

Twice-a-Week Times

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THE NAVAL PROGRAMME AS IT AFFECTS VICTORIA.

We have to thank a couple of correspondents for calling our attention to certain editorial articles, evidently intended to be interpreted as of dread and terrible import, which have lately been appearing in the Colonist. From the position in which the articles in question were placed—cut off from the main body of editorial opinion by advertising rules—we had hastily reached the conclusion that they dealt specifically with miscellaneous news created by some potent proprietary medicine. In this assumption we erred most grievously. The articles were evidently written by the editor in a moment of temporary aberration. After reading over the thoughts committed to paper in this moment of weakness, the editorial heart could not bear the thought of consigning the manuscripts to the place to which they belonged, so they were printed in such a position as to dissociate the curious hodge-podge of prize ring phraseology and figure and vague prophetic rubbish from the ordinary responsible editorial matter.

We are inclined to think that the rambling and incoherent disquisitions of which our contemporary is evidently in its heart ashamed are intended to lead up to something not remote from denunciation of the naval programme of the Dominion government. Now while we believe that programme to be broad enough in scope, in its preliminary stages at least, every reasonable Canadian and honest Briton, there is an aspect of it which is of special interest to the people of Victoria in a local sense, and to British Columbians in a provincial sense. One of the naval stations will be at Esquimalt. At that depot there will be maintained to begin with a naval force of close upon, if it will not actually exceed (all branches of the services considered) a thousand men. The annual expenditure for maintenance alone will be considerably in excess of a million dollars. The details of the scheme as it affects Victoria particularly will be found set out in another column of this issue of the Times.

Yet, we shall probably be asked in the course of a short time to meet in public assembly and denounce this naval programme with all it implies directly and indirectly, and to endorse the substitute of the Ottawa opposition, which suggests that our duty is to contribute two Dreadnoughts to the British navy, and to take a plebiscite of the people of all Canada before entering upon the programme outlined by the Canadian government. Victoria is probably the only place in Canada, and unquestionably the only place in the world, which contains or would tolerate individuals capable of such mad political partisanship.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

The Colonist advises the members of the city council to resolve themselves into a streets committee of the whole and go out to-day for the purpose of noting the disreputable condition of the majority of Victoria's main thoroughfares. The advice is good; but perhaps it might be as well to postpone the inquest until a more propitious season. The weather is abnormal. The ordinary mud has been converted into hard asphaltum, and covered with a garment of dazzling white. This condition will not last long. After it passes the council will be enabled to see the streets at their worst.

But, we do not know that an investigation of the kind suggested will do any good. The probability is the aldermen are thoroughly informed in regard to the deplorable condition of Victoria's main thoroughfares. If they are not, they must go about their business with closed eyes. The evil has been chronic for years, and council after council has been appealed to to find and apply a remedy—not always in vain. Many of the leading streets have been paved and present a very creditable appearance, but in respect of others which have long been crying for a garment more in keeping with the importance and dignity—not to speak of the reputation—of the capital of British Columbia, we cannot shut our eyes to their vagabondish appearance.

We are not disposed to censure the council unreservedly for this state of things. That body is not absolutely untrammelled in such matters, unless it is disposed to charge the cost of improvements against the general revenue of the city. And that cannot be done where the principle of local improvement is in force.

Nor would it be advisable to give the council power to initiate and carry out works of local improvement regardless of the inclination of the ratepayers affected.

That would be too arbitrary a system to set up in this country, however desperate the straits to which we may appear to be reduced. If the Seattle city council has such powers, as the Colonist suggests, it is just possible that the authority may be exercised to the ruin of property-holders. Indeed, we understand that not a few former owners of real property in the Sound city have been impoverished by the costly works of improvement in progress there.

Of course the idea of borrowing a million dollars on the general credit of the city to be applied to street improvement is preposterous. It was probably written in the heat, generated by a bump of the writer's motor-car into a more than ordinary deep rut on Douglas or Fort street, or some of the other thoroughfares mentioned as in need of immediate attention. We have no doubt that the city council will do the best it can during the present year to rouse ratepayers to a sense of their duty, that as a consequence more attention will be given to paving the streets in the business centres and less to improvements in the outskirts, and that as a consequence substantial progress will be made before the spring and summer are ended.

SERIOUS LOYALISTS.

