

THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

Devoted to Social, Political, Literary, Musical and Dramatic Gossip.

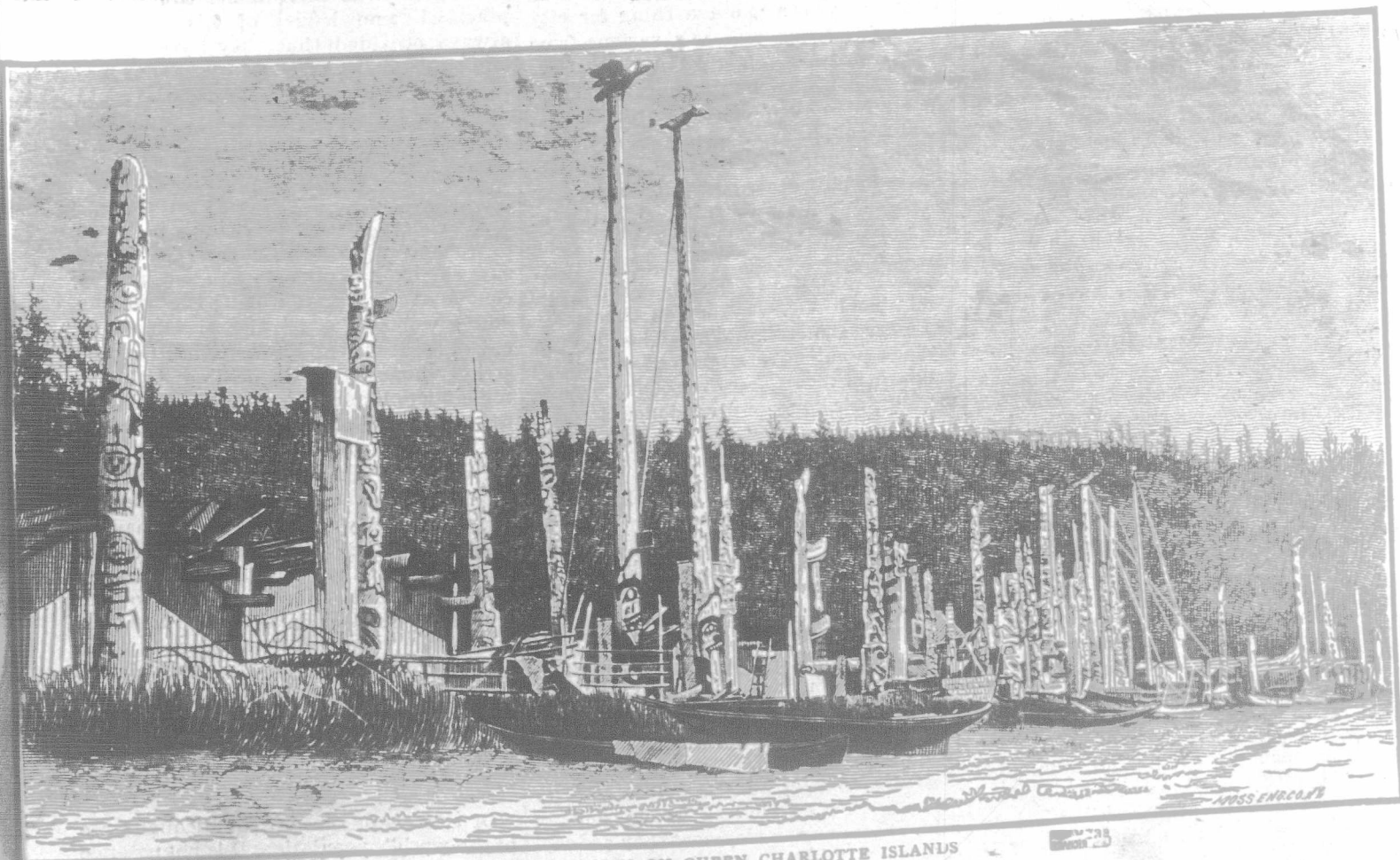
Vol. 1, No. 9.

VICTORIA, B. C., DECEMBER 12, 1891.

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OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

IF statistical records of the population of the world did not already show the number of females to be largely in excess of males, the fact would be self-evident from the thousands of young women who crowd the busy marts of trade and fill numerous useful positions, along with the sterner sex, in almost all departments of mercantile life, in every populous business centre. So rapidly are these young women coming to the front, and so increasingly numerous are they becoming, that some of the leading American journals are beginning to seriously discuss their fitness and opportunities for the leading positions in future mercantile life.

We confess, that at first thought, the proposition to develop our fair ladies into anxious, careworn merchants or business managers, seems repulsive to us—at variance with our cherished ideal and best conceptions of "the female form divine," and opposed to the design of an all-wise Providence. It is true that girls make good typewriters and stenographers, fine designers, painters and decorators, musicians and artists; and occasionally where the girls of a family happen to be boys, their abnormal conceits and ambitions may sometimes lead them to rush in where angels fear to tread, and attempt to cope with the intricacies of politics, law, finance, medicine and numerous other subjects included in the modern phrase of "higher education." We have also known stray girls to take kindly to the care and management of horses, and

acquit themselves creditably at farm work, etc. No doubt it is this latter class of women of whom a leading New York journal had in mind recently when urging its lady readers to study plumbing; he goes on to say that it is a common thing for city households to experience vexations from bursting or leaking pipes, and that there is no reason why the women should not know how to turn off the water supply, arrest a leak, or even mend the break in the water pipe, without affecting her usefulness for any other position. This may be possible; but we think not likely; most women are not built that way, and to attempt to develop in them the hardy, coarser feelings of the man-mechanic would inevitably, we fancy, in time crush or render callous those finer instincts or feelings peculiar to their sex, and which make them such attractive society for the men in their hours of diversion and relaxation.

There are some light lines of business to which the feminine nature more readily adapts itself; these lines, such as dry goods, millinery, boots and shoes, and many others that suggest themselves, offer in our day favorable opportunities to many bright girls who possess good judgment, quick perception, and oftentimes a faculty for business, for earning a livelihood, while they otherwise might have to remain idle and become helplessly dependent and humiliated. To all such willing workers it would be the height of folly and injustice, as well as ungenerous, to refuse them any employment they are capable of satisfactorily performing, merely because the positions have formerly been

filled by men; again, where the merchant has one or more girls, and possibly no sons to help him in business, there can be no reasonable objection to his giving them a chance to add to their home education a practical knowledge of his business, always provided that they have a taste and aptitude in that direction. They may likely become good assistants, who could relieve him when necessary, and help themselves at any time in life when circumstances might call upon them to do so.

A contemporary, writing in favor of women acquiring a business education, says there are many points in her favor as compared with young men; the average young woman has no disposition to wild or dissipated habits, may be counted strictly honest, and in dealing with customers will likely exercise more tact than the generality of male employees, while she can learn to sell goods as well, keep a store as tidy, and accounts as accurate as anyone. We would remind our contemporary that many a young woman has acquired "a disposition to wild and dissipated habits," and become dishonest, through the associations she was subjected to after entering upon a business career; and it is well for employers to remember the statement of a large dry goods merchant in Brooklyn, N. Y.,—that the best women make the best assistants, but that the average woman ranks far beneath the average man.

Of course, in the present unequal state of the world's population, it is not possible for all ladies to get married, but we submit that marriage is the natural and legitimate

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destiny, as well as the highest and noblest sphere for the exercise of her God-given talents, of every woman. Therefore, no properly constituted girl should allow her ambition to be diverted altogether from its natural goal—the exalted position of wife and mother, “queen of the home.” To this end, then, too much attention can scarcely be given to that all-important education in household affairs and domestic economy—a science, the study of which is too frequently neglected by girls, who seem to think it belongs only to their mothers and a bygone age.

