

# THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

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

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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."*

LOVERS of the drama in Victoria complain bitterly of the prolonged absence of anything approaching a first-class theatrical entertainment at The Victoria. Similar murmurs of discontent are heard from other cities on the Coast. The fact is the Pacific Coast is now receiving anything but complimentary notices from the Eastern press, and theatrical people are not the least bit anxious to travel this way. It has gone on record that Lillian Russell said we could not appreciate true art, and Blanche Walsh also dropped sundry uncomplimentary remarks about us. The *Dramatic Times* has taken up the fight, because it has "watched with the closest scrutiny the business along the Pacific." This paper quite truthfully remarks that our tastes are different to those of the people in the East, and that our likes and dislikes arise more from close study than from a cosmopolitan way of taking things. The people here are like one large family; one's interest is all's interest, and in the unity there is a feeling that none but the best should be tolerated. Opinions, of course, differ as to the capability of some of the companies which have visited the coast, but it is generally admitted that good shows have made money, and the extraordinary business of Henry Irving goes to show that San Francisco is not poor, nor weak in its judgment. The people on the coast have been smarting under inferior plays and inferior actors and have resented it. They received the answer that their town was no

good. This is all wrong. Plays have been presented here which would not be endured in the East. In fact the whole case simmers down to one point. Give good plays with good actors and good business will result. Managers who have played the Coast cities have always reaped a rich harvest when their attractions deserved it.

An Eastern critic with a good deal of reason bemoans the mediocrity talent which is produced in the United States, and alludes to the tremendous financial winnings made by Irving and Terry, Coquelin and Hading. He claims that American talent is so poorly developed that the public rewards mediocrity with too lavish a hand, and that as the artists do well in a material way without careful preparation or material study, there is no incentive or spur to force them to better work. And it must be admitted that he speaks plainly and to the point. Now that Booth is no more, it is hard to single out an actor of American origin or training who even approximates greatness. There are a great many fairly good actors and actresses, and they are covered with dollars and praise as if they had reached the topmost pinnacle of perfection and pre-empted the highest footholds. But Americans are not so blinded by their modicum of talent that they consider the best imported talent as much superior to anything they have, and they throng the theatres at doubled prices to see an Irving or a Coquelin, or to listen to a Patti or a Materna. And by doing this they tacitly confess that they know they are better than the American performers. They have taste enough to appreciate fine acting and good

singing, and to discriminate between that which is really good and that which is passably good; but they have not sense enough to demand the same degree of excellence from their home artists. Even Mansfield, one of the best actors who call the United States home does not approach Willard in fine shading and expressive acting, and he is a hybrid exotic of obscure origin, who has only been adopted. It is true that there has been a marked improvement in acting in the United States in the past ten years, and that the audiences have in a way become more critical, but they can never expect to reach the highest standards until their reception of the mediocre becomes more frosty and applause is withheld from everything but the best in the legitimate lines.

"It's funny how little some people know about the food they eat and how much they misuse quantities," remarked a Fort street gentleman to his wife one morning quite recently as they were seated at the breakfast table. "Now, you know the restaurant where I eat when I'm down town. There's one fellow whom I always meet there at lunch, who doesn't know any more about the use of sugar than gun powder, and the worst of it is he won't be taught. I have known him to put thirteen big lumps into a cup of coffee, and then drink the nauseating mixture as if it were sweetened just right. I explained to him that the cup of coffee would only absorb so much sugar anyway, and that what he put in above the right amount was only wasted and would remain undissolved at the bottom of the cup, but he keeps

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right on and doesn't diminish the quantity in the least. He says the coffee is too strong, and that is the reason why he puts in more than sensible people. As a matter of fact, if it should sweeten his cup without his knowledge, he would put in his regular amount of sugar just the same, and would then drink the coffee and never know the difference. I should like to see him act in the same foolish manner with a lot of strong mustard some time on his beef and be present to see him get the benefit of the lesson." "Well, how you talk," put in his wife the first chance she got. "While you've been talking that way about that man, you've put seven lumps of sugar in your tea, and it was already sweetened when I passed it to you." And he took the cup from his lips in surprise and ejaculated, "Well, it's funny I didn't notice that," and he was remarkably silent for the rest of the meal.