The naval issue in Canada has been whittled down to a fine point. It is now a question as to the loyalty or the disloyalty of the two parties in the House of Commons. Speaker after speaker on the Tory side has got on his feet in the course of the debate and accused the leader of the government of being a disloyal person. That is no new thing, of course. It has been an issue in many elections, and the people of Canada have expressed their opinion upon it in unmistakable terms. But it appears to be the only policy the opposition can think of now that its former policy of protection as they have it in the United States has been thoroughly discredited by revelations of the most convincing character as to the evils which inevitably follow in the train of high protection. High tariffs have been demonstrated to be breeders of trials and tribulations and of every economic abuse detrimental to the true interests of the public. The leaders of the party in power in the United States have been forced to declare that the tendency of the tariff from henceforth must be downward; that the relief given by the Payne-Aldrich measure adopted at the last session of Congress was merely a sop which must be supplemented by more drastic action in the immediate future. In other words protection has been given a thorough trial and has been proved a failure. So that the ground is cut from the feet of the Tory high protectionists of Canada and they are stranded as far as a real political issue is concerned.

Hence the adoption of a cry which a sage of the past has described as "the last refuge of scoundrels." Colonel Sam Hughes had the floor in the House of Commons yesterday, and of course he made the welkin ring with denunciations of the disloyalty of the Liberal party, making direct charges against the leader of the government. There were no sly Fosterian insinuations from the mouth of the Don Quixote this time. He came out strong and direct. For his candor he is to be commended. Not that anybody takes Colonel Sam seriously. His words were never taken as worthy of serious consideration at any time. He had earned for himself a place in the realm of the political burlesquer long before he ignored the Dominion militia authorities and defied the Imperial War Office by throwing himself and his man Turpin into the South African Campaign, capturing a Boer commando with his lone lieutenant, the man Turpin, aforesaid. But, unfortunately for Sam, according to his own confession in a postscript following a lurid description of the carnage which preceded the capture, the commando would not stay in captivity. Just when the gallant colonel and the equally gallant manservant were preparing to take it into camp as prisoners of war, they both got up and walked away about its business, leaving the intrepid and valorous contingent of two Canadians all forlorn upon the veldt. Then Sam became discouraged. He was convinced that the ignorant Boers did not understand the ethics of the game. They refused to play fair. So he shook the dust of the veldt from his warrior's feet and came home, bringing along poor Turpin as the only trophy of the campaign.

It is a glorious thing for the sacred cause of Imperial unity that some stray Boer bullet did not find a billet in the great loyal heart of Sam Hughes when he was fighting for his own hand in South Africa. It is clear that if Sam had fallen the traitorous Laurier would have had too much of his own way in Canada. Of course there is no doubt that the true and loyal Foster and the faithful Burrell would have "done their devotions" against the false knaves who are known to be plotting against the Empire. But if Sam's sword were rust, his turbulent soul troubling the rest of the saints, and Turpin left a martial orphan, who knows what might have happened. The ambition of Laurier might have had free course, and Canada might be independent to-day, with the present Prime Minister acting as either its first president or sitting upon a throne at Ottawa. Let

us therefore be thankful that Colonel Hughes, stout bulwark of the Empire, was checked by a strong shield and buckler when fighting in South Africa—that he was miraculously spared for the greater work still left for him to do, and that Canada is still safe within the Imperial realm.

In the meantime there is a possibility that there may be a red in pickle for the various Tory loyalists who have chosen the occasion to question the motives of the Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in this matter of naval defence. The Premier has endured the poisonous insinuations of the notorious Foster, the taunts of the blatant Burrell and the direct assaults of the windbag Hughes with calm disdain. He has not opened his mouth as yet to reply any of the charges which have been levelled against his political honor and integrity. But he will probably wing up the debate. His remarks on that occasion will be worth listening to and reading after they are published.

Some inexperienced person has called the Colonist's attention to the fact that the game laws are being violated in a section of the Saanich district. So far as Vancouver Island is concerned, there might almost as well be no game laws on the statute books. The effect which the laws have could be gained just as completely by a common understanding amongst sportsmen as a matter of honor to refrain from shooting during the breeding and the growing seasons. The class which will not observe the law except under compulsion violates it at will in all sections of the Island during every season of the year. No serious attempt is made to enforce the law. This is something which every sportsman knows. Vancouver Island is a no-man's land so far as the provincial game warden is concerned. Yet it is the finest natural game preserve on the continent of America, and if a serious attempt were made to enforce the existing laws it would provide good sport and wholesome, healthful recreation for the present and future generations. The chief end of the game department of the provincial government appears to be to provide fine sport for the dog game hunters from other countries, not to conserve the small game for the benefit of residents of the province. In our opinion this is putting the cart before the horse. The interests of our own people should have priority of position.