The French Government has ordered that 63 abandoned mines in France are to be conceded to any persons willing to operate them under certain conditions. Of these 21 are iron ore mines, 9 are coal, 11 lignite, and the remainder copper, lead and zinc mines. The State owns the mineral right generally throughout France, and mining concessions cease when the lessees fail to work the properties. It is believed that co-operative associations of miners will be formed to work some of these abandoned undertakings. Are there not in this province numerous mines and mineral claims that have been practically, if not formally, abandoned and which might be similarly dealt with?

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SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

[THE HOME JOURNAL would be pleased to receive the dates of parties and the names of persons attending social gatherings. To insure publication, this information would have to reach this office not later than Thursday noon.]

Society seems to be asleep. After last month's many brilliant events, the present month has been quiet enough. No particularly gorgeous balls or soul-enthraling receptions have transpired, and a dearth of 5 o'clock teas is noticeable. What's the cause? The fact is, this is the season of the year when the church fair and bazaar hold full sway, when enthusiastic church-workers wear themselves out with flying around from morning until night "raising money" for this, that and the other thing; when the task of making Christmas presents fills every woman's hands; when the "rest up" season is in order, rest up for the fun of the merry holidays soon to be here; when a periodical lull comes for a spell in the pleasures of the social world. Several score of pleasant home gatherings and a few afternoon receptions—such is society's showing for the week.

Mrs. Peters, wife of Major Peters, R.C.A., arrived with her family last Thursday evening from the East, where they have been visiting relations.

Mr. Wm. Tempieman, editor of the Times, who has been visiting in the East for some weeks, is expected home early next week.

The Married Ladies' and the Comus Clubs have been disappointed in securing a hall suitable for dancing purposes, and consequently their contemplated dance will not take place Christmas Eve.

A well-known merchant tailor of Government Street will begin the New Year by taking unto himself a wife.

Mr. Robert Houston, of the Times, has sufficiently recovered to be able to attend to his editorial duties.

Rev. M. L. Rugg contemplates resigning the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Young Men's Christian Association have arranged a first-class home talent concert for Wednesday evening, December 16th, to be held in the rooms on Broad Street. Refreshments will also be served. The proceeds are to be used in the work of the ladies.

The R. E. Church bazaar began at two o'clock Thursday afternoon, and ten minutes from that hour the rush of patrons had commenced, and continued

throughout the evening. In charge of the various booths were the following energetic members of the Young Ladies' Guild:—Mrs. Richardson and Miss Heathorn, fancy work; Miss Green and Miss Wilson, Christmas tree; Miss Heathorn and Miss Worlock, flowers; Miss Dickenson and Miss Cridge, plain sewing and candy. Sandwiched in between the afternoon sale and the conversazione of the evening came the 5 o'clock tea, over which Mrs. J. D. Helmcken presided, and which was indeed enjoyable. Mrs. D. R. Harris was in sole command during the evening, and, under her superintendence, a programme superior to the majority given even at the R. E. Church conversaciones was presented. It included musical numbers, both instrumental and vocal, as usual, and something not usual, in the form of tableaux—one a scene from Oliver Twist (Oliver asking for more); another the fairy scene, Midsummer Night's Dream, with music of the scene. Picture puzzles, a sort of pantomime charades, were also given and proved among the most attractive of the many novelties which made the bazaar, tea and conversazione one of the most successful affairs of the kind ever held in the city. The present officers of the Guild having affairs in charge are:—Mrs. F. Richardson, president, and Miss Higgins, secretary-treasurer; while among the members most prominently identified with the bazaar were: Mrs. Fort, Mrs. Langley, Mrs. Helmcken, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Lynn, and Misses S. Pemberton, Cridge, Green, Worlock, Wilson, Dickenson, Colquhoun, Heathorn, Burns, and L. Wilson.

Several Imperial theatrical parties are being arranged for next week.

The non-coms. who attended the N. G. reception at Seattle last week speak highly of the arrangements which had been made for their entertainment. The officers of the N. G., and in fact every one present, more particularly the ladies, did everything in their power to make their Victoria visitors feel at home. They had esplinded time. This is a pun.

The Io'antha will hold a reception Tuesday evening.

Mr. Edgar Marvin, popular in social circles, has accepted an engagement with the the Mme. Rhea Dramatic Co.

Invitations have been issued to the wedding of Mr. Edgar A. Whitcomb and Miss Phillippina Eberts, which will be celebrated Christmas Eve.

A most enjoyable "At home" was given Thursday evening by the Young Ladies' Institute. Harmony Hall was

well filled by a sociable company. The musical programme was highly appreciated, after which refreshments were served and dancing was begun. Judging by the merriment of the company, the ladies have proved themselves excellent entertainers, and their receptions will be eagerly looked forward to in future.

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AN AFTER DINNER DREAM.

MASKS

MASKS have played an important although occult part in the world's history. Whether the Man in the Iron Mask was really the twin brother of Louis XIV., or the Duke of Monmouth, or the fraudulent Minister of a petty Italian Prince, has not yet been decided; and the antiquarians, says the London Daily Telegraph, have not entirely made up their minds whether the man in the mask who beheaded Charles I. was the common hangman, Gregory Brandon, or Hugh Peters, or Oliver himself. Everybody knows that the executioner of Thistlewood and his deluded associates was the ordinary Jack Ketch; but it has not yet been discovered who was the masked individual in a sailor's dress who decapitated the culprits after they had been cut down. Even the origin of masks is wrapped in the mists of antiquity. Some archæologists hold that these disguisements were worn at the festival of Bacchus to conceal the effects of too frequent libations of the juice of the grape on the countenances of the votaries of the convivial Dionysus; while others assert that the invention of the mask was due to Thespis, and that it subsequently became one of the indispensable "properties" of the ancient Greek theatre. At all events, the classification of masks is a thing of very remote origin. There were masks for old and young—maidens, matrons, and old women, shopkeepers, physicians and slaves—each comprising a number of categories and subcategories; but, among these ingenious devices for veiling the human face more or less divine, no mention is made of the mask purely and simply idiotic. It may be urged that imbecility is sufficiently indicated by the floured visage of Pierrot, and by the glaring white veneer, with the scarlet half-moons on the cheeks, the elongated mouth and the cockscomb of Mr. Clown; but it need scarcely be said that a good deal of mother-wit frequently underlies the seeming silliness of professional buffoons and jesters. The mask we mean is that of the unadulterated Tom Fool—the pure white curd of ass's milk, the almost Scriptural fool, whose chief needs here below are stocks for his feet and stripes for his back.

Such a mask, in a moral if not in a physical sense, was certainly assumed by an absurd hobbledehoy of sixteen, who was charged at Ramsgate recently with annoying a servant-girl. The evidence went to prove that the prisoner, while masked, broke into the room of the prosecutrix. It is not, however, stated what particular form was taken by the hobbledehoy's facial disguise. There are masks and masks. One of the crotchets of prison discipline was to compel prisoners undergoing separate confinement to wear caps, the peaks

