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## TALES OF THE TOWN.

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

A writer in an eastern paper believes that every woman in her secret heart knows that the theatre is no place for a hat, and the same writer attributes her adherence to this custom to the fear that some one may think her action in removing the objectionable headwear is unfeminine. This hat problem impressed itself forcibly upon my mind during the opera season which closed last Thursday night. I attended the performance of *Said Pasha*, and a woman in front of me wore a hat of such enormous dimensions that it was utterly impossible for those sitting immediately behind her to see the stage. Of course nearly every other lady in the audience wore her hat, but I was pleased to observe that many of them were considerate enough to have the objectionable head-piece reduced to its lowest possible size, consistent, of course, with feminine delicacy. I realize the fact that many women object to removing their hats because the process rumples up their hair. This objection would be removed if every theatre possessed convenient cloak rooms.

A gentleman connected with The Victoria informs me that managers generally would do anything if ladies would only take off their hats. They need not feel that full dress is necessary, but simply do as men do, take off their hats and keep their other wraps with them if they so desire. What prettier sight is there than a foreign audience, where not a hat is to be seen. For my part, I sincerely hope that the custom will soon be established.

In the past complaints have been numerous as to the inefficiency of the orchestra of the Victoria Theatre. But there are extenuating circumstances in this connection which I would speak of at this time. The principal one is, that Manager Cort is afraid the mashing propensities of certain Victoria females might utterly disorganize any orchestra he could bring to his house. I was amused at the antics of a couple of these female mashers during the engagement of the Calhoun company. The clarinet player, a Minneapolis young man, is something of a masher himself. The two females referred to spotted him early the first night, and for over two hours the air was filled with sighs and invisible kisses, varied with slight movements of the eye, generally spoken of as winking. The last night was a repetition of the first night, with a few additional features. With all these things taken into consider-

ation, Manager Cort should not be blamed for the rather "ordinary" orchestra which holds forth at The Victoria.

By the way, I was nearly forgetting to remind my readers that the great "snow under" predicted by THE HOME JOURNAL last week for Mayor Beaven did not materialize. Just now, I could cite fifty-five reasons why Mr. Dalby was not elected, but I shall content myself by stating the most important one, viz., he did not get enough votes. Mr. Beaven is a hard man to beat, and no one knows this better than the men who worked so hard against him. Victoria could have a worse mayor than the present incumbent, although it was exceedingly difficult to see the matter in that light last week.

The gentlemen composing the Citizen's Association have no reason to grumble at the result of their work. I am greatly mistaken if the six men elected on that ticket do not make themselves felt during the coming year. Victoria requires men with progressive ideas at the present time, and in Messrs. Miller, Belyea, Munn, McKillican, McTavish and Henderson, I believe such men have been found. The defeat of Mr. McCandless I regret, believing, as I do, that he would have worked hard to advance the interests of Victoria. Altogether, the present city council is a great improvement on the previous one.

There was one thing in connection with the municipal contest, which I must refer to while I am on the subject. A few days previous to the election an emissary of the Moral Reform Association called on Mr. McCandless and sounded him concerning certain matters, in which the members of the association have interested themselves recently. Mr. McCandless gave straightforward and manly answers to the questions put to him, but it transpires that on one or two points he was at variance with the society. For this reason they "knifed" him, and to this fact alone the friends of Mr. McCandless attribute his defeat. I do not object to the Moral Reform Association, or any other body of men, for that matter, having a full understanding as to what any candidate may work for in case of election, but I do object to asking one man to commit himself and allowing others to go without pledges. Such a policy does not reflect credit on the society from a moral standpoint. Mr. McCandless possesses a reputation that will compare favorably with any man belonging to the Moral Reform Association, and I really believe that very few of its members would be willing to submit their records to as close a scrutiny as would the gentlemen they so bitterly antagonized on election day.

The result of the municipal elections proves conclusively that the element in this city in favor of tax reform is by no means inconsiderable. Mr. West came out squarely on a single tax platform, and he polled 191 votes in the North Ward. It is safe to say all who voted for Mr. West were single tax men. During the campaign he created a favorable impression on account of his honest desire to avoid anything that would reflect on the cause he espoused, and no one can blame him for the idiotic actions of one or two of his followers at several of the public meetings.

Mr. West not only discussed intelligently the ills borne by tax payers, but, unlike many other reformers, he explained what measures were required to remedy the evil of an unequal and bungling taxing system. His conclusions may be accepted as the result of the mature deliberations of the tax reform party. The primary principle put forth by Mr. West and by all single tax reformers is that it is a palpable injustice to tax a man who improves his property, while the speculative holder of unimproved land is permitted to shoulder a comparatively insignificant burden. This, they claim, and not without reason, is not in keeping with the boasted civilization of the nineteenth century and should be abolished.

So far as taxing unused railroad lands is concerned, I contend that the railroads should be taxed for the large body of unused wild lands they hold, together with the gross earnings tax. The tax reformers demand such taxation together with taxation of land at terminals and stations. The inclusion of wild, unused land would be sufficient, so long as the tax on gross earnings is levied. Otherwise double taxation will result. Would it not be well to have a government tax commission appointed. The intelligent work of an expert commission would greatly enlighten the public, and surely lead to the actualization of needed reforms in taxing methods.

I think it would increase public confidence somewhat in the medical profession of this community if a very good practice followed in many, if not all, big centres, were also adopted here. I refer to the fact that, when a patient enters a public or private hospital, suffering from some complaint which requires such patient to undergo a surgical operation, and when that patient dies during or from the effects of the operation, there should be held an inquest, or independent medical testimony should be given as to the proximate or approximate cause of death. There may be some delicacy on the part of the friends of the person in submitting to any publicity

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