When the Victoria Lacrosse Club went East to contest for honors against the best teams in Canada, many doubted their ability to make any showing. I am free to confess that I was among the doubting ones, at least I never expected that they would win so many honors. Others had more faith in the boys, and subsequent events developed the fact that their confidence was not misplaced. Financially the tour may also be said to have been a success; but it costs money to keep up a good club, and in order that lacrosse may maintain the interest that has been centred in it in the past, it is proposed to swell the funds of the club by giving a concert, which will be held on the evening of October 26. This, I am informed, is to be no ordinary song-and-dance affair, but a real artistic treat. The leading vocalists of the city will be heard and the instrumental portion of it has not been overlooked. An interesting

feature of the evening will be the presentation of the souvenirs which have been purchased by the citizens as a slight recognition of the appreciation of the work of the club while in the East. The presentation will be made by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, and it is hoped that the boys will be able to make a few remarks themselves on the occasion. As this will be the last issue of this paper before the evening of the concert, I take this opportunity of urging every one who has the future of the Canadian national game at heart to attend.

There is likely to be trouble between the laborers attending the bricklayers on the Spring Ridge surface drain and the contractors. The contractors entered into an agreement to reward this class of labor at a rate of not less than 28½ cents per hour; but it is claimed that this agreement has been violated, and that the men are paid only two dollars for nine hours work. The following clause in the agreement provides the penalty for the violation of the same: "In the event of the contractor violating any of the provisions of this section, or of any of his employees or any subcontractor under him doing so, the contractor and his assigns hereby agrees that he shall forfeit all right and claim, legal or equitable, to any sum of money due or to become due to him under the contract, and that the corporation shall not be liable for and will not be responsible for the payment of any sum of money under the contract, and that the materials placed upon the ground shall be forfeited to the corporation, and the city surveyor may complete the work by day labor or re-let the work to any person by contract." The matter has been brought to the attention of Mayor Beaven, who, it is said, has notified the superintendant to see that the conditions of the agreement are strictly enforced.

The privilege of growling has long been regarded the inalienable right of every loyal subject of Queen Victoria in the British dominions. The Englishman kicks because society in the "blawsted" colonies is not what he was accustomed to at home; the Scotchman growls because it sometimes rains on the day he celebrates, while Paddy groans as the thought flashes across his brain that his native isle may be as far away as ever from her national aspiration—Home Rule. The Canadian also is something of a kicker. In the east he growls about the cold weather, and out here he snarls because the native British Columbian believes that no outsider should share in the advantages of a glorious climate, designed by Nature for all. Very often the Englishman, Scotchman, Irishman and Canadian combine forces to growl for the general good. Sometimes they register a polite but determined kick because the city council hasn't sense enough to remove the hackstands from Government street; occasionally they rise to a point of order when Mayor Beaven complacently declares that the affairs of the city are not conducted by a "village" council, and quite often they get in their oar and hurl imprecations at the head of President Higgins because the tramcar service is not exactly in accord with their idea of what an electric line should be. If the statement of a gentleman who has recently returned from the east counts for anything the president of the tramcar company can afford to laugh at this latter class of kickers. This gentleman claims to have visited a dozen eastern cities—Chicago, Minneapolis, and Toronto among the number—and in none of them does he consider that the tramcar service equals that of Victoria. The cars he says, in those cities, are no better, if as good, the speed attained is not so great, the road-bed is not so smooth, nor are there so few delays. The writer

of this column has on more than one occasion in the past criticized the management of the tramcar company, and will do so again, when other subjects are scarce, but he feels that it is only fair to print the opinion expressed by a disinterested authority. However there is one thing to be said against the gentleman quoted above. He writes poetry, and many people will hesitate before accepting unqualifiedly the bare statement of a man as to what constitutes a good tramcar service who writes such dreadful stuff as that which appears in the next paragraph, and labels it poetry. I infer that it is intended to describe the scenes to be witnessed on the Midway Plaisance.

The Moors, the Turks, wild men with dirks,  
Here show their custom curious;  
The Japanese, and folks like these,  
Wear knives that are injurious.

Here are balloons and foreign tunes,  
That skirl both fast and furious;  
And Cairo folk as brown as oak,  
And Zulus true or spurious.

