

## Twice-a-Week Times

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## MR. BEAVEN ON THE WATER QUESTION.

Mr. Robert Beaven, in a letter to the Colonist, reviews the history of Victoria's efforts to secure and retain a supply of water adequate for the requirements of the future. Mr. Beaven knows more, possibly, about the surface and deep legislative currents which swept the city into the position it occupies to-day than any other living man. He represented this constituency at the time the Esquimaut Water Works Company came into existence, and later succeeded in enjoining upon preserves originally set apart for the purposes of our people. He foresaw what has come to pass, and, seconded by a small following equally zealous in a just cause, did his best to protect us in our rights. Mr. Cotton, now a member of the McBride government, was one of the units in that company. The president of the council's attitude to-day is hardly in harmony with the position he took at that time, but he doubtless justifies his course to his conscience by arguing that the legislature, while it may have done a wrong thing, has created certain vested rights, and that such interests must be protected. However, as there can be no question in the face of protestations of the majority in the legislature at that time and in the light of the language of the statutes that there never was any intention of depriving the city of its just rights or of derogating from its acknowledged powers, possibly Mr. Cotton will support the position of Mr. Beaven, which is that as the government has done us a grievous wrong, the government should right it. The people of Victoria had no part in the creation of the Esquimaut Water Works Company. The government having created the company and placed it in a position, according to the contentions of its representatives, superior to the position of Victoria, granting it rights and properties reserved for the city, the government should extinguish its claims and restore the status which obtained in the year 1873 and for twelve years thereafter. Furthermore, as Mr. Beaven contends, the heavy expense to which the city has been put as a result of the wrong inflicted, should be recouped by the government. Mr. Cotton ought to see that this is the least the government can do. If he brings the matter to the attention of the other members of the government, doubtless he will have the support of the Premier, who is our local member, and of other members of the cabinet who ought to be interested in assisting in the extinguishment of gross scandal.

## A NOTABLE CONVERT.

Conservatives are rejoicing over the alleged conversion of Dr. Thompson, the member for the Yukon, to their political faith. They say it is another straw which indicates the direction of the political atmospheric current. They rejoice equally when Dr. Thompson was elected in the Yukon as an independent Conservative. They were distressed when the member voted in the House often with the government than with the opposition, doubtless because he believed the government was more worthy of support than the opposition. If Dr. Thompson has announced his intention of voting henceforth with the opposition regardless of the merits of any question that may be voted upon, what is the cause of his change of attitude? Is it merely a coincidence that the conversion came within a few days of the Yukon member's attack upon Great Britain and upon British institutions, followed by a plea, practically, for either Canadian independence or for the annexation of the country to the United States? All the country knows what happened after Dr. Thompson had concluded his incendiary speech. A stinging rebuke was administered the incendiary by the Premier, who defended the Mother Country and emphasized the loyalty of Canada to her. Some Conservative newspapers, including the Vancouver News-Advertiser, professed that Sir Wilfrid had not gone far enough. In merely admonishing Dr. Thompson, it hinted that some other measures ought to have been taken to demonstrate there was no sentiment in the country behind the attack. Yet it is notable that the speeches of Sir Wilfrid and of Mr. Fielding were not followed by any criticism from the opposition side of the House. Probably the cable accounts for the change in Dr. Thompson's political position. But is it not strange that an anti-British ally should be welcomed with acclamation into the ranks of such a superlatively loyal organization as the Conservative party? A few days ago the hint was thrown out that the Doctor should be arraigned as a traitor. To-day he is received with joy as a brand plucked from the furnace. His defection is regarded as evidence of things not seen, not even by the most hopeful of Conservative politicians.

