

Big Fire at Wellington

Destruction of a Number of Buildings in the Coal Mining City.

Overtured Lamp Sets Fire to the Opera House During a Dance.

Fire wiped out several buildings in the centre of the town of Wellington, B. C., at an early hour this morning. While a dance which followed a concert given in honor of St. Patrick's day was in progress, flames shot up through the floor of the Opera House from a candle store below, and in a few minutes after the excited stampede of the dancers the Opera House building was in flames.

The fire, which began at 1:30 o'clock this morning, was caused by the overturning and consequent explosion of a kerosene lamp in the restaurant below the hall, owned by Henderson. According to an eye-witness who arrived by the noon train, the waiter was carrying a lamp in his hand making the arrangements to close up, when he dropped it. An explosion followed and a mass of flames shot up. The building, a wooden frame one, seemed to be a sheet of flame in no time. The waiter ran for his life, shouting a warning to the dancers, who lost no time in escaping. The fire raged, where those summoned, but when they arrived the burning building, fanned by a slight breeze, was sending up sheets of flame, and the fire was beyond control. There was nothing for it but to let it burn and endeavor to save adjoining houses. The buildings destroyed were the Opera House, with the stores below, the confectionery store and a drug store owned by Grant Jessop, next the residence of T. E. Bicknell, a superintendent in the Wellington mines, which adjoins the Opera House. All the contents of the stores and Opera House were destroyed, and a large quantity of the furniture and contents of Mr. Bicknell's house were burned. The total loss was estimated variously at from \$12,000 to \$16,000. The insurance is \$5,000.

During the stampede from the hall some of the dancers were slightly hurt, but no serious accidents were reported. In fact, the only serious accident was that which befell Thomas Cowan, a green hand, who while fighting the fire cut part of his thumb off with an axe.

The new fire engine of the Wellington fire brigade was used for the first time, and it had not been present when it was witnessed the fire say Wellington would have suffered the same fate as New Westminster did in August last.

A MINING SENSATION.
The Spokane Spokesman-Review publishes the following interesting description:
Camp McKinley, B. C., March 9.—The finding of free gold in the drift on the Waterloo was the sensation of the day. The drift is in 72 feet and after this afternoon, an examination of the ore brought to the surface resulted in the discovery of considerable free gold. As in the last strike of this kind, the gold is visible in the rock that shows black and white quartz in junction, and is also sprinkled throughout the quartz. The ore carries an abundance of sulphur and arsenic, and assays recently published in dispatches from this camp.

The ore is so green and the value of the ore from the best assays is phenomenal indeed, said Superintendent Joe Murphy, "I am sure in saying that, this is the richest discovery ever discovered in this camp. It will run away up into the thousands. This is not a pocket discovery as the free gold is mixed throughout the whole face of the drift."

VICTORIA TEACHERS.

Meeting of the Executive Committee on the 18th.
The executive committee of the Provincial Teachers' Institute met in the educational office on Saturday to make final arrangements for the annual meeting of the institute to be held in Victoria April 4, 5 and 6. There were present: E. D. Pope, L. L. D., president; W. Hunter, B. A., principal High school, Nanaimo, first vice-president; W. C. Oostham, principal New Westminster Boys' school, second vice-president; J. D. Gillis, principal Beesley school, Victoria, third vice-president; John Shaw, principal Boys' school, Nanaimo, treasurer; Miss Williams, Victoria; J. D. McLean, Mission; C. L. J. O'Brien, Wellington, and Miss Agnes Deans Cameron, secretary.

LOCAL NEWS.

Cleanings of City and Provincial News in a Condensed Form.

—Ball has been granted a U. S. Young, committed for trial yesterday for criminal assault in the sum of \$2,000—\$1,000 on his own recognizance, and two others of \$500 each.

—Mr. Thomas A. Graham, who has for some time past been representing the Southern Pacific Railway Company as district freight and passenger agent in this city, is shortly to leave for California, and he will be succeeded by Mr. Steople, formerly of San Jose.