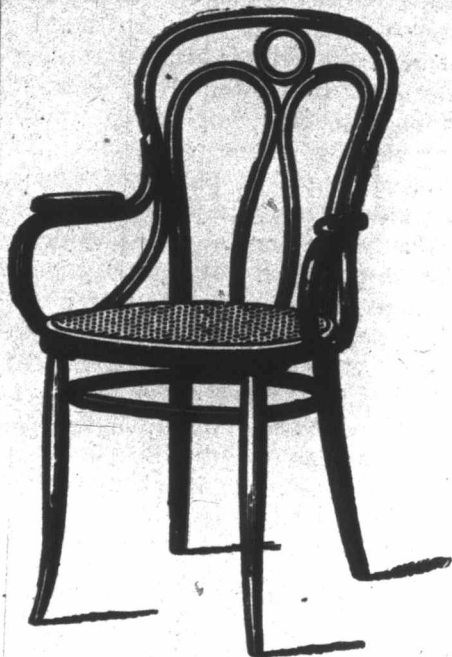
of which were provided with a pair of holes to see through, and which, when drawn down, while the gaol-birds were in chapel or taking their exercise in the prison yard, served effectually as masks, and prevented them from recognizing each other, facially at least. Then there was the famous mask donned by James Bloomfield Rush when he burst into Stanfield Hall with the intent of slaughtering the Jermy family. That mask was, technically speaking, a wig, since it consisted of thick curls almost covering the forehead and joining a beard and mustachios, and the disguise had been purchased by the assassin at a costumier's warehouse near the Strand. The Ramsgate hobbledehoy may have veiled his head with a hairy screen of the Rush pattern, or, rashly anticipating the festivities of the 5th of November, he may have sped on his adventurous and outrageous errand in a pasteboard mask, modelled to represent either the reversed features of Mr. Punch or the more baneful lineaments of Guy Fawkes. Or, perchance, impelled either by motives of economy or by a squalid ambition to emulate part of the equipment of a nocturnal burglar, the foolish youth at Ramsgate may have been content to wear only a strip of black crape or calico on the upper part of his face. At all events, there he was in the servant-girl's room, unexpected, uninvited, unwelcome. The girl, who appears to have exhibited considerable presence of mind under the circumstance, prevailed upon her objectionable guest to take himself off; but she promptly gave information as to his misconduct, and he was duly given into custody and brought up before the local bench on a charge of assault. The magistrates, being loth to send this raw lad to prison, were content to fine him forty shillings and costs, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment, and he was furthermore bound over in the sum of ten pounds to keep the peace for six months. The blundering excuse offered by this young scapegrace for his mischievous folly was that he had been reading "sensational stories." Without going nearly so far as the secretary of a great moralizing society, who has lately delivered himself of the astonishing utterance that nine-tenths of the fiction of the day are distinctly evil in their tendency, it may be said, without exaggeration, that the amount of sensational literature in circulation has attained such dimensions as to be in the highest degree dangerous to the moral health of the community, and especially of the rising generation. The genuine penny dreadful is not without plenty of masks. They are to the cheap sensational novelist and his readers as favorite accessories as the "copiosa quantita d'Amoretti," or winged Cupids, whom the Italian Cardinal instructed Giulio

Romano to paint on the ceiling of his Eminence's dining-room. When Claude Duval dances a coranto on Hounslow Heath with the lady whom he has forced to alight from her coach, but whom, for the sake of her good looks and her nimbly tripping feet, he refrained from despoiling of her jewels, the notable highwayman always wears a mask in addition to a richly-laced suit of clothes, a plumed hat, jack-boots and a silver-hilted rapier. As a matter of fact, the French scoundrel Duval, who was a cashiered footman of the Duchess of Portsmouth, and a squalid, ignoble, drunken, profligate varlet to boot, never danced any corantos with any ladies out of St. Giles, and would have been forgotten long years ago had not that great perverter of the juvenile mind, Mr. Harrison Ainsworth, introduced some sorry doggerel about Claude Duval in Newgate into his powerful but eminently mischievous romance of "Jack Sheppard." It was the same with Dick Turpin—a coarse, common, dissolute footpad and horse-thief, who ultimately turned housebreaker, and whose most chivalrous exploit was the thrusting of a poor old woman on to live coals in the grate in order to force her to confess where her small hoard of ready money was hidden. Yet this brutal malefactor becomes in Mr. Ainsworth's "Rookwood" quite a picturesque hero, and in the fiction of two generations since there were few more popular episodes than that of Dick Turpin's ride upon Black Bess from London to York. The catiff never had a horse called Black Bess; he never rode from London to York without drawing rein; and his adventures, as falsely narrated by the novelist, have done a world of harm in stimulating morbid sentiment and diseased fancy among growing lads.

In denouncing the evils which are most undoubtedly caused by sensational stories dealing principally with crime and criminals, it is but fair to remember and to recognize that the infection of sensationalism originated not in the lower but in the upper ranks of the community. In the eighteenth century, the masses both in town and country were to a prodigious extent wholly illiterate, while, for the few who were able to read, the cheap literature mainly consisted in chap-books telling of signs, wonders and portents, monstrosities, plagues, earthquakes and shipwrecks. There was nothing very sensational in the old ballads about Robin Hood and Little John, or Johnny Armstrong, or the Miller of Durham. "Chevy Chase" was a patriotic and stirring, but not an unhealthily sensational ditty; "The Heir of Lynn," "The Children in the Wood" and "George Barnwell," afterwards dramatized into a most doleful tragedy, were not actively demoralizing; in fact, the City shopkeepers used to send their apprentices to the

theatre on nights when Lillo's mournful drama was played, in order that flighty and headstrong youths might learn to their edification what would be the probable end of neglecting their arithmetic, embezzling the petty cash and flirting with Mistress Millwood, with her painted face and her hat and feathers. The brief narratives of exceptionally cruel murders, and the last dying speeches and confessions of criminals, issued in profusion from the Catnach Press down to a time within the memory of persons still living, were albeit somewhat defective in their grammar, written in a tone so moral and even so pious that they might have been the production of the Ordinary of Newgate. In the present century, a very long time elapsed before any cheap editions were put forth of such works as "Jack Sheppard," "Rookwood," "Eugene Aram," or "Paul Clifford," and, strangely enough, while the News gate Calendar has always been a costly work, a penny Newgate Calendar projected half a century since in weekly numbers was a disastrous commercial failure. There was not enough readers; but at present, when readers must be reckoned by the million instead of by the thousand, when copies of most of the sensational novels of the past may be purchased for a few pence, and vile twaddling, rubbishy imitations of such novels can be had in periodical form at even a cheaper rate, it behooves us to make the sad confession that the spread of education has been to a great extent counteracted by the absolutely poisonous garbage stolen or adapted from bygone books of a higher but still pernicious class, which is ready to the hand of every boy and girl with a few pence in their pockets. We are glad to believe that a taste for sound, honest, healthy, cheap literature is steadily growing; but at the same time we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that fools are abundant in our midst, and it is precisely the young imbeciles who gloat over sensational stories who are the likeliest to indulge in such a brainless escapade as that of the hobbledehoy of Ramsgate.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1891.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

IN the system of direct taxation, as advocated by John Stuart Mill, many prominent members of the reform party of Canada have professed to believe; but while professing to believe it to be the ideal system, when the opportunity was afforded them in Dominion or provincial politics by their being entrusted with the control of government by the people, they have never given evidence of the genuineness of their convictions by any attempt to embody the principle in legislative enactment. While privately professing to believe that collecting revenue by indirect taxation was wrong, they have contented themselves with opposing the imposition of indirect taxes beyond the requirements of government economically administered, and have invariably gone before the country making a claim to credit because they were willing (to put the matter in plain words) to undertake the responsibilities of government without resorting to such extreme measures of wrongful collections for its support as their opponents. While professing to be free traders in principle, they have never risen to anything higher in advancing that principle than a contention as to percentages of collection by a system entirely opposed to and subversive of the principle of which they claimed to be the champions.

The real difference between them and their opponents in fiscal matters has never been anything more than a question of expediency. While professing to base their political belief upon a sound economic truth—easily defended in practice, for is not the practice of truth ever its own defence?—they have shrunk from its practical application and fallen into a policy of apologizing for their position, to which their opponents with perfect truth scornfully alluded as only a matter of seventeen and a half per cent.

This is true of Dominion and provincial fiscal legislation since Canada has had responsible government, with one notable exception, when the Baldwin-

Lafontaine Cabinet gave to the country its system of rural municipal government, firmly resting on the cornerstone of direct taxation; and although perhaps the greater part of the good effects of the system have been lost through its faulty application, the history of self-government does not afford a like example of pure and efficient administration as the result. Yet it is perfectly true that the system which in this respect has been productive of such good results has in its faulty application become the instrument of injustice, pressing unequally on industry, enabling the scheming speculator to profit in idleness by the industry of others, and to reap the benefit of public improvements to which he did not contribute a fair share.

The errors committed in collecting municipal revenues by direct taxes have been in attempting to tax personal property, such as stocks in trade and manufacturing plant, and improvements on land, such as cultivating, building, etc. For the collection of taxes on stocks in trade, officers of the law must be possessed of inquisitorial powers, must be authorized to pry into the private affairs of citizens engaged in good and laudable enterprises, which are a benefit to the community in which they are carried on.