The action of the city council Thursday upon the water agreement with Oak Bay municipality indicates a further addition to the accumulated difficulties of the general water question. There appears to be one thing Victorians cannot agree upon either in their individual or their representative capacity. Water has certainly got upon the brain of some of us. The probability is that each one of us thinks he can point his finger at his neighbor and say, "Thou art the man."

SPRING FLOWER SHOW IN EMPRESS HOTEL.

Preparations Under Way for Successful Event—Prize List.

Preparations are being made for the spring flower show which will be held again this year under the auspices of the King's Daughters in the palm room of the Empress hotel. This is an ideal place for the event, and the present indications are that it will be very successful. The spring flowers are the most highly prized of all, and the Victoria climate is particularly suitable for the growing of bulbous flowers and English primroses. The date set for the event is Monday, April 11th. The general committee on arrangements include: Mrs. A. T. Watt, Mrs. Edward Dickenson, Mrs. H. A. S. Morley, Miss Wilson (Duncan), Mrs. L. H. Hardie, Miss M. M. Leitch and Miss Sorby.

Prize List.
 Class 1—One dozen yellow long trumpet daffodils.
 Class 2—One dozen double daffodils.
 Class 3—One dozen short trumpet daffodils.
 Class 4—One dozen bi-color long trumpet daffodils.
 Class 5—Collection of six varieties, six blossoms each.
 Class 6—Collection twelve varieties, six blossoms each.
 Class 7—Bowl of star daffodils.
 Class 8—Collection polyanthus narcissus.
 Class 9—Bowl of daffodils, mixed varieties.
 Class 10—Six hyacinths, shown singly.
 Class 11—Three varieties tulips, single, six blossoms each.
 Class 12—Three varieties tulips, double, six blossoms each.
 Class 13—Collection of araucarias.
 Class 14—Collection of polyanthus.
 Class 15—Collection of wallflowers.
 Class 16—Collection of primroses.
 Class 17—Bouquet spring flowers.
 Class 18—Basket spring flowers.
 Class 19—Trade exhibit of spring bulbs.
 Class 20—Bowl of wild flowers.
 Class 21—Special collection for schools, with special prizes—1st, 2nd and 3rd—collection of wild flowers.
 Class 22—Floral designs for table decoration.

The dining room will be open for afternoon tea from 4 to 5.15 p. m., and the orchestra will play during the afternoon. There will be a concert, with vocal numbers, during the evening.

EXPLOSION CLAIMS EIGHT VICTIMS.

Several Employees of Powder Works Blown to Atoms.

San Leandro, Cal., Feb. 18.—Surgeons at the county infirmary to-day declared their belief that Eng Sing, a Chinese powder mixer, will die from his injuries sustained in the destruction of several buildings of the Trojan powder works at Roberts Landing yesterday. The Chinese received serious injuries, and his death would add a ninth victim to the list of those killed by the explosion. All others injured will recover.

Officials of the Trojan powder works to-day began an investigation into the cause of the disaster, although the inquiry is regarded as hopeless. The men who could have thrown light on the cause were torn to pieces by the explosion, and those who escaped with more or less serious injuries were in the outer buildings which were shattered by the force of the concussion.

Several of those in the list of dead are placed there because they are reported missing. It is probable that they were blown to atoms, and that there will be no trace of them found.

Two of the victims are known to have been pinioned by the falling beams and to have perished in the fire which followed the explosion.

FIGHT FOR A STONE QUARRY.

(Continued from page 1.)

The action of Hon. Mr. Fulton is called in question, and in connection with the suit it will have to be decided whether he had any right to assign the mortgage as he did.

Alden W. Hudson, in company with Henry Rudge and Samuel Gray, were the original owners of the land whereon the Haddington Island quarry is situated. In 1909 Henry Rudge died in Victoria. He left no will, but his heirs are H. A. Rudge, W. P. Rudge, H. Rudge, Fred Rudge, Nellie Barlow and Jennie Stannard, all children. Samuel Gray is also dead, dying in Oakland, Cal., 1905, and his wife died in 1903, leaving two children, Samuel Gray and Elizabeth Wright. These heirs of the two former partners, with Mr. Hudson, are now partners to the action.

