The Colonist.

FRIDAY JANUARY 12 1892.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

BY

W. H. ELLIS, A. G. SARGISON. } ELLIS & CO.

THE COLONIST BUILDING, GOVERNMENT ST.

TERMS:

THE DAILY COLONIST

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY

Per Year, (Postage free to any part of Canada).... $10 00
Parts of a year at the same rate.
Per week (if delivered).... 25

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

Per Year, (Postage Free to any part of the Dominion or United States).... $ 2 00
Six Months.... 1 25
Three Months.... 75

Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly IN ADVANCE.

ADVERTISING RATES:

REGULAR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING as distinguished from everything of a transient character—that is to say, advertising referring to regular Mercantile and Manufacturing Business, Government and Land Notices—published at the following rates: Per line, Solid Nonpareil, the duration of publication to be specified at the time of ordering advertisements:—

More than one fortnight and not more than one month—50 cents.

More than one week and not more than one fortnight—40 cents.

Not more than one week—30 cents.

No advertisement under this classification inserted for less than $2.50, and accepted only for every-day insertion.

Theatrical advertisements, 10 cents per line each insertion.

Advertisements unaccompanied by specific instructions inserted till ordered out.

Advertisements discontinued before expiration of special period will be charged as if continued for full term.

Liberal allowance on yearly and half yearly contracts.

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING—Per line solid nonpareil:—First insertion, 10 cents; each subsequent consecutive insertion, 5 cents. Advertisements not inserted every day, 10 cents per line each insertion. No advertisement inserted for less than $1.50.

WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS—Ten cents a line solid Nonpareil, each insertion No advertisement inserted for less than $2.

SPECIAL NOTICES—Nonpareil, in the first column of third page, 20 cents per line each insertion, or $1.50 per line per month. If inserted among local or other reading matter, 30 cents per line each insertion, or $2 per line per month. No special notice inserted for less than $2.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD.

Miscellaneous Business Transacted by the Trustees at Last Night's Meeting.

Trustee J. B. Lovell Takes His Seat for the First Time—Janitors' Salaries Increased.

The Public School Board met last night. Chairman Hayward presiding. Trustee Lovell took his seat for the first time. The other trustees present were—Messrs. McConnan, Richards, Saunders and McKay.

The principal of the Central School wrote asking for certain supplies, including a number of maps. He also complained of defective water taps.

A committee consisting of Trustees Richards and McConnan were appointed to look after the maps, and the other requisites were entrusted to the secretary.

TRUSTEE RICHARDS objected. He said that there was a supply committee in connection with the board, to whom all such matters ought to be referred. If this were not done he would resign his position as a member of that committee.

THE SECRETARY read a communication from the city clerk acknowledging receipt of estimates for year.

Messrs. Colbert & Warner wrote declining to agree to the terms of arrangement sought to be imposed upon them as contractors for the heating of the Central school, by the committee of the Trustee Board.

THE CHAIRMAN, as a member of the committee alluded to, said that they were by no means satisfied that the two-pipe job, proposed by Messrs. Colbert & Warner, would be sufficient to heat the school. The firm offered to heat the radiators, but this was already done. What was wanted was a safe and even temperature in the buiding.

The subject was discussed at length, the chairman expressing an opinion that even if the contract price had to be increased it would be desirable to have the work satisfactorily done.

The correspondence on the subject was read with the committee's draft of agreement. The committee called for a temperature of 65 deg. in the rooms. This the contractors declined to guarantee.

TRUSTEE RICHARDS moved that the contractors be called upon to measure the heating surface, and give an estimate of the extra amount of surface required; also an estimate of the cost of the same.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Saunders, and carried.

The monthly report showed an attendance of 1,822; average daily attendance 1,532.7; number of pupils to each teacher 53.6.

THE SECRETARY submitted a number of bills, which were referred to the Finance committee for payment, if found correct.

TRUSTEE LOVELL was appointed on the Finance committee, vice Mr. McLaughlin, resigned.

TRUSTEE RICHARDS tendered his resignation as a member of the Supply committee, and asked that some person be appointed in his stead. His reason for resigning was that the functions of the committee appeared to be relegated to the secretary. Supplies for schools ought to be dealt with by the Supply committee, otherwise the committee should be dispensed with.

The CHAIRMAN reported that the janitors were asking for an increase of salary, in consequence of the care of an additional room being imposed upon them.

It was decided to increase the salary from $12 to $15 per month, and that of the caretaker of Victoria West School to $17.50.

The SECRETARY announced that he had some applications for the position of secretrry.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that Mr. Williams was but acting pro. tem. No permanent appointment had been made, nor any salary fixed for the office.

