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VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

A PAGE FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS

# CURRENT TOPICS

C

You all know that Nanaimo is a coal-mining town, but perhaps you do not all know that one of the minos is under the water of the harbor. Until a few days ago a little boat went back and forward fro. a the city to take the miners home from Protec-

fron the city to take the miners home from Protec-tion Island wher their work in the mines was over. The visitor who wisnes to be shown through the coal mines goes to No. 1 shaft, a high building near the water's edge. Here a great volume of smoke tells nim or her that powerful engines are at work. One of the principal thangs this engine does is to drive a tremendous current of air into the mine. The strongest man cannot force open the door of the monager is not busy, he will very likely invite you to step with him into the cage, a great box from which the coal has just been emptied. You will have noticed on your way out that a man is standing which the coal has just been emptied. You will have noticed on your way out that a man is standing weighing the coal as it comes up and that many others are at work nearby. As soon as the party is in the cage it begins to descend. At first you are fright-ened, but it is not so very long before you are at the bottom. Near the mouth of this deep shaft is (or was twelve years ago) a stable where there are a number of fine mules. Passing on a little farther you come to a narrow electric tramway, along which cars loaded with coal run constantly. On each side of the road are passages leading to the little rooms or stalls in which men are at work digging coal. In each man's hat is a lamp which throws light around him.

On and on you walk, bending down for fear you strike your head against the roof of the mine. As you go along you may hear a blast, for the men use explosives to take out large pieces of coal. This work is very carefully done, and one of the best men in the mine is the "shotlighter," who oversees the blasting. After you have been walking so long in a stooping attitude that you feel quite tired, you are at the mouth of Protection Island shaft. You have been hundreds and hundreds of feet under the water of the harbor and are very glad to get into the little steamer which carries you back over the mile of blue water that iles between you and the town.

the mile of blue water that lies between you and the town. The boat is not making regular trips now, for the mine is closed because no one wants to buy the coal. Most of the coal mined in Nanaimo, is taken in large ships to San Francisco. Last year the fac-tories were so busy that a great deal more coal was used than the Nanaimo mines could send. Or-ders were sent to Australia for coal. When the hard times came some of the factories stopped working, and there is now more coal in San Fran-cisco than is needed, so the Western Fuel company have closed the Protection Island mine. Even if they and trouble caused for want of work. There are some people who think it would be better for all if the coal were sold cheaper. Even if the mine-owners did not make such great profits, and if the miners got lower wages, the demand would be more steady and work more constant. If the men are right who believe there is plenty of iron on Vancouver Island, coal will be needed to manufacture it. The more coal we need at home, the less will we be forced to depend on the mar-kets in the United States.

The Empress hotel was opened on Thursday. It is a very beautiful building and already there are many strangers boarding there. It is expected that people from all over the world will come in greater numbers than ever to Victoria now that there is such a splendid hotel in which they can live. Some of these visitors, we hope, will like Victoria so well that they will return year after year, to spend their holiday in our city. Others will build homes for themselves and five here altogether. The more that come the better for Victoria.

The most important event that has taken place, since the last article for the young people's page was written, is the meating of the parliament of the province. Since British Columbia became a prov-ince there have been eleven parliaments. The session of 1908 is the second session of the House of which Hon. Richard McBride is premier.

of which Hon. Richard McBride is premier. " As many of you know, the speech which His Honor Lieut.-Governor Dunsmuir read on Thursday was prepared by his ministers. It was meant to show the members what are the principal matters upon which they should think and talk, and, if necessary, make laws about during their meeting. Some of these are subjects that are interesting to all people in British Columbia, children as well as those who are older. The Governor says that times have been good, that the government has been able to pay the debts of the province and still has money left to spend on necessary public works. There are, in many parts of this province, land which is so dry that nothing will grow on it. It has been proved that when this land is watered it will produce large crops. The government intends to bring water into these dry places so that the land which now grows nothing but sagebrush may

tenant-Governor acted as he did by the instructions

tenant-Governor acted as he did by the instructions of the Ottawa government. Even if the Governor had signed the bill, it might have been disallowed by the Governor-Gen-eral on the advice of his ministers, who represent the majority of the whole of Canada. This is what has happened, and perhaps it is too hard a matter for all but the cleverest of the read-ers of this page to understand.

ers of this page to understand.