—The flag is at the top of the flagpole on the parliament buildings today in honor of St. Patrick. And this, too, although there is not a single member of the government. Perhaps the sergeant-at-arms, who rejoices in the distinctly Irish name of O'Meara, was the person to remember that this is the 17th of March.

—A well known young man, Mr. J. B. Hobson, has just arrived here from the Cariboo. He reports the district as most prosperous, and states that although the ground has been completely covered with snow, work has still been carried on. It is reported that a syndicate of English capitalists are organizing with a view to starting a company called the Cariboo Consolidated Goldfields. They propose taking up and working several claims.

—The complete returns from the different churches of the city to the funds of the Bible Society, after somewhat of a delay, have been forwarded to the Times the following statement of receipts: Collection at meeting \$22.43; St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, \$10; Central Methodist, \$18.75; Congregational, \$10; Reformed Episcopal, \$7; St. Paul's Presbyterian, \$7.50; New Westminister Methodist, \$11 total, \$93.55.

—As soon as navigation opens in the North Collector Mills arrangements will be made to ship goods in bond from Lake Bennett to Athol. The present method is very unsatisfactory, as people at Athol have to wait for the duty-free goods to be sent to the mill, where they will be able to receive their goods and pay duty at destination. A letter received by Mr. Milne from Officer Dennis, of Athol, says much freight has accumulated at Long Cabin. Early in March the thermometer registered 40 degrees below zero.

—Sing Kee was arrested last night by Sergeant Huxford, together with a fellow countryman, and lodged in the city lock-up charged with carrying concealed weapons. Sing Kee came up for trial this morning and was fined \$20, and \$250 costs. The trouble seems to have been that the Chinaman became enamored of a klookman with whom a white man was living, and this caused bad blood between the two men.

—William Veitch, one of the pioneers of this province, whose wife died about the beginning of the month, passed away peacefully this morning at his residence, Craigflower road. He came to this city in 1858. He was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, and had reached the advanced age of 84 years. His late wife, Mrs. Veitch, was a native of Perth, Scotland, and at the same time, and he never recovered sufficiently to permit of his being informed of his wife's death. Three daughters, Mrs. Somers, Mrs. Burnett, and his wife, were present at his funeral. The funeral takes place from his late residence to Colwood cemetery on Sunday, at 2:30 p.m.

—A copy of the Klondike Nugget just received says: August, Truison has unearthed in his claim on Dominion creek the remains of a prehistoric mammoth in a perfect state of preservation. The monster had apparently been caught in a glacial slide and there was nothing to detract from the general like appearance of the defunct beast, this, too, in spite of the fact that it was 40 feet below the surface. The Dominion creek monster weighed between 20 and 30 tons, with a length over 44 feet and 6 inches. His right tusk was broken, but the left tusk was in perfect state of length, measuring 14 feet 3 inches in length and 38 inches in circumference. It is covered with a hairy wool about 15 inches long. Probably the most remarkable feature was the head of the animal, which was as fresh and sweet as if it had been killed only yesterday. The head quarters of the mammoth weighed 8,642 pounds.

—While engaged in loading timber on ship Hawaiian Isles, T. D. Stale, a longshoreman, met with an accident. He was thrown down and stunned and sustained a fracture of the arm between the elbow and the shoulder. He was removed to the marine hospital.

—Fourth Victoria Company, Boys' Brigade, of First Presbyterian church, to the number of 33, headed by their pipe and drum band, marched last evening through the principal streets of the city. The steady march and smart soldierly appearance of the boys were much admired. Guns for the company are in transit from headquarters in Ontario.

—A special general meeting of the British Columbia Board of Trade will be held in the board room on March 22, at 3 o'clock. The object of the meeting is to obtain an expression of opinion upon the advisability of the board supporting the application for a charter from the United States side of the boundary into the Kettle River valley, known as the Corbin charter.

—The Indians residing in the vicinity of Carmanah Point by some means managed to obtain some fine water and proceeded to make things lively. Upon being sent to the provincial authorities, constables were sworn in and sent to arrest the offenders. The Indians, however, resisted arrest and the police had to retire. The Indian constables in the vicinity refused to assist the constables. Eventually the Indian Indians were arrested by the Indian

Serious Driving Accident

Two Well Known Travellers Terribly Injured—One Still Unconscious.