On motion of TRUSTEE RICHARDS the matter was allowed to lie over until next meeting.

TRUSTEE RICHARDS said that some time ago an item appeared in the newspapers stating that Mr. Burns, Principal of the High School, had resigned his position in St. Catherines on the strength of an undertaking that he could get this present appointment. He believed that Mr. Burns was in Victoria the day before the appointment was made. The Board of Trustees had been described as puppets, unable to do the business entrusted to them. It was in the interests of the ratepayers that the facts of the case should be ascertained; and for this purpose he moved that the Board adjourn until Friday evening, and that Mr. Burns be invited to attend and explain.

The CHAIRMAN said that he was not a little astonished when called upon by Mr. Burns, the day after the appointment. That gentleman, however, explained that he had had an appointment in British Columbia sometime previously, but, hearing that he had secured the appointment at the High School, he took that in preference.

Trustee McCONNAN did not see the necessity of calling upon Mr. Burns for any explanation.

TRUSTEE RICHARDS—We are accused of sitting here as puppets, and it is right that the ratepayers should be shown that it was not so.

THE CHAIRMAN—And by doing so we would be making ourselves the puppets of the newspapers.

The motion had no seconder, and fell through, the Board adjourning, to meet again at the call of the chairman.

A FLOURISHING ORDER.

Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge I. O. O. F. to be Held To-day in Nanaimo.

Delegates from Victoria to the Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., which meets in Nanaimo this afternoon at 2 o'clock, leave on this morning's train for the Diamond City. There will be about sixty to sixty-five delegates present from all parts of the Province, Victoria, Vancouver, and Westminster, Nanaimo and along the line of the C.P.R., some of them coming from as far east as Donald. Those from Victoria, outside of the officers, are as follows: Messrs. Fred. Carne, P. Dempster, A. G. Day, Geo. Glover, G. Foley, A. Anderson and W. Holmes. Besides these gentlemen there are some of the grand officers also residents of Victoria. The complete list of grand officers at present is as follows: G. M., J. E. Phillips, Victoria; D. G. M., J. E. Phillips, Westminster; G.S., Fred Davey, Victoria; G.T., T. C. Gray, Vancouver; P.G.M.'s, Henry Wallor, Victoria, and B. W. Shiles; Westminster; G.C., A. G. Day, Victoria; G.M., P. A. Babbington, Victoria; C., B. Douglas, Westminster; G., M. Duffin, Nanaimo; H., W. H. Huxtable, Victoria.

To-day's programme of business includes the welcoming of the delegates, examination of the credentials, and election of officers, and this disposed of, there will be sufficient business to be done to keep the Grand Lodge in session until Saturday. The hre ports of the various officers of the Grand Lodge will contain, it is understood, most satisfactory intelligence of the work done during the past year. In every way the order has prospered, and in no part of the world has greater progress been made than in the province of British Columbia. During the past year the membership in this province has increased by some 240, while four subordinate lodges have been formed, and four Rebecca degree lodges have been instituted. One of these former lodges was the Acme, of this city, instituted November 13th, 1891, and which has already some 60 members or more. This substantial progress is felt by all to be very highly satisfactory, and the present officers, in retiring, have great reason to feel proud of the work done during their tenure. So far as can be learned, all the subordinate lodges in the province are in a flourishing condition, both as regards finances and membership.

COUNTY COURT.

(Before the Chief Justice.)

Thompson vs. Courtenay—Mr. Mills for the plaintiff, Mr. Hunter for defendant.

At the conclusion of the evidence the Chief Justice said, in giving judgment:

"This is in effect an action by the vendor for the specific performance of a contract under seal, dated 10th April, 1890, for the purchase by the defendant of three lots of land in the proposed city of Queenstown, Quatsino Sound, described by the number of lot and block as laid down in a certain map or plan "deposited in the Land Register office and numbered 319." There is such a map; it is numbered 319; it was actually lying in the Register's office on the 10th April, and, as I understand, ever since; it shows the blocks and the lots. But I am told that the contract is too obscure to be carried out; that the parcels cannot be identified; that the reference to the map 319 is to be treated as a reference to a non-existing map, because not made nor certified by a certificated surveyor. The defendant urges that the word "deposited" is, in the Land Registry Act, used solely of a map thus made and certified, and has thereby acquired a peculiar meaning restricted to such maps; so that no other map can be said to be "deposited" with the Registrar. I cannot agree with that. It seems impossible to contend that the plaintiff might not "deposit" any map, or, indeed, any other article whatever—an umbrella or anything else—which the Registrar would condescend to admit on his premises; and where that is earmarked and sold by the description of "an umbrella deposited with the Registrar, and numbered 319," can I seriously listen to the argument that that is too obscure, and that the umbrella had no business there, as was repeatedly urged during the argument that "the map had no business there?" There is nothing in the Statute forbidding the Registrar to allow this map, or any other, to remain on the premises. The statute, indeed, says he may not put it in his index. Indeed, it may often be his duty to accept irregular instruments; he cannot always at once decide upon the regularity of all the documents produced and left in his office. And it seems useless to argue that because a statute only uses the word "deposit" in reference to one class of maps (if indeed that be so) therefore nobody else can in any private contract be supposed to use the word in reference to any other class of map. The map is now produced, and it appears to be, and the Dominion Surveyor swears that it is, as regards the lines of streets etc., in exact correspondence with the statutory map of Queenstown now filed at the Registry office. Other witnesses, it is true, alleged that the two maps did not quite correspond, but no single instance of difference as to the streets or blocks was pointed out. It is not pretended that the defendant has practically found any difficulty in identifying his lots. I therefore think that the contract is in this respect quite clear. The other objections on the ground that the contract was only executed by the plaintiff by his attorney etc., are abundantly met by the presence of the plaintiff here, this day, adopting all the acts of his attorney and agents as his own. There will therefore be (treating this action as an action for specific performance,) a declaration that the contract ought to be specifically performed, and payment of the instalments of purchase money made by the defendant as they become due. I think he must pay the money; he has elected not to avail himself of this option to offer services in lieu of money. But there must be the usual reference as to title, the defendant is not to pay for land which the plaintiff cannot convey to him with a good title.

Mr. Hunter waived the inquiry as to title.

The Chief Justice—Then I decide nothing as to the title, no question about that being before me. The costs will follow the event.

TERRIBLE HOLOCAUST.

Scores of Guests Lose Their Lives in the Burning of a New York Hotel.

Terrible Scenes of Suffering—Nothing Left but a Pile of Smouldering Debris.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—Early yesterday morning, the Hotel Royal, at the southeast corner of Sixth avenue and Fortieth street, was burned to the ground, and a large number of persons burned, suffocated and crushed in the ruins. The hotel was built over twenty-five years ago. In 1882 it was remodeled and an addition built on the south side. It was the home of many persons in the theatrical profession and was patronized chiefly by transients. It was a few minutes of 3 o'clock in the morning when the flames were first discovered. The janitor was in the basement, when he was startled by the flashing up of flames. He rushed to the street and notified the policeman, who sent in an alarm, while the janitor rushed back to the building to rouse the guests. The blaze had already shot up the elevator, finding kindling as inflammable as tinder in the framework. In 15 minutes the whole of the structure was ablaze. Flames shot out at every window and people in the street could see persons rushing frantically to and fro on every floor. Alarms were sent out in rapid succession, and the streets and avenue were soon filled with fire engines and trucks. Other alarms brought ambulances from every hospital in the city. People leaped out of the windows to the sidewalks and were gathered up unconscious by the firemen, burned, maimed and mangled, and carried to places of safety.

At the time there were nearly 150 guests in the house. The hotel employes, all told, numbered 55. The scenes were heart-rending and appalling even to the firemen and policemen. Nearly every one of the 124 rooms which the hotel has on its five floors was occupied. The scenes before the fire company arrived were horrible. One man sprang from the the third story window and was dashed to death on the ground. People turned away horrified at the sight. This was the Sixth avenue side of the building. Another moment later another man leaped from the window on the Fortieth street side and was instantly killed. Shortly after two women jumped from the windows on the Sixth avenue and were dead when picked up. Several others dropped from the windows or slid down the rope with which every room in the hotel was provided.

These escapes occurred before the walls fell, while the firemen were doing their utmost to stop the progress of the flames, which threatened to engulf not only the hotel, but the entire block of buildings to the south. When the wall fell people were seen at several windows on the upper floors, crying for help, but were swallowed up in the flames that arose from the ruins. The flames illuminated the sky for miles around and drew thousands of people to the scene, which during the entire day was an object of curiosity to an immense throng of people. The most heroic efforts of the firemen were impotent against the devouring element, and the whole middle portion of the city was brilliantly illuminated by the tremendous fire which the hotel made.

The fire had spent its fury by 5:30 o'clock, for there was practically nothing combustible left in the shell. Then the scene surveyed by the firemen, the police and the crowd of citizens was one of complete and sorrowful wreck. All that remained was a smoking, blackened mound of debris that rose to a height of 25 feet. Beyond, to the south, the eye gazed, unobstructed by floors or roof, up through that portion of the building that remained standing, to the sky. To the west there were the walls of a section of the building, but they had been dismantled of all the wood work, and in the cellars was the debris of the whole interior of the Hotel Royal. The loss on the hotel and furniture is estimated at $250,000. The building was owned by Hyman Israel, a furniture dealer on the Bowery.