In 1893 the three original owners of the quarry gave a mortgage on the property for \$3,500 to W. J. Macaulay, Victoria, the mortgage bearing interest at 12 per cent. The record shows that in 1894 the mortgage was assigned to the Hon. G. B. Martin, then chief commissioner of lands and forests, and the record shows that he was paying the principal and interest due. The object of the government in securing this mortgage appears to have been to ensure a supply of stone for the parliament buildings then proposed to be built. The government was to work the quarries paying 5 cents a cubic foot for all the stone taken out, applying the same to the reduction of the mortgage held against the owners.

Coming down to the year 1906 a receiver was appointed by order of Judge Harrison to administer the affairs of the parliament buildings, the stone quarry, belonging to the plaintiffs, James Forman, of this city, was appointed receiver, and into his hands was committed the carrying on of all business. According to the records in view of the requests from Mr. Hudson, Hon. F. J. Fulton on March 11th, 1908, for the sum of \$1,000, then to be paid due on the mortgage given by Mr. Hudson and his partners several years before to Mr. Macaulay and assigned in turn to G. B. Martin, then Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, assigned the mortgage to the Haddington Island Quarry Company, Ltd. On March 12th, 1908, James Forman, acting as solicitor for the Haddington Island Quarry Company, made the payment of the same due.

James Forman, the receiver for the Haddington quarry, wrote the government on May 11th, 1908, stating that he had been informed that stone was being taken out for the court house at Vancouver, and that if such was the case no contract had been entered into with him as receiver permitting of the quarrying being done.

On May 16th Mr. Forman was informed by letter from the department that the assignment by the government to the Haddington Island Quarry Company, Ltd. Not until February, 1909, according to Mr. Hudson's statement, was he made aware of the quarrying with respect to his property. Believing that his obligation with the government had been met he waited upon the deputy commissioner of lands and works with the object of paying off the said mortgage. He was then informed that the government claimed an interest in the mortgage, and having been assigned by Hon. Mr. Fulton.

Action was then begun by the issuing of a writ of summons and the requesting of a bill of particulars.

Mr. Taylor, this morning, for defendant company, entered a preliminary objection against the course of procedure suggested by Mr. Higgins. He contended that it was admitted by counsel for plaintiff that the mortgage had duly passed to the crown, and that as the crown could "do no wrong" therefore the attempt to prove that it had acted wrongfully in transferring title to the defendant company would not hold. Counsel for plaintiff should attempt to get a remedy by applying for petition of right.

Mr. Justice Morrison remarked that in the event of plaintiff's taking this course they might find themselves without a remedy at all. The nature of similar applications in this province in the past would hardly justify the hope that they might succeed in that direction.

