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WATER WORKS BLUNDERS.

We thought in devoting a few words to the water situation in Victoria we had made our position perfectly clear. We did not criticise the present council or any person in authority under the council for the existing condition of affairs. We pointed out that the situation was the product of many years of what mere laymen regard as blundering and incompetence. It is perfectly apparent that there is but one course for the city council to follow: it must make the best possible use of a system which, notwithstanding the animadversions of the "superior person who knows all things," is literally a system of "shreds and patches."

It is a matter of common knowledge that there was blundering in laying at least one of the mains connecting Elk Lake with the system of city distribution. The in-take at the lake is admittedly at the wrong place. The filter beds are of little or no practical use. We speak not of our own knowledge, but of the knowledge of competent persons, in saying that the pump at the in-take represents just so much money wasted. Expert Adams recommends that new pumping engines be substituted for the machinery now forcing the water to the higher levels. We are supposed to have a distribution system at present, yet a good many hundreds of thousands of dollars must be expended for the purpose of renewing that system. Such are a few of the mistakes which have been made in constructing works representing a value of a million or so of dollars. Would there have been any such story to tell if a "keen and incorruptible intelligence" had been directing the undertaking from the beginning? Every one knows that blunders have been made. All that is asked is that such costly mistakes shall be avoided in the future. It may be necessary to lay salt water mains and to install pumps in order to provide adequate pressure for fire protection purposes. The fire wardens doubtless had expert advice on the subject before deciding upon their recommendations to the city council. But Mr. Adams, the expert engaged by the council, offers no such advice. He apparently assumes that the improvements he has suggested are carried out, there will be an ample supply of water and ample pressure for all purposes until such time as the population outgrows the capacity of the lake. The prevailing opinion is that within a much shorter time than Mr. Adams estimates it will be necessary to secure water from another source. If we are forced to go to Sooke Lake there will be sufficient water for all purposes. The cost of the undertaking will be very great—great enough to tax our credit and resources to the limit. We ought to bear these things in mind and not waste more money than is necessary on what, after all, is but a makeshift.

WORK OF THE VICTORIA MUSICAL SOCIETY.

The people of Victoria lately enjoyed the very great privilege of listening to the world's greatest living violinist, Kubelick. This week another artist of world-wide fame—some critics maintain the greatest pianist the world has ever heard—will give a concert in our theatre. The musical public of the city and neighborhood gave substantial evidence of their appreciation of the organization which has been instrumental in bringing these famous musicians here by filling the house from "pit to dome." When the fact is mentioned that we have been favored beyond many communities of vast size and dimensions—the artists in question appearing in only sixty cities on this continent—we doubt not that the evidence of appreciation will be quite as substantial in the case of the appearance of Paderewski as it was in the case of Kubelick. The Victoria Musical Society deserves great credit and every encouragement it is possible for the public to give, because it has displayed great courage indeed in taking the financial risks involved in its undertaking. It has already done much to enkindle musical enthusiasm and broaden our appreciation of the "finest of all the fine arts" in this city. Our ambition is to make this city that nature intended her to be—the most attractive spot on the continent for "all sorts and conditions of men." If we failed in the particular to which the Musical Society has set itself with such conspicuous success almost at the very beginning of its career, we should fall in the most essential feature of our ambitious programme. All the circumstances considered, it is no small thing the Victoria Musical Society has already accomplished. Therefore we say it is worthy of all the encouragement it is within the power of the public to afford. Every resident of the city with a proper conception of

the objects we have in view and to which we as a people have been devoting a great deal of attention within recent years should do all that lies within his power to make the concert of the society a success.

NAMED BY QUEEN VICTORIA.

In the "Letters of Queen Victoria," recently issued, one appears having an historical interest for the residents of this province. It is dated Osborne, 24th July, 1853, and was addressed by the Queen to Sir E. Bulwer Lytton. At that time objections were being made in France to the name of New Caledonia being given to the proposed colony between the Pacific and the Rocky Mountains. The Queen wrote: "The Queen has received Sir E. Bulwer Lytton's letter. If the name of New Caledonia is objected to as being already borne by another colony or island claimed by the French, it may be better to give the new colony west of the Rocky Mountains another name. New Hanover, New Cornwall and New Georgia appear from the maps to be names of subdivisions of that country, but do not appear on all maps. The only name which is given to the whole territory in every map the Queen has consulted is 'Columbia,' but as there exists also a 'Columbia' in South America, and the citizens of the United call their country also Columbia, at least in poetry, 'British Columbia' might be, in the Queen's opinion, the best name."