There was a story of a plot to blow the Am-erican battleships at Rio Janeiro, in Brazil. It is not likely there was any foundation for the report. The fleet is now nearing the Straits of Magellan, and by the time this is read will probably be in the Pacific ocean.

Alberta cattle ranches are large places. The cat-Alberta cattle ranches are large places. The cat-tic are often miles from the houses where the men who look after them live. It would not be hard for a dishonest man to drive off an animal without being found out. But two brothers named Bennion, who have made a business of stealing cattle, killing, them and selling the meat, have been caught by the mounted police. Western Canada owes much to the skill and daring of the mounted police. It is very hard for a criminal to escape capture where members of this brave force are stationed.

If you have not read the story of the wrecked freew of the Dundonald, who spent eight months on Disappointment Island, 200 miles south of New Zealand, you should hunt up Tuesday's paper and read in the Marine News the tale brought by the Miowera. It is very wonderful and far more inter-esting than most sea-stories boys are so fond of reading. The steamer Vadso was stranded on Sat-wirday near Cape Lazo, on the West Coast, but has since been got safely off the rocks. No further word has been received of the steamer Hartpool, which, is feared, may be wrecked near the same stormy consdale on her southern voyage, and the Blue Fun-hel liner Belierophon had smallpox on board when she nerived at Williams Head. Five of the ship's workitai. The ship had come from Liverpool via bospitai. The ship had come from Liverpool via but week for the sailors. If you have not read the story of the wrecked

There has been another terrible riot in Berlin. The police were attacked by a mob of 2,000 men and boys, who used bricks as weapons. The police were armed with swords and charged upon the crowd, wounding them horribly. It is said there are sixty thousand people out of work in Berlin. Just think of it. Twice as many

in the northeast of the province. The Finlay was one of the first rivers discovered in British Columbia. When the Grand Trunk Pacific railroad is built, this part of the country will not be so hard to get at as it is now. is now.

Reports have come from Prince Rupert that the construction of that road through British Columbia is to be commenced very soon, and that the head-quarters are to be at Prince Rupert, and not at Ed-monton. If this is true, there will be busy times in this province next summer.

That was a very sad thing which took place on board the training ship Cumberland at Newport last week. Two young men quarreled. They agreed to fight it out, and one of them was killed. The other has been arrested. The man who was killed was twenty-one and the other is only twenty. What grief and loss their indulgence in angry passion has caused these boys and all who love them!

An old man in Chicago, who had spent an honor An old man in Chicago, who had spent an honor-able life, used wrongfully the money of the bank of which he was president. He was found guilty, but one of the jurymen felt so sorry for the prisoner that he cried like a child in the courtroom when the ver-dict was given. It is said that he declared no one had lost by the wrongdoing of the president, and that he could not bear to think of his ending his days in prison

A Russian officer is watching the progress of the United States fleet. He asked to be allowed to go on board one of the ships, but permission was re-fused. He then traveled by steamer or railroad, so that he would reach the principal ports as soon as the fleet. The name of the officer is Dlatchkoff, and he is trying to learn how so long a voyage can be safely accomplished for benefit of the Russian fleet.

safely accomplished for benefit of the Russian fleet. The editor thanks Willie Hardie and Reginald Christie for their beautiful pictures. Their copies are excellent. If they can do original work anything like as good they will some day be artists. While we are much pleased to have received pictures of this class, we would suggest that next month the children's drawings shall be on the subject. "What I will be when I grow up." This will give girls and boys—little and big—a chance to put on paper some-thing that is in their own minds. Not a letter this week again! Last week a story was received, which will appear in a later issue. Many thanks to the writer. The editor would like very much to receive an account of what some bright boys and girls saw during a country walk. In Victoris the nark could take the blace of the coun-try. We will promise to publish the best.