Mrs. Isabella Meares, wife of the proprietor of the house, heard crackling flames and saw smoke coming through the crevices of the bedroom door. Meares had only retired at 1 o'clock and was aroused with difficulty. He sprung out of bed and ran into the hallway. One glance was enough to tell him the story. He ran back to his wife's room and shouted: "Now you follow me," snatched up his coat and ran to the hallway. He fought his way straight to the staircase, supporting his wife him. The passage way was choked with smoke. Throwing the coat over his head to prevent suffocation, he bent his head low and groped his way to the bannisters, on which he placed his left hand which was burned and his hair singed. His situation was perilous. To run down stairs for two flights meant death, and so, swinging himself over the hand rail, he dropped twenty feet to the ground floor. He landed on his feet without broken bones and made his way to the street.

Meares was among the firse to leave the burning building, and when he made his exit not a fire engine had arrived. When Meares reached safety in the street he realized that his wife was not with him. At that moment a hook and ladder company arrived. A ladder was quickly placed in position to the window of what he said was his wife's room. Up the ladder went Policeman Merritt. The window selected was not the right one. In it was an unknown woman, who quickly stepped out on to the ladder and was carried down in safety. Meantime, Mrs. Meares had acted for herself. With rare presence of mind, she rushed to the window and leaped to the portico over the entrance, and was taken down by the firemen. She sustained a sprained ankle, but was otherwise unhurt.

VENUS AND JUPITER.

Their Approach and Conjunction on Saturday—An Autumn Visitor.

Those who have casually observed the evening sky during the past week cannot have failed to note two particularly bright and prominent stars, which, each evening until Saturday seemed to come closer and closer together. Not having been initiated into the mysteries of astronomical science, one could well be pardoned for imagining that No. 1 would meet and collide with No. 2; and not a few curious star-gazers spent a few hours in watching for the anticipated collision.

But the movements of the terrestial bodies are not guided by the laws of chance, and the conjunction of Venus and Jupiter, which excited the wonder of those ignorant of the positions and courses of the planets, had been entered for Saturday February 6th by the world's astronomers, long ago. The two planets had been coming together at an almost incalculable speed for years, and the naked eye might have noted their approach to each other for a month past. At 8 a.m. Saturday, Venus crossed the face of royal Jupiter, and was dismissed on her pilgrimage through space, which takes her daily further and further from him. The two planets will continue to separate until Venus gets 20 degrees to the east, when she retraces her steps.

The conjunctions of Venus and Jupiter is not an event of particular importance to astronomers. It was last recorded on Jan. 30, 1868, and prior to that in 1859. The earliest chronicled conjunction of the planets was on the day corresponding to our Oct. 13, 2,127 years before Christ, when Chinese astronomers saw and noted the merging of Jupiter, Mars, Saturn and Mercury. So the event of Saturday can hardly be termed something new.

Having paid her homage to Jupiter, Venus is now flying from him in a direct line for this earth of ours, at the rate of 22 miles per second, 1,320 miles a minute, 79,200 miles per hour, or 1,900,800 miles per day. This need not excite alarm, however, for having approached within 30,000,000 miles of the earth, she will retrace her course and speed backward at the same tremendous rate.

Though the conjunctions of planets are events of almost every decade, astronomers this year will enjoy an opportunity which they have long been waiting for. In September, this Earth and its nearest neighbor, Mars, will be in opposition, a position occurring but once in forty-seven years. Since the last occasion, the improvement in the equipment of observatories has been wonderful, and the opportunities of learning from the visit of the Celestial neighbor in the autumn will be fully taken advantage of.

SECRETARY BLAINE'S REFUSAL.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Feb. 8.—The Post, this afternoon, prints an interview with the ex-Governor on Blaine's letter declinnig the Presidential nomination. Said Mr. Foraker: "Mr. Blaine will stand in history without a rival. Twice, when a candidate for the nomination, it was refused him; once nominated, he was defeated. Such a record would destroy the power, influence and prestige of almost any man. But, instead, he has constantly grown greater, stronger and nearer to the hearts of the people, until as a result he has literally forced upon him an opportunity to make the unprecedented record of twice declining a nomination which would have meant in each instance an election. Somebody once said in substance that, to refuse to be a bishop is greater than to be a bishop. The same can be said of the Presidency, and especially of Mr. Blaine, who has twice refused it. As a Republican, I deeply regret Mr. Blaine's determination. In saying this, I do not mean to disparage President Harrison; he has given us a wise and safe administration; but the truth is apparent to all that he does not have the hold upon the affections of the people that Mr. Blaine enjoys. In consequence he cannot have the strength as a candidate that Mr. Blaine would have. Of course, I don't know that President Harrison will be re-nominated, but in saying what I have, I have so assumed. We would have an easy victory with Blaine. We may have a hard fight, but it will be a triumphant one with Harrison."

