Weekly Colonist

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BY

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THE JOHN CASE.

The observations of Mr. Justice Ritchie in the now somewhat famous John case will be found elsewhere. His Lordship, it will be seen, dissents from the ruling of Sir M. B. Begbie, who presided at the trial and instructed the jury (as it now appears incorrectly) that they were at liberty to bring in the verdict they did. According to the finding of Chief Justice Ritchie the failure of the jury to convict of the crime of rape entitled the defendant to an acquittal, as the prisoner's counsel, Mr. Theo. Davie, Q. C., contended. Apart entirely from the legal aspect of the case, it is not improbable that the Crown, having been worsted in the appeal, may be required to pay the bill of costs, which will be heavy. It is a pity that judges cannot be pursued for costs when their decisions are set aside. It would make them more careful at least, and only first-rate lawyers would be found willing to accept seats on the bench.

STUPENDOUS UNDERTAKING.

What appears at first glance to be one of the wildest schemes to meet the ever-increasing demand for rapid transit in the city of New York is that originated by Mr. D. C. Linsley, a civil engineer of considerable practical experience. He proposes to construct a four track railway from the City Hall to Harlem over the tops of houses, and double track line from there to Tarrytown. The right of way for the road the entire distance is to be purchased, the existing buildings torn down and new ones suited to the new condition of things—stores, warehouses flats and factories—are to be erected, the side walls and roofs of which will be massive masonry arches, strong enough to bear the weight of the heaviest trains. Mr. Linsley estimates the total cost of the undertaking at $71,000,000. Mr. Linsley was formerly a resident of Ottawa, and built the Canadian Atlantic railway.

THE WATER WORKS BY-LAW.

One of the proposed by-laws which ought to eminently commend itself to the best consideration of the property-holders is that enabling the Corporation to raise the sum of $20,000 for water works purposes. This amount is urgently needed for the purpose of purchasing cast iron pipes for the distribution of water throughout the city and for laying these and other water pipes within the city. The pipes already scattered on Fort street and Cadboro Bay road; those on Henry street (Rock Bay); across Beacon Hill park down to the outer wharf; along Fernwood road; on Fort street from Douglas street down to the Custom House; on Quadra, Discovery and Chatham streets, and all the pipes that are at present scattered on Pandora avenue are to be laid by means of the proposed loan, the balance unexpended being devoted to the purchase of as much 4-inch pipe as the amount will allow of, to be used on all such streets as require an extension of the water service. This, in a nutshell, is what the $20,000 is asked for, and it will be readily seen that a very large number of persons are directly interested in the passage of the bylaw. That the property-holders will give their assent we have little doubt. We want a good supply of water as soon as it is possible for us to have it, and it cannot be had unless money is found to meet the demands upon the service. We hope not a single ballot will be registered against this bylaw.

SENSATIONAL TELEGRAMS.

The sensational telegrams which have been sent East calculated to do this Province serious injury, are the work of the special correspondent in this city of the Ottawa *Free Press*. We do not know positively whether or not he has his *habitat* in the *Times* office, but judging by the fact that both sheets are of the same political kidney—ultra-grits—we should not be at all surprised to learn that he had. Here is a sample of his "specials," under date of the 17th instant, beneath the flaming head-lines "Murdered by Indians," "3,000 British Columbia Redskins on the War Path:"

The Indians all along the coast are in a terrible state of excitement, and it is believed there are over 3,000 hostile Indians at the Forks. The Kit-ma-cool tribe reside about twenty miles below the Hudson Bay Post, where the constables are encamped. Their emmissaries were engaged in working up the feelings of the friendly Indians around Hazelton when Mr. Borland, the man who first brought the news, left. It is believed that they have combined and attacked the almost helpless whites.