And in this way and for the reasons stated our province was named British Columbia by Queen Victoria.

THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL.

The Republicans of Portugal say they are hopeful of establishing a popular form of government upon the memories of the murdered king, Crown Prince and fugitive prime minister. Possibly they may succeed, but we fear if they really had a hand in this terribly tragedy of Lisbon they will find they made, to put the matter mildly, an atrocious political blunder. The king is dead, the king's heir is dead, but the king reigns, and the government of the country is going on. Furthermore, the most diabolical of crimes of recent years against organized society has had a natural effect. It has created sympathy for the crown and re-established it more firmly upon the head of the reigning monarch, called to the throne under such appalling domestic circumstances. What ever indiscretions or oppressions King Carlos may have been guilty of, under we presume, the advice of his chief adviser, Franco, have been laid in the grave along with the late king and the dead prince his son. A widow in weeds and her son overcome by the weight of a great grief are the most conspicuous and the most appealing features of the political situation in Portugal to-day. They will strengthen the ministry and weaken the opposition and prove strong forces for the perpetuation, for the time being at least, of the monarchical system of government. If it be true that there are strong movements in all the Latin countries of Europe in favor of the deposition of kings and the establishment of monarchies—a movement said to be strengthened by the success of republican forms in France—it is most unfortunate for that agitation that some of the agitators were carried off their feet and resorted to violence. They have played into the hands of the reactionaries and created a strong body of resentment which will not be forgotten for years. The republic of France was not born of the martyrdom of a reigning monarch, but of the sufferings and humiliation of the nation.

OUR WATER SUPPLY.

The Fire Wardens of the city have adopted a very elaborate, somewhat costly, and doubtless very necessary, programme for the protection of property against such conflagrant outbreaks as we have experienced within recent years. It is proposed to lay mains within the fire limits, through which salt water will be pumped in case of necessity. This means the installation of another pumping plant, to be maintained at considerable cost to the ratepayers. When it is completed we shall have pumping engines on the water front, pumping engines on Yates street, pumping engines on the main in the neighborhood of North Dairy Farm, and pumping engines at Elk Lake, a dissipation or distribution of energy, it seems to us as mere ignorant laymen, which implies a peculiar condition of affairs in the management of our water works system. That the system may literally be termed "a thing of shreds and patches" can scarcely be gainsaid. This condition of affairs, beyond question, is due to a lack of foresight on the part of those who planned and installed the works in the first instance. Elk Lake was sufficient for the requirements of Victoria in the early days, and possibly the city fathers of those days had not the means which would have justified them in planning a system capable of expansion in accordance with the growth and expansion of the population. The result was that as the population grew expedients were resorted to for the purpose of temporarily increasing the water supply and pressure. That is the legacy of patchwork into which we have fallen and from which it seems to be impossible for us to escape immediately. That we shall be in a po-

sition to throw off the burden ultimately and to install a system comprehensive, complete and satisfactory, is the one factor in the situation which can be regarded hopefully. With abundance of water elevated and stored by nature in the surrounding hills, a complete gravity system ought not surely to be absolutely out of the question. As we have said, the installation of a salt water pumping plant as an auxiliary to our almost multifarious other pumping plants may be necessary as a temporary expedient, but we shall all look forward to the day when the engines, steam and electrical, can be cast with a slight of relief into the scrap heap. If there had been a keen, incorruptible intelligence at the head of the Victoria Water Works system from the inception of the work and the governments of the province had been as appreciative of the necessities of the community as they were of the fortunes of their favored supporters, we should not have been reduced to the necessity of investing such a large amount of the taxpayers' money in a patchwork water works system.

ILLOGICAL AND SUSPICIOUS.