## HOPELESS AND FURIOUS.

It is asserted that as Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government receives a majority of 57 from the province of Quebec, the government is kept in power by that province. We have shown the conclusion is altogether wrong, being based upon false premises; that Sir Wilfrid Laurier receives a larger proportionate support from two other provinces than is accorded him by the province of Quebec, while in all the other geographical divisions save the province of Ontario the political forces are fairly evenly divided between the two political parties. It is also apparent that in the province of Ontario, estimating the situation on data usually recognized as reliable, the result of bye-elections, the strength of the Liberal party will be increased to the normal at least at the next Dominion general election. No one undertakes to say in seriousness, no matter what his party affiliations or political predilections, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has lost ground in Quebec. He is still supreme there. Henri Bourassa, an able man and a popular, notwithstanding his Napoleonic ambitions, essayed to enter the lists against the great Liberal leader and to challenge his leadership. Mr. Bourassa, where is he politically? Consequently, if Sir Wilfrid has a majority of 57 in the province of Quebec and is still the idol of his followers there, what chance has the opposition, in the face of its record and the condition of the party under him, to effect such a majority by any possible gains in the other provinces? We are told by Conservatives who profess to know that we shall have a general election during the coming fall. But these guileless do not confess their inward conviction that the party, notwithstanding the boldness of its outward professions, will join battle disorganized and beaten. That inward feeling is responsible for the bitterness displayed by the representatives of the Conservative party in the House of Commons and for the determination to obstruct business in the hope of deferring pending legislation.

## OUR VICTORIA-VANCOUVER ISLAND NUMBER.

Our neighbors on the other side of the line are rather proud of their trade depression. They magnify their position in the world by pointing out that the panic which has prevailed in their country has affected every other nation of any commercial standing upon the face of the globe. But there is one section of the universe upon which the American slump has had no appreciable effect. Vancouver Island is to-day in a more prosperous and healthier business condition than it was ever in before within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. The Times has had the most convincing proof of this statement in the demand for advertising space in its Victoria-Vancouver Island edition, now in course of preparation, and which we hope to issue some time during the coming month. The original conception of this work was to make it about forty pages. But the demand for space has been so insistent that at least sixty pages will be required to do justice to the subjects to be treated and to the requirements of our advertising patrons. Some of the best writers obtainable have been engaged, and are now engaged in the task assigned them. Vancouver Island from every point of view will be treated in the pages of this special number, which, according to present indications, will be the most complete thing of its kind ever attempted in British Columbia, if not in the Dominion of Canada.

Not only will the edition be a very large one; it will be circulated in the quarters likely to have the best possible effect upon the future of this Island and of the contiguous islands of the Queen Charlotte group, now known to be second only to Vancouver Island in the splendor of their potentialities. This section of the world, from the point of view of the investor, of the sportsman, of persons in search of gentility of climate and grade of natural surroundings, will be dealt with by gifted writers. Our resources in minerals of all kinds, in fish, in lumber, in fruit, in agriculture, and in everything that tends to multiply wealth and conduce to individual comfort, will also receive consideration at the hands of competent authorities. We can, therefore, with confidence ask our patrons and all interested in the future of Vancouver Island, to co-operate in the production of what will undoubtedly prove one of the best newspaper numbers ever produced in the province.

## END OF THE ASIATIC QUESTION.

Gratifying reports have been received from London respecting the mission of Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King. The Deputy Commissioner of Labor was appointed by the Dominion government to proceed to Great Britain and endeavor to make an arrangement with the Imperial authorities looking to the prevention of Hindu immigration to this province. The Dominion authorities had already taken action towards this end, but it was realized that the Hindus, being British subjects, it would be

better, in the interests of the Hindus themselves and in the interests of the Empire, that the threatened flood should be checked at its source. If that could be accomplished, there could be no charge that Hindus as British subjects were treated with contumely in Canada. Consequently the news that Mr. King has been received with cordiality by the British ministry, that his mission has been approved of, that the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Secretary of State for India have promised that immigration from the colony shall not only be discouraged but stopped, is very gratifying indeed.

