Decision is Reserved

Extradition Case Against George D. Collins Concluded Yesterday Afternoon.

Remanded Until Saturday When Judge is Expected to Render his Judgment.

Interesting Concluding Arguments of the Counsel on Both Sides.

(From Friday's Daily.)

JUDGE LAMPMAN will state on Saturday morning whether George D. Collins of San Francisco will be surrendered for extradition to California or not. The case was closed yesterday, when arguments of counsel took place; nothing new remains but the decision of Judge Lampman. Yesterday morning Mr. W. J. Taylor, K. C., joined the defence.

Mr. H. D. Helmcken, K. C., first addressed the court, reviewing the evidence. He said that in 1888 Collins had made a contract marriage with Agnes M. Newman, which was then valid. She having insisted upon a religious ceremony some years later, Collins consented, though unnecessarily, and the prosecution sought to show that in the ceremony accused married her sister Charlotta instead, and a certificate was brought to support this. Collins was known to tradespeople and associates as the husband of Agnes, who was much older that Charlotte, and it was unreasonable to believe that a blunder had been committed. Collins would have been guilty of bigamy if such a marriage had taken place in 1890, and would not be here today. He had lived with Agnes as his wife, subsequently allowing her to have members of her family live in his house, permitting them to share his bounty. Agnes died in 1901, and was publicly buried, her father being present and the name-plate on the coffin showing she was the wife of Collins. Charlotte Newman was present, and never sought to set up such a claim as was years afterward made to discredit Collins. Collins was charged with bigamy on May 13 at San Francisco, and proceedings for maintenance were begun by Charlotta Collins on May 26. On July 30 Collins made an affidavit in his answer to plaintiff's complaint, and the notary had admitted the oath to the affidavit was improperly taken. His clerk, Moore, had accompanied him to the notary's office and was ordered to place the document on Collins' desk, but disregarding instructions, the clerk had made other use of the answer which was filed in court. The court had no jurisdiction to try the case, as it had not been shown, as it must be, that desertion existed for a year. True, Collins had demurred and the demurrer was overruled.

Mr. Helmcken attacked the proceeding held on June 30, which being held at night was illegal, and Collins was justified in paying no attention. What his client had done he was justified in doing, and in making the affidavit in answer to the charge of Charlotta Collins, so-called, he had stated what was true; therefore he could not be charged with perjury. To have a charge of perjury there must be a false oath, knowingly and wilfully taken, which there was not in this case. Collins had told the simple truth. As to the certificate of marriage, there was no evidence it was in the handwriting of Father Cendly, or that Father Conolly was dead, as Mr. Higgins had stated. It devolved upon the prosecution to bring him here. Why had they not brought Charlotta Collins? Of course depositions could be submitted, but why was not this woman brought and submitted to cross-examination, as other witnesses had been. In her absence the most favorable construction for his client must be placed upon it. There were cases, one in local courts, where wrongful names had been written in certificates, but this did not invalidate the marriage. Notwithstanding this certificate produced by prosecution, Collins had married Agnes M. Newman and none other. He quoted authorities to show that where the alleged offence was not a crime in the country which harbored an accused, although it might be in the demanding country; and accused should be released. He was entitled to British protection. Notwithstanding the demands of another state, he must be tried on legal evidence. He held the prosecution had failed, for, far from committing perjury, accused had done what the law allowed him to do. He had been falsely charged and had denied the charge.

W. J. Taylor, K. C., followed Mr. Helmcken. He pointed out that there was no dispute as to the contract marriage between accused and Agnes Collins, though there was a dispute as to which of the sisters Collins had married at the church. If the marriage was valid, the ceremony was also valid; if with Charlotta it would not put the accused in the position of a perjurer in denying the marriage, and should be dismissed. It was alleged he had taken an affidavit before a notary, but the facts as shown would not constitute the taking of an oath in British Columbia. Whether it would become perjury in California did not matter, as unless the same set of facts would constitute perjury in Canada accused must be discharged. It must be proven that the offence charged was one which would constitute a crime in Canada. He quoted the Ashburton treaty and the extradition act in support of this. As to the oath to be legal it must be administered by a competent officer, and must have been duly administered. California may, as has been shown, permit irregularities, but Canada did not dispense with the administration of an oath when a person made an affidavit. In going before Notary Henry with a document already signed, and saying, "I swear to that," Collins had not taken an oath. He must touch the Scriptures before an oath could be taken. There was a difference between an oath and an affirmation, but the affidavit in question stated it was sworn to.

Mr. Taylor went into the history of the administration of oaths, and showed how the custom of kissing the Bible, which had no warrant in law, had arisen. The law was that a man must lay hands upon the Scriptures, and the habit had crept in of kissing the book. This was dying out, its greatest blow being the affirmations act. He stated that often American newspapers published what purported to be affidavits as to circulation. It would be ridiculous to suppose prosecution could follow if the facts were false, as such an affidavit was not required or permitted by law. It was, he understood, in some of the United States, but not in Canada. Perjury could not be assigned unless there was an oath, and that the oath was permitted or required. If the same affidavit as made by Collins was made in a similar proceeding in Canada it would be impertinent, much less permitted or required.

