

TALES OF THE TOWN.



ON Sunday afternoon I strolled across the railway bridge, through the Indian Reserve, and on

the condition of their public thoroughfares, the latter being suggestive of a pig ranch. In the course of a conversation with a pioneer resident of the section referred to I learned that the people of Victoria West, like all other people, have a grievance. Briefly stated, it is as follows:—Last year's municipal council spent over \$10,000 on the new limits of the city, less than \$100 of which was spent in Victoria West. If my informant's statements are correct—and I have no reason to question his veracity—Victoria West has been unjustly dealt with. It certainly is the most thickly settled portion of the new additions to the city. From information thus learned, together with practical experience in wading through their so-called streets, I can conscientiously recommend the West Enders' grievances to

I would not advise the reduction of anyone's salary, but it is just possible that some superfluous officials may have crept into the municipal service. Take the street department, for instance. On an average, taking it all through the year round, I don't suppose much more than a dozen laborers are employed in each ward of the city; each ward has a foreman, and then over and above all these the Council had to appoint a street commissioner at \$125 per month.

The reader may think that our streets ought to be well managed with so many bosses, but a few minutes' walking along any of our principal thoroughfares will suffice to dispel any such idea. In this connection, I might state that the dispensing with the services of a street commissioner seems to meet with the approbation of the general public.

Besides economy there are many other important questions that need the consideration of the municipal board. The building by-law is defective, in fact it should be repealed and an entirely new one enacted. The city is rapidly building up, and requires more stringent building regulations than at present exist, especially in regard to matters pertaining to the prevention of fire. Overhanging and swinging signs, wooden verandahs, and all other unsightly and dangerous obstructions, should be strictly prohibited. The removal of the hack stand from Government Street would certainly improve the appearance of, and facilitate traffic on, our principal business thoroughfare.

Another matter which has often been referred to in the press of the city, but without any good results, is the congregating of crowds of men around certain corners and saloons, making it impossible for a lady to pass without having to elbow her way through the crowd and having to hold her skirts pretty high to avoid gathering up the accumulation of tobacco juice invariably to be found round about such quarters.

These and many other matters require attention. Alderman Humber has made the first move in the direction



THE ARM (VICTORIA) BY MOONLIGHT.

to that section of the city known as Victoria West. This community of churches and cottage residences is certainly keeping pace with the times, quite a large number of houses being in course of construction at the present time. This wet season leaves an appalling contrast between the building enterprise displayed by our West Enders and

the serious consideration of the new Council.

"Economy consistent with efficiency." This evidently is Alderman Humber's motto in municipal matters, and it is a good one, too. It does seem as though \$70,000 for municipal salaries was a little high for a city like Victoria.