The introduction of the principle for the enforcement of law is foreign to the genius of free institutions, and savors too much of despotism to be adopted by a people who pride themselves on valuing and respecting individual liberty before all things else. The difficulties in the way of collecting such a tax are such as to make it practically impossible, and the result obtained is rather to place a premium on fraud and deception. It is an open secret to those who have investigated the matter that unscrupulous dealers manage to conceal a large part of the value of their stocks from those entrusted with their assessment (and this is much easier done in a large stock than in a small one). In this way they are able to pocket the amount of tax on the goods that escape valuation, or to undersell their more honest neighbors to the detriment of legitimate trade.

Such a tax rarely, if ever, falls upon those who first pay it, but is shifted through every course of trade, to fall ultimately upon the consumer, and upon him heaviest in proportion to the smallness of his income. Taxes laid upon manufacturing plant are a direct hindrance to progress. It is in the interest of the community not only to promote manufactures, but to afford every inducement to those engaged in them to increase the effectiveness of the means employed. Under anything

like free conditions goods must be sold in competition with other such goods, and the manufacturer having the best facilities, and consequently the least outlay on a given output, makes the price. Goods cannot be sold for more because they cost more, and taxes laid on machines must be paid from their product, thus inducing the use of cheaper, and consequently inferior, machinery to avoid taxation, the turning out of an inferior article, or the reduction of the wages of those employed in the work.

The discussion of the effect of direct taxes levied on improvements on land we leave for a future issue.

TALES OF THE TOWN.

I HAVE always entertained a high regard for Superintendent of Police Sheppard. I admired his generosity, his good nature and his lack of officiousness—a truly commendable characteristic in a chief of police, above all men. It is not often you will find a man in his position who is so universally well-spoken of as Superintendent Sheppard. But I must confess that the Rathom matter has shaken my regard for this gentleman, who has always been noted for the impartial manner in which he dealt with matters pertaining to his office. Of course, I am not on the inside of the whole trouble, and until I learn more of the matter, I shall suspend judgment and be prepared at any time to reinstate the chief of "the finest" to his former place in my esteem.

As might be expected, I have been criticized rather severely for my outspoken remarks regarding the choirs and organists in the several churches of this city. The other evening I attended a social gathering, and the young ladies and gentlemen present vied with one another in their abuse of poor, misguided "Pere Grinator." One young lady, after she had ruthlessly assassinated a solo, went so far as to say that I know "nothing about music whatever." Apparently she voiced the sentiments of nearly all present.

Now, on this subject of music, I desire to place myself right. I have nothing to take back. In fact, I might go further than I have gone already and still be strictly within the limits of the truth. I have not been hypercritical. I have not been even critical, in the general acceptance of the term; I object to that from principle; criticism, in the highest sense of the word, does not belong to a free country. What passes for criticism is too often only fault-finding clothed in journalistic dress, or fulsome flattery born of "an itching palm," and a love for popularity. I will leave the so-called

goods must be sold other such goods, for having the best frequently the least output, makes the not be sold for more more, and taxes laid be paid from their using the use of frequently inferior, taxation, the turn- or article, or the re- s of those employed

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THE TOWN.

entertained a high Superintendent of I admired his gen- ature and his lack of ruly commendable chief of police, above often you will find a on who is so univer- f as Superintendent must confess that r has shaken my re- man, who has always impartial manner in h matters pertaining course, I am not on whole trouble, and of the matter, I shall and be prepared at ite the chief of "the ormer place in my

xpected, I have been severely for my out- regarding the choirs ne several churches of her evening I attend- ring, and the young nen present vied with air abuse of poer, mis- inator." One young ruthlessly assassinated r as to say that I know music whatever." Ap- ed the sentiments of

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criticism for those who have no disposi- tion to encourage merit, but take a peculiar delight in making weakness apparent ; or to those who can so far forget the interests of Art as to indulge in flattery. However, I reserve to my- self the right of speaking plainly when I hear people assuming to do that which nature never intended them to do, and upon which art would be lost. There are many of this class in Victoria. You can count them by dozens.

But it is not alone in musical circles that I have been "discussed." Several young men, who, because they say so, believe that they possess all the virtues that a Christian values most, have been rather busy with my name. I have always taken an interest in church work, and if I do say so myself, I believe that I have rendered some slight service in my day to the cause of Christianity ; but I never discovered until the other night, while attending a young people's meeting in connection with one of our city churches, that it was an attribute of Christianity to talk about people who were not in a position to defend them- selves. I would rather designate such conduct arrant cowardice, and I would suggest in the most delicate manner in the world that these young men in future abstain from discussing matters that they know nothing at all about, and also to remember that Bartholomew Adams laid the foundation for his great fortune by minding his own business.

The shop windows present a good many interesting sights nowadays. This is the season of the year when each business man vies with his next door neighbor in the matter of attractive window displays. Everything goes in this line. The more odd, the more unique, the more startling display the merchant makes behind his plate glass, the happier man he, the broader the smile on his face, the heavier his purse, the merrier his voice. It is a matter of no little surprise, too, what a card a finely dressed window is for a big concern. People will stop to look in, you know ; they will insist on criticizing the exposed wares for sale and insist on knowing what goods are inside, without going in on purpose to find out. It naturally behooves the merchant to put his best wares in the window, and to arrange them so as to attract the eye.

Window decorators, as a class, are well paid men. An expert, with original ideas and schemes, can virtually command his own price. An instance of something in this connection comes to my mind. A few years ago, I remember of an expert dropping into a house in an eastern city and informing the proprietor that he would dress his window "just for fun." He covered the big plate glass with paper outside and did his work inside. He got

pieces of glass and broke them into strips resembling pieces of a broken window pane. These he stuck on the the inside of the plate in such a way that they resembled a lot of pieces of smashed glass. An imitation hole represented where an imaginary stone had gone through the window. From the street, the plate glass looked exactly as though it had been smashed with a rock. Then the window was filled with bargains marked in big letters, and the curtain was taken away. Pedestri- ans, next day, saw the smashed glass with a reward of \$50 for the breaker posted underneath. Crowds assembled to see the break and to criticize the clever illusion, and the bargains sold like hot cakes.

Without one single exception, the windows of the Sehl-Hastie-Erskine Furniture Company are the most beauti- fully dressed of any in the city. The work was done by Messrs. W. E. McCormack and C. B. Munro. The draping is artistic and pleasing to the eye, while the contents of the windows are so arranged as to produce the most striking effects. One window contains chinaware, fine grades of silver and plated wares, lamps and wine and lemonade sets. A bevelled mirror, trimmed with plush, forms a back- ground. The other window contains upholstered chairs, odd pieces, Smyrna and velvet rugs, all of the best quality. The draperies consist of the latest and most artistic designs in American chenille. The windows are well worth a visit, and will, no doubt, be the means of attracting thousands of customers to the great furniture firm of Sehl-Hastie-Erskine company.

There is just some danger that the people of Victoria may suffer from over legislation. With the local Legislature in full swing over the Bay, the council at the City Hall, and the Parliamentary Debating Club at the Sir William Wal- lace Hall, there will certainly be no reason to grumble of lack of legislation. The preliminary arrangements towards organization of the last named club have been completed, officers have been elected, a cabinet formed, and the public are now breathlessly awaiting the policy of the new government, which, by the way, is a Liberal one. The government promises a policy that will at once commend itself to the country, while the opposition are laughing in their sleeves at the picnic they will have in tearing the new policy to pieces. I might say right here that what the op- position lack in numbers they will make up in nerve, and if the Liberal Govern- ment imagine that they are going to ride roughshod over their numerically weaker opposition, they are severely out in their calculations. The first session of the new parliament begins next Mon- day night, when the new policy will be

made known in a speech from the throne by the Governor-General, Ald. Harry Munn, who has consented to fill this office, notwithstanding the fact that there is a sentiment abroad to the effect that "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." Premier Hunter will, on this occasion, make a speech that will make the very rafters of Sir William Wallace Hall ring. I will have more to say on this subject later on.