WILL BE A HANDSOME BLOCK.

A contract has been awarded to Messrs. Elford & Smith, who are now building the new Driard block, for the erection of a three story brick building for Mr. Simon Leiser, at the corner of Johnson and Store streets. The plans for the new building were seen yesterday by a COLONIST man at the office of the architect, Mr. Thomas Hooper. The main elevation of the building is on Store street where it will be 81 feet in length. There are three stores to be provided and also a dining room with plate glass front for use of the hotel. On Johnson street is the hotel entrance, the elevation being plain but handsome, with a large double doorway. The frontage on Johnson street is 80 feet. The basement of the building will be fitted up with cellars for the stores and a large saloon besides, the entrance to the latter being from Johnson street. It is so constructed that it can be run in connection with the hotel upstairs, or as a separate institution. The two upper stories are consequently divided into bed rooms with plenty of bath rooms and first-class appointments. The building is to be entirely of brick with iron pillars, and terra cotta trimmings. The contract calls for its completion by August 1, 1892, and the cost will be, it is stated, somewhere between $25,000 and $30,000. This will add one more to the fine looking and substantial buildings of which Victoria is proud.

AMERICAN NEWS.

Supporting Mr. Egan.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—Unanimous approval of the course of the United States administration toward Patrick Egan, United States Minister to Chili, was expressed yesterday afternoon at the New York council of the Irish National League of America. The council warmly endorsed the administration for its support of Mr. Egan, "that distinguished Irishman whom it had seen fit to honor."

The New York Life.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—At the adjourned meeting, to-day, of the trustees of the New York Life Insurance Company, William H. Beers, the president, resigned at the request of the sub-committee, and was voted a pension for life of $25,000 a year. Several other trustees and officers of the company tendered their resignations. A meeting will be held, Wednesday, to elect new officers.

The Behring Sea Commission.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 8.—A room is being prepared at the State Department for the use of the Behring Sea commission, beginning next Tuesday. They will occupy the apartment between Chief Clerk Brown's room and that formerly occupied by Third Assistant Secretary Foster, in charge of reciprocal trade arrangements negotiated under section 3 of the McKinley bill.

To Relieve the Russians.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—There were today received by the New York chamber of commerce $2,011, making the present total of the fund for the starving Russians, $8,011. The American minister at St. Petersburg has sent the following communication: The money sent to the special committee under the presidency of the Czarewitch, will be properly applied. If desired, suggestions touching its application or division can be made through the American minister, and its distribution reported. The breadstuffs shipped to Port Lieben will be sent by the government to the famine provinces. I would advise that such shipments should be as prompt as possible. Time is important.

THE WORLD BY WIRE.

The Kaiser Will Suppress the Socialists at All Hazards—Of No Use to Him.

Attempt to Burn a Ship at Sea—Capturing Negroes for the Slavers in Africa.

The Terrorite Explosive.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 8.—Some further experiments have been conducted at Fort Winfield Scott, with the new explosive, terrorite, under the direction of Major General Rogers and Lieutenant Hamilton, ordnance officer. Three shots were fired with 25-pound shells loaded with five pounds of terrorite, to which a six-second fuse was attached. Three shots were fired from a 10-ton rifled Parrott gun, with a charge of five pounds of powder. In each case the shot struck the red rock bluff on the Marine country shore and the shells exploded and brought down tons of earth and rock. The result of this experiment showing that there was no danger of an explosion from concussion; the experiment was repeated with a 10-pound charge of powder with which five more shots were fired with similar shells, the result being the same with the higher charge, except that one shell was buried in the bluff and failed to explode, presumably owing to a defective fuse. Major Rogers and Lieutenant Hamilton expressed themselves thoroughly satisfied with the experiments.

An Arkansas Tragedy.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 9.—A bloody tragedy is reported from Toller, 10 miles east of this city. The constable at that place went to the home of a negro with a warrant and ordered the negro out of the house. This was refused and the officer then attempted to enter by force. Five negroes, on discovering the officer's plans, rushed out of the door, firing on him with pistols. The officer returned the fire, killing four of the crowd. Great excitement is reported and further trouble is apprehended.