We suppose the tactics of Mr. Borden as leader of the opposition ought not to be taken too seriously. It is his business to show cause, if he can, why the government should be dismissed from power and the opposition called in to administer the affairs of the country. The task of the opposition leader is no easy one. The government has made so few mistakes that to discover a legitimate reason for criticism is almost beyond the power of mere human ingenuity. Mr. Borden's solution on the subject of the Japanese treaty was thoroughly dissected by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as those of our readers who read the Premier's speech, published in last night's Times, will readily admit. The opposition leader took the position that the government was remiss in not following the course of the United States in its dealings with Japan. If the policy of the United States was so commendable, how comes it that the regulations adopted as a result of that policy for the restriction of immigration have proven so unsatisfactory that even now a representative of the republic is in Tokyo trying to reach an understanding upon the matter with the Japanese government? And how is it that Canada succeeded without serious difficulty in accomplishing that which is causing the representative of the United States a great deal of trouble? How is it that we read in American newspapers the fullest commendation of the results achieved by Hon. Rudolph Lemieux and expressions of hope that the plenipotentiary of the United States may be equally successful? The New York Sun, which has never been particularly friendly in its references to Canada, a few days ago printed the following editorial opinion of the results of the Postmaster-General's mission:

"That the question of Japanese immigration into Canada has been settled amicably was shown by a statement in the 'King's Speech' read yesterday at the opening of parliament in London. About the same time the agreement negotiated at Tokyo by the Hon. Rudolph Lemieux received the approval of the House of Commons at Ottawa, an amendment of the opposition having been voted down, which entered a protest against a policy under which our (the Canadian) wage earning population cannot be protected from destructive invading competition except by entreating the forbearance and aid of a foreign government." "The Dominion is now virtually in new treaty relations with Japan. Or, rather, a way has been found to prevent interference with the Anglo-Japanese pact by means of a special understanding between the Canadian Commonwealth and the ally of the Empire. It is a delicate thing when a foreign Power clashes in an important matter with self-governing colonies.

"The understanding, arrangement, agreement, or whatever it may be called, between our ambassador at Tokyo and the Mikado's government was demonstrated to have reached a satisfactory stage by the announcement made by the Japanese minister of foreign affairs. Even the opposition, which had been so noisy, did not object to the statement that the rights of Japanese legally in this country should not be imperilled by those who came in under false pretences.

"It is a strange thing that there should be some who look on Japan's willingness to waive her treaty rights for the sake of peace and harmony with undeserved and illogical suspicion."

The leaders of the Conservative party in Canada appear to be the only parties in the known world who look upon Japan's willingness to waive her treaty rights for the sake of peace and harmony with "undeserved and illogical suspicion."

and sagacity which had elicited the admiration of all who had opportunities of coming into close contact with its diplomatic proceedings. Such a statement from such a man is worth all the fireworks of a Bowser or the whirlwind of a McBride.

A Mere Man furnishes Punch with an unanswerable argument in favor of Woman Suffrage. This argument has not yet been used by the ladies of Victoria who have been reasoning with the McBride government against any curtailment of their rights and privileges. Punch's Man visited a circus and describes one of the feats he saw performed there: "Young lady cyclist has just turned back somersault, sitting from saddle of her bicycle to that of another just behind her. To think that I possess a vote, while she is denied all voice in the government of her country! That's the worst of circes—they give one such a sense of one's own incompetence."

If Evelyn Nesbitt Thaw should ever have trouble with "Harry" after his release from the asylum—an event which is inevitable—she may console herself with the reflection that on the stage she would be a star of the first magnitude. The managers would have "brain storms" in their desperate efforts to secure her signature to a contract. And from the history of the hero and heroine it is extremely doubtful if they will "hit it off together" for any length of time. Suffering can hardly have the effect of permanently fusing two such hearts.

The Colonist evidently had a thought of Mr. Bowser at the back of its brain when it quoted with approval the following from the Toronto World: "It is not always the man who talks the loudest that knows the most, or has the greatest stake in the country. Talk is cheap and the cheap man's ever-ready asset is talk. Many a man is known by his tongue. He is tongue-wagged. No one discounts the utility of a tongue, but the man's the thing." We are told that His Honor the Lieut.-Governor will give his assent to the latest Bowser Bill. He will do this because he has been advised to do so by his ministers. His Honor would have acted similarly in respect to the original Bowser abortion had he not been led to believe by the same authority that disallowance would be the better plan.

TRAGEDY LED TO TRAGEDY

Newspaper Man, Brooding Over Banker's Suicide, Kills Himself.

Fort Worth, Tex., Feb. 10.—L. C. Hutchins, 50 years old, second vice president of the Fort Worth National bank, committed suicide yesterday by shooting himself.