PERE GRINATOR.

A ROMANCE OF DEATH.

(Written for the HOME JOURNAL.)

It was a cold December morn
And from the dull, gray sky
The rain drops fell with moan forlorn,
As if in sympathy,
With nature telling that the year
Had run its course. The end is near.
In silence deep there lay,
Under a shroud, a moulded form,
Which once in life had braved the storm
On many a watery way,
But lifeless now, in death's last sleep,
Others for him his watch must keep.
Than he, none prouder, trod the deck,
None better liked than he,
Little of danger did he reck,
He looked upon the sea
But as a mistress to be ruled
By one to her caprices schooled.
And on that morn a sailor came,
And asked for Captain Jack;
They looked at him and asked his name
And would have turned him back,
But that the tears rose to his eyes.
They led him where his captain lies
And by the shroud the sailor knelt;
"Ah, captain, art thou gone!
When last we sailed I little felt
That I so soon, alone,
Must keep my watch, without you near,
With kindly words my work to cheer.
For ten long years I salled with you
And never an angry word;
I did my work, I got my due,
A murmur never was heard;
Surely you would not make a trip
And not give Jim a chance to ship."
Beside the corps poor Jim reclined,
His face between his hands,
His prayer was heard, he too had signed
For that trip to far off lands.
When Captain Jack had shown the way,
Poor Jim behind would never stay.

TIXOIL.

**New Goods
For the Holidays.**

25 Cases Just Received and now being Opened at

C. E. REDFERN'S,

43 Government Street.

- Diamonds, all sizes up to 5 Carats.
- English Swiss and American Gold and Silver Watches.
- Gold and Silver Jewelry.
- English and American Sterling Silverware.
- English Oak and Silver.
- English, Canadian and American Electro-plate.
- French Bronzes.
- French Marble Clocks.
- Ladies' and Gentlemen's Silver-Mounted Dressing Bags.
- Opera and Field Glasses.
- English and American Clocks.

The above, with a variety of other goods, were selected by Mr. C. E. Redfern, when in Europe, and purchased for cash, and will be sold at the lowest possible prices during the coming holidays.

INLAND REVENUE AND CUSTOMS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

INLAND REVENUE RETURNS

Victoria Division—Comprising all of Vancouver Island:

The Inland Revenue returns, for the month of November, were as follows:

RECEIPTS FOR OCTOBER.

Spirits.....	\$ 7,382 25
Malt.....	1,723 26
Tobacco.....	2,481 50
Cigars.....	763 65
Petroleum Inspection.....	289 30
Cigar License.....	75 00
Total.....	\$12,714 96

WAREHOUSED, EX-WAREHOUSED.

Cigars.....	40,000	11,100
Spirits.....	5,154.74	p. gals 4,921.51
Malt.....	86,163 lbs	86,163 lbs
Tobacco.....	8,381 lbs	9,926 lbs
Raw Leaf.....	2,023 lbs	2,023 lbs
Balances remaining in warehouse, Nov. 30, 1891:		
Spirits.....	5,875.77	P. gals
Tobacco.....	1,145	lbs
Cigars.....	133,250	

INLAND REVENUE RETURNS

For the month of November, 1891:

Vancouver Division—Comprising the Mainland of B. C.:

Spirits in warehouse, Nov. 1st... 8,556.11 pf gals
Spirits whoused during Nov.... 5,237.00 "

Total.....	13,793.11	pf gals
Spirits removed to other divisions	645.27	"
Spirits ex-warehoused for consumption.....	2,882.03	"
Balance in bond.....	10,264.91	"
Tobacco remaining in warehouse Nov. 1.....	4,391 1/2	lbs
Tobacco warehoused during Nov.....	8,033 1/2	"
Total.....	12,425	"

Tobacco, ex-warehoused for consumption..... 8,935 "

Balance in warehouse.....	3,490	"
Raw Leaf Tobacco imported.....	426	"
Malt remaining in warehouse Nov. 1st.....	12,546	"
Malt warehoused during month.....	3,670	"
Total.....	16,216	"
Malt paid duty.....	5,670	"
Balance in warehouse.....	10,546	"
Cigars manufactured.....	81,450	
Cigars paid duty ex-factory.....	81,450	
Petroleum inspected.....	3,350	pkgs.

RECEIPTS FOR NOVEMBER.

Spirits.....	\$ 4,324 45
Malt.....	113 40
Tobacco.....	2,233 76
Cigars.....	488 70
Petroleum inspection.....	187 50
Other receipts.....	1 00
Total.....	\$ 7,348 81

NEW WESTMINSTER.

Imports and exports for month of November, 1891:

IMPORTS FOR THE MONTH.

Dutiable.....	\$23,836 00
Free.....	4,637 00
Total imports.....	\$28,473 00
Duty collected.....	\$ 7,070 41
Other revenues.....	491 97
Total collections.....	7,562 38

EXPORTS FOR THE MONTH.

The mine.....	\$ 747 00
The fisheries.....	189,553 00
The forest.....	59 00
Agricultural products.....	750 00
Manufactures.....	730 00
Total exports.....	\$ 191,839 00

Exports from Nanaimo for November, 1891:

Coal to United States.....	Tons. 55,865	Value. \$208,172
Coal to Hong Kong.....	859	3,091
Total coal.....	56,724	\$211,263
Miscellaneous to U. S.....		75
Total Exports.....		\$211,338

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

IMPORTS.

The following is a summary of the quantity, value and duty on imports at the port of Victoria for the month of November, 1891:

ARTICLES.	QUAN.	VALUE.	DUTY.
		\$ 10	\$ 2 00
Acids.....			
Agricultural imple- ments.....	13,512	64 76	2,522 54
Ale, beer & port'gls		7,896	2,319 90
Animals.....		1,873	359 67
Books, pamph's, etc.		570	168 00
Brass & manu'ns of..			
Breadstuffs, etc. viz			
Grain, of all kinds			
bush	11,081	9,481	1,624 97
Flour, brls.....	853	3,902	663 59
Meal, ".....	1,409	1,470	247 65
Rice and all other			
breadstuffs.....	4,232	1,727 96	
Candles, lbs.....	3,553	257	68 85
Chicory, lbs.....	1,792	63	71 08
Coal and coke, tons.	121,440	506	72 61
Coffee, from U.S. lbs	7,787	1,534	165 16
Copper and m'fs of.		232	54 80
Cordage all kinds....		393	85 87
Cotton, manu'ns of		4,189	1,261 61
Drugs and medicines	33,884	12,596 45	
Earthen, stone and			
China ware.....	2,478	848 15	
Fancy goods.....	2,027	682 52	
Fish.....	2,800	612 24	
Fruit, dried.....	3,354	839 93	
Green.....	3,919	1,171 94	
Furs.....	130	32 50	
Glass, glassware.....	9,402	2,088 26	
Gun'der, exp sub's	611	222 85	
Hats, caps, bonnets.	2,141	642 30	
Hops, lbs.....	19,979	6,173 84	
Iron and steel m'fs of			
Jewelry and watches			
and m'fs of gold and			
silver.....	3,814	873 15	
Lead and manu'ns of			
Leather and m'fs of.	3,508	858 46	
Marble and stone			
and manu'ns of...	214	59 85	
Malt, bush.....	291	220	43 65
Metals, composition			
and m'fs of.....	476	63 01	
Musical instrum'ts			
Oils, coal and kero-			
sene, gls.....	24,067	5,369	1,732 80
All other, gals....	3,482	1,793	431 84
Paints and colors,			
Paper and m'fs of...	2,999	951 24	
Perfumery.....	72	21 60	
Provisions.....			
Bacon hams, etc..	5,909	1,575 36	
Salt, not from Great			
Britain or British			
possessions, or for			
fisheries, lbs.....	594	60 95	
Seeds.....	1,933	578 50	
Silk, manu'ns of....	339	128 62	
Soap of all kinds...	366	84 50	
Spices of all kinds..	5,510	282	141 08
Starch, lbs.....			
Spirits.....	5,617	7,796	11,987 90
Of all kinds, gals..			
Wine, other than			
Sparkling, gals....	3,972	3,584	2,498 34
Wine sparkling doz	80	668	378 60
Sugar above No 14 lbs	44,331	981	354 63
Not ab'v'e No 14 lbs			

ARTICLES. QUAN. VALUE. DUTY.

