

would probably have starved to death. In the meantime, the unnatural sons dress well, frequent the gaming tables, board at first-class restaurants and occasionally take a drive around the city behind a fast horse. My knowledge of the law is rather contracted, but I think it could be construed to apply to this one of many instances of inhumanity which exist in the city.

It has often been remarked that California could not possibly get along without its Chinese population. Especially was it pointed out that during the fruit harvest John Chinaman was almost indispensable. Recent events have demonstrated the unreliability of this statement, and, this year, in nearly all the fruit producing districts of California, women and children are found assisting in the fruit harvest. The work of peeling, slicing and preparing fruits, either for drying or canning, is well adapted to their nimble and skilful hands. They are always willing and anxious to do honest work for honest pay, and they do it without in any sense lowering themselves in their own esteem or that of any other right minded person. It is found, too, that in the packing of raisins and oranges women do as good work, if not the very best work. It is but just to the men to say, however, that women and children are seldom sent to the fields in the hot sun to gather fruit from the trees, but are carefully protected by roofs or in buildings where the aspect of outdoor drudgery does not present itself.

The skill and cleanliness with which such hands manipulate the fruit products are in marked contrast with that of many Chinese and other nationalities. The fact is that so long as the honest, self respecting women and girls of California are willing to go into the packing houses and canneries to work, fruit growers can very well dispense with the highbinder element among the Chinese, and the lazzaroni of other countries who have been heretofore too often employed to the exclusion of a good deal more desirable class of efficient American labor. Let the work of women and girls as well as of school boys be encouraged and properly rewarded and there need be no fear of the threat of the Chinese to abandon the fruit growers at harvest time.

Mrs. Mary E. Morrow, the matron of the Chinese home, writes me denying the statement contained in a late issue of THE HOME JOURNAL that she, in company with the girls of the Home, had attended a circus performance. Mrs. Morrow writes that she not only did not take the girls to the performance, but further that she has not witnessed a circus for nigh on to twenty years. I accept this correction, and, at the same time, I would add that Mrs. Morrow and her girls did not miss much by not attending the circus. It was a poor affair. In fact, it may occur to many that circuses are no longer what they used to be. Mrs. Morrow closes her note thus: "Other points in your article are equally unjust; but I will only say that I wish you knew and felt for yourself that there is a power to the Christian religion that does convert and change even Chinese women." With regard to

the latter statement, I might remark that the preponderance of evidence is strongly against the proposition of the most estimable Christian lady who presides over the destinies of the Chinese Home.

Mr. F. W. Teague, financial secretary of the Y. M. C. A., writes as follows concerning the muddle in the affairs of that institution: "I read with more than ordinary interest the very kind observations in last week's HOME JOURNAL relative to the Young Men's Christian Association of this city. I trust it may always be worthy of such hearty approval. As to the little suggestion of 'unbusinesslike methods,' I can only say that its management the last five years has been in the hands of such men as the late Hon. John Robson, A. J. McLellan, T. M. Henderson, R. P. McLennan, H. G. Waterson, J. Coltart, A. B. Erskine, J. E. Crane, W. H. Bone, R. Erskine, J. H. Baker, J. L. Beckwith and other well known business men. Whether they are worthy of the confidence of the public or not, we can only leave your readers to judge. A financial statement is presented at each annual meeting and contains a full account of all receipts and disbursements, and the treasurer, Mr. H. G. Waterson, 130½ Government street, is always pleased to open his books for the inspection of any business man or friend of the organization who may call. Your many readers will no doubt peruse with interest the article in the *Colonist* of July 19 on our work. Fearing I have already taken too much space, I will leave the Montreal building until later." In connection with Mr. Teague's letter, it should be stated that a considerable portion of the deficit has been traced back five or six years, and while many of the members are loath to attribute crookedness to one or two persons in office at that time, they believe that negligence has brought about the present condition of affairs.

The results of the several competitions amongst the architects cannot fail to be most unsatisfactory and disheartening, since fair play and rigid justice appears to have been an unknown quantity, so far, at least, as concerned those who had charge of the matter. Conditions of competition were distributed to the architects, and the different rules were laid down as being hard and fast, and the intimation was conveyed that any competitor deviating from those conditions would be immediately turned down. With these rules before them, the professional gentlemen addressed themselves to the task of preparing drawings, and in nearly every case considerable labor was expended in the effort to comply with some condition. Many of the architects were conscientious in their work, and succeeded in complying with the requirements. Their chagrin may be imagined when it was found that those who had ignored some of the strictest rules had been awarded the prize.

This is manifestly unfair, and is deserving of the strongest censure. Those who were honest enough to obey the rules were handicapped, giving those who ignored the same a decided advan-

tage. Much more could be said upon this particular competition, but I shall refrain from doing so at present, preferring to speak of the recent school competition, the outcome of which has apparently brought a hornets' nest about the heads of our respected trustees. We are told that Mr. Goddard's plan was placed second on the list, afterwards being placed third, and street gossip says that the reason Mr. Goddard was thrown out was because some of the trustees considered it wiser not to give it to him. In fact, I was told upon good authority that one of the trustees said, "We couldn't give it to Goddard."

Now, the point is, how did the trustees know whose plan No. 5 B, was? It is said that the award was originally given to this plan, but afterwards it was placed third—for what reason? If it had been chosen, why shouldn't it remain in that order? There appears to be only one solution to the question, and that is somebody opened the envelopes and found that Goddard had put in 5 B, and thereupon threw him out. Such an action is a mean and contemptible one, and from what I can learn was done because some of the Board had an axe to grind. This latter circumstance makes a great difference—at least in Victoria—but if these men are placed there for the good of the public, why can they not serve the public honestly? Can they not do justice, and leave out their little personal ends? When a public official falls so low as to break confidence reposed in him, as in the case of these competitors, it is time the community knew it, and the architects contend that their confidence has been betrayed in a most inexcusable manner. I do not go so far as to imply dishonesty, but I hope for the sake of their own reputations one or two of the trustees will explain away the apparent dishonorable motives which were at the bottom of the whole affair.

Nearly seven hundred persons participated in the excursion to Seattle under the auspices of the Victoria Knights of Pythias. I draw attention to this particular excursion for the reason that I wish to place myself on record as saying that I never attended an affair of this kind which was conducted with greater decorum or reflected more credit on the promoters. There was a noticeable absence of hoodlumism, and the officers were indefatigable in looking after the comfort of the excursionists. The reception which the visiting knights received from their Seattle brethren was a pleasing feature of the day's outing. The Uniformed Rank, to all intents and purposes, owned the city, and those outside of the order could not complain of lack of attention. Seattle people are thoroughly hospitable. This applies to the female portion of the population as well as the male. In fact, I could say a great deal in favor of the Seattle ladies, and no doubt many others could do the same.

Just now, absentee landlordism is demanding some attention in Victoria. It is claimed, with some degree of reason, that much injury is resulting from the