Judge Lampman said it must be assumed that the practice of the Superior court of San Francisco was the same as here.

Mr. Taylor quoted cases where assused parties had been discharged in extradition proceedings on it being shown that the offence alleged in the demanding country was not an offence within the law of the harboring country, notably of a fugitive from Iowa, who was alleged to have made spurious coins, and was charged with forgery. The offence did not constitute the crime of forgery in Ontario, whatever other crime it may have been, and the accused was dismissed. It did not matter what set of facts became perjury in California; the crime must also be one which would make the accused liable to punishment in Canada. The facts as shown could never amount to perjury in British Columbia. There had never been such a principle set forth that perjury could exist without a false oath. If a solicitor in British Columbia sent a document already signed to another solicitor to be sworn as this affidavit had been, perjury could be assigned, although a severe reflection would be made upon a notary thus prostituting his office. A man could not swear by proxy in Canada, whatever peculiar sections the Californian code might have. And then, there was no dispute as to the first marriage, the contract marriage with Agnes Collins. Whichever of the sisters was married in the second ceremony, Agnes or Charlotta, made no difference. It did not constitute a marriage, and in denying marriage with Charlotta Newman Collins did not commit perjury.

Mr. Higgins, for the prosecution, said that the court had jurisdiction of the maintenance action in connection with which the accused had committed perjury. Judge Grahame had so held, and Mr. Whiting had given evidence to that effect. He quoted cases bearing upon the irregular making of an oath, showing accused's assent was to the effect of taking an oath. It was shown that the oath Collins had made was valid and binding. He reviewed the evidence as to accused's marriage with Charlotta Collins and the false oath he made in denying that marriage, and said that in an extradition proceedings, in differentiation from the usual proceeding, the advantage of any doubt was given in favor of committal, and technicalities were not given the same value. It was not a trial, but a proceeding to decide whether the accused should be given up to trial. At its best the defence only raised a conflict and His Honor would, accordingly, be bound to commit.

The evidence of the prosecution was overwhelming, and against it there was only the evidence of accused. He swears he did not marry Charlotta Eugenie Collins. That evidence was rebutted by Charlotta Collins, who had three children as an issue of that marriage, her sister Florence, her brother William, Thomas Curran; and the record on file clearly proves the marriage. Accused says he went to the clerk's office with James Mulcahey to secure the license, and the names were transposed; yet the age of Charlotta Collins was inserted. Accused says Mulcahey is dead, as are all others he states were witnesses to his overt act. The marriage license is endorsed by a priest of the Roman Catholic church that he married G. D. Collins and Charlotta Eugenie Collins. Who ever heard of a Roman Catholic priest making a mistake and marrying the wrong person? J. J. Groom had sworn that the endorsement of the names George D. Collins and Charlotta Collins on the back of the certificate was in the handwriting of accused. Such documents were to be taken as evidence, unless disproved. What did Collins do to disprove them? He told a story alleging it was all one grand mistake, that the priest, Danforth the clerk, Mulcahey, and all witnesses made a mistake, but he produced nothing to show this, and did nothing more than villify anyone who gave evidence to the contrary. They were "drunken bums" and "conspirators."

Why didn't accused remain to fight the case at San Francisco? He hadn't manhood or courage to face the prosecution, the conspiracy, he called it. He says he had a contract marriage with Agnes Newman, before two witnesses, who are dead. Anyone he alleges could have proved a material fact is usually dead. It is strange that he did not produce the contract, which he says he gave to Agnes Newman. He had her personal papers, even the bankbook of the poor woman which showed she had a few savings in the Hibernian bank. He got that money from the bank by virtue of an assignment from Agnes Newman, not Agnes Collins. He admits anything the prosecution can produce, but promptly denies anything that he knows cannot be produced. The evidence was abundant against him, and there is no witness to the ceremony at the church who says Collins told him he was going to remarry, nor has accused produced a witness, a scrap of paper, or letter, to show Agnes Newman was ever known as Agnes Collins. There was no evidence of that. It would have been easy to have secured certificates from doctors who attended her and her children, but none were forthcoming, and the witnesses were not in this co-called conspiracy. The evidence of the prosecution was perfect, and against it there was the evidence alone and unsupported of the accused, who is unworthy of the slightest belief.