Charles Darwin could not bear to watch an operation and listen to the groans and screams of the sufferers. In those days ether and chloroform had not been discovered.

The only pleasant recollection Darwin had of Edinburgh was his seeing Sir Walter Scott at a meet-ing of the Royal Society of which he was president. Good Dr. Darwin found out from his daughters that Good Dr. Darwin found out from his daughters that Charles could not bear to be a doctor, so he determin-ed to make him a clergyman and sent him to the uni-versity of Cambridge. Here the young man paid lit-tle more attention to the teaching in the grand old colleges than he had done in Edinburgh. Here, how-ever, he had an opportunity to study science, out of doors. He found out that one of the professors knew how to teach Botany and he attended his lectures. Then he began to collect beetles. He tells us that "one day, on tearing off some old bark I saw two rare beetles, and seized one in each hand; then I saw a third and new kind, which I could not bear to lose, so that I popped the one which I had in my right hand into my mouth. Alas! it rejected some intensely into my mouth. Alasi it rejected some intensely acrid fluid, which burned my tongue, so that I was forced to spit the beetle out, which was lost, as was the third one."

He was not satisfied with what he could collect himself but set others to work, "for I employed," he says, "a laborer to scrape, during the winter, moss off old trees, and place it in a large bag, and likewise' to collect rubbish at the bottom of the barges in which reeds are brought from the fens, and thus I got some very rare species."

The young collector became great friends with Professor Henslow, the botanist who recommended him for the post of Naturalist on board the Beagle, which was sent to survey South America and sail round the world. One can imagine Darwin's delight. He felt sorry to disappoint his kind father a sec-ond time and ashamed that he had been so extrava-gant. But that generous gentleman was delighted to hear that his son was so clever and was wise enough to know that it was better to be a great naturalist than a noor decre or clever and than a poor doctor or clergyman.

Darwin was away nearly five years on the Beagle. barwin was away nearly rive years on the Beagle, during which he worked very hard. When he came back he published an account of what he saw and discovered. The book was very interesting and made its author famous. You have often noticed the shells that stick to rocks and the bottoms of ships. Most people are satisfied to pick them up and look at them for a few moments, thinking, perhaps, that they are curious things. It took Charles Darwin eight years to learn enough about barnacles to write a short book describing them. It took him more than twenty

player. Then a letter of the alphabet is chosen, and five minutes allowed in which those taking part must try to think of all the well-known people they know whose names begin with the letter decided upon.

The Feather and the String

As a change from pilodex it is rather amusing to use a feather as the ball. All you have to do is to keep it by blowing or waving your hands, above the string. Be sure you do not touch it. Fetch and Carry

In the way of a good active game for the parlor, try Fetch and Carry, which is prepared for in this

way. Two handkerchiefs of any size and color desired convenient to hand are stretched taut and tacked down upon the floor.

down upon the floor. On one are placed twelve peanuts, the other re-maining bare. Each player in turn receives a spoon. The fun consists in carrying the nuts to the empty, handkerchief and then back again. The feat must be accomplished carrying one nut at a time. The player accomplishing it in shortest time wins a prize, consequently some member of the group must be made timekeeper, and each person's minutes closely watched.

## The Skating Doll

The Skating Doll. This will appeal to all smaller children, it is so noisy. A large, round tea-table is needed, and a cork roughy made into the semblance of a doll with four legs made of pins, with the heads to stand upon. The figure placed on the tray, which is upside down. Will with a gentile tapping move about. The children can then form sides, and what they have to do is to tap upon the tray, each side trying to keep the doll from coming off the tray. Every one in the room, if possible, should take part in the same game in order not to hear the noise.