Sugar, syrups, cane juice, etc., lbs.....	536	119	21 44
Molasses.....	810	201	30 10
Tea, from U. S. lbs..	3,629	2,578	2,554 11
Tobacco and cigars..		3,168	874 00
Wood and m'ns of.		6,698	2,059 72
Woollen m'ns.....			
All other dutiable articles.....		34,355	9,373 36
Total dutiable goods		\$213,282	\$75,436 95
Free goods, all other		65,364	
Grand total.....		\$278,646	\$75,436 95

EXPORTS

From the port of Victoria, for the month of November, 1891—the produce of Canada:

THE MINE.	QUANTITY.	VALUE.
Coal.....		34,426
Gold bearing quartz, etc....		
THE FISHERIES.		
Fish of all descriptions.....		342,701
Furs or skins of creatures living in the water.....		4,326
ANIMALS AND THEIR PRODUCE.		
Horses.....	1	300
Other animals.....		
Butter.....		
Cheese.....		
Other articles.....		21,926
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.		
Fruits, green.....		30
Flour of wheat and rye, bls	225	1,013
Other articles.....		56
MANUFACTURES.		
Cottons, woollens, etc.....		
Iron, pig and scrap, etc....		
Manufactures of leather....		
Liquors, Spirituous and		
Malt, of all kinds, gals....	156	375
Wood m'ns of all kinds.....		930
Other articles.....		389
Miscellaneous Articles.....		
Grand total.....		\$ 408,472

Goods, not the product of Canada, for the month of November, 1891:

	QUANTITY.	VALUE
Gold bearing quartz, etc....		
The fisheries—Fish of all de- scriptions.....		
Furs or skins of creatures living in the water.....		
Animals and their produce—		
Horses.....	2	1,890
Other articles.....		2,400
Agricultural products.....		
Manufactures—		
Iron—Pig and scrap, cast- ings, hardware, etc.....		59
Cottons, woollens, etc....		
Liquors—Spirituous and Malt of all kinds, gals.....	5	11
Sewing machines.....	3	160
Wood—m'ns of all kinds....		1,581
Other articles.....		5,170
Miscellaneous articles.....		965
Coin and gold.....		50,000
Grand total.....		\$ 62,236
Total exports of all kinds.....		\$468,708

Value of Imports at port of Nanaimo for November, 1891:

Value of dutiable goods.....	21,522
Value of free goods.....	\$ 1,920
Goods ex-warehoused.....	368
Total.....	\$23,810

Collections at Nanaimo for November, 1891:

Import duty.....	\$5,895 42
Oil Inspection.....	107 50
Copyright.....	20 88
Sick mariners' dues.....	48 56
Miscellaneous.....	16 25
Total.....	\$ 6,088 61

FOREIGN COAL SHIPMENTS.

The following are the shipments for the month of November:

Nev V. C. Co.....	TONS. 15,809
Wellington.....	21,243
East Wellington.....	2,520
Union.....	17,080
Total.....	56,652

FOREIGN COAL SHIPMENTS.

The following are the shipments for the week ending Dec. 5:

NEW VANCOUVER COAL CO. SHIPPING.		
Date.	Vessel and Destination.	Tons.
30,	Tacoma, str Port Townsend.....	38
30,	Holyoke, str, Port Townsend....	23
3,	Mogul, str, Port Townsend.....	54
3,	Wanderer, str, Port Townsend...	40
3,	Carrollton, bk, San Francisco....	2,363
Total.....		2,518

The Canadian Pacific Railway has completed arrangements with the Peninsula & Oriental Steam Navigation Company, and the fast steamship lines on the trans-atlantic route, to run around the world excursions at a rate of \$610. This rate will apply in either direction, and for slight additional cost variation can be made in the route to travel over India, Egypt and continental Europe

CS.

WE.	DUTY.
119	21 44
201	20 10
1,578	2,554 11
1,108	874 00
1,608	2,059 72
1,355	9,373 36
1,282	\$75,436 95
1,364	\$75,436 95

or the month
ce of Canada :

QUANTITY.	VALUE.
	34,426
	342,701
	4,326
1	300
	21,926
	30
225	1,013 56

156	375
	930
	389

.....\$ 406,472
of Canada, for
91 :

QUANTITY.	VALUE
2	1,890
	2,400
	59
5	11
3	100
	1,581
	5,170
	965
	50,000
.....	\$ 62,236
.....	\$468,708

SHIPMENTS.

Shipments for the

CO. SHIPPING.	Tons.
ation.	38
nsend	23
wsend	54
ownsend	40
ancisco	2,363
.....	2,518

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round the world
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India, Egypt and

RETAIL GROCERS' PRICES
CURRENT.

Quotations are per pound, or for such quantities as are usually ordered by families. Goods in larger quantities are obtainable at lower prices :

Apples, evaporated.....\$	12½
" sun dried.....	10
Apricots, evaporated.....	16
Asparagus, tin.....	40
Barley, Pearl.....	10
Bacon, breakfast.....	18
" spiced roll.....	16
Beef, corned, tin.....	35
Bloaters.....	12½
Blacklead, best..... 3 for	25
" French Polish.....	25
Bricks, bath.....	12½
Butter, creamery..... 35c or 3 for	1 00
" dairy.....	25
" fresh Island.....	50
Catsup, tomato..... 25 to	40
" mushroom, pt.....	40
" walnut, pt.....	40
Capers.....	25
Candles, Belmont.....	25
" Ozokerit.....	50
Caviar.....	50
Celery, salt.....	25
Chocolate, Eagle.....	50
Cocoa, Fry.....	50
" Epps.....	50
" Van Houton's.....	1 50
Chutney..... 25 to	1 50
Cheese, Canadian.....	20
" Roqufort.....	1 00
" Swiss.....	50
" English Stilton.....	50
" Limburg.....	50
" Brick Cream.....	50
" Mellors Cream, pots.....	1 25
" Parmasam.....	1 00
" Pineapple.....	50
" Edom.....	50
Clams..... 3 for	50
Cocoanut.....	50
Coffee, Costa Rica, green.....	25
" Java.....	40
" Mocha.....	50
" ground.....	40
Cream Tartar.....	50
Currants, Patras..... 12½	18
" Vostizi.....	18
Corn, Ontario..... 3 for	50
Devised meat.....	40
Eggs, fresh.....	60
" packed.....	25
Extracts, flavoring, 2 oz..... 25 to	35
Farina..... 10 lb. sack	1 25
Figs..... per lb	25
" 10 lbs	2 00
Fish, cod, Pacific..... 12½	18
" " Eastern.....	18
" " black.....	12½
" " mackerel bloater.....	35
" " tins.....	1 00
Flour, Hungarian..... 6 75	6 50
" Snowflake.....	6 50
" Enderby.....	6 25
Fruits, assorted table, 3-lb. tins.....	40
" " 2-lb. tins.....	25
" " pic, gallon.....	75
" " in Brandy.....	1 50
" " crystalized..... 25 to	75
Gelatine, Nelson's.....	25
Hams.....	20
Hops.....	40
Honey, gallon.....	1 75
" " 1 lb, comb, in jars.....	1 00
" " 2 lbs,.....	75
Jams, assorted C & B..... 3 for	1 00
Knife Polish.....	25
Lard, pure, 10 lbs..... 1 75	1 00
" " 5 lbs.....	1 00
Lentils.....	16
Lemons, Siely.....	50
" California.....	35
Lobster, Clover Leaf.....	35
Marmalade, pots.....	35
Maccaroni.....	25
Milk, Reindeer, tins.....	25
" " Eagle, tins.....	35
" " Highland Cream.....	25