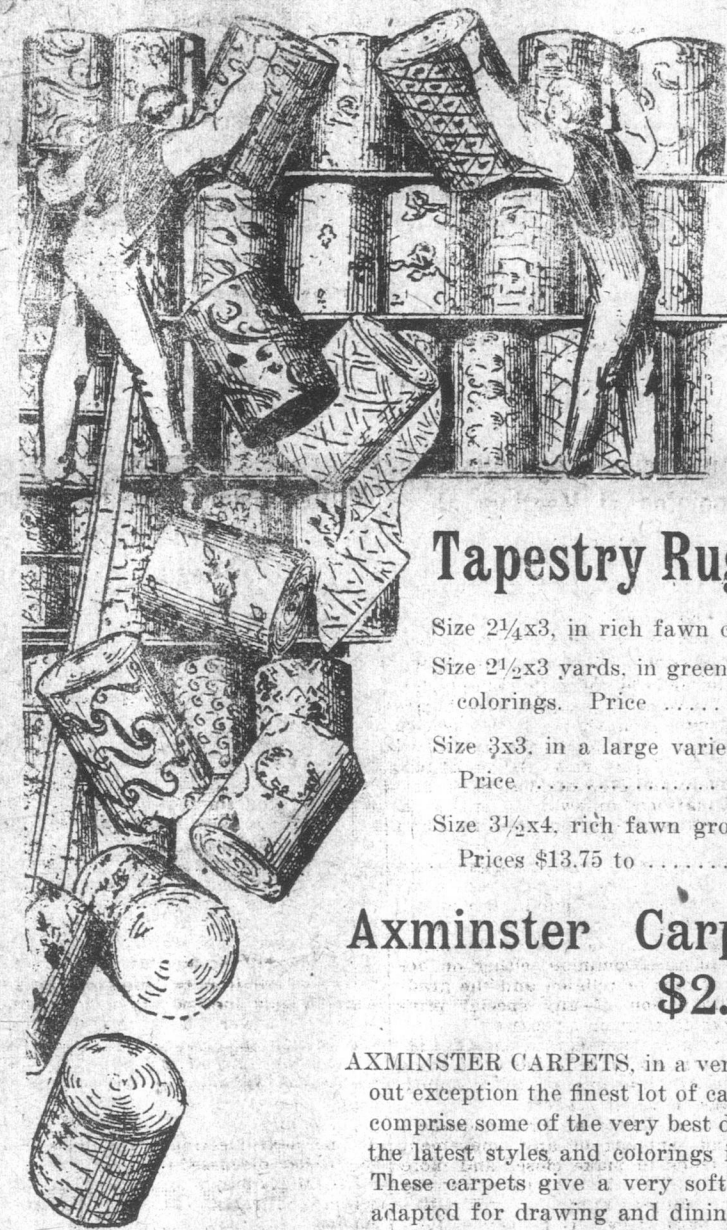
Mr. Higgins said it was not denied that the crown was duly vested with the mortgage, but it was denied that the chief commissioner of lands and works had by order in council been authorized to transfer the property from the possession of the crown and grant title for the same. A bill pendens had been filed with a registrar prior to the action of Hon. F. J. Fulton in transferring the property to the defendants.

SMALLPOX ON CRUISER.

Port Townsend, Wash., Feb. 18.—Doctors in charge of the quarantine station announced to-day that all the smallpox patients on board the cruiser Washington are improving and will recover. A sixth case has developed on the ship. Nelson, a coal passer taking ill last night.

DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED

Carpet Dept. Offers Many Substantial Savings



If only remains for you to see and examine the high quality, then look at the price ticket, to decide on selecting your Carpets at this store. The unquestionable quality of carpets, and at the low price which they are offered at the Spencer Store, makes it imperative that you should purchase your carpet needs here. Call in and examine them to-day. You'll be glad you did it.

Tapestry Rugs at All Prices

Size 24x3, in rich fawn colorings. Price \$6.75
 Size 24x3 yards, in green and fawn grounds, rich, bright colorings. Price \$5.90
 Size 3x3, in a large variety of designs and colorings. Price \$8.50
 Size 34x4, rich fawn ground, also greens and crimson. Prices \$13.75 to \$20.00

Axminster Carpets per Yard \$2.15

AXMINSTER CARPETS, in a very large range. These are without exception the finest lot of carpets we have ever handled and comprise some of the very best designs that have been made, are the latest styles and colorings in floral and Indian designs. These carpets give a very soft, pleasing effect, and are well adapted for drawing and dining room. Per yd., \$3.25, \$2.15

Very Exceptional Indeed are the Values in Fine Prints at 15c
 750 PIECES DRESS MADRAS AND PRINTS, 36 inches wide, a very exceptional width for this class of goods. They come in short lengths of 5 to 15 yards; all of the very best washing colors are represented, and hundreds of patterns to select from. They are worth 20c and 25c per yard. Special, per yard 15c

New Taffeta Silk Moirette Skirts

We have just opened up a new shipment of Taffeta Silk Moirette Underskirts. This is a new finish in silk warp. It will not cut or split in the folds, and will retain its appearance, which is a bright silk moirette. Taffeta silk moirette rustles and does not lose its rustle after being worn. It has the swish and rustling effect that heretofore has only been obtained in very expensive taffetas. Prices range from \$2.00

Ladies' Lawn Waist at \$1.00

FINE WHITE LAWN WAISTS, made in open front style, has embroidered front, with wide box pleat of embroidery insertion down centre, also has three shoulder tucks, which give the desired fullness across the bust. New full length sleeves and back finished with one-half inch tucks. All sizes. Special \$1.00

