

earnest solicitation of the ladies who wanted to know what sleigh riding was like. We have several theatres that would be a credit to any city in the land, which are crowded nightly, and which goes to show a plethora of cash in the market. We have also a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, who succeeded in having a by-law passed making it a penal offence to use the bearing rein on horses. Therefore, our sense of humanity is not shocked by seeing poor horses having their heads drawn back until their necks rise perpendicularly from the body as is seen in many cities in Canada and elsewhere. The Session has just been brought to a close, and the members of this august assembly compare favorably with New South Wales. They never indulge in personalities or call one another curs, or contemptible men, nor ask them what brought them from Texas when they talk about "ugly rumors." We have the largest and most commodious drill shed in the world, and it is roofed with slate—not the antiquated shingles. The pavements of the streets it is hard to describe, but I may safely say, for a city of its population on this head, Victoria is without a rival. The sidewalks, some may think, are rather primitive, being the product of the primeval forest; but, when it is remembered that it is not because we could not afford to have them in marble if we liked, we prefer them in wood, to show the foreigners the excellence and durability of our timber. The postal arrangements are on a par with other offices connected with the Dominion Government. The chief postmaster's name has been well known ever since the flood on one side, and a direct descendant from the bard of Avon on the other, so it will be seen he is no novice. The banks are literally overflowing with money, as the inhabitants here work mostly with paper to save trouble and inconvenience. We have several batteries of artillery, and many a general officer in the Old Country would envy a sergeant's uniform here. We have a magnificent body of police, both Dominion and Provincial. They all belong to old English families, and are called "officers." As is well known, fish abound in these waters, the sea being literally alive with salmon and halibut, so it will not astonish the foreigner to know we can buy it here at a very small advance on what you would pay for it in London. Vegetables of all descriptions are in abundance, but, as I said before, money is so plentiful that white men do not engage in raising them, leaving this degrading work to Celestials. Fruit is plentiful and cheap (in California), and by adding the cost of freight and the middleman's profit, we get it at the same price here. We keep our fowl at a distance away from our gardens, so it will not surprise the reader to know that we get our eggs from Ontario. We also find it cheaper to get our butter from Toronto; it saves trouble. The street car system is the best in the world. It is quite safe to say it is as regular as the sun, but not quite so regular as the rain. The directors are a humane body of men, and many a wet and dark night they have caused their cars to cease running on account of their anxiety for the welfare of their employees, and,

not forgetting the general public, leave their cars in the middle of the streets for belated travellers to take shelter in. The city has become jealous of the success attending the company, and is now negotiating for the purchase of the tram plant. The Salvation Army must not be forgotten. They thrive here wonderfully, and I am told that the circulation of the *War Cry* is as great as any other paper with the exception of THE HOME JOURNAL. They have a splendid band; the uniform of the members is fearfully and wonderfully made, being a sort of cross between a harlequin and a clown, and the music—there my pen fails me; I will leave it to imagination. The aldermen are to be commended for caring for our safety. There is a by-law which makes it a penal offence for driving furiously in the street, or going faster than a walk around corners; other cities would do well to follow this laudable example. There is no such thing as larrikinism, nor are there any hoodlums, and the newsboy does not even importune you to buy his paper, never goes into restaurants when people are at meals, and bang all the doors open, and invariably says "thank you," when you buy a paper. Strangers to the city will receive a hearty welcome, the mayor being noted for his unbounded hospitality and liberality. He is of a most genial temperament, and, in the council, he is simply adored, always showing deference to others, and of an exceedingly retiring and humble disposition, never allowing any feeling of his own to stand in the way of doing good to his fellow citizens. He is also a member of the Provincial Legislature, and by his clearheadedness and suavity of manner, has endeared himself to all parties in the House. He rarely takes a part in the debates, but looks on in pain when there is any friction between the two contending parties. Were it not for the fact that his humility unfits him for the premiership, he would have been in that position long ago. In appearance, he is commanding and dignified, and, it can be truly said, his heart is as big as his body. In conclusion, I may say this is truly a paradise on earth; here you may have every comfort and luxury under the sun (provided you bring some of them with you.)

AN INTELLIGENT VAGRANT.

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Mrs. E. M. Wilmot, of McPherson's, is at the Douglas House.

Mr. Jack Hyland will shortly leave for Cassiar to visit his father.

The Ladies of St. James church will give one of their enjoyable dances on Wednesday evening, 20th inst., in the St. James Hall.

A well known young plumber will be united in marriage to a fair daughter of Victoria in the Metropolitan Methodist Church, on the 27th inst.

Court Vancouver, A.O.F., have issued invitations to a social dance to be given in the Philharmonic Hall, Fort street, Thursday evening the 20th inst.

The Arian Male Voice Glee Club will give their first concert on the evening of May 17. A large number of invitations will be issued by the members of the club to their friends.

A well known and popular Government street jeweller will in the course of next week be taken down from the shelf of bachelorhood and labelled away among the Benedicts.

A concert will be held in the school room of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian church on Tuesday evening next, in aid of the Sabbath School. An excellent programme has been prepared.

A representation of Mrs. Jarley's Wax Works is being prepared for presentation in the Christ Church Cathedral school-room on the evening of May 4th. The entertainment will be in aid of the Sunday school funds.

The programme that was given last Good Friday, in the Pandora Avenue Methodist church, will be repeated in the Oddfellows Hall, Spring Ridge, on Wednesday evening, April 29th, with additional attractions.

The practice of the Musical Society was held, last Tuesday evening, at the residence of Sir Matthew Ballie Begbie, Cook street. The members of the Society are now practicing Rossini's Stabat Mater, which they expect to render at an early date.

Court Robin Hood, A.O.F., was organized in Victoria West, Thursday evening, with about 30 charter members in attendance. The new court starts out under very favorable auspices and bids fair to be a popular and successful organization.

The James Bay Athletic Association have issued invitations to a reception and dance to be given in the Gymnasium of the club house, on Friday, 28th inst. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Dewdney will be the guests of honor.

The concert given by the pupils of Miss Adams' Conservatory of Music, in the Institute Hall last evening, was characterized by that excellence and finished taste that have always been features of these now very pleasant annual events. Miss Adams' pupils are one and all a credit to her.

A couple of canoe races will be held Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, under the auspices of the Victoria Canoe Club—a half-mile tandem paddling race and a 3½-mile sailing race for both of which appropriate prizes are offered. They are both open to all comers, and will be post entries. The desire of the club to popularize canoeing is the object of the race meeting.

The Moors of Arabia and Spain were the first to display colored globes in drug-store windows.