Not only has the accused contradicted evidence given by reliable witnesses, but that of his own attorney, Meyer, his own clerk, Moore; and he contradicted the records of the court. It was for the jury to decide who was lying. Either everybody who had given evidence had committed perjury or the accused had, and a judge could never believe the evidence of such as accused. What was his character according to his own admission? He had been charged with fixing up a record by a United States circuit judge, disbarment proceedings were pending against him, he had been charged with wrong-doing by the bank, and was charged with bigamy and perjury. Moreover he is guilty of neglecting his children, who are unprovided for by him. How was the uncorroborated evidence of such a man to be believed? How had he met the charges? As does every criminal, he stated he was the victim of a conspiracy, and charged four Superior court judges and a Circuit court judge with conspiring against him; bankers and barrists the press of California, all were against him not because he was a criminal, he said, but because in his practice he had secured freedom for some criminals. The conspiracy charge was absurd. Rutier, the Australian murderer; Durrant, the San Francisco murderer; and Whittaker Wright were all victims of conspiracies, they said, and in any jail the criminals met will ever say they are victims of conspiracies. Such a statement was absurd and unworthy of belief. It was not the newspapers who asked for his extradition, but the state of California and the President of the United States.

Judge Lampman announced he would reserve his decision, and remanded the case until Saturday, when a decision will probably be given.

Plunged Into An Opened Draw

Engine and Three Crowded Cars Sink in 25 Feet of Water.

Exact Number of Drowned in Accident in Virginia Not Known.

NORFOLK, W. Va., Aug. 17.—A report just received here says that an excursion train over the Atlantic coast line from Kingston, N. C., bound for Norfolk, shot through an open draw near Bruce's station in Norfolk county, about seven miles from Portsmouth, Va., and about ninety miles from Norfolk. The train was bringing some 500 persons from Kingston and intermediate points to Norfolk for a stay of today and tomorrow. The first report of the wreck is that a draw over the western branch of the Elizabeth river was opened for a tug to pass through, and the excursion train, engine and one coach went overboard into 25 feet of water. Every physician in the city of Portsmouth has been summoned to the scene. Many people are reported killed and injured, but authoritative details are yet missing.

It is now known that the engine and three coaches went through the draw. Supt. Wooten with two tugs and all the physicians and nurses available have left here for the scene of the wreck. Just how many people are killed and wounded is not yet known, but it is believed the list will be large. The scene of the wreck is some distance through the country, and the means of communication is not good. Many persons are believed to have been drowned in the cars.

NORWEGIAN REFERENDUM.

Large Majority in Favor of Dissolution of the Union.

Christiania, Aug. 17.—Complete returns from last Sunday's referendum on the question of the separation of Norway from Sweden show that 686,200 votes were cast for dissolution and 184,000 against. The size of the vote is very gratifying to the leaders of the storthing and has aroused intense interest. At the last general election for members of the storthing only 236,641 votes were cast.

TAKE SIDNEY SAWMILL.

A group of Victoria business men a few days ago formed a company and acquired the sawmill plant at Sidney from the Vancouver Island Lumber Company, Ltd. To meet the present demand for lumber the mill was immediately placed in operation and is now running full time.

The gentlemen comprising the new syndicate are said to have excellent financial backing and have all plans made for placing the industry on a firm and sound basis. They are now applying for articles of incorporation.

The Sidney mill, as a business proposition, has had a somewhat chequered career, it having been only operated intermittently since its erection some eight years ago. The plant is said to be an up-to-date one.

Residents of Sidney are much pleased at the resumption of work on the enterprise. It is understood that the force of men employed will be considerably increased and additions made to the plant.

TO DIVIDE WITH DEPOSITORS.

New Savings Bank in Chicago Inaugurates Radical Departure.

Chicago, Aug. 17.—The new Mutual Trust and Savings Bank that is being organized in Chicago will probably begin operations about September 1. The capital of $300,000 has all been subscribed. The new bank proposes to follow a radical departure from existing methods of operating savings banks in Chicago. It is proposed to pay depositors 3 per cent. interest on their deposits and then pay stockholders 3 per cent. dividends on their shares. All profits over this are to be divided equally between the depositors and stockholders.

Peace Envoys Reach Impasse

Decide to Defer Consideration of More Important Points.

Suzeraintv Over Sakhalien May Be One of Proposed Compromises.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 17.—The Associated Press learns at midnight that during the conference the Japanese plenipotentiaries several times manifested a sort of desire to couple the consideration of the disputed points. This might indicate a willingness to bargain at the end. The Russians watched these moves with great interest, waiting for their adversaries to press them, but without showing their hands. Mr. Sato is quoted as saying that the Japanese will tomorrow propose again taking up the articles which have been passed over. If that is the case the Japanese may have decided to openly propose joint consideration.

The opening discussion developed an absolute impasse, both sides were obdurate; neither would budge or yield an inch. An agreement being found to be impossible the plenipotentiaries decided to spread upon the record their respective views and proceed to consideration of article 10, which provides for the surrender to Japan of the Russian warships interned in Far Eastern waters. This article was being debated when recess until 3 o'clock was taken.

