now under an engagement with Rice's Victoria Stock Company. Miss Inman is a very intelligent young lady. She takes an interest in politics, loves music and poetry, understands all about religion, and is well up in the tariff question. This clever young lady began her stage career under most favorable auspices. By this I mean that her early training in theatrical business was under a first-class teacher, this tutor being no less a person than John McVicker, proprietor of McVicker's Theatre and father-in-law of the greatest of American actors, Mr. Edwin Booth. Certainly, Miss Inman must have been

an apt pupil, of which her success later on affords conclusive proof.

The first time I saw Miss Inman on the stage was with the "Romany Rye" Company, which was at the time giving this celebrated play a first production in Chicago. I remember that at the time the papers of the "World's Fair" city predicted great things for the then child actress, and their prophecy has been in many respects fulfilled. People conversant with Eastern theatrical matters know the high standing of this lady in her adopted profession. But I believe it was of Miss Inman's gift as a conversationalist I intended to speak. There is scarcely any subject of modern importance that she does not know something about. She can almost recite Ignatius Donnelly's "Caesar's Column," and believes with that author that the time is not far distant when the differences now existing between labor and capital will be settled by recourse to something more effective than the press or platform. In other words, Miss Inman believes that all great reforms to be permanent must receive their baptism in blood. She is also a reformer in matters pertaining to the stage, and is a disciple of the modern school of acting, such as has been of recent years adopted by Henry Irving and Miss Ellen Terry. In short, Miss Inman possesses all the attributes required in a brilliant conversationalist—beauty, voice and intelligence.

When the real estate market is way up in G,  
The venture is never deemed rash  
To pick out the prettiest lot that you see  
And invest your superfluous cash.

Nor is it considered unwise by the wise  
To withdraw from legitimate stocks,  
And try to secure a capital prize  
By purchasing dirt with your rocks.

But when the boom's punctured and realty's flat,  
The experience ever is tough,  
To learn that the counsellors talked through a hat  
While you were but losing your stuff.

Now I would fain give you a bit of advice  
That I've learned to be useful and true—  
When a scheme is suggested and you smell a mice,  
Just keep a firm grasp on your "boo."

For the schemers are out everywhere in the land,  
They're not out for their health or for fun;  
And if you're not careful they surely will land  
Every dollar and cent of your "mun."

Victoria, of course, has reason to feel proud of her electric system, and it is no wonder that the people, in their heartfelt appreciation of the convenience of rapid transit, express it in so practical a way that the cars are crowded constantly to their utmost capacity,

## A. TOLLER & CO

### Real Estate Agents,

18 Broad Street,  
VICTORIA, B. C.

Four Room House with street on either side, partly fenced, beautiful garden land \$350.

PORT ANGELES—50 acres, \$30 per acre, short distance from town.

TWO LOTS—Victoria West, with two houses 120 feet x 130, corner, all fenced, \$4000.

MONTREAL ST., James Bay—Lot on front, 104 feet, good house, \$2800.

CRAIGFLOWER ROAD—Lot 120x80, small, new house, \$700, corner lot.

SOOKE DISTRICT—117 acres on the water front, close to railway terminus, \$1,200.

CHATHAM ST.—One lot and 7-room house, \$1700. \$500 or \$750 cash, balance in 2 years.

SOUTH TURNER ST., James Bay, next street to one to water, \$1,300.

FRONT ST., Esquimalt Road—12 to 14 trees, \$500.

ESQUIMALT ROAD—Lot, 20 by switch of Tram Co.'s Line, \$700.

JAMES BAY—Lot and two houses, renting at \$25 per month, \$2,800.

One 13-room house, 2 acres of land, all fenced and cultivated, highest part of the city and overlooking everybody, \$13,000.

OAK BAY, on the water side—7-room house and beautifully situated for bathing facilities, this is an absolute bargain \$1,650.

Four and a half acres in Saanich District for \$13 per month without interest; also farm of 76 acres on Saanich Road.

ROCK BAY—Two beautiful lots, very suitable for a garden.

EDMONTON ROAD—Lot 18, Block 70, good garden soil, \$425.

Hotel to lease, doing a good business, with four acres of land \$1,700.

Eighty acres of land, all of first-class quality, Saanich, 30 acres absolutely clear and 30 acres nearly so, facing salt water, \$6,500.

EARL STREET—Two 1-acre lots, \$800 each, partly fenced, well situated. Also one acre of land with house and improvements—\$3,200. Terms easy.

BELMONT AVENUE—1 lot, beautifully situated—\$600; also 1 lot, \$550.

FERNWOOD ROAD and Johnson Street—A fine 3-story dwelling containing 8 rooms, closets, hot and cold water, \$3,600.

VICTORIA WEST—A new 5-roomed house on Front street, fine, airy situation, \$1,200.

FAIRFIELD ESTATE—Dwelling house, seven rooms, rented at \$14 per month, \$1,300.

LAKE DISTRICT—6 acres partly cleared, situated near tram line, \$2,100.

CONSTANCE COVE—About one acre of land fronting on salt water, \$2,500. \$500 cash.

BEACON HILL—Beautiful house and lot, every convenience, 8 rooms, \$4,200.

PINE ST., Victoria West—Very good lot, cleared, \$525.

ALBERNI, B. C.—152 acres of beautiful land; barn, stables and everything complete, capable of being made into a first class home for right party, \$3,200.

POWDERLEY AVENUE—Lot 21, 113x118x120, \$525.

VICTORIA WEST—One house to sell, 5-rooms, bath and pantry, hot and cold water laid on all over the house, \$1,500, very easy terms. Two houses to let, \$12 and \$16 per month, respectively.

No WILD CAT schemes, but solid bargains.