# NATURAL HISTORY

### How a Dog Saved the Family

How a Dog Saved the Family A man in Oxford, Pa., owns a pet collie who is re-ported to have saved the lives of the family by ring-ing the dinner bell to awaken them. The dog found the house in flames at midnight, and not being able to awaken the household by barking, grasped the rope to the dinner bell, as he had been taught to do when summoning the hands from the fields, and in an in-stant aroused the entire neighborhood. The members of the family barely escaped with their lives. The two children were partly overcome by the smoke. The children had taught the dog this trick; and are now grateful to him for knowing when to ring it. grateful to him for knowing when to ring it.

#### Mistaken in His Friend

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## A Timely Warning

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to bring water into these dry places so that the land which now grows nothing but sagebrush may be covered with fertile farms and fruitful orchards. There are dry belts near Grand Forks, near Ash-croft, and in other places. British Columbia is a very large province and, except in a few places, very sparsely settled. There are large regions still unexplored. The government is going to send out surveyors who shall find out what land is fitted for settlement and measure it off so that people will get just what they pay for. On the prairies the whole country was surveyed before the farmers took up the land. In that open country surveying is much easier than among the rocks and forests of our province. Yet lumbermen and miners as well as farmers are interested in having the land correctly described and carefully measured.

having the land correctly described and carefully measured. There are a great many people in British Colum-bia who do not think that people should be allowed to come from Asia and settle here. The government promises to make a law that will prevent these peo-ple, as well as ignorant immigrants from other countries, from coming into the province. Everyone will be glad to hear that steps are to be taken to provide a complete course of education for all young people in the province. If the govern-ment carries out its plan those who want to be doctors, lawyers or clergymen, or to be miners or electricians, can do so without leaving the province. There are many other things in the Governor's speech but these seemed to the editor of most interest to the readers of this page. The boys and girls who learn Canadian history know that men are chosen by the people to make the laws for the province, and that they have to answer to the people for their acts while they are in parliament.

There are certain laws which a province may ike, but there are others which only the parliament Ottawa can enact.

t Ottawa can enact. Before an act or bill becomes law. It must be igned by the Lieutenant-Governor if it is a pro-incial act, or by the Governor-General if it is a

Dominion act. There are a very few cases in which even an act passed by the parliament of Canada and signed by the Governor-General may be prevented from becoming law by the King of England. The deal-ings of Great Britain with foreign nations are in her own power, and as long as Canada is a British colony no Canadian law may interfere with a British treaty. Whether any act does so or not is a matter to be decided by the government of the Mother Country.

Country. Last year the House of Parliament of British Columbia passed an act, which was intended to brevent all foreigners who could not write and speak the Erglish language, from entering the province. On the 23rd of April His Honor Lieut.-Governor Dunsmuir wrote a short letter to Captain Tatlow, then acting in place of Hon. Richard McBride, the premier, refusing to sign this bill. The bill accord-high did not become law.

not become law. The bin accordent not become law. The bin accordent c Monday after the House met. Mr. Me-the leader of the opposition, declared that, Governor refused to carry out the will of se, the Premier should have resigned, be-must answer to the people for the Gov-

day, Mr. Hawthornthwalte accused the of having used his high position for his benefit, and asked that steps be taken to office from him. This is a very serious and one that should not have been lightly it was shown on Wedgesdard in the taken to t was shown on Wednesday that the Lieu-

people as there are in Victoria, counting every man, woman and child! We who scarcely know what it is to be hungry or cold cannot understand the feel-ings of people who in the depth of winter must look on while helpless children suffer.

Mr. Lemieux has returned to Ottawa, and reports that the Japanese government have promised in writing that it will prevent its people from coming in as great numbers as formerly to Canada, and that no Japanese subjects will be allowed to be brought here who have been fired before leaving Japan to work in such places as mills or mines or on rail-roads. It is greatly to be hoped that this agreement will do something to put an end to the strife which has begun here. will do something has begun here.