It can be stated with almost absolute positiveness that the two remaining articles are in the following order: Article 11, limitation of naval forces in the Far East; article 12, the grant of the fishing rights in the Russian littoral from Vladivostok to the Behring sea.

Probable Compromise.

The natural line of compromise on the two main issues between the peace plenipotentiaries comes out more and more clearly. Russia to yield Sakhalien to the suzerainty of Japan upon Japan's pledge not to fortify the island or use it for military or strategic purposes, and to allow equal fishing and commercial opportunities to the citizens of both countries and Japan to forego remuneration for "the cost of the war." And to take instead such incidental monetary compensation as she will obtain from the transfer of the Liao-tung and Port Arthur, lease the Chinese Eastern railroad and the payment for the maintenance of the 100,000 Russian prisoners. Such an arrangement regarding Sakhalien might solve the problem so far as article five is concerned. The Russians, while admitting that the island is of little value to them commercially or from a military standpoint, with Japan controlling the entrance to the Sea of Japan, nevertheless have most strenuously that its military possession by Japan would constitute constant threat against their maritime provinces. M. Witte is yielding point after point to Japan in order to strengthen his position at the end, and when he makes his final stand, if Baron Komura refuses to yield, to be able to say it was Japan's and not Russia's uncompromising attitude which caused the rupture. The Russians claim Russia has given up every contention which lay at the root of the quarrel between the two countries.

Paris, Aug. 17.—Notwithstanding official reticence regarding the exercise of mediatory influences for peace by neutral powers, it is the general impression in well-informed quarters here that pressure is being brought to bear both directly and indirectly on the plenipotentiaries and in Tokio and St. Petersburg, and the rapidity of the negotiations so far is looked upon as the result of these influences.

Pessimistic advices emanating from other capitals are regarded as unwarranted, and especially in financial circles, where it is the general view that the Portsmouth conference will be crowned with success.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

Baseball Matters Rearranged at Bellingham.

Bellingham, Aug. 17.—The closed switch, which has been settling over local baseball affairs, lifted slightly today, when $500 was subscribed toward back salaries owed the local team, and the game with Spokane was pulled off according to schedule. Last night the directors of the league held a long and stormy session, which resulted in the resignation of Manager Kerby Drennon and the election of Fred Clark, one of the team, to fill his place. The back salaries, or at least a part of the amount, were promised the team by 11 o'clock this morning, but it was not until 2 o'clock that $500 had been secured. This is said to be about half the amount due the team.

Portland, Aug. 17.—Today's session of the trans-Mississippi commercial congress listened to a number of speeches by men of prominence. An untoward incident which occurred at about 1 o'clock was the action of the congress on the speeches of Messrs. P. J. Von Lobensels and Benjamin Wright of San Francisco.

British News By Cable

The London Standard Eulogizes Canada on Reception of Cruiser Squadron.

Writer in the World Offers Colonials Some Sarcastic Advice.

Winnipegger Attacks Free Grants of Homesteads to All Immigrants.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—Commenting on the reception to the second cruiser squadron at Quebec, the Standard takes occasion to eulogize Canadians, both as members of the nation and of the empire. It thinks it especially gratifying, though not surprising, that the French inhabitants are not the least eager in claiming a share of the common duty. The Standard considers Canada well able to defend herself against any probable enemy.

According to the Times' commercial supplement Canada is placing satisfactory orders with Huddersfield for fine grade worsteds, Leeds for ready-made clothing and tweeds. Linen orders for Belfast are also improving.

The Chronicle sees one of the old vexed questions of Anglo-French diplomacy solved in the Newfoundland arbitration award.

To get on with an Englishman, says a writer in the World, the colonial should insult him. The Englishman will kowtow and be extremely civil if the colonial treats him with firm, energetic insolence. In England insolence and power are pretty nearly synonymous. If the colonial is sufficiently and convincingly rude, an Englishman will take him for a robber baron or rich foreign middleman or perhaps a Jew banker, for the average Englishman cannot help his feudalism; he must kowtow or snub. He is convinced that frank, fraternal equality is a business ruse of the Americans.

The Westminster Gazette, in a recent issue says that although Goldwin Smith is opposed to the establishment of an Irish parliament, it must be remembered that he was the first English historian of eminence to denounce the methods by which parliament was destroyed. In his book entitled "The Empire" he declared that Pitt sank knee deep in pollution in order to carry the union.

R. Schofhampton, of Winnipeg, in an article in the Monthly Review, attacks the Canadian government's present system of granting free homesteads, and says that the lands belong to the people, for whom the government is but trustee, and should be dealt with on business principles, a small price per acre. This would yield an enormous income, which would wipe out the national debt and reduce taxation from emigration funds. The fact that the United States had a free homestead system was no justification for Canada to adopt it. The writer advocates the "Wakefield" system of a minimum charge of $5 per acre, or $8, for the present free homestead of 160 acres, to be paid "and upwards," and quotes figures to show the extent and value. He says that New Zealand, under the Wakefield system, was able to pay all the expenses of bringing capable agricultural families from Europe, and so could Canada, and not, as now, get many thousands of useless emigrants, as proceeds show that the cost of running the Canadian immigration department since 1868 totalled $9,000,000. In 1903 alone the cost was over $640,000.