A Log on the Saanich Road the Cause of the Mishap.

On Saturday afternoon last two commercial travellers, Messrs. P. F. Richardson and W. E. McCormack, were seriously injured by their conveyance overturning in the Saanich road. They engaged a buggy and horse from T. Barlow's stables on Saturday afternoon and left town about 1 o'clock, and proceeded to Saanich to transact business. At 4:30 p.m. the horse, which was about two miles out of Saanich, the road curves, and here the accident occurred. Mr. Richardson, who is the least injured of the two, says McCormack was driving, and as they turned the curve the horse struck a log which was lying in the road, and fell, thereby throwing the buggy over an embankment about three feet deep. Both men were rendered unconscious and lay under the overturned vehicle for some time. On Mr. Richardson regaining consciousness he crawled from underneath the buggy, then pulled Mr. McCormack out, he was still unconscious, and leaving him lying on the road side, Richardson crawled a mile and a quarter to the farm house of Mr. Fraser. Mr. Richardson was just about to instruct them where to find McCormack and then fainted. Mr. Cutler, a once famous horse boy, and proceeded to the scene of the accident. There he found the unfortunate man lying on the roadside covered with blood and unconscious. He dispatched a messenger to the Victoria Hospital, and took the injured man to his home. Dr. Fraser was soon on the spot and found that both men were seriously injured. McCormack had sustained some injury to his head, but there has been a great deal of speculation as to whether his collar-bone broken. Richardson escaped with injuries to the head and a broken wrist. The doctor ordered the removal of Mr. Richardson to the Victoria Hospital, where he is now in a very critical state. McCormack was at that time still unconscious, and the doctor feared to remove him. He is suffering from concussion of the brain, and as usual, his recovery will be slow.

The proprietor of the horse states that it is a very gentle animal, and during the past four years he has driven it in the city, and has never had an accident. The buggy is a horse-drawn one, and only short being broken, the axle bent, and the frame somewhat twisted.

The two travellers are well known in Victoria and Vancouver. Mr. McCormack is representative of Kellogg & Co., and is now in Vancouver, and some time was travelling for the local firm of J. Pier & Co. Mr. Richardson represents the firm of G. Allan & Co., and is a shoe manufacturer, of Vancouver. It is possible McCormack will be removed to the Jubilee Hospital to-morrow. The sad intelligence has been telegraphed to their respective wives.

Along the Waterfront.

The talk of another transpacific line of steamers is still current on the Sound. The latest company credited with the intention of establishing an Oriental line is the Empire Transportation Company, owning the steamers Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio and Connecticut, now being used by the United States government as transports. The company have not yet definitely decided upon the route, but they have determined to remain on the coast with their vessels and run to the Orient or Australia, the former business being the more profitable. The company has just returned to the Sound from a visit to the east, and "We have not decided what to do with our vessels; but this has been decided. Our vessels are to remain on the Pacific; our ships are too large to justify our engaging in a coasting trade; they will not remain here after a few months, and will be sent for transport to other parts of the world. The statements there remains but one result, and that will be that the four steamers will be placed on some line across the Pacific, and will be engaged in the coasting trade, and will be sent for transport to other parts of the world. They may be kept in service to Manila for the remainder of the year, or they may be returned to their owners within two or three months. And until that time the company is not in a position to make any definite arrangements. The service to St. Michael will be resumed as soon as the waters of Behring Sea are navigable. If one of the ships is not released by that time, the company will charter or buy another. This will be operated from Seattle during the open season in connection with the four steamers plying between St. Michael and Dawson. The Alaskan service will be somewhat extended by the Empire people this year, by the addition of four steel barges, which were built last year, and which will be towed to the north by the spring by the towboat Empire. Mr. Brode has under construction a tug that will be used exclusively at the St. Michael harbor, and will also be taken to the Yukon country this spring.