Mince meat, jars.....	1 50
" condensed.....	25
Mustard, Colman's, ½ lb.....	35
" " 1 lb.....	65
Mushrooms.....	35
Nuts, assorted.....	25
Oil, Coal, tin..... 1 85	3 50
" " case.....	75
Olives, qt bottle.....	50
" " pt bottle.....	25
" " ½ pt bottle.....	25
Oysters, fresh, tin.....	75
" " Blue Point, 2-lb. tins.....	35
" " " 1-lb. tins.....	25
Onions.....	4
Pate de foie gras..... 1 25 to	1 75
Peel, mixed.....	40
Pearline.....	25
Pepper, ground.....	50
" " whole.....	35
Pickles, C & B, qt.....	65
" " pt.....	35
Potatoes..... 1 25	12½
Prunes.....	75
Plum pudding.....	75
Raisins, Dehesa.....	50
" " layers.....	25
" " Valencias off stalk.....	12½
" " " layers.....	16
" " Sultanas.....	20
Rice, Japan.....	8
" " Sandwich Island.....	10
" " China.....	5
Sauce, Lea & Perrins, large.....	65
" " small.....	35
" " Yorkshire Relish.....	25
Spices, tins.....	25
Sugar, granulated, Vancouver, 14lbs	1 00
" " San Frisco, 13, ".....	1 00
" " Hong Kong, 15 ".....	1 00
" " cube, San Francisco, 10 lbs.....	1 00
" " " Vancouver, 12 lbs.....	1 00
" " " Extra C, 15 lbs.....	1 00
Syrup, 1-gal. tin.....	1 00
" " 2-lb tin.....	25
" " Maple, gal.....	1 50
Tapioca.....	10
Tongue, Lunch, 2.....	75
" " 1.....	50
" " 3.....	1 00
Tea, S & B..... 50 to	75
" " Japanese..... 25 to	75
Tobacco, T & B.....	75
Vinegar, English Malt.....	1 00
" " White Wine.....	1 00

PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRY

AND ASK YOUR GROCER FOR

FALCONER'S

Pure Malt Vinegar, per gal.....	75
Pure Tomato Catsup, bottle.....	35
Worcestershire Sauce, half pints.....	25
" " pints.....	35
Mushroom Catsup, pints.....	35
Quince Cider, per quart.....	25
Apple Cider,.....	25
" " (Excellent for mince meat.)	
Extracts—Lemon and Vanilla, 2oz.....	25
" " 8oz.....	70
Fruit Syrups, per quart bottles.....	50
" " (Strawberry, Lemon, Raspberry.)	
Manufactured at the	
VICTORIA VINEGAR WORKS,	
155 YATES ST., VICTORIA.	

SCOTCH HOUSE,
31 FORT ST.

Bargain Festival.

MEN'S SUITS, from \$3.50 up.

ALL-WOOL PANTS, from \$1.50 up.

OVERCOATS, from \$3.50 up.

—A FINE LINE OF—

UMBRELLAS

For SCHOOL CHILDREN at 50c each.

MACINTOSHES, from \$4 up.

RUBBER COATS, \$2.50.

20 P. C. Discount

FOR CASH ON

ALL PURCHASES.

M'LEAN &

STEWART.

LEE & FRASER

Call and See Our List
of \$275 Lots on Rich-
mond Street, close to
tram. Without doubt
the best buy on the Mar-
ket.

11 T. ounce Avenue.

ERNEST HALL, M. D.,

Royal Coll. of Physicians, Edinburgh, 1884.

Late assistant in General London Throat and
Ear Hospital.
OFFICE—Jewell Block, corner Yates and
Douglas Streets. Residence—Corner Fort St.
and Fernwood Road, Victoria, B. C.
Modern methods and appliances for the
treatment of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat.

WATSON & HALL,

Staple and Fancy Groceries,

Ask but a trial to convince you of the superior
quality of their goods.

A Specialty will be made of choice lines for
Family Trade.

PRICES VERY LOW.

55 YATES ST., TELEPHONE 448.

—THE IMPERIAL THEATRE—

THE GREAT FAMILY RESORT.

WEEK BEGINNING DEC. 14TH:

Monday and Tuesday, **THE TWO ORPHANS.**
 Wednesday and Thursday, **M'LISS.**
 Friday and Saturday, **MULDOON'S PIC-NIC.**

POPULAR PRICES, 25 35 AND 50C.

THE DRAMA.

THE Imperial Theatre is no longer an experiment, it is a pronounced success. The fact has been demonstrated conclusively during the past week. The audiences grow larger each succeeding night and are made up of the best people in the city. The reason for this is plain. Manager Ward has made his house comfortable, and caters for none but the most respectable. The company is one of the best, if not the best, stock companies on the coast, while the considerable feature of a first-class orchestra has been attended to by that master musician, Mr. J. J. Cross. The house is comfortably heated, and the place has become quite popular as a family resort.

During the week the company have undertaken three plays, and have scored successes throughout. The opening play was Fanchon the Cricket, the drama in which Maggie Mitchell made her reputation as an artist. In the play there are two good parts, Fanchon and Mother Fadet. These parts were taken by Miss Dalglish and Miss Belmour. Many persons present believe, and with reason too, that Miss Dalglish is a better Fanchon than even Maggie Mitchell, while the Mother Fadet of Miss Belmour was indeed an excellent piece of character acting. The other members of the company acquitted themselves creditably. On Wednesday and Thursday nights, Hazel Kirke held the boards. This gave the whole company an opportunity of doing good work. Miss Dalglish as usual played her part well. Mr. Gray made an amusing Pitticus Green, and the Arthur Carringford of Mr. Armstrong was all that could be desired. Dunstan Kirke

the obstinate father, was portrayed by Mr. Sommerfield, and like the rest of Mr. Sommerfield's work, was perfect in every respect. The Aaron Rodney of Mr. Silas Robinson was the best piece of work that gentleman has done in the city. Mr. Belmour, as Barney, spoke the Irish dialect like a Corkonian. Last night, Friday, for the first time in many years in this city, Ten Nights in a Barroom was produced. This great temperance drama will hold the boards again to-night, and should be well patronized by the temperance people, at least.

Monday and Tuesday evenings next, there will be grand special productions of the Two Orphans. The great church scene, snow scene, etc., will have the most realistic effects, while the part of Henriette will be taken by Miss Dalglish. Some interest will be taken when it is announced that Miss Ella Demaris will be seen on these nights in the part of Louise. She is said to be at her best in this play. Miss Belmour is cast for the countess. Mr. Belmour takes the part of Pierre, Mr. Gray, Picard and Mr. Robinson, Jacques. Wednesday and Thursday evenings the great mining drama, M'LISS, which abounds in comedy and sentiment, is billed. Mr. Gray, as the judge will dispense justice on the lines laid down by a frontier court. Friday and Saturday, comes Barry & Fay's great Irish comedy, Muldoon's Picnic, with Mr. Gray as Mulcahy and Mr. Belmour as Muldoon.

U and I was seen at the Grand, last Wednesday night. Dutch Daly did some good German dialect work, and J. T. Kelly represented a certain type of an Irish-

man, in such a way as to amuse some. The other members of the company were fair.

FOOTLIGHT FLASHES.

Mrs. Langtry opens her American season at the Boston theatre, January 11.

The Imperial Company are making arrangements for special Christmas productions.

Miss Belmour will leave Wednesday to spend the Christmas holidays with friends and relatives in San Francisco.

Edwin Arden's beautiful melodrama, Eagle's Nest, will be produced by a carefully selected amateur dramatic company in this city early in the year.

AT THE VICTORIA.

McKee Rankin—16 and 17.
 Mendelssohn Quintette Club—Dec. 18.
 Carleton Opera Company—22 and 23.
 Midnight Alarm—Jan. 8 and 9.
 Kate Claxton—22 and 23.
 Devil's Auction—25 and 26.
 Katie Putnam—29 and 30.