KOREANS ACCUSE JAPAN.

Contents of Memorial to President Roosevelt Made Public.

Ashbury Park, N. J., Aug. 17.—The two Koreans, Syngman Rhee of Seoul and Rev. P. G. Yoon of Hawai, who presented President Roosevelt with a memorial at Oyster Bay in behalf of the Koreans, and who were unofficially informed by the President that their suit should be presented to the Korean legation at Washington, today made public the details of this memorial. They are stopping in this city. The petition says that the Koreans made a treaty with the Japanese for defensive purposes and when Korea was opened to the Japanese armies, Japan in appreciation was to introduce reforms in governmental administration along the lines of the modern civilization of Europe and Japan was also to advise and counsel the Korean people in a friendly manner. But to the Koreans' disappointment and regret, the petition says, the Japanese government has done nothing towards an improvement of the Koreans.

On the contrary, it is recited in the memorial, Japan turned loose several hundred rough and desperate men in the country. The memorial says the United States has many interests in Korea, industrial, commercial and educational, and that a clause of the treaty between the United States and Korea gives the Koreans a claim on the United States for assistance. The memorial says they appreciate the fact that during the conference between the peace envoys the President might not care to make suggestions to either party, but they ask him to do all in his power for the Korean people. The committee will make another effort to have an audience with President Roosevelt on the subject. The Korean minister at Washington is said to have refused to have anything to do with the memorial.

RUSSIA'S NEW LOAN.

Czar Authorizes Borrowing of One Hundred Million Dollars.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 17.—An imperial ukase was issued today, formally authorising the issuance of the new internal loan of $100,000,000 at 5 per cent.

AN ALLEGED CRISIS.

Berlin, Aug. 17.—According to a report high circles in the government Prince Von Buelow, the imperial chancellor, who yesterday left Norderney, where he was spending his vacation, for Berlin, went today to the Castle of Wilhelmshohe to see Emperor William. Dr. Von Muehlberg, under secretary of the foreign office, who left Berlin for a vacation of several weeks, was suddenly recalled to join the chancellor at Wilhelmshoeh.

The reason for these movements is so far only the subject of conjecture, but it is known that the relations between Great Britain and Germany have recently been on the point of breaking to an extent beyond the knowledge of the public.

The crisis which has apparently has not been learned, but a serious situation existed, and, indeed, it is understood, it has not yet been dissipated. The British government appears to hold the conviction that the German Emperor is seeking to form a European combination against Great Britain.

START STOVE WORKS.

Negotiations were concluded yesterday for the transfer of the stove works department of the Albion Iron Works Co., Ltd., to a local syndicate, which, as soon as the necessary details are arranged, will assume immediate control of the plant.

The new company, which will be incorporated at once, is made up of men prominent in local enterprises, and as their financial status is of the best there is an assurance that they will have ample capital at their disposal for placing the industry on an efficient working basis.

When it became known around the streets yesterday that the transfer of interests had occurred a feeling of elation was manifested amongst the business men, as it was interpreted as indicating a revival in no small degree of the era of activity which characterized the operations in former years of the pioneer iron works of the northern Pacific coast.

It is understood that the existing plant will be enlarged, brought thoroughly up to date, and an active policy pursued in the development of the industry.

OUTBREAK IN COURLAND.

Cossacks Being Sent to Crush the Rebellion.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 17.—The peasants of the province of Courland are in open rebellion. They have sacked 22 municipal buildings, destroyed all of the official documents, including the conscription list, and seized all the state money. Bands of peasants have invaded many of the estates of the province, where three land owners have been killed, the authorities are greatly wrought up over the news of the outbreak in Courland province, and the government has given orders that the Cossacks be rushed to the province and the insurrection be suppressed with an iron hand.

Pay Visit to Wonderful Cave

American Tourists Tell of the Marvelous Cavern at Ross Peak.

A New Mecca for Sightseers in the Great Mountainous Country.

The distinguished honor of being the first ladies to visit the now famous Deutschman cave at Ross peak falls to the lot of two American tourists, Mrs. Chas. Schaffer and Miss Vaux, of Philadelphia, Penn., who were spending a few days sight-seeing at the Glacier last weeks, says the Revelstoke Herald. Hearing of the recent wonderful discovery in that vicinity they decided to investigate it for themselves. The Herald is indebted to Mrs. Chas. Schaffer for the following interesting account of their trip:

"The new cave discovered so recently at Ross peak, and at present taking the name of the discoverer, Mr. Chas. Deutschman, has been described by discoverer, reporter, explorer—all men.