It has been asserted that the attitude of British Columbia towards Oriental immigrants has been grievously misunderstood in Eastern Canada—simply because the newspapers and public men of the East, with the exception of a few extreme partisans, have declared that the question has been handled with consummate ability and statesmanlike acumen by the Dominion government. These comments have been regarded as a reflection upon the attitude of the McBride government, which, we are told, only passed the Bowser Act for the purpose of impressing upon competent authorities the necessity of immediate action to prevent the province from being overrun by Orientals. Unfortunately, the statements of the Premier and the Attorney-General in the Legislature do not bear out this construction of their acts. These gentlemen maintained that it was within the competence of the province to pass restrictive measures. They claimed that their Natal Act would be enforced, and even before it had passed the House officers were appointed to carry out its provisions. We do not believe they were sincere in their professions. We are sure their only desire was to have the act disallowed by the Dominion government, when they thought they could once more have posed as the defenders of the province against the usurpers at Ottawa who were determined that British Columbia should be overrun by Asiatics. And their good faith is also impeached by the fact that while they were loud in their professions of zeal for the welfare of the working classes, facts were disclosed which demonstrated that they were actually in alliance with and sympathetic to the corporations which were instrumental, by evading regulations made by the Dominion, in precipitating the flood of Orientals which filled all real well-wishers of the province with alarm.

It is scarcely necessary to point out how that the crisis is over and immigration from all Asiatic sources effectually checked, and that exercising a wise discretion and displaying statesmanship of the highest quality the Dominion government has accomplished a very important work without endangering the alliance between Great Britain and Japan, without offending the pride of our fellow-subjects in India, and also without affecting our own trade relations with Great Britain's maritime ally in the East.

In 1904 Dr. Thompson, who had always been a strong Conservative, was a candidate for election to the House of Commons in Yukon Territory. He ran as an independent, received the support of a large number of independent Liberals, and was elected. After pursuing a course in parliament consistent with his pre-election professions, Dr. Thompson has declared the work of the Yukon Independent party as complete, and has again thoroughly allied himself with his old friends the Conservatives. We venture, however, to say that he cannot be re-elected in the Yukon as a Conservative, and very likely will not try.

Postmaster-General Lemieux has under consideration an arrangement which will make American and Canadian special delivery stamps good in both countries. The measure will, if it is effected, be of great benefit to merchants and others, who frequently find it convenient to use such stamps. At present when a Canadian desires to send a letter by special delivery to the United States it is necessary to secure an American special delivery stamp.

The Conservatives have discovered another sign of decay in the Liberal party. Mr. Sifton, in his speech in the House of Commons a few days ago, made a complimentary reference to some action of Mr. Bodren, and this is taken as a sign that he is going over to the Tories. Think of the joy in the hungry camp.

An exchange makes the point that as Mr. Bodren is paid a handsome salary as leader of the opposition it is, as much his duty to remain at his post in parliament as it is the duty of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to lead the House.

## AGED WOMEN'S HOME.

(From Friday's Daily.) Plans for the proposed new building of the Home for Aged Women are now being considered by the board of management of that institution. They were taken up at a meeting of the board yesterday, but were left over until it is known more definitely how much money will be available for building purposes. The provincial legislature at the session just closed voted \$5,000 to the building fund of the Home, and the usual fine of three dollars and costs, while the other two, who had appeared in court before, were assessed six dollars and costs or ten days in jail.

PRESS BOYCOTS  
BERLIN HOUSEFULL REPARATION FOR  
INSULT IS DEMANDEDApology for "Swine" Incident  
or Reichstag Continues  
Unreported.

Berlin, March 21.—Chancellor Von Buelow, in view of his approaching speech in the Reichstag on the foreign affairs of the empire, is striving to find a way to effect a settlement of the difficulty between the newspaper reporters and parliament. Two days ago the leader of the Centre party, Herr Groeber called the newspaper men "swine" in open meeting because they had jeered at the remark of a member of the House. The reporters decided not to send out a word of the Reichstag debates until an apology and the fullest reparation had been offered. To-day they had assurances from practically every newspaper in Germany that no mention would be made of the Reichstag proceedings until satisfaction had been given them.

BRITISH DIPLOMACY  
AVERTED TROUBLEProjected Visit of U. S. Fleet  
to Japan is Happy  
Omen.

London, March 21.—The announcement that the United States has accepted the invitation of the Japanese government for the Atlantic battle-ship fleet to visit Japan is regarded as the highest interest here, first as putting an end to the friction and war talk, and further as one of the most significant naval demonstrations of modern times.