Heroes are found among all classes of people, and King Edward is not satisfied that only those who whow bravery on the battlefield or at sea should be terrible accidents happen in mines and quarries. Those who try to save the victims of these disas-tropic accidents happen in mines and guarries. Those who try to save the victims of these disas-ters often do so at the risk of their own lives. The king has ordered that wherever in his dominions any one shall have performed an act of great brav-ery in a mine or quarry, he or she shall receive a medal. Perhaps no one ever does a deed of hero-sism to win a medal, but it is well that such acts

In the Southern States there is a very large negro population. The ancestors of these black people were propulation. The ancestors of these black people were propulation. The ancestors of these black people were in the tobacco fields and on the cotton and sugar both they were set free. They were very ignorant. There were not many schools for the children of these black people. Many of them are very ignorant these black people. Many of them are very ignorant and some of them are bad. There is a great deal of hatred between the lowest classes of blacks and writes in the South. The best people, whether black or white, believe that all the children of the negroes should be taught there is a very fine school called the Tuskegee insti-tutes and a few days ago a large meeting was called at which some of the most noted men, white and pakek, spoke. The purpose of the meeting was called to the trained there, who would go back and teach could be trained there, who would go back and teach

could be trained these, when the trained to work with their own people. In this school people are trained to work with their hands as well as their brains. Governor Hughes of New York, who was one of the speakers, said: "There is no color line in good work, whether of hand or brain."

It is said that some prospectors have discovered gold on the Ingenia river, a branch of the Finlay,

# CHARLES DARWIN

Nearly fifty years ago there lived in the village of fown in the beautiful county of Kent a very wonder-ful man. He was tall and thin with ruddy face and blue-gray eyes which were shaded by over-hanging have eyes looked out upon the world that saw so much or observed so carefully. Behind those shaggy tows was a powerful and busy brain which thought much upon what the eyes saw. "I must," he says, "have been a very simple little fellow when I first went to school. A boy of the name of Garnett took me into a cake shop one day and bought some cakes, for which he did not pay, as the shopman trusted him. When he came out, I asked him why he did not pay for them, and he instantly answered: "Why, do you not know that my uncle left a great sum of money to the town on condition that every tradesman should give whatever was answered: "Why, do you not know that my uncle left a great sum of money to the town on condition that every tradesman should give whatever was wanted without payment to any one who wore his old hat and moved it in a particular manner? "And he showed me how it was moved. He then went into an-other shop where he was trusted, and asked for some small article moving his hat in the proper manner. other shop where he was trusted, and asked for some small article, moving his hat in the proper manner, and of course obtained it without payment. When he came out, he said: "Now, if you like to go by yourself into that cake-shop" (how well I remember the exact position), "I will lend you my hat, and you can get whatever you like if you move the hat on your head properly.' I gladly accepted the generous offer, and went in and asked for some cakes, moving the ald hat, and was walking out of the shop, when the shopman made a rush at me; so I dropped the cakes and ran for dear life, and was astonished by being greeted with shouts of laughter by my false friend Garnett."

There are people who think that Darwin was not always right in what he taught but all believe that he nderful discoveries.

made wonderful discoveries. His father was a doctor and was very well off, Grarles did so badly at school that his father was greatly disappointed and told him one day that he boys were expected to learn Latin and Greek and the first lesson this dull fellow took a delight in was a proposition in Euclid. He was very fond of shoot-ing, not because he loved to kill, but because he wish-ed to find out about the wild birds and animals. He began to study chemistry and for this he was publicly rebuked by the head master, who thought all time wasted unless a boy was learning Latin. As he was doing no good at this school his father sent him to Edinburgh university to study with his brother, who was learning to be a doctor. But

years' study to prepare another work called the "Ori-

years' study to prepare another work called the "Ori-gin of Species." This is a book for wise men to read. At first good people were afraid of it, but though many still think that Darwin was mistaken, almost everyone believes that he really sought to find out the truth. All his life long his man toiled slowly and patiently. Like Alfred the Great, he accomplished an immense amount of work in spite of almost constant ill-health. In his own home he was greatly beloved. He was the play-mate and companion of his children and lived a sim-ple, happy life.