"On July 31st a different phase of investigation was made, and the cave was explored for the first time by two women. Having spent a number of years in the Canadian Rockies, we had the one faint idea of the proper way to gown for so rough a trip as is reported to be, and as I hope this little description will reach those who would venture, if they but knew the delights and pleasures of the exploration, a hint as to the same might not be amiss.

"Wear something that water, mud, stones and briars will not spoil or tear, an easy mind helps one over many hard places. Wear a good stout pair of boots well greased, with a few hob nails to avoid slipping. Either boots to the knees, or puttees to protect the leg are most advisable. Last of all leave skirts behind and use a pair of stout bloomers. A skirt in the case is an impossibility and the walk through the valley and up the steep slopes loses one-half the fatigue with the freedom thus obtained.

"After an early rising on a beautiful morning, we found ourselves at Ross peak tank at 7.30. There we were met by Mr. Deutschman, who looked fully prepared to assist the Swiss guide, Edward Fenz, to carry into the unexplored region one large 8x10 camera, one small 4x5 camera, one vasculum for gathering in any rare plants and a few—a very few—toilet articles. Provisions and blankets were left behind at the suggestion of our new guide, and the hospitality shown us later proved him quite right—we needed no extras. We had heard so much of the difficulties of the trail that even Miss Vaux, who has done a good deal of fine work in these mountains, took an extra breath as we set forth.

"Capt. Sayse, R. N., has been paying a brief visit to Victoria, staying at the King Edward hotel. After retiring from the navy Capt. Sayse, before leaving England, was in command of the naval artillery volunteers until the date of disbanding the corps. He is at present traveling for pleasure, an cheft by the City of Puebla for San Francisco. After making a tour of California he purposes proceeding through Mexico.

"Through a magnificent cedar forest our trail wound its graceful way for about half a mile, when we emerged on to a superb green slope where the grasses almost swept our faces in their rich growth.

"Winding along on an easy slope, through flower gardens and alder bushes, we still looked fearsomely for the "hard" trail—it never came. Not but that it was a real trail, with stones and steep slopes to make one pant and grow weary, of, with desires growing to "get there," but of real difficulties there were none, and one picture after another burst upon our eager eyes. The view of 'Sir Donald and the Great Glacier" at Glacier House, from our camp, was worthy of the trip alone. For those who are in search of the mountain flowers, let him but wander in the great gardens of Cougar Valley. There will he find all the glories of other valleys and many a rare treasure seldom found elsewhere. Our trip up was scarce a record-breaker, for flowers and changing mountains, waterfalls, and gushing torrents, we stood gazing many an idle moment. We reached camp for an early dinner, where another surprise and treat awaited us—one of the most comfortable appointed tents we had either of us ever seen.

"That night proved to tired bodies that the bed was ideal and one we could wish might be copied elsewhere.

"In the afternoon Mr. Deutschman showed us the exterior features of this strangest of caves.

"There was the curious opening where the water rushed headlong to disappear into utter silence. A little further where it leaped to light, roaring and thundering at the sudden liberty, forming a bathing pool fit for a queen, then with a leap and plunge down into unknown depths of blackness where white flowers hung over the dripping brink—little guardians of that tremendous force. At another point a palace of purest ice greeted us, and ferns watched at this chill forbidding door.

"How good the supper tasted that night, for a true and rare hospitality went with it. And how soft those hemlock boughs were to the weary sightseers, and, to the roar of rushing streams the night was all too short when we heard an halloo, at 4 a.m.

"With breakfast at 5, we were on our way to the upper valley of snow and ice, with camera and tripod. This was a new surprise and not to be missed by those visiting the cave.

"At 9.30 our real work began—the descent into the cavernous unknown. For this work good ladders have been placed and any danger lies entirely with the explorer. The guide himself is cool, steady, strong of hand and sure of foot, and knows every inch of the way.

"Few of the chambers or corridors are named, but one called the Auditorium stands out alone. A great vaulted gallery burst upon in from out the gloom, hundreds of gallons of water were rushing down, sweeping by us with an angry roar, and as the red candle lit it up, the dashing spray was dripping blood, the deep walls were crimson, and one felt such a small, helpless bit of Nature's plan. From the Auditorium we climbed into what might be called Pothole Corridor—a curious series of pot holes, which seemed to grow smaller as we advanced. As each one grew less, a somewhat larger member of society eyed one opening dubiously, and said: "I christen the corridor 'Fat Man's Misery,'" and then squeezed slowly through. The last sight was the best of all, and goes simply by the name of the Big Hole.

"Our guide started us down, himself carrying a good stout rope. The entrance seemed prosy and tame after the others, and little to see, but tying a rope about the waist of the inexperienced and giving the Swiss guide stringent instructions to keep the rope taut, he lay down on his side and gracefully wriggled through a hole that looked about large enough for a marmot, and then advised the innocent to follow.