"*Three thousand hostile Indians at the Forks!*" What a story to pawn off on an unsuspecting public, who, unaware of the circumstances, will readily believe it. We would advise the *Free Press* to treat its correspondent's communications very gingerly in future if it wishes to give its readers reliable news. The dispatch as a whole is sensational in the extreme, and repetitions of such a mass of nonsense might cause serious damage to this Province's future, more especially in the matter of immigration. Intending settlers who read such blood-curdling narratives will think twice before coming to a Province, of the geography of which they are entirely at sea. Skeena to them is probably very close to Victoria. It is in an endeavor to prevent such a calamity that we have written these lines.

NAVAL EXPENDITURE.

While Lord Wolseley has expressed his opinion on the cost of British generals, Sir E. Reed, M. P., has held forth on a cognate subject in an address entitled "Our Extravagant Naval Expenditure." In his opening remarks, the hon. member said that, every reasonable allowance being made, the extravrgance of the navy was beyond all bounds in almost every department. While three millions were paid for service, two millions were paid for no service at all. The Admiralty found employment for thirteen admirals, who cost £37,600 a year, while they maintained 261 unemployed admirals, who received £160,990. There were fifty armoured sea-going ships into which it would be advisable to put an admiral, so that there were six times as many admirals as ironclads. Having declared that for efficient steam vessels many of the ships were over-manned, Sir E. Reed declared that there was great extravagance in regard to ships which, when they were ordered and built, were known to be quite useless for the purposes of war. Some of them had been ordered within the last few weeks. The admiralty had spent three and a half millions upon nine belted cruisers, and every one when she left port went away with her armour entirely under water. He declared the state of things to be most scandalous. Even the officers, when they came before a parliamentary committee, stated that which they knew was not worthy of credence, fenced with the committee, and kept back that which ought to be stated. During the discussion which ensued, Sir Edward Reed was asked to propound a remedy, and he stated that the chief cause of the present state of things was that whenever a public department was challenged the government of the day declared they would stand or fall by each individual minister.

AUSTRALASIAN POPULATION.

The Government Statist of the Colony of Victoria has issued a series of preliminary tables on the population of Australasia on the first of January of the present year. The following figures are furnished in a summary: The total population of Australia at that date was 2,800,886, showing an increase of 100,921 over the previous year. It was distributed as follows:—Victoria, 1,036,118; New South Wales, 1,042,619; Queensland, 366,940; South Australia, 312,421 (a decrease of 336 over previous year), to which should be added about 5,000 for the Northern Territories; Western Australia, 42,488. In addition Tasmania had 142,478 inhabitants, and New Zealand 603,361 (an increase of 13,975). Thus the total population of Australasia was 5,546,725. In Australia proper the number of persons to the square mile is less than 1; in Victoria it is 11.79, in New South Wales, 3.373, in New Zealand 5.788, and in Tasmania 5.402. New Zealand still shows a remarkably low death rate; in 1887 it was only 10.29 per 1,000: in South Australia 12.62, New South Wales 13.15, Queensland 14.56, Tasmania 15.45, Victoria 15.70, Western Australia 17.10. The excess of births over deaths varies from 106.4 per cent. in Victoria to 214.8 per cent in New Zealand. The total excess of arrivals over departures by sea in 1887 was 64,856 for the whole of Australasia, being greatest in New South Wales, where it was 23,516, whereas in South Australia there was an excess of departures amounting to 2,384. Over the whole in Australasia there was a decrease of immigration as compared with the previous year amounting to 5,671.

COLONIZING PALESTINE.