The dancing girls make startling whirls,  
Be careful how you look at them;  
All innocent and shy I went,  
And—well—a peep I took at them.

Men from Ceylon you'll see anon,  
From Sitka and Tokio;  
For sights so rare you everywhere  
Fees to men white or smoky owe.

Here mosques you see and Japan tea,  
And clams they serve romantically;  
And sliding cars and foreign jars,  
For which they charge gigantically.

The Ferris wheel with arms of steel,  
High as a tower will wind you up;  
If you should fall, for good and all  
The doctors they would bind you up.

To the unprejudiced observer it is becoming more and more apparent that our present board of aldermen does not even rise to the dignity of an ordinary village council, Mayor Beaven to the contrary notwithstanding. In support of this proposition, consider the action of the aldermen as regards the removal of the hackstands from Government street. In order that the health and convenience of the community should be preserved, it is desirable that the hacks should be removed, and at once. Even some of the aldermen who voted against Ald. Belyea's motion have privately admitted as much; yet

when the time comes for action they wriggle and squirm and desert the only man who had the nerve to act upon his convictions. Professional men who have made sanitary matters a life-long study boldly assert that the continual presence of manure on our streets is prejudicial to public health. Yet this so-called "city" council sets up its opinion against that of experts, and says that no danger is to be apprehended and that the horses and manure shall remain where they are. This is only one of the few grievances, and perhaps not the most serious, which the people have against the men who compose our present, what has been aptly termed, alder-maniac board.

A statistician of some note once made a calculation as to the exact number of suckers born into the world each day out of the 365. The result of his investigation demonstrated the somewhat startling fact that there was one large, fully-matured sucker born every minute, or sixty per hour. Assuming the correctness of this calculation, and there is no reason to doubt it, the grand aggregate of suckers born in one day of 24 hours would amount to the considerable number of 1,440. Following up the investigations of the statistician it would be interesting to learn how many of the above number find their way to Victoria and go into business on their own account, propagating their species and perpetuating the sucker family *ad infinitum*. Certain it is the number is large. In evidence of this assertion I refer to the fact that any travelling fakir can come to the town and spread his net, and the suckers will fall over one another in their hurry to get caught.

Quite recently an advertising solicitor came to Victoria and canvassed for a blotter which was to be placed in the principal hotels. Now, the delusion that that class of advertising is worth

anything to a business man has long since been exploded, yet the fakir corralled dozens of the suckers, who paid out their good money without getting any return therefor. There are several good advertising mediums in this city, THE HOME JOURNAL for instance, and I might even go so far as to mention the *Colonist* and *Times*, in which money spent is a good investment. But you cannot make the suckers look at the matter in this light.

There were quite a few bright and lovely girls launched upon the social wave during the early months of last season, and a debutante's ball or reception was an affair of great interest. A society matron informs me that the most popular or fashionable way of introducing the daughter or younger sister is by means of that much abused, much misunderstood function, the afternoon tea. These entertainments offer a meeting ground for old and young. If one's visiting list includes about 50 names, as it is very apt to do in the conventional circles of Victoria, it becomes a simple solution of the problem to let these people know that they are to be welcomed formally on a certain afternoon, when tea will be served and perhaps a little music provided for their pleasure while sipping it. PEBE GRINATOR.

**LADIES,  
ASK YOUR  
DEALER  
FOR THE  
GRANBY  
STORM  
RUBBER.**



MUSICAL CRITICISM.

To the Editor of THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL

SIR—Your contributor, "By-stander," declines to emerge from his anonymity. With his reasons I can readily sympathize, and he is certainly within his right. But by the same right I shall forthwith retire to my native obscurity, for I have no intention of remaining in the lists with an intangible *nom de plume* for an opponent.

Before I make my bow, however, I should like to correct an erroneous impression which your contributor appears to have gained, that it was because I discerned in his article an attack upon the Arion Club, that I wrote my open letter. Nothing can be further from the truth, for my relations with the club are not of public interest, and even were it in need of defence, I should be the last to rush into print in its behalf. The fact is simply that on previous occasions I have read Bystander's criticisms with disapproval, and have thought of writing something by way of protest, but before I carried out my intention, his article on the Arion Club concert offered a convenient text, and on that I preached my little sermon. I am grieved to hear that it was thought prosy and inopportune, and if your critic's feelings have been hurt I am sure I am sincerely sorry.