AT THE VANCOUVER OPERA HOUSE.

Skipped by the Light of the Moon—Dec 14
 Mendelssohn Quintette Club—19.
 Carleton Opera—21.
 Herman—Jan. 6 and 7
 Kate Claxton—Jan. 20 and 21.
 Katie Putnam—25 and 26.
 Devil's Auction—27.
 Garrick Dramatic Club (local)—13
 John L. Sullivan—19.
 Nanaimo Amateurs—Feb. 10.
 Sport McAllister—29.
 Hanlon's Superba—April 4 and 5.
 Frederick Warde—11, 12 and 13.
 Ole Olsen—15.
 Spider and Fly—18 and 19.
 Corinne Opera Company—20 and 21.
 Marie Wainwright—May 9 and 10.
 Fred Daniels—11 and 14.
 Cora Tanner—27 and 28.
 Lillian Lewis—June 1 and 2.
 Thatcher's Minstrels—10 and 11.
 Rhea—16 and 17.
 Two Johns—22 and 23.
 Natural Gas—July 20 and 21.
 The Cruisheen Lawn—29 and 30.
 Sol Smith Russell—Sept. 21 and 22.

MUSIC.

IN India the belief prevailed that music was a divine gift and that Brahma first revealed its beautiful and mysterious influences to mortals. His son Nared having inherited a spark of the celestial flame gave himself up to a study of the phenomena, and is said to have invented the vina, a stringed instrument, from which the modern guitar has evolved.

Christian analyzes the artist as comprising four elements: "Talent, emotion, intelligence and technic." Musical talent in the pianist implies a good musical ear, memory and a gift of a firm, natural inborn sense of touch. Emotion is sometimes called a sixth sense, namely: The power of conceiving and devining the beautiful. The perfection of these elements depends upon intellectual training. Technic involves mechanism, and where thought is added to mechanism, technic begins.

The pipes are a peculiar sort of instrument, requiring the "guid auld Scot" to interpret their music. It was the pipes that raised the martial ardor and fearless valor of the Highland regiment at Waterloo. When news reached Wellington that the Highlanders were returning he said, "Give them music." The order was carried back and the pipers instantly broke into the wild strains of the "slogan." Retreat ceased and the word, "Forward" was given. The onslaught was resistless; the foe gave way, and though many brave hearts ceased to beat, Waterloo was made safe.

An Irish band, while in England refused to play "God Save the Queen" and when returning home played "God Save Old Ireland." This act of course attracted much attention and the Cork Land was lionized. Politically we have nothing to do with this, but it shows what significance there is in a simple tune.

SHARPS AND FLATS.

Agnes Huntington is in Montreal this week.

The Duff Opera Company have been doing good business in Montreal.

Mr. Victor Austin, who will

teach in the Conservatory of Music, has arrived from San Francisco.

It is understood that the opera of the Mikado is under preparation and will shortly be produced by C. A. Lombard and Mr. Clement Rowlands. Mr. Rowlands for a long time played a leading role in this charming opera in one of the D'Oyley Carte companies. With such an energetic companion in the work as Mr. Lombard, there is every prospect of a crowning success. Mr. Rowlands will be assisted by the best local talent.

The Mendelssohn Quintette Club that will appear at The Victoria, Friday, December 18, have always been great favorites in this city. This year they seem to have excelled themselves, and in Spokane Falls they played two extra nights to crowded houses. Miss Marie Barnard is still with them as prima donna, and amongst their company are Mr. Eugene Boegner, violin virtuoso and concert master; Mr. Max Adler, America's greatest violinist; Mr. Paul Henneberg, solo clarinet and viola; Mr. Hermann Diestal, solo violincello, and that old friend, M. Thomas Ryan, solo clarinet. Never has the company been so strong and well may the music-loving public of Victoria look forward to a grand treat. The club appears here under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A.

This issue of THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL will be a valuable one to send to friends in the east. It contains valuable statistics of the trade of Victoria, that will give eastern people some idea of the importance of this great trade centre.

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C. E. Jones, 36 Government street has the nicest stock of cut glassware that has ever been offered in the city.

Call and see our range of Christmas goods: Neck ties, silk handkerchiefs, silk beads, cuff buttons, scarf pins, gloves, purses, etc. B. Williams & Co., 97 Johnson street.

The words "Merry Xmas" made with ginger root together with the tasty display of fruits, bon-bons and fancy groceries make the window of Munroe & Hughes, 82 Douglas street quite attractive.

The British Columbia Poultry, Dog and Pet Stock Association will hold their annual show on January 12, 13 and 14. Arrangements are being made for a first-class exhibition and persons interested in this kind of live stock may be assured of a fine display. The catalogues will be issued about December 15.

The hammer-throwing contest at Beacon Hill on Wednesday afternoon was a very tame affair, McLeod defeating his opponent, Dunbar, with ease. There is a great contrast between the two men. Dunbar stands about 6 feet, 8 inches, well proportioned and a fine physical specimen of an athlete, while McLeod is short and very thick set, apparently all muscle. Those who claim to know say Dan could have thrown the hammer fully ten feet further.

Messrs Cavin Bros., well known in this city, have opened a first-class boot and shoe store in the new Doane block, on Douglas street, near Johnson. Mr. George H. Cavin, the senior partner, has eleven years experience in the business. Mr. T. A. Cavin was formerly in the printing trade, and has just completed a four-years engagement in a well known grocery house. A fresh stock of English, Canadian and American lines of boots and shoes of the latest design has just been imported and having been bought at low prices will be sold very reasonable. A specialty will be made of the celebrated mens' and boys' shoes from Hanan & Son, New York city. An experienced cutter has taken charge of the custom department and the best work will be turned out on the premises.

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STRAY SHOTS

"How do you like Smith?"
"First-rate; only he is so superstitious."

"How so?"
"He never goes fishing on Sunday, because he is afraid the fish won't bite on Sunday."

"Yes," said the widow, as she attempted to dry her tears, "John died very poor, worse than penniless, I may say, as he left nothing and owed some \$3,000, which I must pay by washing."

"What was the matter?"
"Oh, you see John started a 'strictly cash' grocery and so had to trust everybody, and his money gave out. That was all."

Now that Chief Sheppard has gone about purifying the press, we would respectfully direct the attention of that officer to the fact that the "wretched reporter" is developing a pair of misfit whiskers, which are a menace and an obstruction to the wind, and contrary to the statute in such cases made and provided.

Angel Child—"I know why you want to go to heaven when you die, Aunt Nelly."

Aunt Nelly—"Why, dear."
"Because marriages are made in heaven."

"There," said Browne, triumphantly, putting his basket down before his wife, "there is the day's catch."

"Why, John," said Mrs. Browne, opening the basket, "there is nothing but a string of sausages and a steak here."

"Hang that butcher for a fool!" said John.

Mike—"Shure, Mrs. Dooley, would you be afther takin' a ticket fur me clock? It's ter be raffled ter help ould Mrs. Donnigan."

Mrs. Dooley—"But that ould clock doesn't go any more now, does it?"

Mike—"It does not, Mrs. Dooley. But then, you know, you moightn't draw it."

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MARRIAGE—WHEN COMPLETE.

The clergyman who recently completed the marriage of a drunken man has been found fault with for so doing, but he pleads justification on the ground that "when the outrage occurred the ceremony, so far as regards the actual marriage itself, had already been legally completed by the declaration which pronounces M. and N. to be 'man and wife together.'" We cannot think that the reverend gentleman is technically correct as to the point of the marriage service at which the knot is legally tied. From the judgments it would seem that the part of the service at which the marriage becomes knit is "after affianced and troth plighted" between the parties, so that if the ministerial pronouncement should not happen to be given, the marriage would be complete and binding on the par-

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NIGHT BELL.

ties all the same. In Blunt's "Church Law," however, the view is taken that the marriage itself is legally completed by declaration of the priest.

The ordinary watch gives 116,144,000 ticks during a year. This information is furnished to save people the trouble of counting the ticks.

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