Rev. Dr. Sivertha, of Chicago, has originated a scheme, the object of which is the colonization of Palestine, and he started the other day for Europe to begin carrying out his project actively. The movement for the rebuilding and resettlement of the Holy Land has excited great interest not only in America, but throughout England and Scotland. Dr. Sivertha expects that a large emigration from England and America will flow into the Holy Land early in the autumn. The pioneers are earnest, religious and practical, and do not expect that the restoration will be brought about by any miraculous intervention. Dr. Sivertha has worked out careful plans for the rebuilding of Jerusalem, with its temples, public buildings, gates and walls, in harmony with the prophetic description of the Bible. The Hebrews proper will only form about one-sixth of the new population, the rest being English and American, and as soon as a sufficient number of people are there to form the nucleus of the new nation Dr. Sivertha expects that the powers of Europe will unite in declaring Palestine independent and neutral. In speaking of his hopes and anticipations, Dr. Sivertha said to a reporter: "The question is one that has already been discussed by European statesmen, and the disposal of Palestine so far has been a difficult problem, because the population there for 1,800 years has not been accustomed to self-government. Ten years ago, just before the Berlin treaty, statesmen expressed themselves freely that Palestine ought to be made a neutral nation like Switzerland or Belgium. A great many men and women of large wealth have been interested in this enterprise and the plans meet with their approval."

A JUDGE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

In another column we give place to a communication from Mr. Theo. Davie, Q.C., relative to our proposition to make judges liable for costs in cases where on appeal their judgments have been set aside. We did not propose to make the rule invariable; but applied it to a case like the John case. Some such rule ought as a measure of protection to the public to be adopted. No sane man will claim that the administration of justice in human hands is infallible, and as the greatest of judges are liable to err, so courts of appeal are necessary for the attainment of justice. In ordinary cases no reflection on the Judge is carried by the reversal of a judgment, and if injury results to the individual litigants have to put up with it. The Judge is presumed to have acted to the best of his judgment and is no more responsible for his mistake than any other man. But what has Mr. Davie to say of the case to which we referred particularly? Is he quite sure that some redress should not be provided for the unfortunate man who was wrongfully convicted and wrongfully sentenced to two years imprisonment because the Judge refused to act upon the very principle which actuates the creation of courts of appeal—the possibility of judgments being erroneous—and denied him the right of appeal by refusing to reserve the point which Mr. Davie took at the trial and which the highest court in the land has now decided to have been well taken? Had it not been for the accident of another point of law, which without the leave of the Chief Justice the prisoner was at liberty to take, the sentence could not have been set aside and Mr. John must have served out his illegal sentence. If Mr. Davie is still prepared to say that, all the circumstances considered, our remarks were "childish," we do not think that any person outside of the legal profession—especially those who have had the misfortune to go to law in this province—will agree with him. If some such rule as we have recommended were adopted, there would be fewer cases carried to appeal and fewer cases of miscarriage of justice to record.

WANT CLOSER TRADE RELATIONS.

We had the pleasure of a call yesterday from Messrs. F. R. Thompson and E. D. McKenley, of Port Angeles, a delegation from that Co-operative Colony, seeking closer trade relations with this city. We are informed that Port Angeles now has a population of 1,000 souls, and that settlers are rapidly flowing in, well pleased with the country. Lumbering is the principal business now engaged in, and it is being actively prosecuted. Evidences of enterprise are seen in the building operations of the season, while the construction of several mills is to be proceeded with at once. A steam schooner is now on the ways, and will be used for intercourse with the islands and, possibly, with this city. On the whole, it may safely be assumed that the town of Port Angeles has come to stay. What the people need, however, is a base for obtaining supplies, a convenient market in which they can purchase the necessaries and luxuries of life. Port Townsend is the nearest neighbor on the American side, but the water service with it is very defective and quite unsuited to the growing wants of so large a community. But, even if it were of a satisfactory character, it is exceedingly difficult to buy supplies in Port Townsend, it being found necessary very frequently to send to San Francisco for them. Then, too, the mail arrangements are very unreliable, whereas if sent from this city, a few hours sail from Port Angeles, they would meet the wants of the people. Considering these facts it is quite natural that our neighbors across the Straits should seek closer trade relations with their nearest market, Victoria, and it is quite as reasonable that this city should meet its future customers in a favorable spirit. Victoria must seek outlets for her trade in whatever direction may be possible, and this is an opening which ought not to be lost sight of. The possible transaction of business with a large body of people, daily increasing in numbers, is a matter for consideration by our merchants more especially, and mercantile men generally. All branches of business would gain from connection with Port Angeles, one of the finest harbors on the coast, which comes seeking intercourse with us. Messrs. Thompson and McKenley's more immediate mission here is to receive assistance towards inducing the Washington authorities to establish a Custom House at Port Angeles, and to eventually arrange for daily steamboat service for passengers and freight with Victoria. The first they hope to obtain through their own representations and those of our American citizens, the merchants more particularly; the second they feel they can ultimately secure through their own endeavors, possibly assisted by Victoria capital. Many non-dutiable articles which the colonists badly need would find a ready sale at Port Angeles, and quite a trade could in time be built up, increasing the importance of our own city, and assisting in its future success. We commend the matter to the consideration of our readers, and trust that the delegates will receive all possible courtesy during their stay here, which will probably continue over to-day.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The whole of Daniel Holland's buildings at Harvey station were burned to the ground.