# CHILDREN'S AMUSEMENTS

Often at a party children are at a loss what to do. When this happens the person who has a new game is the most welcome of guests. Here are some that look as if they would be good.

#### Buzz and Fuzz

Buzz and Fuzz Here is a quiet little game which every one can join in, and which may be made difficult or easy ac-cording to the ages of those playing. Sit round in a ring, and then one must begin one, the next one 2, and so on until 5 is reached, when instead of 5, the word Buzz must be said or a forfeit claimed. Then on to 10, when the word Fuzz, and so on every time a multiple of 5 only occurs Buzz is the right word with the 10's Fuzz, up to 50, when matters may be com-plicated by using the terms Buzz-Fuzz and Fuzz-Buzz. With small children it is quite enough fun to have to say Buzz each time the multiple of 5 comes round.

#### Cat and Mouse

This is a regular romping game for everybody. A cat must be chosen and a mouse, and the rest of the guests arranged in two rows, with a gangway down the middle. The cat is blind-folded, likewise the mouse, and they must be started one after the other to run up and down the gangway and outside the rest of the players. The cat must try to catch other to run up and down the gangway and outside the rest of the players. The cat must try to catch the mouse. The mouse has to squeak at intervals to let the cat know partly where to hunt, and the cat can mew to warn the mouse, which adds to the fun.

## The Face of the Clock

Ask your guests to draw the face of a clock, hav-ing first seen to it that there is no clock within range that they can copy. If they have not been tested before most of them, if not all, you will find, will make a mistake—they will draw in the ordinary Roman figures for four instead of four strokes which you will find on every clock face since the days of a gertain French king, when the mistake was first made.

## Initial Letter Game

For this you want paper and pencils for each

People who take all things literally are apt to tread on other people's toes. The man who walked in where he saw a sign, "Walk in," and who was ordered out, was a literal man; and so was he who went into a pawnbroker's shop and demanded 40s, because there was a placard in the window that read, "Look at this watch for 40g."

watch for 40s." "I looked at it," said he, "and now I want my £2." The most amusing incident we have heard is that of the countryman who, while sauntering along a city street, saw a sign, "Please ring the bell for the care-

taker." After reflecting for a few minutes he walked up and gave the bell such a pull that it nearly came out by the roots. In a few moments an angry-faced man opened the door. "Are you the caretaker" asked the bellpuller. "Yes; what do you want?" "I saw that notice, so I rang the bell, and now I want to know why you can't ring the bell yourself."

WITH THE POETS

A DOG FRIEND.

I like my dog, when in trust grown sweet ' He lies, with his head up, at my feet: With his tongue hung out, when we've had a chase, And that frank, free look on his shaggy face, And his almost uttered: "Never mind— Thought the world is hard and the times unkind. Fil cling to you as friend should cling Through bloom of rose and the thorn's sharp sting!"

I know he will, and I laugh and say: "You're a fine old dog!" Then we romp away, And my heart is sweeter, my faith more deep, My feet more sure when they climb the steep, My soul more fitted to bear the blow Of the false and petty and mean and low That we face in life and we find all-where, When we look for the true and the real and fair;

My dog loves mei And I sometimes bend With my face by the face of my faithful friend, And tell my story, because it seems That he has my hopes and he dreams my dreams. And he does not cavil or bring attack When I go my way or I turn my back; My dog loves me! And I always feel That his is a love that is firm and real. How thousands of little children. Like Peter the Heymit's pligrims, Set forth for the Holy Land?