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Special Christmas and New Year Dinners will be served

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TOYS FOR THE CHILDREN

Only four weeks to Christmas and then the children will look for a gift. This year it will be a real peace gift. We have made preparations for supplying your wants in serviceable Gifts for every member of the family and especially for the children. Read over the list.

DOLL CARRIAGES, CRADLES, VELOCIPEDS, TRI-
CYCLES, SPEEDERS, AUTOMOBILES, SHOOFlys,
DANDIES, WAGONS, WHEELBARROWS, DESKS AND
KINDERGARTEN TABLES AND CHAIRS

These are all most moderately priced. We will hold for Christmas delivery if required on payment of a deposit.

Smith & Champion

THE BETTER VALUE STORE

1420 DOUGLAS STREET

VICTORIA

Near City Hall

THE WOUND IS HEALED

Someone said recently that it took a German king to separate Anglo-Saxons into the American and the British, and now it has taken a German emperor to heal the wound.

A striking illustration of this is found in a passage in which Brand Whitlock, United States minister to Belgium, describes his visit to the German front in the early days of the war. He sat in front line trench and looked, through a slit, upon meadows across which were the British trenches.

"Those were the the British trenches, only two hundred yards away," he writes, "the men whose tongue I spoke, whose

thoughts I thought, whose traditions, ideals, hopes I shared as though they were mine own people. I peered a long time, feeling strange, lonely, homesick, in the trench where I did not belong."—Buffalo Commercial.

NO FURTHER TROOPS RAISED FOR SIBERIA

No more Canadian troops will be raised for Siberia, Gen. Mewburn, Minister of Militia, stated in an interview with an evening paper today.

"Will any further troops be sent from Canada to Siberia?" he was asked. "No only those that have been detailed," he replied.

Gulf Islands Mail Service

Mr. Geo. W. Dean, of Ganges, writes to the Press as follows:

Sir.—A letter was signed by W. H. B. Medd, V. S., appearing in the Colonist a week ago, may require some word of reply. Circumstances prevented an earlier one. That letter taken with some others, appearing lately in the press, is not a very good advertisement for our Islands. Our troubles of transportation have been so frequently before the public, generally with the raw side out, that people may conclude either that we are a "bunch of kickers," or that our transportation is hopeless. In either case, the intending settler may conclude that the Islands are good places to keep away from. The letter in question reminds one of the old rhyme: If ifs and ands were pots and pans, we'd have no need for Tinker." The Dr. says: "There was presumably a specified schedule," again "Mail contracts are usually let by tender," but whether this was so or not "the writer is ignorant," "but it is to be presumed," etc. And again, "If the service agreed upon was such as the Princess Island carried out until a few weeks ago, the service now being given the Islands is not according to contract, and the agreement entered into has become a scrap of paper."

From this wobbly platform he delivers the touching appeal: "How long are the people going to tolerate any large corporation making and breaking contracts at its own sweet will," etc.

As a matter of fact we are getting five mails a week instead of six as last Summer, and in contrast to only three per week the preceding year. At the same time the passenger accommodation is beyond comparison better than we have had for years. This is a fair average of improvement surely, considering the strain on transportation these years all the world over. It would have been better to have noticed this improvement rather than to read us such a tremendous lecture from such a small subject.

The Dr. tells us that "transportation corporations are the servants of the people." Very gratifying indeed, even in theory—This is a companion statement to that of "governments are the servants of the people." Granted then that we the Sovereign people (including the Tailors of Topley Street) hold the C.P.R. in perpetual servitude, we should remember that if peace is to prevail between master and servant, whether that servant be a Government or corporation, a factory staff or individual, the master must at least be just. If he "presumes" that the servant is a loafer and scoundrel, it will be difficult for him to reap the benefit of that servant's best efforts. It were better to "presume" that conditions had arisen that prevented the usual output and either help to remove the obstacle or submit as gracefully as possible.

Dr. Medd knew the preventing condition in the case in point, as he is in almost daily touch with the Sec. of the Island. Committee was appointed by the representatives of the Gulf Islands, in meeting assembled. The schedule complained of was submitted to that committee by the Company. The committee, while pointing out the failure of the schedule to provide two trips a week to Vancouver as agreed, yet accepted it as a temporary arrangement for the Winter months. It is true that some of the ports are excluded from the trip to Vancouver, via Nanaimo, yet all may ship to that city, via Victoria, twice a week without increase of rates. In addition, the Company has arranged, without suggestion from us, to transfer passengers from the wharf at Saanichton to Victoria and return by motor bus, thus avoiding the rough water from Ten Mile Point. Has Dr. Medd any facts to prove that if the Government owned the C.P.R. that they would be more considerate of our rights, safety and comfort than the present company? According to Dr. Medd, "the people of Canada will be blind to their own interests if they do not take under their own control" the C.P.R. But it may be that the people of Canada are from "Missouri," and must

be shown the advantage of so doing.

Has any Government to Canada shown any superlative virtue of economy or ability in the management of great public works? Read what each political party has said of the other on this matter, or wait for a month or two when the party machines will be in action, if you would have a certificate of character and ability, a certificate illuminated, framed and presented, each by the other, and they ought to know. Our V.S. refers to the parasites, "the politicians and other coolies" (did he mean to say coolies?) that wait for the crumbs from the corporation table. But there is a much greater swarm of the same that prey on party governments, and railway ownership by the Government only enlarges the pasturage area for these gentry, to the great detriment of railway efficiency. Perhaps the people of Canada would rather consider the handing the Government over to Baron Shaughnessy and his cabinet. Experts say that these are 100 per cent efficiency. If they could bring the country in sight of that figure Canada would be the greatest country in the world.

PENDER ISLAND CONCERT

Successful Entertainment at Hope Bay
Last Week Netted \$100 for Red Cross

A very successful meeting and entertainment, under the auspices of the Pender Island Red Cross, was held at the Public Hall, Hope Bay, Pender Island, on Thursday evening last week.

The entertainment was provided by the public school children and consisted of flag drill crowning of the fairy queen and a pantomime in character. The children were instructed and well drilled by the teacher, Miss Peggy Hamilton, to whom great credit is due for her painstaking and untiring efforts. The South Pender ladies provided a stall of useful and ornamental articles which commanded a ready sale. Miss Corbett and Miss Auchterlonie presided at a candy and fancy stall at which several successful raffles of sacks of flour, chocolates and other things were conducted. The local ladies provided abundant refreshment, which was much appreciated.

The chairman of the branch, Mr. Corbett, made a patriotic speech in which he referred especially to the brave and untiring efforts of the women of Britain and the whole Empire, which elicited rousing cheers. The splendid sum of \$100 was realized for the cause as a result of the entertainment.

Simister's Dry Goods Store

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Seasonable Gifts at prices consistent with quality and excellence

Womens' Silk Hose

in black, Copenhagen, navy, sky, pink and white—75c., \$1.50, \$2.25

Brush Wool Scarf Cap Set

Colors—nice range—\$1.50 to \$3.25
DAINTY BLOUSES AND EMBROIDERED HANDKERCHIEFS.
Done up with Gift Boxes 25c. to \$1.50.

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