

planning and scheming to economise, with a view to make both ends meet. Their minds are turned from the channels of speculation to those of industry and thrift, and the magnificent agricultural district in and around Victoria is reaping the benefit of this new turn of affairs. This, however, is only what should have been long before, where such glorious advantages exist. It is the popular notion that the "hard times" have killed local real estate business; in a small measure only is this correct, far more places are being improved, and there is more enquiry for suburban property than ever before. It is enquiry, too, of the right kind; from men who build and settle down to work the land, doing now what the wily Chinaman has been doing all along, getting a first rate living out of the land. The results of proper cultivation are very apparent in one instance as near town as Hillside Avenue, where one gentleman grows far more fruit and vegetables on part of two city lots than the average "rancher" produces on five acres. Then there was the late Mr. Brocklehurst's little garden, a veritable world's fair of garden produce. The Lamberton Brothers have made the Mount Tolmie valley a smiling garden; and there are hosts of others who are following the example of this sturdy pair of men within the past year, the results of whose labors will very soon be manifest. This is the right kind of speculation.

I read with a great deal of pleasurable interest Miss A. D. Cameron's series of articles on the World's Fair, and was sorry to see them come to a conclusion. She writes gracefully and fluently, with the happy knack of winning the attention of her readers. Her remark in "Musings by Niagara," in speaking about Toronto, that true religion requires something more than fine churches and loud protestations, was particularly ap-

propriate, for if there is a place in the Dominion where vice is carried to a finer point than in "Toronto, the good," or where hypocrisy covers a greater multitude of sins, I should like to see it. And we have a set of people here, churchgoers and so-called good people, who would make another Toronto of Victoria. It will be a bad day for Victoria if they ever attain the upper hand.

My worthy friend, the editor of the *Colonist*, has been writing vigorously about the using, or rather abusing, of the surface drains for sewerage purposes, and rightly so, but from the same spirit that muzzled both the daily papers last year from speaking out boldly about the "true inwardness" of the smallpox scare, he has kept back one thing, and that is that there is typhoid fever in several families along the line of these connections, distinctly traceable to the abuse of the surface drains from their original purpose, and nothing else. There is no use beating about the bush; we had the smallpox through letting a set of ignorant and stupidly pig headed men mismanage our affairs, and it will be the same with this latest blundering act of these individuals that people vote for. If the Citizens' Association do not succeed in bringing out a better, more disinterested and altogether more trustworthy set of men at the next municipal election, it would be just as well to accept unconditionally the government of the "Czar"; we should at least have intelligent and businesslike management of the city's affairs, and yet be entirely within the scope of Mayor Beaven's vade mecum, the Municipal Act.

A judge sees both sides of the case. Mr. Justice Walkem heard the case against Ald. Baker and deposed him; now the learned judge has been called upon to reinstal the ousted alderman who was returned to the seat to fill which he had been disqualified.

A gentleman who has gone through a deal of litigation in this province said the other day that one gets lots of law here, but the blind-folded female with the scales seldom makes her appearance, and he supposed the judges had to administer the law as it was laid down. It was not a matter of which side had the better case, but which had the more money to grab up the smartest lawyers.

A new firm of undertakers has been established in this city, or rather an old business has been taken over by new parties, and the *Times* makes the encouraging statement that they will undoubtedly do a prosperous business. I wonder if this statement is borne out by circumstantial evidence of any kind, such as one of the members of the new firm being a doctor by profession, or running a drug store in connection with the undertaking business, or has the evening paper received any authoritative information that the mortality is to be very great, and that the new embalmers will be particularly in demand?

It is more than likely that Alberni will witness the next gold excitement, if the reports that come down from that point are true. However, it is not merely the report of enthusiasts that we have; I was shown some quartz samples and dust by Mr. Henry Saunders the other day, and though not a professional mineralogist, I can tell a good thing when it is shown to me. Mr. Saunders is too level headed a veteran in business to become enthusiastic over trifles, but he is dead in earnest over the "find," which leads one to believe there is something in it. There are both quartz and placer diggings, the richness of which is said to be very great. It is to be hoped all these expectations will be realized, and that this discovery will form one of the clubs to break the back of the hard times.