It is anticipated that Japan will assemble her fleet at full strength at Yokohama to greet the visitors, which in one only the Atlantic fleet makes the journey will be a fine spectacle, and if, as is considered not unlikely, the entire American force now in the Pacific goes to Yokohama, it will, as the Daily Mail remarks, be a superb spectacle. It will be one never paralleled in far eastern waters, and it will be welcomed by all as a sign that British diplomacy has been successful in avoiding serious friction between the two great naval powers of the Pacific, the one England's ally and the other England's friend.

The Daily News in an editorial remarks that the American battleships around the world as a visible expression of world politics and a happy omen for the future.

WOULD-BE PUGILIST  
APPEARS IN COURTPatrick Burke Knocks Out  
Andrew Devine's Teeth and  
is Arrested.

(From Saturday's Daily.) Patrick Burke, alias Moore, was at the boxing contest on Thursday evening and yesterday tried the effect of one Adams variety of straight punches on a drunken man named Andrew Devine, with the result that he is now in the police cells and will come up for trial on a charge of assault on Monday morning.

Burke chose an unfortunate place and time for his demonstration of pugilistic skill, for Constable Harper and Special Officer Ashton were standing on the corner of Government and Yates streets within a few yards of him at the time of the occurrence and lost no time in gathering him in. Just as there was not a second justice of the peace on hand so that the case necessarily went over.

Three drunks also appeared before Mr. Northcott, one of whom, being a first offender, got off with the usual fine of three dollars and costs, while the other two, who had appeared in court before, were assessed six dollars and costs or ten days in jail.

—The Garrison sergeants' mess dance club will hold their next social event in the Tivoli Court, Work Point, on Tuesday evening, next, commencing at 8 o'clock. To this dance the sergeants of the Fifth Regiment have been invited.

Individuality Marks the New  
Hats for Spring

THE SHOWING of Spring Millinery grows more interesting day by day, as new conceptions are constantly being added. Our milliners are busy creating and evolving new and pretty styles, and large numbers of them are being brought forward just as fast as they are completed. But the hats that are attracting particular attention just now are those made for early spring wear. Then there are the abundance of exquisite imported styles in countless numbers of fascinating shapes trimmed with ribbons and flowers which this year seem more beautiful and abundant than ever, making this the garden spot of the store, while the naturalness and grace of the flower trimmings are among the most notable features this year, hats imported direct from the fashion centres of the world. Showing an exclusiveness and individuality which cannot be found elsewhere. In fact there are shapes, styles and colors in variety sufficient to please the woman of most exacting taste.

## Charming New Spring Blouses

EVERY DAY REVEALS many charming styles in new Spring Blouses. On every table in this section will be found styles diversified enough to suit every individual taste and whim, and what is more interesting is the extreme moderation of prices. Below are two very attractive descriptions, but it is only necessary for you to call to satisfy yourself of their vastness and daintiness.



LADIES' BLOUSE, made of good quality white lawn, tucked box pleat down centre, with dainty embroidered panel on each side trimmed with Valenciennes lace insertion and small tucks, back and collar tucked, full length sleeves with deep tucked cuffs trimmed with Valenciennes lace, buttoned in back and finished, buttoned in front, all sizes. ....\$1.75

LADIES' BLOUSE, made of good quality white Swiss lawn, front of fine allover embroidery with clusters of tucks, large full three-quarter sleeves with cuffs and attached collar tucked and trimmed with Valenciennes lace, buttoned in the back and finished with tucks; sizes 32 to 44 inches, at ....\$2.50

## DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

## A LENORA CASE.

On March 2d a writ was issued against Henry Croft, Mrs. Henry Croft, James Lawson, Jr., and W. W. Berridge, the last two being late directors of the Lenora & Mount Sicker Copper Mining Company, to recover the sum of \$20,000, the amount of a note given by the parties mentioned to J. Breen. The note was given in 1902, and was discounted at the bank, but was dishonored and had to be paid by Mr. Breen. Since that time interest has accrued to the amount of \$12,600. Messrs. Lawson and Berridge were sued in their private capacity, although they signed the note as directors of the company. The legislature at its last session passed an amendment which takes away this liability. This law provides that when a director, manager or officer affixes a signature to a promissory note in his official capacity he shall not be liable as an individual.