A Vancouver correspondent says: There promises to be lively times on the Yukon river this year when the ice breaks up and navigation is resumed. Many of the boats running to Dawson have been manned by Americans. In the future those plying in Canadian waters will have to have a British skipper and British engineers. Inspector Russell, of this city, who went North last year, was not in getting through to Dawson, and he had to inspect the steamers just where and when he could. This year things will be different. He will leave here early in May and be on the river in good time to inspect all steamers. It is expected he will give orders to all vessels plying in Canadian waters

Provincial News

NEW WESTMINSTER.

—Es-Major J. Hilbert, of N. in the city, representing the Association of Foresters, and expects to a Court of Foresters in this city meeting with good success.

—The work of laying the new switch at Beebe street is just completed, and when finished will connect to its use new and old freight-shed just erected at the corner of Beebe and Columbia streets.

—At a meeting in the main school boys' school, the city and district on Tuesday evening on Teachers' Institute. Mr. Clark, president; Messrs. Rogers, secretary; Messrs. McDougall and McArthur, and Messrs. Hall members of the committee of management.

—The government snag boat S. doing good work along the river, and it is expected that the dangerous part of the late fire.

—A man by the name of Lu working on the new Bank of B. Columbia building on Wellington street, has been killed by a fall of about twelve feet. He was on a scaffold, when examination it was found that no bones were broken, but that the man was killed by a fall of about twelve feet.

—It is announced that Mr. D. the superintendent of the local and local systems of the B. C. Railway Company, has been promoted to general superintendent, at Vancouver city system. This title increase to Mr. Shiles's necessities transferring his quarters to the Terminal City. On Mr. Shiles's departure for Vancouver the vacancy in the local office will be filled by the promotion of Mr. Sloan. The company has also new office, that of freight clerk, Vancouver terminus of the B. C. Railway Company, has been promoted to the position of general manager, Mr. J. A. Young, another West-Columbian.

A Fiendish Revenge

Sailors Thought to Have Kidnapped Thir Captain's Son.

The Sea King's Master Loses His Child in a Mysterious Manner.

Capt. Wallis, of the bark Sea King, which is lying at Chemainus loading lumber for Sydney, N. S. W., for which part she will sail on Wednesday, is in the city looking for his five-year-old son, who was lost from his father's ship on Saturday. It was at first thought that the unfortunate child had fallen from the gangplank running between the Sea King and the Hawaiian Islands, which is lying alongside the Sea King, or between his father's ship and the Orion, which lies moored to her other side. A thorough search was made about the vicinity of the lumbering tugs, and no trace was found of the missing child.

This morning the bereaved father received a telegram from Chemainus, which brings out a startling and sensational side to the affair. The boy, according to the telegram, is reported to have been seen by a fisherman near Chemainus in company with three tramps. The tramps were in all probability sailors, several of whom deserted from the Sea King about a week ago rowing away from Capt. Wallis and a doctor. It is thought by some of those interested that the deserters have stolen Captain Wallis' son as a means of wreaking their promised vengeance.

There were four deserters, an American and three foreigners, "some kind of Dutchmen," the captain says, who were shipped at San Francisco. Their grievance laws caused, Capt. Wallis said, on account of his refusal to send them to the hospital when they were shamming illness. The four men lay in their bunks for weeks refusing to turn and complain of illness, and when port was reached they asked to be sent to the marine hospital, so their plan being to get away from the ship. Capt. Wallis called in a doctor, who pronounced them in good health, and the captain refused to send them to the hospital. Seeing that the captain was determined to keep them the quartette deserted at Chemainus vowing when they left, according to their shipmates, "to make it bloom hot for the captain and the doctor."

The people of Chemainus and others believe that the seamen had kidnapped the child "to make it hot for the captain." Capt. Wallis, however, does not give credence to this theory. Sailors, he said, might be bad enough to burn a ship, scuttle her or commit barratry, but he does not think that there are men among the deck water sailors low enough to kidnap a child. He is of the opinion that his child has been drowned. In the meantime the sorrowing father, aided by the provincial police, is hunting high and low in the hope that he may still find his son alive. Mrs. Wallis is in town with the captain. She will return to her home in San Francisco on Wednesday, when the captain will sail from Chemainus.

