

demand falls off and trade falls back into its accustomed lethargy. Trade journals especially seem to think it necessary to give a reason for this, and for want of a proper appreciation of the trouble give the agitation of the tariff as the cause of the trouble; doubtless that has considerable influence in restricting trade, but the great and primary difficulty with the business of the country is the fact of the want of ready money; the great mass of consumers have for many months been deprived of the means of earning money, either in whole or in part, and have been and still are unable to purchase to the normal extent even the prime necessities of life, to say nothing of the comforts and luxuries. The fact that production previous to the past summer had been excessive of almost all leading articles comes home to the Americans now when it would be well if the available labor could be employed in supplying goods for current consumption, and so it is to a certain extent, but there is a vast amount of goods of a staple character which remain on hand and are being pushed into consumptive channels, that take the place of new productions, and thus the employment of labor is restricted and industries continue to be seriously crippled. Many manufacturing establishments which suspended operations, have, it is true, resumed, but there are large numbers which have not turned a wheel for several months. Even those which are now running are doing so at a serious cut in wages, and the operatives are doing well if they can make both ends meet, so that not only are industries crippled but the distribution of goods of all kinds is curtailed.

The Anti-Chinese League, spoken of last week, is understood to be approaching a thorough plan of organization. All classes appear to be united as to the desirability of the League, and no doubt any movement having for its object discrimination in favor of white labor will become popular. In this connection it might not be out of place to speak of a custom which is assuming gigantic proportions in this city. I refer to the allegations made by the merchant tailors and clothing dealers, that hundreds of young men moving in what is known as good society and who are indebted to the white population for their salaries, are in the habit of getting their clothing made by the Chinese tailors. On looking over the list of the young men who patronize the Chinese tailors I observed the names of several young men, who if they depended on the Mongolian for a living would certainly starve, yet the money they spend for clothing all goes into the pockets of the Chinese tailors. It is scarcely necessary to give the names of these young men, as they can be readily recognized on the street by the out of their clothes. However, as this is one phase of the case the Anti-Chinese League will be called upon to consider, I will not refer to it at any greater length, than by saying that some startling developments are promised later on.

His many friends will be very much concerned to learn that the litigation which has obtained for the past few months be-

tween Father Time and Sir Matthew Begbie is likely to eventuate in favor of the plaintiff, and that the once stalwart dispenser of justice may succumb to the common enemy. I must say that Sir Matthew to me always seemed at his best when presiding in the County Court, when he appeared to be justice unadorned with a mitre in the likeness of a hornet's nest. He invariably seemed to get at the bottom of the case in short order and dispatched the County Court business with a vigor that was refreshing compared to the delay that seems to be chronic with the denizens of the upper flat in the Hall of Justice.

It will be difficult indeed for the authorities to secure a successor who will compare favorably with Sir Matthew in either forum and particularly in the County Court. To me it seems that those qualities which are most required in a City Police Magistrate are exactly those which are required in the occupant of the County Court Bench. A great amount of patience with petty litigants, urbanity and common sense, coupled with firmness and a capacity for fathoming the motives of men are all essential to a good County Court Judge, especially as he is generally both judge and jury.

If the time is unfortunately at hand when a new incumbent for the County Court Bench is required, it occurs to me that the authorities could not do better than secure the services of our city magistrate, Mr. Macrae, who has unquestionably proved to be a most successful and acceptable occupant of the City Bench. Is there any reason why Mr. Macrae could not take over the work of the County Court and hold this Court in the afternoons, and thereby provide daily sittings of the Court? The vexation of the delay arising from monthly sittings would then be a thing of the past, and the whole time of the Supreme Court Judge would then be devoted to the Supreme Court—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

"Bystander" is the *nom de plume* of the Victoria correspondent of the *Vancouver World*. This writer, in a late issue of the *World*, is rather scorching a class of Englishmen, which, it is only fair to say, are greatly in the minority. Without attempting to disprove or commend "Bystander's" remarks, I would say that there is no man in the world for whom I have greater respect than an unobtrusive, unaffected Englishman. However, it is of another kind of Englishman altogether that "Bystander" writes, and here is what he says:

"I am not one of those who believe in looking down on an Englishman because he happens to occasionally sport knee breeches, waist bands and a 'chappie cap.' These are picturesque adornments and national characteristics of dress, which in themselves are no more objectionable than a Scotch bonnet or sombrero. Even a little 'haw-haw' and a rich English accent are quite so excusable, indeed, as a good Scotch or Irish brogue, which we so much admire. It is a foolish and mischievous thing to inculcate prejudices on that score, because we can no more repress individualism in this

respect than we can make water run uphill. The only thing I do object to is the assumption of superiority on that account. Sensible Englishmen do not commit this offence, any more than sensible Irishmen or sensible Scotchmen, but unfortunately there are a great many English people, not by any means representative of their country, who depend very largely for social recognition upon such artifices as I have described, and who, though not above eking out a more or less precarious existence if not supported by paternal beneficences, lord it over honest Canadians and other men, who neither put on frills nor object to earning their own living in their own way. This class, though not large numerically, is nevertheless a conspicuous element of society, and it has given rise to a feeling here that I regret to see, that of Canadian versus Englishman. For that, however, I do not hold the Canadian altogether responsible. I do not wonder that he objects to be shoved aside or figuratively speaking 'walked over' by fellows who have no special recommendations except those external marks by which we can no more judge a gentleman than we can determine the qualities of a horse by his trappings. It is somewhat galling to see those stocking-legged gentlemen taken up from the start and shoved to the front to form the select circle, while the native-born Canadian is kept at arms' length for a conventional period and then only receives the tip end of recognition. He never really becomes one of 'our class.' I don't say that this is true in every case, but there is enough of it to create a feeling. The Canadian may be slightly *gouche*, and he is necessarily more provincial than his traveled, sporty English competitor, who is here far from home because he is an adventurer and a pedestrian by instinct. The Canadian never saw a 'Derby,' never rowed in the 'classic' fours and is generally hazy on the topics of 'meets' and 'mounts.' He is not 'in it' in club parlance. But what he lacks in the ornamental phrasing he makes up in practicability and general intelligence. He is a useful member of society. Put him where industry, fertility of resource and management are required and he invariably comes to the front. If he is more modest than the remittance man he is more self-conscious and feels the slight that is intended for him and is not slow to resent it. This is giving rise to the formation of a distinctly Canadian party, which will assert the dominance of a Canadian spirit.

It makes very little difference whether we are English, Irish, Scotch, Canadian, or what else, if we have common sense and a proper estimate of what is required of us as citizens of the country and community in which we live. Vancouver is fortunate in this respect.

Here, however, it is different. They hover on the crust of society long enough to get known, and before anybody knows it are fairly in the swim. Like as not 'at home' they started into the world through the stable. What wonder is it that society is only known by its artificiality and feebleness! Culture and refinement are dead letters with our 'upper ten.'

PETE GRINATOR.