"She wriggled through minus the sinuous grace and plus a goodly amount of grit, and tumbled gently into a pot-hole; another gentle slide, in such easy stages, another pot-hole, still another tug of rope, a sensation of growing into the waist-like proportions of a wasp, and she found herself in a river pot-hole with a tiny river running down her back, while before her lay nothing.

"Nothing? Well, that's not the word; but there is no other. Infinite blackness touched here and there, but one feeble lanterns showed a high-rounded vault, and a stone cast off went down, down, and was lost in the far faint roar of the river below. They say that the hole is 250 feet in depth. Two hundred and fifty feet do not express the vastness, the darkness, the little narrow ledge on which we hung, where one pair of feet stood for want of room on the other pair, and the toes of the first were on the edge of ledge. They do not express the courage that it must have taken for that guide and discoverer to venture to the verge of such an unknown for the first time; and it certainly does not express the little creeps that began to follow the little river down the back of the one who had followed her guide. She was absolutely safe, for a firm hand held the rope; but her fears grew for the one who could so easily slip off into the great black chaos, and she was glad to slip back into daylight if she could.

"She could and she did, and the foolish at her fears; for with a steady hand behind, a firm hand at the rope, it was little more than sliding upstairs.

"Lying flat on one's side, a few more wriggles and twists through a hole in the rock, a climb of twenty feet on a ladder, and the beautiful strange new cave was left to its solitude and darkness once more. We looked for a cave like other caves—it is not. We looked for stalagmites and stalactites—they are not there—nothing is as one expects. It is strangely beautiful and curious in its own individual way. For thousands of years the water has been at work, worn through this lime and schist stratification. Then some change in nature's plan has altered the course of the river, and the great hollows, the worn caverns have been deserted for new channels, and the wearing, pounding and grinding still go on. I fancy, in spite of what I say, that the discovery of abandoned galleries and unused channels is only just begun, and that Canada will live to be very proud of this new scenic point.

"At present no man knows where this turbulent river loses itself. Not far from Rogers' Pass there is a torrent bursting from the mountain side. At that point there is an outcrop of the rock as the river passes through at Cougar Mountain. The river in the rock would naturally bring it to this point, and here, some day, some one may find that we find our lost cave river.

"Two days in that valley of beauty and wonder, and we were forced by circumstances to turn our footsteps to pro- [illegible] The government, or some enterprising private will soon see it is a place for the ever-hungry tourist; the trails will be too easy, the cave will be well guarded with iron rods and chains, the blooms will be brushed from the peach, and there are pretty hopes that to have seen it still fresh and undimmed from the years of silence.

Tax on Timber To Be Enforced

Holders of All Licenses to Pay Two Per Cent on Value of Property.

Puget Sound Canners Secure Salmon From the Fraser River.

From Our Own Correspondent.

VANCOUVER, Aug. 17.—Owners of timber in British Columbia are to be called upon to pay taxes on the assessed value of timber to the amount of 2 per cent. per annum. Notices are being issued calling upon the holders of all timber under license to furnish returns as to the value set upon their timber to the tax collectors and assessors. Failing such returns the tax collectors are empowered to assess the values themselves and levy the tax accordingly. It is estimated that there will be raised by this means a revenue of $400,000. The notices are being issued from the offices of the local tax collector, W. L. Fagan, today. They call for a well defined description of each parcel and cash value of each parcel, returns to be in by June 1st next.

The World of Vancouver says that in an effort of the Puget Sound canners to catch up with their pack fish are being bought in British Columbia and that some of the tugs have been taking them over, also that it is reported official steps are being taken for the seizure of the tug Albion in Victoria for carrying salmon across the line without clearing. The action is being taken by the Westminster customs authorities.

PUBLISHERS' PLEDGE.

Promise Support to Employing Printers Against Eight-hour Rule.

New York, Aug. 17.—The periodical publishers of this city at a meeting today adopted a resolution that the periodical publishers of America should pledge their support to the united typothetae in their determination to resist the present adoption of the proposed eight-hour rule of the typographical unions. It was reported at the meeting that the International Typographical Union was discussing in convention at Toronto a strike for an eight-hour day on January 1st, 1906.

Calls it the "New B. C."

Appropriate Title Given Northern Section of the Province by Premier McBride.

Home Again After a Tour of Inspection in Company With Hon. R. F. Green.

Splendid Mineral Indications—Promising Outlook for Development.

HON. R. M'BRIDE, Premier, and Hon. R. F. Green, Chief Commissioner, who left for the North on the 5th inst., returned last evening by the steamer Charmer, having come down on the Camosun to Vancouver. They went as far as Hazelton, calling at a number of way points, to inform themselves respecting the situation along the coast and in the Skeena district, now attracting so much attention. They express themselves as greatly pleased with the result of their visit. A feeling of confidence was general among all the people they met, and times generally were good. The canneries have been doing a good business this season. The only complaints in this respect they heard were at the Balmoral, the plant of which is extensive, and the cost of operation in proportion.