I am getting a little bewildered as to "Bystander's" personality. At first I thought he was double, now I hazard a guess that he is triple, for the difference, as a mere matter of literary style, between the original criticism and last Saturday's article is very marked. Be that as it may, however, if subsequent articles are distinguished by the same correctness and moderation as the last, there will never be a word of protest from

Yours Faithfully,  
WM. GREIG.

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## VAST STORES OF GOLD.

Recent experimental borings in the Witwatersand gold fields in South Africa reveal the existence of enough gold in that region alone to supply all the yellow money wants of the world for many centuries to come. The borings were carried down to the depth of 2,500 feet, and show the existence of eight blanket beds of gold bearing ore averaging six feet in thickness each. The basin for which this holds good has a circumference of 400 miles and an area of 12,580 square miles. At fifteen feet to the ton, this is computed to contain ten and a half millions of tons of ore. At the very low value of \$7.50 per ton, the yield of gold would be \$79,000,000,000 (seventy-nine trillion dollars), or about \$50,000 for every man, woman and child now living on the face of the earth when it is all extracted.

Surely this is gold enough and to spare. That African district alone contains a sufficiency of gold to furnish the yellow metal in abundance to everybody, including the barbarous peoples after they have been civilized, for thousands of years. Without looking at the gold fields of the United States, Australia and other countries, there is more gold in sight that is likely to be needed for use and ornament for many centuries to come. And there need be no fear it will be furnished as fast as wanted, the price in the market rising or falling with the varying ratio of supply to demand. The question is simply whether or not the rated value of the metal will at any time be much more than the cost of mining it and extracting the metal from the ore. If ever that time should come, gold would soon be a drug in the market, as silver is now.

At present, there is little danger of this. The cost of obtaining 23.22 grains of the pure metal is so nearly equal to one dollar's worth of labor that the value of the metal is thus established at the United States rate, and it is likely to remain so for many years in the future. But the result of these discoveries and of the continual introduction of cheapening elements in the cost of production and transportation must be a lessening of the ultimate cost of the yellow metal, which inevitably will reduce its purchasing power correspondingly.

The very same effect will follow that can be remembered by many yet alive to have occurred as a consequence of the discoveries of gold in California and Australia. It was a doubling of the wages paid for human labor within fifty years. Of course this doubling of wages in gold did not occur all at once, but neither did the vast increase in the supply of gold money. The metal became cheaper as it became more plentiful, and that is the reason why mechanics in the cities, farm laborers in the rural districts, school teachers, clerks, professional men, in fact all classes, are now paid fully twice as much as their ancestors of fifty years ago were paid for the same amount of exertion. That is the case with free trade England as well as among the protected industries of America. It is the rule in other gold-using countries. Their wage scales may differ among themselves, from the operation of various causes, but for the average of all of them gold is twice as plentiful, and therefore worth only

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half as much for the purchase of labor as it was in the early '40s of this century.

The cheap silver cranks need not worry themselves and others with fears that there will not be enough gold to go round in the future, nor is there any real occasion for thinking that on a gold basis the value of money will enhance except from the effects of further cheapening in production of the goods to be bought with it. Rather the indications are that ere many more years have elapsed gold will be appreciably cheaper because of increased supplies accompanied by lessened cost of producing the metal, and this though silver should be kept closely

to its legitimate use for subsidiary coinage. And while this cheapening process is going on there will be less and less need for gold to use as money because of the still more general introduction of paper for exchanges of credit, this tending to make gold even more abundant in proportion to the demand for it.—Chicago Tribune.

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**STYLES IN GENTLEMEN'S NECK WEAR.**

The new styles in neckwear that are now being placed on view show many novelties, says the *Chicago Dry Goods Reporter*. When it is considered the very restricted opportunities of display in the matter, it will be conceded that it requires no little ingenuity every year to supply articles of attractiveness. But this is done with a success and readiness that one wonders at. This year's showing is fully up to the standard—perhaps it is far beyond it.

One thing is certain, gaudiness in coloring and cumbersome eccentricity in shape have little place in this year's showing. The rules are quietness and becomingness.