Gallagher Wants to Fight McCann.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 9.—Gallagher, who defeated Mahan, has already announced that he will fight McCann, who defeated him recently in two rounds in the Olympic Club. Gallagher is a champion in the 148 pound class.

Fortunate Discovery.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—While men were transferring 650 bales of cotton from a Savannah lighter to the steamship Lepanto, yesterday, a number of matches were found between the bales. The cotton was consigned to Antwerp. An investigation showed that many matches were distributed among the cotton bales. Sanderson & Son, agents of the steamer Lepanto, stopped the loading and sent word of the discovery to the maritime exchange, saying that they believed the matter would bear a thorough investigation.

C. P. Huntington's Announcement.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—The attention of C. P. Huntington, President of the Southern Pacific Railway, having been called to a rumor that his company had withdrawn from the Western Traffic Association, so far as commission payments were concerned, said: "There is no truth in the report that the Southern Pacific is going ont of the Western Traffic Association. We think the Association is doing much good. I am not very familiar with all the details of the work done by the Association, but, as I understand it, that body does not pretend to control business east of Chicago. I think our people are lying up to the very letter of the arrangements made by the Association."

Fighting in Senegal.

PARIS, Feb. 9.—The French expedition in Senegal, in two battles with Chief Samery, lost one officer and nine men killed and 43 wounded. The enemy lost 50 killed and 300 wounded.

African Slave Raids.

PARIS, Feb. 9—Le Temps has advices confirming the report that the king of Dahomey has been making slave raids so as to supply Belgians on the Congo, and Germans in the Cameroons with slaves. It is said a German settled at Whydah, had engaged the king to supply 4000 negroes at £12 each.

The Elder's Mails.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—A letter to the Times, over G. W. Smalley's signature, complains that the British post office authorities made no attempt to forward the Elder's mail until the North German Lloyd officers started hints to the effect that the same indifference was shown to all American mails arriving at Southampton.

A Jockey's Engagement.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—Jockey Martin Bergen signed a contract yesterday to ride for Col. Ruppert, jr., during the coming season at an exceedingly handsome figure.

Death of John Jay Knox.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—Hon. John Jay Knox, president of the National Bank of the Republic and ex-controller of the currency died to-day.

A Defendant Shoots Opposing Counsel.

SEDALIA, Mo., Feb. 9.—W. J. Condon, a Missouri Pacific brakeman, was shot and killed by Lawyer William Parmalee, in the latter's office, this morning. The trouble grew out of the garnisheement of Condon's salary by Parmalee. Parmalee claims that Condon had repeatedly threatened his life and he shot him in self-defense.

A Girl's Terrible Fate.

PRESCOTT, Ariz., Feb. 9.—News from Verde Valley leaves no doubt of the fate of Alice Packard, the 16-year-old girl who was seen in the company of two Indians last week. The girl was on her way to her uncle's house, and must have been captured by the Indians. Forty men are searching the rough country into which they traced the Indians, but there is small prospect of finding the girl, who is now supposed to be dead. One Indian is thought to be a Navajo, and the other an Apache.

THE NEW YORK LIFE.

The Presidency Offered to Mr. John McCall, of the Equitable.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—It is stated, this afternoon, that the presidency of the New York Life Insurance Company has been offered to John A. McCall, comptroller of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, and formerly Superintendent of the State Insurance Department. It is understood that the salary of the new President is to be $50,000 a year. The trustees of the company will meet to-morrow, when, if Mr. McCall decides to accept the offer, he will be forthwith elected.

GARZA WRITES TO WASHINGTON.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Feb. 9.—A sensation has been created among the Mexican population and in military circles by the publication of a letter addressed to Hon. B. Harrison, president of the United States, from Catrina E. Garza, the revolutionary leader in Le Chinaco, the leading Spanish newspaper in this city. The letter is dated La Sierreta, state of Tamaulipas, January 31, 1892. In his preliminary remarks Garza states that he has forwarded President Harrison the letter, but as he desires to have his position understood he decided to send a copy of the letter to Le Chinaco. The letter is for the most part an attack on the Mexican government and particularly on President Diaz. He offers strong objection to being charged with having violated the neutrality law of the United States, and defends his action as follows: "Being a resident of Texas, when I decided to raise the banner of insurrection in my beloved country, Mexico, it was but natural and logical that I should travel through the United States territory in order to reach Mexico. That such action has absolutely nothing to do with the so-called neutrality law is generally conceded by the public as an international and public right, but suppose that I had effected a march at that time in the direction of or toward Mexican territory with two or more of my countrymen, does that constitute an offense against the law? I don't believe it does."