Rev. E. Edwards, pastor of the English Baptist Church at Minersville, Pa., when suffering with rheumatism was advised to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. He says: "A few applications of this ointment proved of great service to me. It subdued the inflammation and relieved the pain. Should any sufferer profit by Chamberlain's Pain Balm a trial will please me."

For sale by Langley & Henderson Bros., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

W. F. Bullen, of the Esquimalt, northward, returned on Saturday night from Vancouver.

Along the Waterfront.

The tug Pioneer has left for Juneau to tow the steamer Dirigo to the Sound. Mr. Peabody, manager of the company, owning the Dirigo, says: "This will be a tall, an expense of fully \$1,000," said he, "but we are fortunate that the ship was not a total loss. As soon as the Dirigo arrives here the market for services of what repairs are needed will be made as speedily as possible. We don't believe, from the information at hand, that the boat will be laid up for over a month." The Dirigo is only a year old, having been built at Grays harbor, a year ago last January. Her machinery was placed in her by the Fulton Iron Works of San Francisco, and her first voyage was made to Skagway. About four months ago she was chartered to the Alaska Steamship Company, and was then chartered and chartered, so that the general appearance of the vessel is a new one, and she is in excellent condition. The vessel was chartered to the Alaska Steamship Company, and was then chartered and chartered, so that the general appearance of the vessel is a new one, and she is in excellent condition.

The fishing steamer Edith has returned from the northern fishing grounds with 75,000 pounds of halibut, valued at \$3,000. The Tacoma Ledger says: Halibut dealers are much pleased over the outlook for the year. The fish are being rapidly introduced in the East. Until last summer, none were sold in the inland states, but there has been a great change. The country lying west of the Mississippi is still nonfish-eating, but is considered sure to fall in line soon. There is bitter rivalry between Tacoma fishing steamer and fish-boat operators from Victoria by the New England Fish Company. Each is dependent on the winter trade, for there is as yet little demand for halibut in summer from the Atlantic states. It is impossible to fish the Alaskan coast in summer, and for this reason the Alaskan grounds are visited only as soon as the Westermen learn to fish halibut, there will be plenty of sale for all the fish that can be caught in winter. It is a paying business when a small steamer like the Edith can catch 75,000 worth in a day, and the two companies watch each other jealously.

Civil Engineer Henry Parker, of Vancouver, B. C., and Capt. Smith, who have submitted bids for raising the sunken British ship Andromeda from Chemainus bay, have returned from Tacoma disgusted, and they may find it necessary to go to Liverpool to consult with the owners and the insurance companies. They find it difficult to get a satisfactory rate to make much headway here. "This vessel is thirty-five fathoms draft," said Mr. Parker, "but I am confident that we can do the work. Last night we received word from the steamer at Chemainus that another bid, which has been done. A half dozen or more parties in Tacoma have made propositions to raise the vessel, but I don't think that all of them are bona fide. Some of them I believe are offered to embarrass us. In raising the vessel we would use electric lights at this depth of 210 feet, and the whole bottom of the bay surrounding the wreck would be illuminated."

Steamer Humboldt, which arrived from Lyan canal this morning, brought news of the death of Capt. Albert Wallace, of the bark Sea King, loading lumber at Chemainus for Sydney, which was drowned last Saturday evening. How the sad occurrence took place is not definitely known. Captain and Mrs. Wallace, who are stopping at the Hotel Victoria, said to a representative of the Times: "We were still in the boat when we last seen playing with a sail on the board the Orion, lying alongside the Sea King. The two boats are connected by a plank, and in crossing from one boat to the other it is supposed our little boy fell into the water. He was quite 50 feet of water beneath the bark there is little hope of our recovering the body until it floats to the surface."

The friends and acquaintances of Captain and Mrs. Wallace extend to them their sincere sympathy in their bereavement. Mrs. Wallace and her little baby girl leave for San Francisco today.

SAD FATALITY.

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LAW INTELLIGENCE.

Mr. Justice Martin sat in the Supreme Court Chamber this morning. In E. & N. Railway Co. v. New Vancouver Coal Co., the defendants applied for a commission to take the evidence of their secretary and others in England. The hearing was enlarged for further evidence and material. Deane, C. O. Harris et al. v. Summers for judgment, under order xiv. This was not fully heard.

