

portant thing in a country district—roads. Mr. Booth has a fine ranch at the north end of the Island and he very kindly took me round and showed me where and how the name of the Island came, the little springs of clear salt water that bubble out on the hillsides here and there. These are certainly curious springs for in places they show right alongside fresh water springs. The water tastes exactly like sea water and has the same appearance, and also the same effect on vegetation, for where the salt springs are, even the hardy bracken and fern cannot live.

The "Corners" of Salt Spring Island are Ganges Harbor, Burgoyne Bay, Vesuvius Bay and North End, at each of which places there is a weekly mail service—the Joan going up one week on one side and coming down on the other and vice versa, the following week. There are a number of fine ranches, and the fact which perhaps strikes the visitor most forcibly is the immense amount of clearing being done. Acres upon acres which were two or three years ago but forest, are now under cultivation, and the products of the Island are increasing in proportion. The number of young orchards being set out is surprising, and even now the fruit shipments are considerable, while dairying and poultry raising are great sources of income. Some parts of the Island are particularly suited for sheep raising, but the ranchers are much discouraged by the frequent losses. Only two weeks ago Mr. Booth had a band of seven killed, no one knows how, and though they are various suspicions, no evidence can be produced to fasten the guilt on anyone. The government is doing all it can, but there is a long stretch of coast line to watch, and when a lookout is being kept the sheep stealers are not to be found. The settlers are determined however, to put a stop to the depredations, for otherwise one of their best paying industries will have to be abandoned.

There is a good opening on the Island for a young physician. The right man could make a very fair living in addition to the government grant of \$300, for although the people are a healthy lot, there is always some one requiring medical assistance, and at present the nearest doctor is at Duncan, and has to be brought over by boat—a great expense and much inconvenience. Another man who could make a good living at Salt Spring, would be a shoemaker. The rocks and stones of the Island are hard on soles, and in repairing alone there would be a good occupation for one industrious man. The residents are patriotic and believe in the motto "patronize home industry."

But how about the sport? Well, grouse

are scarce and hard to get, though deer are very plentiful. A good shot with fair luck will get about three to five brace for a day's work, but the hills are hard to climb, and the ferns, bracken and salal, make the valleys well nigh impassable. If one goes out for game and for game only, Salt Spring is not exactly the place I would recommend, but if you want an outing, a combination of shooting and fishing, tramping and riding, salt and fresh water bathing and pleasant weather, combined with good living and a warm welcome, go there. You cannot spend a fortnight better than making the acquaintance of these people who are now hewing out of the forest a farming country that will be second to none in the Province, and who are developing what will be a substantial part of the backbone of the Province.

Enough! This is my last camp fire of the trip—at sunrise the camp will be broken, and the Joan will bear canoe and tent and grouse and gun and all, to Victoria. Good bye Camp Stewart, good bye Salt Spring and good bye kind people who have made a ten days' visit so pleasant. NIMROD.

#### SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

A pleasant afternoon tea, from 3 to 6, was given, last Thursday, by Mrs. James Lemon, of 140 Chatham street. It was a most enjoyable affair.

The marriage of Mr. C. A. Coleman, Presbyterian Chinese missionary, to Miss Jennie Gerard, is announced to take place shortly.

Victoria Lodge No. 17 K. of P. will give a social dance in Castle Hall, on the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 7.

Mr. J. E. Church is spending a week over the Sound.

Mr. C. F. Jones is visiting friends in Tacoma.

#### SPORTING GOSSIP.

THE lacrosse match to-day between the Vancouver seniors and the New Westminster seniors, at Vancouver, will undoubtedly be a grand exhibition of the Canadian national game. All the old favorites will play with the Victorias and only one change will be made on the Westminster team. Old lacrosse men say that the percentage is slightly in favor of Victoria, but not enough to cut much of a figure in the general result. A large number of people from this city will attend the match.

The Canadians have challenged the Scotchmen to a tug-of-war contest.

The Rugby footballers are practicing

regularly at the Hill. Victoria will put several good teams in the field this year.

Now that evenings are lengthening, much home pleasure may be derived by giving a call at Sampson's Exchange.

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