

MR. DAVIE'S MISSION.

Premier Davie has returned from Ottawa and the East, and reports that an arrangement has been made by the Dominion Government for a thoroughly equipped quarantine station at Albert Head. Why was not this arranged for long ago? This is a question for the parties who have failed to compel the Government to supply it to answer. Mr. Davie has, we doubt not, done yeoman service in the matter. He has also, we are glad to note, succeeded in having an arrangement made by which for the purpose of inspection of Puget Sound vessels which do not report at quarantine station, the local health officers at Vancouver, Nanaimo and Victoria, shall be clothed with the powers of Dominion quarantine officers. From Mr. Davie we also have something definite in the shape of information as to the Canada Western Railway project. According to him, "the long and short of the matter is that if the Provincial Government and City of Victoria are prepared to back the enterprise with extensive guarantees of interest, abundant capital will be forthcoming immediately to build the road." For our part, as we have said many times, we desire too see the Railway built and that without delay, as it would most certainly be productive of the greatest benefit to the city and Province.—*B. C. Commercial Journal.*

ABANDONED STORES.

A great deal has been said and written about abandoned farms, but little about abandoned stores. Yet any one familiar with the leading thoroughfares in great cities could tell an interesting story about the latter. The subject is really a melancholy one. The passer-by sees a small shop neatly and perhaps expensively fitted up, and with a stock of goods attractively displayed. A few months go by and the showy sign disappears along with the stock of goods and its proprietor. The expectation of a profitable trade has been disappointed, and very likely the capital invested has been wholly or partially sunk. Frequently very ambitious business ventures succumb to the relentless laws of trade and a fine stock of goods passes into the hands of some great firm, which makes money out of it at a "bankrupt sale." Scores of such cases could be enumerated yearly on any business thoroughfare. Still the stores do not remain abandoned. Some hopeful persons with small capital at once step in and rent them, often to repeat the sad experience of their predecessors.

There is a strange fascination about trade which induces hundreds of people who are earning a living in some subordinate capacity, and who have saved a few hundred dollars by strict economy, to launch out on "their own hook" as merchants or tradesmen in various lines of business. In many cases they have had no special training in the line selected, and have no aptitude for it. They work longer and harder than ever before, but failure is inevitable. Only the well trained and shrewd can succeed even where there is ample capital.

This is a view of mercantile life which

many young men, especially the numerous class who flock to the cities from the farms, do not give heed to. They overlook the fact that the shores of mercantile life are strewn with wrecks. Many a farmer's boy comes to the city and works more hours daily than he ever did on the farm, while his surroundings are far from being as desirable and healthful as those of the home he has left behind. It is hard to make him believe this, and the glamor of city life will continue to draw him from a calling which, diligently and intelligently followed, will enable him to lead a more independent and healthful existence than falls to the lot of a majority of his fellow-men.

WILL PLAIDS PREVAIL?

The minds of domestic manufacturers seem fixed upon the plaids for the spring and especially of silk. A large quantity is already shown, but it is only a hint of what is preparing for the spring, so that evidently every woman is expected to look like an immense criss-bar by that time. Plaids are a change from stripes and figures, and have been a furore in Paris for several months. They are also useful and stylish for the fashionable waists and blouses that will be even more worn next season than at present, and they are also a perfect godsend to the economical shopper bent upon combinations or remaking old gowns. A handsome silk plaid is difficult to make, and must bring a good price, which will, in a measure, prevent it becoming a strictly popular article, as unfortunately, popularity seems allied to cheapness. Tasteful plaids are full of charming colorings that would make them becoming were it not that the very form of a plaid requires a tall, slender figure to wear it, and we are not all built after that fashion, even though the present styles demand it. If Paris completely drops plaids in the spring, our fashionable people will not cling very closely to them, and plaids have a warm appearance for summer wear. Here is another material that the dressmakers do not like, as it requires more time to match the squares in cutting out a gown for which they can not charge more, for the extra work does not show, and women, probably men, too, are loath to pay for invisible value. Just now it remains a question, are plaids to be all-pervading, or only a passing ripple in the sea of fashion?—*New York Economist.*

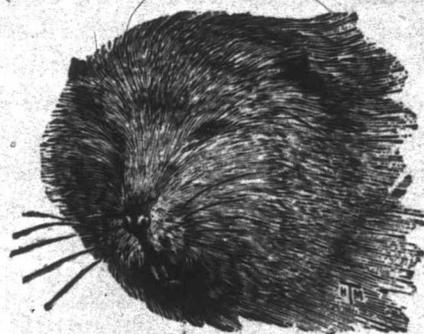
EYE WATER VERSUS SPECTACLES.

In the course of my professional business I have observed that many persons, both old and young, but especially referring to young ladies and gentlemen, are in the habit of wearing spectacles. As it is very difficult to credit that young persons really require to use them, I have come to the conclusion that in a majority of cases young people wear them more as an ornament than use, forgetting that they are really injuring their eyes by so doing. As I have had many years' experience respecting persons wearing eye-glasses, and also the professional advice of one of the best physicians of his day, the late Sir Henry Marsh, physician to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who gave me his formula for eye-water, recommended by him, I think it

my duty to advise the public and young people in particular to refrain from their use. Sir Henry condemns the usual eye-water given by druggists as very injurious to the eyes. Druggists' eye-water as a rule is sulphate of zinc. I beg to offer a bottle of eye-water made from the formula of Sir Henry, free to the first twenty persons that call for it (for their own use) at the Dominion Hotel from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, except Sunday. In one township of County Grey, Ontario, I sold 12 dozen bottles of this eye-water in six weeks; 16 pairs of spectacles were to my knowledge taken off for good, and I heard great compliments paid to me for the benefit the eye-water conferred on them. Price 25 cents. Apply to

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