Messrs. McBride and Green stayed for several days in the vicinity of Hazelton, and bring especially good reports about the mining prospects there. Prospect on the Copper river, about 40 miles up from Kitsalas canyon, is active and a great many fine specimens of ore have been brought down; Mr. Green remarking that it reminded him of the palmy days of Kootenay when everybody had pockets bulging out with rich samples. With one exception, in which the specimens were of galena, the ore is promising copper. Hydraulicing on Lorne creek is progressing favorably. A short ride was taken in the direction of Bulkley valley, time not permitting going the whole distance. Several settlers from the valley were met, and reports are satisfactory. It will be necessary, Mr. Green says, to put the trail from Hazelton in first class condition. Short excursions were made beyond the canyon and in other directions, and they were greatly impressed with the possibilities of fruit growing there when better transportation facilities are provided. On the whole, they were well pleased with the prospects of the country everywhere they went, and they were enabled to judge much more accurately of the actual requirements of development.

"The result of the trip," said the Premier, "more than fulfilled all expectations. We found everything very prosperous, and the Bulkley valley especially is most attractive. A great many settlers have gone in there and there is every indication that a permanent settlement has been established. The Northern country embraced in the Skeena river district—which might be properly termed 'New British Columbia'—is in every respect an ideal country. The climate is good, though regard must be had for coast conditions which always mean more or less rain. Apart from these conventionalities the country compares more than favorably with other portions of the province. They have everything in the North that we have, and can grow all the fruits and vegetables that we grow, and they have fish and timber. The only thing lacking is transportation."

Though the trip had no political significance, a public meeting was held at Hazelton, at which about 70 people were present, and addresses were given by the Premier, the Hon. Mr. Green, Mr. Clifford, M.P.P. for the district, Mr. A. E. McPhillips and Messrs. Sargeant and Davy, two of the local men. Mr. Morrison of Hazelton presided. The discussion was chiefly with regard to local needs.

To a Colonist reporter the premier said: "We left early in the month and proceeded by the steamer Beatrice to Essington, where we connected with the Hudson Bay Company's river steamer Mount Royal for Hazelton. The voyage to the head of navigation occupied from Wednesday afternoon until Saturday morning following, the steamer lying up at nightfall. The trip up the Skeena river is perhaps one of the most interesting to be [illegible] among all the scenic attractions, the navigation of such a difficult and rapid waterway is a most exciting and pleasant experience. In the commander, Capt. Johnson, Chief Engineer Hickie and the officers and crew the company have most reliable and courteous officials. Already Capt. Johnson has achieved an excellent reputation for the care and skill with which he manages his vessel, and as for the efficiency of Chief Engineer Hickie there can be no question. Capt. John Irvine, who came with us as far as Kitsalas canyon, pronounces the Skeena river to be one of the most difficult rivers to navigate that we have in the west. It was very fortunate that we had Mr. Clifford in our party, as his knowledge of the north country proved at all times invaluable.

"In addition to departmental matters the chief commissioner and I were anxious to see for ourselves something of our northern interior, which, by the way, I have been calling 'New British Columbia'; for, while in official reports and bulletins certain very valuable data are given, one has to see for oneself before one can fully appreciate the extent of the wealth possessed by the province.

On the Skeena.

"The lower reaches of the Skeena river pass through a rather hilly and mountainous section of country. Here, nevertheless, very valuable and fertile portions of land are to be found. Several settlers have taken up farms, and the adaptability of the soil for fruit and vegetable culture has been well demonstrated. Mr. Thornhill, a resident of some years' standing, has been cultivating part of his holding and has produced some excellent crops. Mr. Dave Stewart, an old-time British Columbian, well known in this district, has made a splendid home for himself farther up the river. We were enabled to visit Mr. Stewart's orchard and vegetable gardens, and the sight was one that would have done credit to any section of the Fraser valley. His apples, plums and pear trees were in splendid condition and well loaded with fruit, and his vegetables are second to none.

"At the mouth of the canyon Mr. Graham, who was an official in charge of the Dominion telegraphs, has been cultivating a very fine kitchen garden. Back from the valley there are several excellent tracts of country easily accessible from the river. Prominent amongst these is the Kitmakalin district, several settlers who have gone in to spy out the land showing it to be a most promising settlement.

"Above the Kitalas canyon the country seems to open out, presenting extensive stretches of bench lands. Here, too, the productive abilities of the soil have been proven. At Mr. Tomlinson's a very fine farm is to be seen. This gentleman is an old resident of the north and a great believer in its future. Then further up at Kitmangah, where the Rev. Mr. Price, of the Church of England, has established a

(Continued on Page Three.)