Styler v. Harris, Summons for judgment, order xiv, judgment granted for \$2,118 and costs.

Mr. Justice Irving is the only Supreme Court Judge in the city today. Mr. Justice Walker has gone to Kamloops to take the Martin v. Sumner election case and the other judges are in Vancouver for the Full Court sittings. In chambers this morning Mr. Justice Irving made an order, E. & N. Ry. Co. v. New Vancouver Coal Co., for a commission to issue to London, England, to take the evidence of some of the officers of the defendant company. The commission is returnable on 1st June, and in the meantime the trial is adjourned.

Should the British ship Dominion, Capt. Jones, ever succeed in reaching Victoria that craft will have made a record for long passage between the Hawaiian Islands and the Ronds. The Dominion left Honolulu 59 days ago, and has never been spoken since she started. She is a vessel of 2328 tons and is rated A1 at Lloyd's. In the past month terrific storms have prevailed off the coast, and while few ordinary passages have been made, vessels which left thirty days after the Dominion have arrived on the Sound in safety.

Steamer Boscowitz was out for a trial trip on Saturday afternoon with Captain Bisset and the following officers in command: Chief officer, M. Grogan; chief engineer, George McGregory; late of the steamer Sado; and first assistant engineer, J. Richie. The Boscowitz will re-enter the northern service on Friday, when she will leave for Nana and Way ports. She will make two trips a month. The Boscowitz has been practically rebuilt since she was brought down from the rocks near Kaituma, where she was stranded some months ago. She has

been repaired and painted and new cabins have been built, giving first class accommodation to travellers.

The Steamship Victoria, of the North Pacific, received a new register yesterday and now sails under the flag of the North America Mail & Steamship Company. The Northern Pacific Steamship Company went out of existence last local week, the extension of the Victoria to the property Charles Stewart and J. P. Pritchard. Her presence in port is merely the occasion for the formal transfer from these gentlemen to the new company. She is chartered to Dominion & Company, who operate the line.

The Pacific Coast Company are considering the summer excursion business to Alaska. It is not expected that Queen's Bay will be visited, and it is to be conducted by the Cottam, which is on the present mail route, calling at Glacier Bay, a favorite point for tourists. The excursion season will begin with the sailing of the Cottam on May 30th. The rates for round-trip tickets are quoted at \$84 from San Francisco and \$60 from the Sound.

According to late advices from Juneau the Dirigo is in a bad way. She is being hoisted for temporary repairs, sufficient to enable her to be towed to the Sound, to be a veritable wreck. Work of holes and strained timbers and the pumps were kept continually busy to keep the water down.

Which Captain Wallis' son was kidnapped by sailors, the shipping past of Robert Ward & Co., will resign this week. He will resign his position as manager in the Junction shipping office in the Junction shipping office, and act as manager and agent for the steamer Boscowitz and other vessels.

Steamer Untilla arrived about midnight from Victoria. She brought 348 passengers, of whom 33 departed here. There were 14 on board for Alaska ports. The Untilla had 100 tons of general merchandise for Victoria merchants.

The officers of No. 1 Company decided to present a prize for annually between the four seed companies, and to be awarded in rotation showing the greatest effort the various subjects such as arm and big gun drills, attendants, etc. The prize is known as the Competition Shield.

A continuance of the poor weather, which is predicted, may be for the builders. The arrival of tons of corrugated iron, too, will continue to finish roofers and building along the water front. The tramway company is making improvements along the line. Westminister branch, one very beautiful view of the city, is being made along the line, making possible for the recurrence of the cause a few months ago, by blowing several large trees from the track, and making a serious loss damage to the company.

The tug Stranger and a large taking the place of the ferry ferry, the ferry being beached by the water.

As Westminister's very credit was wiped out by the first started, says the Columbian, that start a "zoo" at Queen's Park. This morning the local police, in connection with the present city of a young deer, probably year old, which was captured coast by a steamer's crew, at Chemainus. The deer is being placed for keeping such animals in the vicinity of the lumbering tugs, and in the waters around the sailing ships, but no trace was found of the missing child.

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