Two leaders will be "The Rex," a four-in-hand with flowing ends, generally seen in black satin with a small figure, and the "Persian" goods.

The Carleton puff is one of the very few ties that promises to have any considerable devotees. There are some new shapes with excessively wide ends that can do duty either as an Ascot or a four-in-hand.

The English-de-Joinville, which is over forty inches in length and six inches wide, will be very stylish and may be tied in any shape, four-in-hand puff or bow.

In the colors, red, it is anticipated, will be a favorite. Plain black ties will be very stylish with dark gray suits. Lighter colors will be worn with black clothes. Polkadots are still in favor. Ladies will be large patrons of neckwear departments, and most likely being the color of their choice. All the ladies' ties will be in the four-in-hand shape, two inches wide and reaching to the belt.

**LEGAL TENDER SILVER IN THE LATIN UNION.**

M. de Loville, head of the statistical department of the French ministry, has written a paper on the present position of the Latin Union, chiefly considered from the point of view of legal tender silver circulation in France. He has arrived at conclusions differing radically from those put forward at the monetary conference by other authorities. He estimates the total legal tender silver circulation in France at \$420,000,000, including \$255,000,000 silver held in the Bank of France. Of this amount, \$280,000,000 consists of French five-franc pieces, about \$70,000,000 of Belgian coins, about \$65,000,000 of Italian coins, and the balance in Greek and Swiss silver money. Adding in the silver token money, the total silver money of France is estimated at about 500,000,000. These estimates differ radically from those of other experts, especially from those of the Belgian Minister of Finance. The latter at the conference estimated the total legal tender silver in circulation in the Latin Union at \$800,000,000, which would mean a circulation of \$380,000,000 outside of France. M. de Loville's estimate is probably the most accurate of the two. Under these circumstances dissolution of the Latin Union would entail unpleasant consequences only upon Italy which would have to find \$32,500,000 in gold at once to take back one-half its silver coinage. Under present conditions this

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Ask your grocer for the Paragon oil can, it will cost no more than the old square can. The Paragon oil can is filled with the finest oil ever imported, and at the same price as the old square can. If your grocer does not supply you, send direct to the office.

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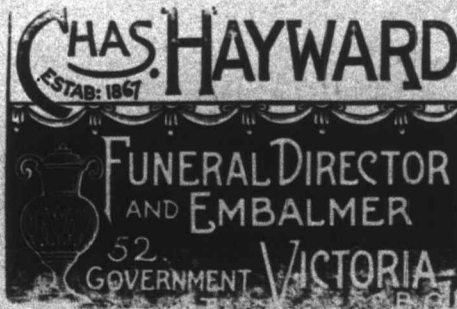
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would be a practical impossibility. Notice of dissolution, however, must be given one year ahead, dating from January 1. Consequently the union must endure at least to the close of 1895.



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We only want a trial and comparison.

We claim that our 50c Black Cashmere hose is the cheapest in town.

Line of Children's 8-fold knees and heels commencing at 30c a pair. Heavy Winter Hosiery. Hosiery for evening wear in silk and Lisle thread.

## GLOVES.

Cashmere Gloves—a magnificent line at 25c. Don't forget we are SOLE AGENTS for the BRETAGNE LACING KID GLOVE which we claim to be the cheapest glove on the

WHOLE AMERICAN CONTINENT AT \$1.25 a pair. This same glove sells in Montreal for \$1.40 a pair, vide three or four Montreal price lists.

## WOOLLEN UNDERWEAR.

Full assortment in all sizes and prices. Best of Values.

## STAPLES.

Grey Cottons, Grey Cantons, Grey Sheetings, White Sheeting, White Cottons, Pillow Case Cottons as low if not lower than any other house in the trade.

## CURTAINS, ETC.

Art Muslins, Cretonnes, Art Silks, Art Sateens, Art Cantons, Lace Curtains. We have just landed an immense assortment of the goods.

AUCTION PRICES are not in it against us. Those who think they are please call and compare prices and qualities. Lace Curtains 50c to \$8.00 a pair.

## LINENS.

Table Damasks, Towels, Towelings, Napkins, etc., etc., etc. Comparison invited.

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