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 8.—The war department said to-day that no news had been received to-day from the Mexican border indicating an uprising in Garza's favor.

COLUMBIA'S HISTORIC STEAMER.

A correspondent of the COLONIST, writing from Vancouver, says: "I paid a visit, the other day, to the old historic steamer, Beaver, and found that the parties interested in shipping her to Chicago, have a man in charge of the venerated timbers, whose duty it is to request relic hunters to refrain from mutilating the old hulk, and carrying away large chunks of teak and oak. The illustrious wreck was reached at low tide. In place of her copper armor, torn away and hanging in shreds, millions of black mussels literally cover her superficies; while

Teredos were playing at hide and go seek,
Where the axe of the vandal had parted the teak
And the blood of the barnacle splattered the wreck
Where the feet of the pillager trampled her deck.

She indeed presents a pitiful sight. The frame and planking on the starboard side (facing the gulf) are gone, down to the turn of the bilge. The timbers on the port side are almost intact, with the smoke-stack, captain's cabin and wheel house. The mast is still erect, but partly hewn through by the axe of the relic fiend. The bilge pump is still in its place, and the engines are about in the same condition (under the circumstances, a remarkable state of preservation) as when the venerable old hulk that they have rested in for nearly 60 years, first went ashore. The boilers seem to have broken from their fastenings, and look as if they would fall through the wreck if she is moved. The keelson can be seen beneath the water, and the bottom of the steamer seems to be in a sound condition. Her propellors are what are known as the side-lever engines worked on one shaft. There is but one older set in America, her sister engines, built by Bolton & Watt in 1817 for the old St. Lawrence steamer St. John Baptist, and afterwards transferred to the little steamer Sadie, which they now propel between Toronto and the Island. Canes, rulers, and other novelties manufactured from the hull of the Beaver (the only wooden part which has never been renewed) are selling here at fancy prices. Before many years they will be worth their weight in gold."

THE OLD FOLKS' HOME.

The Old Folks' Home project, which had its origin in the heart and brain of Ex-Mayor John Grant, is not to be allowed to die, by any means. Mr. Grant explained the present position of affairs through a local item in the COLONIST a few days ago, and since then has handed the plans prepared by Mr. John Teague to Mr. R. P. Rithet for his inspection and approval. As Mr. Rithet has offered the site, under certain conditions, it was thought nothing but right that he should be consulted in every detail.

The drawings for the new institution show a group of buildings on the pavilion principle, one story in height, with a broad verandah extending along the entire front. In the centre of the group is the only two story part of the buildings, the ground floor being divided into reception, visitor's, and bath rooms, and the flat above being devoted to the living rooms of those having the charge of the home. Behind these and separate from the main buildings are the dining-room, kitchens and kindred apartments. The living quarters of the old men are upon broad corridors running the entire length of the main building, there being in all 20 well appointed bed rooms, capable of accommodating comfortably 40 or 50 inmates. It is expected that the Home will be surrounded with ample grounds, cared for and cultivated by the guests of the institution, which will be in no sense a poor house—on the contrary, a home of industry.

Mr. Rithet does not think that a few should be called upon to provide a home which those dependent in a measure upon the charity of the public shall enjoy. The duty lies upon the people, and he expects the city of Victoria to contribute the necessary sum, certainly not less than $10,000, to build the home. Having been once established the institution will be in a large measure self-supporting.

BLAINE TO LEAVE THE CABINET.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—The Press this morning prints a special despatch from its Washington correspondent in which he says that Secretary Blaine's resignation from the Cabinet, will, after a reasonable interval, follow his letter of withdrawal as a presidential possibility. Only the date at which this action shall be taken remains undetermined. The reason which Secretary Blaine will give to the president for retiring from the cabinet will be that of physical inability to continue to perform the arduous and exacting duties of his present office. The Press correspondent says he has authority second only to the Secretary himself for the above statement.

Knights of Labor.

The Knights of Labor aim to protect their members against financial difficulties, etc., Hagyard's Yellow Oil protects all who use it from the effects of cold and exposure, such as rheumatism, neuralgia, lumbago, sore throat and all inflammatory pain. Nothing compares with it as a handy pain cure for man and beast

BEHRING SEA MATTERS.

Sir Charles Tupper Announces That Arbitration Arrangements Have Been Satisfactorily Made.

The Joint Committee to Sit on Thursday—Inconsequent Talk at Washington.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—During a debate on British Columbia at the Royal Colonial Institute, to-day, Sir Chas. Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada, said that the clauses relating to the arbitration of the Behring Sea question, had been arranged in a manner eminently satisfactory to Great Britain and to Canada.

