

# THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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## ALL THE WORLD OVER.

"I must have liberty,  
Withal as large a charter as the wind—  
To blow on whom I please."

As will be observed, the caption of the matter heretofore published on this page has been changed from "Tales of the Town" to "All the World Over." This change is deemed necessary because the writer does not propose in future to confine himself to matters of mere local interest, but intends to go further and discuss subjects of a more general character. Within the past few months hundreds of new names from outside cities have been added to the subscription list of THE HOME JOURNAL, and it is with the desire of encouraging general interest in the publication and thereby enlarging the sphere of its usefulness that this change of base is made.

I believe that the present time is opportune to say a few words concerning the paper which has met with so much favor, not only from the citizens of Victoria, but from those of the other three cities of the Province. Looking backward over the time which has elapsed since THE HOME JOURNAL was first ushered into existence, the publishers find few causes for regret in the experiences connected with their venture, and many for self-congratulation. Since the establishment of this paper, nine other publications have been projected in this Province, and, although I have not the figures by me just now, I think I am safe in saying that nine papers have died in the arms of their nurses, leaving behind them innumerable unpaid bills. The history of THE HOME JOURNAL, from its infancy till the present time, when it stands before an appreciative community in the fulness of virile journalistic power, is one long series of battles fought in the interests of the people—conflicts that in nearly every instance have resulted in victory for the right, as represented by this journal and the defeat of designing individuals.

I have no hesitation in asserting, and

without fear of successful contradiction, that THE HOME JOURNAL has been abreast of the times and kept step in the foremost rank on all questions vital to the best interests of the community. It has never been afraid to turn the search-light of public welfare on the dark side of villainy, and it is for this reason that the confidence of the people has been given so unreservedly that it finds itself to-day compelled to increase its size and improve its make-up generally, in order to keep pace with the growing demand for the paper.

THE HOME JOURNAL has never sat silently by when any of the great questions of the day—political, social, moral or religious—demanded discussion, and, in doing so, it has never descended into personalities, excepting when at times it was desirable for the purpose of the argument, and to place a proposition in a stronger and more effective light to call "a spade a spade, and a hoe a hoe."

The general tone of the paper is pure and wholesome, fitting it in an eminent degree for the household, where, indeed, its root strikes the deepest and its growth is the strongest. Parents do not feel that it is their duty to revise the columns of THE HOME JOURNAL before placing it in the hands of their children. The sphere of a newspaper is unlimited. It can be an agent of good or a dangerous weapon in the hands of an unscrupulous man; it can be, as is often asserted, the bulwark of our liberties; but it can also descend to that point where it affords no effectual defense, protection or safety against the influence of the debased and the vicious. A paper such as THE HOME JOURNAL, well-conducted, is a blessing in a community, but if its controllers are not conscientious, there is no limit to its evil consequences—it is a stream poisoned at the fountain head. Physical death results in one instance, moral debasement in the other.

To many—especially the members of the Opposition—it is a matter of some surprise, that Col. the Hon. James Baker should have been retained so long in the Government of the Province of British Columbia. Since he entered the Cabinet he has committed more blunders than any member in it. Indeed, he is a source of the most serious weakness and even were it possible to elect him for so remote a constituency as Alberni it would be an injustice to the rest of his colleagues to attempt to carry him. He is nothing in debate and though he may get off school-boy fashion a discourse full of quotations and nicely rounded periods, he carries no weight, while his outside influence is insignificant.

His talk about the necessity of anchoring the Government building in Victoria

seriously compromised the administration; his appointment of his son to a position in connection with the Labor Bureau antagonized the workingmen to an extent that it will be hard to remedy; his general conduct of the affairs of the department has been in no sense calculated to make up for the lost ground; but rather the contrary, while the developments in connection with the Cranbrook estate scheme have been such as to create a *prima facie* case, for at least a discussion in the House, if for nothing more.

Never yet was there a scandal unearthed without some one having traitorously or inadvertently given something away or having failed to cover up his tracks, and but for something of this kind many an offender would never have been brought to justice. I fail, therefore, to see why the Attorney-General of the Province, whose occupation but for this kind of thing would be gone in connection with numerous cases which he is in duty called upon to prosecute, should have laid such stress upon this point. He has his officially paid agents who are continually working up evidence against violators of the law. Occasionally the evidence they adduce falls short of its object, nevertheless it is made use of for what it is worth.

The leader of the Opposition arraigned Col. Baker before the high court of the Province for what he had reason to believe was a high crime and misdemeanor. The court failed to convict, although to all appearances the defense which was relied upon was abuse of the plaintiff's attorney, and as was the case in the recently concluded Stroebel trial denunciation and belittlement of the witnesses for the prosecution were resorted to, and not a denial of the documentary evidence but a berating of the manner in which it was obtained.

Considerable stress was laid by the Attorney-General on the fact that in the allegations cogent reference was made to the circumstance that a member of the Government had allowed his name and office to be mentioned in the prospectus of the company. It was cited *per contra* as a perfectly innocent act and that the late Hon. Alexander MacKenzie and the late Sir John Macdonald had allowed their names, titles and positions to be mentioned in connection with the presidency and managing directorships of insurance companies. It was also said that, to a greater or less extent, nearly every prominent public man on both sides of politics in Great Britain does this. But what is thought of the practices of these "guinea pigs," as they are euphonically termed by