Brooding over the suicide of Banker Hutchins, a man he did not know, Eric C. Campbell, 38 years old, shot and killed himself at a local hotel last night. Campbell was a son of the Rev. Dr. D. Campbell, a noted Baptist divine, and had practiced law in Dallas for many years. He formerly edited several newspapers in Mississippi. To-day he called on Hunt McCall, an old newspaper friend, and discussed the suicide of Banker Hutchins. He later went to a hotel and wrote a note asking that McCall be notified of what he had done.

He leaves a widow and a six-year-old son in Dallas.

LEFT HAND TORN OFF.

Ladner Fisherman Badly Wounded When Gun Exploded.

Ladner, B. C., Feb. 6.—J. Gracia, fisherman, was very seriously injured here this morning by the explosion of his gun. He was firing a shot at a flock of ducks when an explosion nearly tore off his left hand.

John Boyd, who plunged into the water to rescue Gracia, was immersed for half an hour and suffered fearfully from cold and shock. Curiously enough a gun belonging to Boyd accidentally discharged as he was being helped into a boat, but no one was injured.

"ARMY" IMMIGRANTS.

Commissioner Coombes Replies to Toronto Trades and Labor Council.

Toronto, Feb. 8.—In reply to a resolution passed by the trades and labor council censuring the Salvation Army and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association for flooding the country with immigrants, for whom no employment could be found, Commissioner Coombes, on behalf of the Army, says that during January they had 900 applications for farm help in Ontario alone.

Secretary Murray, of the C. M. A., says the association has not offered any general inducements for bringing out men to this country. All the men brought out by the C. M. A. have been placed in positions.

A very successful masquerade ball was held in the hall last Wednesday evening. The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and was well filled with merry masquers from Dunsmuir, Cobble Hill and the immediate neighborhood.

Squatters' Rights.

A meeting of the land owners in the districts of Cowichan and Shawnigan was held in the hall here on the 5th inst. to consider the squatters' right question in connection with acquiring crown grants under the E. & N. Settlement Act. It was unanimously agreed by those present to ask W. H. Hayward, M. P. E., to support the impending bill for the extension of time to those settlers applying for crown grants.

Our Sale of High-Grade Footwear Largely Attended

THE SALE OF HIGH-GRADE FOOTWEAR which was scheduled to start to-day was attended by a large crowd of enthusiastic buyers. On every hand in the shoe department are to be found unprecedented values which afford everybody an excellent opportunity to procure their season's needs at a considerable saving. This sale will be carried on until every shoe of this special purchase is cleared, but it is well to be here early, so as to get first choice. Every shoe included in this sale is all strictly highgrade, being made by the most reputable makers of American footwear.

Men's Footwear, Reg. Value \$5.50 up to \$7.50, for \$3.75

MEN'S HIGH QUALITY SHOES, regular value \$4.00, for.....	\$2.50	MEN'S WORKING SHOES, regular value \$3.00, for.....	\$1.50
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LADIES' FINE SHOES, reg. \$6.50 to \$7.00, for.....	\$3.75	WOMEN'S BOOTS, regular \$5.00; Monday.....	\$2.50	WOMEN'S BOOTS, regular \$2.50 and \$5.00, for.....	\$1.50
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Our February Sale Offers Excellent Bargains in Office Furniture

Our February Sale, which is being pushed vigorously along, offers excellent values in OFFICE FURNITURE of all descriptions.

\$14.00 FLAT TOP OFFICE DESK FOR \$11.50.

Flat top office desk, made of Elm, golden finish, 3 ft. 6 in. wide, with single pedestal. Regular value \$14.00. February Sale.....

ROLL TOP DESK, REGULAR \$50, FOR \$40.

Roll top desk, in quartered Oak, with rotary cases in right pedestal; 60 inches long by 30 inches wide; regular value, \$50.00. February Sale.....

\$27 STANDING OFFICE DESK, \$21.50.

Standing office desk, in solid Oak, 6 ft. long by 34 in. wide; single fronted, ledger shelf at top and three drawers under fall of desk; regular value \$27.00. February Sale.....

\$36 STANDING OFFICE DESK FOR \$29.