Many Charming Effects to Be Seen in the New Costumes

The Women's Suit Department is a most interesting place. The new suits which we are showing are being greatly admired, there is plenty of snap to them without being extreme, the change from last season's styles being most pronounced, coats being hip length, while the skirts are in the new pleated effects. Prices from \$75.00 to \$25.00

Ladies' Covert Coats at \$6.75

This season the Covert Coat will be greatly in evidence, and the styles shown here are decidedly smart. The tailoring speaks volumes for the manufacturers of these lines, and we are offering a special line in tan shades at \$6.75



New Drapery Materials Shown Here in Abundance

"Homelike" is the word which describes the pleasing appearance of a room, if in the making of window hangings, corner seats, etc., a nice piece of Art Drapery is used, for instance, in the dining room, a cosy window seat prettily cushioned and curtained with any of the new goods we are showing, lends an added charm to be enjoyed by friends as well as the family. We have just received a splendid assortment, priced very modestly by the yard, which can be made up at home.

Venetian Scrim for Draperies, 36 inches Wide, at 25c

Included in this beautiful assortment are about eighteen or twenty different designs, every one a pleasing one, in conventional designs, which will be admired the minute you set eyes on them. The width is 36 inches, while the quality is of a highly commendable sort. By the yard, to be made up at home. 25c

Casement Cloths, 36 in. Wide, 25c

A lovely assortment is shown in Casement Cloths in our Drapery Department, third floor. It is a showing of real merit. Not only are the designs beautiful, but they will at once win your admiration, and will cause instant buying enthusiasm as soon as you see them. Per yard 25c

Cretonnes of all Kinds at, per yard, 20c

CRETONES of every description are shown here in beautiful floral effects, pale blues with white grounds, reds, purples, in fact cretonnes to meet every purpose desired, and considering the excellent quality are of rare value. Price, per yard 20c

CUTTING DOWN LICENSE

AMENDING LICENSE LAW IN WRONG

Proposal to Extend Rest Defeated Vested Licenses Interests

Legislative Press G

February

The first session in committee new license act has not im from a temperance point of view was heralded as going to bring a reduction in the number of houses in the province so that government had direct control of granting of liquor licenses. The unit for three licenses, hundreds as at present, to one, and made inhabitants of the province. But to-day the attorney had "made" struck out, cutting down the apparent reduction to at least two-thirds. In any case, that is in existence in main force so long as the observe the law, so that, as H. John who knew what was the stage pointed out on a day or two, the vaunted reduction was to be felt for a lifetime, supposing that a government party of progress does not fore the principle was laid down by attorney-general that these licenses, and it follows all future have a vested interest which not be right to confiscate, there is an excess over what of population would allow. It is characteristic of the law, in every pseudo-concession to temperance, that there is an element which which amply protects the liquor trade of the province. The only other work done the passage through the stage of the education act and the introduction of three amendment measures. Prayers were read to-day, Mr. Miller.

The Liquor Act. The liquor license bill was in committee with W. J. (Dewdney) in the chair. A began to come with the then John Jardine moved that a provision empowering schedule to appoint a deputy inspector, in doing so he said help to improve the law, as John Jardine knew what was the district had an opportunity to control the traffic through an it. The attorney-general in this would be placing the law for local control and would hydro-headed administration be much better controlled. A provincial police under one he a section was to be adopted. The provision as to license deavor to control school tions. Trustees were ele people to administer the affairs of their locality and themselves up with liquor ters.

The amendment was vote Extending the Sec H. C. Brewster moved the act, relating to the gr the mode of sale of liquor licenses, apply to the wh instead of only to the untricted. The member for second reading, that it in this part of the bill it made to apply to the wh if it was not to be appli there was no merit in bring The provision as to lic nature of hotel premises, of license-holders, inspect suspensions, transfers and were and should be made to municipalities as to untricted.

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Many Women Untold

They Can Be Relieved Pure

A woman needs a medicine regularly just as a woman. From nature life the health and happiness woman depends upon her richness and its regularity supply is irregular the dresses, backaches, and other unspeakable distress women know. Some grown to expect this suffering intervals and to suffer much of this misery if the or two of Dr. Williams' help them over each crisis. These Pills actually make the help a woman just makes the greatest demand blood supply. They have thousands of women their why not for you? Mrs. Joseph Kinney, C. N. S., says: "For ten years from nervousness and that make the lives of men one of almost constant times I would be confined."