The Manchester Examiner recalls the fact that the original Commission was one of investigation only. Sir George Baden-Powell and Dr. Dawson were appointed to collect all information possible in reference to the seal and its habits, and more generally as to what limitations were necessary to prevent a serious diminution in the number of seals, and how and when they had best be "taken" for commercial purposes. The British Commissioners returned to Ottawa in October, and have since arranged and worked out the results of their summer's work in the Northern Pacific Ocean, and in framing a full report on the whole question of the fur seal. After consultation with the Foreign Office and with the authorities of Ottawa, it was thought desirable that a further commission should be issued, empowering Sir George and Dr. Dawson to meet and consult with Commissioners similarly appointed by the United States Government, in the hope that a joint report might be drawn up on a purely technical and scientific basis, which would prove satisfactory to both Governments, and which might thus obviate the necessity for any more formal arbitration, such as was suggested and provided for by the agreement made by Lord Salisbury and Mr. Blaine in June last. This was done; and the same British Commissioners were appointed to undertake this further duty.

The U. S. authorities did not at once take similar action, but Mr. Blaine suggested that the British Commissioners should come to Washington and "talk the matter over" informally with himself and others, but such action was deemed inadvisable. To this objection was taken as it would only mean informing the American Government in advance of such contentions as the British Commissioners proposed submitting. Subsequently Sir George Baden-Powell went to Washington, and had interviews with the President and Mr. Blaine, upon both of whom he urged the desirability of appointing commissioners to meet with Dr. Dawson and himself on the new basis suggested. Such action was taken, and the joint Commissioners are now at Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—The first session of the joint committee on the Behring Sea question, which was first planned for to-day has been postponed until Thursday. The real issue of the controversy of course will be the question of the character of Behring Sea, and the seal fisheries as regards the jurisdiction of the United States. The former arguments made by Secretary Blaine, in his correspondence with Lord Salisbury, to demonstrate that the United States has a jurisdiction there, which entitles the republic to prevent the destruction of its property—the seals—will undoubtedly be made anew before the tribunal of arbitration, and the other side will no doubt oppose the contention with the logic formerly utilized by the British Premier. Upon three neutral views, then, will depend the decision. The arbitrators cannot be designated without a treaty being first entered into between the two countries, and there is now some correspondence going on between the State department here and the Foreign office in London in regard to the terms of that instrument. The American draft of the treaty is ready for submission to the Senate and no step can be taken until it has been ascertained that a similiar treaty will be ratified on the other side. No such notification has yet been received, though elaborate preparations were made a few days ago to have Lord Salisbury's assent to the American draft cabled to Washington to save time. Moreover there has been no sign that the renewal of the *modus vivendi* will be consummated soon enough to prevent the Pacific sealing fleet from fitting out for the season's work.

A new element has just entered into the case. This is the question of reciprocity with Canada, which seems to be coming to a climax just at present. Sir John Thompson, Hons. George Foster and MacKenzie Bowell, the Canadian commissioners, are coming, as the phrase goes, "on their own hook," and not on invitation. It is not anticipated that they will accomplish anything definite, as there are evident tendencies on the part of Secretary Blaine, to discourage such negotiations with Canada. The history of the efforts on the part of the Canadians to secure reciprocal trade relations with the United States cannot be very encouraging to them, as it presents a rather monotonous record of postponements. It is noted that Hon. George Foster, the Canadian Minister of finance went to the West Indies with a hope of securing reciprocity for Canada, but failed. This is being quoted freely in the State Department and the tendency is to shake the faith of the officials in the success of the mission of the three Canadians. Just what bearing this latest point will have on Behring sea is problematical, but it is felt that the commissioners will undoubtedly consult as to the programme to be followed by each. It is also felt that the postponement of the initial meeting is partly due to the announcement that a reciprocity commission has started south.

Peter Grats, a jilted lover, of Chicago, took fearful revenge on his sweetheart. With a friendly salutation he accosted Katie Baumgarten, who had refused to have anything to do with him on account of his dissolute habits. Before she could speak he threw the contents of a bottle of vitriol in her face. The girl will be disfigured for life, and is in great danger of losing her mind.

A New York despatch says: The fast mail service of this country is doomed to be discontinued on June 30, unless the post-office department in the meantime can obtain cheaper railroad rates. A notice has been sent out to all transportation lines now receiving "special facility pay for extraordinary service," announcing that after June 30 all special facility pay will be withdrawn, and adding that the appropriation for this purpose has not been recommended to congress in the annual report of the department.

D. J. Munn and Alexander Ewen are at the Driard.