Standing office desk, double fronted, made of golden Elm, 8 feet long by 56 inches wide, ledger shelf at top and 4 drawers under fall of desk at either side. Regular value \$36.00. February sale.....

\$9.50 ROTARY OFFICE CHAIR FOR \$7.75.

Rotary office chair, made of Golden Oak, well finished; has saddle shaped wood seat; regular value \$9.50. February Sale.....

\$5.50 REVOLVING CHAIRS FOR \$4.25.

Revolving chairs, in Golden Elm, well finished and very strongly put together; has wooden seats. Regular value \$5.50. February sale.....

FIRST SHIPMENT OF

New Spring Costumes & Coats Just to Hand
SEE LATER ISSUES FOR FULL PARTICULARS

Vacuum House Cleaning System Is Dustless

Not a bit too early to put your house in order for House Cleaning. As the season advances, no doubt we will be kept very busy, as the Vacuum House Cleaning System is a most popular one, and does away with all the drudgery attended to all former methods of doing your Spring Cleaning. When using the Vacuum system you are always sure of perfect satisfaction. No moving of furniture or carpets is needed, owing to the manner in which the dirt is drawn by suction from your carpets, and we suggest that you place your order as soon as possible or get an estimate on what the cost will be. You will find rates most reasonable. Phone No. 1685. Carpet Department.

DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

SQUATTERS' RIGHTS IN COWICHAN

Residents in District Favor the Extension of Time Bill.

(Special Correspondence).

Cowichan Station, Feb. 6.—Things are very quiet in this district at the present time; there is nothing doing in the real estate business, but the Koksilah Lumber Company is again running its mill, which was closed down for a few weeks.

The open season has allowed farmers to get well ahead with their ploughing and other winter work.

Masquerade Ball.

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ORANGEMEN MEET.

Officers Elected at Annual Gathering of New Westminster County Lodge.

New Westminster, Feb. 6.—Officers were elected and other important business transacted at the annual meeting of New Westminster County Orange lodge, which was held in this city on Tuesday night.

Nearly all the lodges of the district were represented, and County Master W. E. Dunlop presided. The following were the officers elected:

Bro. O. W. Scott, county master, L. O. L. No. 1,538, Port Moody; Bro. E. W. Cook, deputy master, L. O. L. No. 1,593, New Westminster; Bro. R. A. Stoney, county recording secretary, L. O. L. No. 1,593, New Westminster; Bro. James Humphreys, county financial secretary, L. O. L. No. 1,159, New Westminster; Bro. George R. Mathias, county treasurer, L. O. L. No. 1,159, New Westminster; Bro. R. G. Patterson, county director of ceremonies, L. O. L. No. 1,159, New Westminster; Bro. G. A. Dockstader, county lecturer, L. O. L. No. 1,159, Port Hammond; Bro. E. Percy, deputy county lecturer, L. O. L. No. 1,538, Port Moody.

Bro. William Pope, deputy county lecturer, L. O. L. No. 1,159, New Westminster.

SMUGGLING SALMON.

New Westminster, Feb. 8.—The fisheries department has confiscated a trunk load of steelhead salmon caught in prohibited waters. The fish were shipped from Mount Leaman up near Mission to a Chinese firm in this city.

SILVER KING IN HANDS OF RECEIVER

Plant Has Been Closed Since August—May Soon Operate Again.

Nelson, B. C., Feb. 6.—Robert S. Day, of Victoria, on behalf of British bondholders, has taken possession of the Hall Mining & Smelting Company's plant and the Silver King mine, as well as all other assets of the company here, referred to in the text of the debenture-holders.

Mr. Day is the receiver. He is awaiting further cable instructions from London, and nothing definite can be said at the moment as to the future of the property, although it is understood that the smelter will be remodelled and operated, and that the Silver King mine will be worked. The property is too valuable to remain idle much longer without entailing great loss. The plant has been closed down since August last, and the present step was an unexpected one.

DEATH OF LADY MORLEY.

Ottawa, Feb. 10.—Government House has been again thrown into mourning by the death of Lady Morley, a sister of Lady Grey, in England.

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The
Hatters

Local Ne

—Rev. H. A. Collison, B.
College, Dublin, has been a
Bishop Perrin to succeed F
nell as rector of St. Luke's
Mr. Collison, who is the son
Archdeacon Collison, of the
Caledonia, assisted Rev.
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