This has freed these two, but the remaining parties are still held liable. The time for the writ has not yet run. An application was made in Chambers asking, to quash the writ as being irregular, but this was overruled with costs, payable forthwith. As these were not paid, another application was made yesterday for security for costs. This was granted to the amount of \$75 for each applicant.

## KAMLOOPS' TURN NOW.

(From Friday's Daily.) It is not likely that any more prisoners will be brought over from New Westminster jail to the local jail as the latter institution is now filled with prisoners who received their sentence on the mainland. However, even with the number of men who have been sent to this city, New Westminster jail is still filled to overflowing, largely with people who have been convicted by the courts in the attorney-general's home city, Vancouver. As no more prisoners can be accommodated in the local jail, another place for their safe keeping has had to be found, and Kamloops has been selected for the honor, and Sgt. Murray and Constable Carter, of the provincial police, left last night to convey 25 prisoners from New Westminster to their new place of detention, where they will be set free as soon as they have completed their sentences.

## CHILDREN SPENT

## HAPPY DAY

Vancouver Little Ones Were  
Entertained by Colonel  
D. McGregor.

Vancouver, March 22.—Colonel Duncan McGregor, an old-time resident of Victoria, and recently of Dawson, who was never happier than when entertaining children, was yesterday the host of a very pleasant party which he gave to 20 of the children of the Dawson school.

Promptly at 9 o'clock the delighted children, boys and girls, gathered in the Hotel Vancouver, and shortly afterwards the Colonel made his appearance, greeted them in his well known happy manner, and promptly proceeded to take them all to the horse show. Here they enjoyed themselves admiring the horses and ponies for several hours. The entire party were then invited to lunch at the hotel by Mr. McGregor, but many of them, on their own sad admission, could not attend, and it was with feelings of regret that they took leave.

Fourteen sat down at the tables, and to say that they enjoyed their sumptuous lunch is putting it in mild form. Amongst the children present were Miss Bertha Creelman, Miss Constance Busby, Miss Rhoda Stantford, Miss Louise Forrest, Miss Lillian Mangould, Miss Perry, Miss Irene Margaret McLennan, Miss Grace Winter, Miss Helen MacNaughton, Master Donald Purdy and Master Michael Woodworth. Mr. and Mrs. William Black, Miss Creelman and Mrs. Hay assisted the Colonel to look after his guests.

Shortly after the lunch was finished the children took their leave, all thanking Mr. McGregor for the pleasant time he had given them and assuring him that they would never forget it.

## OUTLOOK IS GOOD.

Montreal, March 22.—Despite the irrational disturbances in commercial circles of the Dominion caused by the financial stringency, the officials of all transportation companies here report prospects for the coming season most encouraging.

## IS BETTER POLICED

## THAN EVER BEFORE

Every Part of the City Now  
Enjoys Police Protection  
at Night.

(From Friday's Daily.)

Never before has Victoria been so well policed as at present, thanks to the recent increase in the force by the police commissioners. From 4 o'clock in the afternoon until 8 o'clock the next morning every part of the city is patrolled, there being at all times thirteen patrolmen on the street, besides the sergeants in charge of the various squads. Coincident with the increase in the police force the number of complaints received by the department has shown a marked falling off. This is in keeping with the argument that an efficient police force serves more as a preventive of crime than as a catcher of criminals.

The increase in the force led to some rearrangement of the beats, although the number remains the same, ten. Up to the present the district in the centre of the city that has been particularly patrolled consisted of the territory bounded by Chatham, Douglas, Humboldt and Wharf streets. This has been extended to embrace the portion of the city bounded by Discovery, Blanchard, Humboldt and Douglas streets. There are three beats in the district lying between Blanchard street and the eastern boundary of the city. The James Bay district is divided into two beats divided by Oswego street. There is also a man in Victoria West, while Rock Bay, the Work Estate, Spring Ridge and the southeastern portion of the city is also given protection.

Besides the thirteen patrolmen and the sergeants on duty at night there is also at the police station, a desk man, the barracks man and the driver of the patrol wagon. In the day time there are three patrolmen and a sergeant on duty in the central portion of the city and a desk man, barracks man and patrol wagon driver at the police station.

## 15 Years

DARED NOT EAT  
TABLET

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## ORGANIZING

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