The schooner Clara, of St. John, has been wrecked near Little Hurricane island. The crew escaped to the island with great difficulty and were taken off by a steamer.

At the recent session of the Congregational Union, held in Yarmouth, the charges against Rev. Mr. McLeod, minister at Economy, were investigated by a committee of that body, who reported recommending his expulsion, and he was expelled accordingly. Mr. McLeod is now in the United States.

CABLE NEWS.

Another Irish M. P. Arrested for Inciting Intimidation.

Emperor William Takes Affectionate Leave of the Czar and Czarina, at St. Petersburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone Celebrate Their Golden Wedding—Plot to Assassinate Prince Ferdinand—Labouchere Says He has a Very Low Opinion of the London "Times"—Emperor William will Visit Rome.

Labouchere Speaks His Mind.

LONDON, July 25.—In the Commons yesterday evening Labouchere resumed the debate on the Parnell Commission Bill. He said he had a very low opinion of the *Times*, but it was not as low as the opinion apparently entertained by Matthews, who seemed to think that the *Times* would plead privilege respecting certain letters on the ground that they had not been published in the *Times*, but had only been read by Sir R. E. Webster in court. Parliament, Mr. Labouchere contended, was the only proper tribunal to pass upon the matters in question. The Commission proposed was merely a fishing commission, intended to evade the real issues. Egan and O'Brien could not appear before the Commission, yet in their absence the body was to investigate them. Never, he declared, had the effrontry of the government been so complete as when it said the Commission was granted at the wish of the Parnellites, while all the time the government was arranging with the *Times* as to what sort of a commission to have appointed, and what was to be its scope. The opposition demanded an inquiry, it was true, but the inquiry they demanded was concerning the murder at Mitchellstown and regarding the treatment of Mandeville. (Parnellite and liberal cries of "hear, hear.") Labouchere said he had proposed moving the second reading of the bill this day six months, but that Parnell being anxious to bring about the investigation had urged him not to do so. They had no hope that the bill would be revised in committee. The question would be seriously considered at its third reading, whether Parnell and his friends ought to be allowed to walk into traps.

An Amendment by Labouchere.

Mr. Labouchere will give notice of his intention to offer an amendment making it the duty of the commission to enquire into the charges made by Parnell against the *Times*, besides the charges of the *Times* against Parnell, and also to exclude from the operation of the indemnity clause publishers and authors of libels.

Nationalist M. P. Arrested.

James J. O'Kelly, nationalist M. P. for Roscommon, was arrested last evening under the Crimes Act on a warrant charging him with delivering speeches in Ireland inciting intimidation. He was taken to Dublin on the morning train under a strong escort of police. The charges are from his speeches in connection with the recent election at South Langford for which seat Fitzgerald, nationalist, was elected without opposition. It is expected the latter and Edward Leary, nationalists, recently elected to represent North Sligo, will be also arrested on similar charges. O'Kelly was arrested in London. Kelly also says he will incite the people to boycott.

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone's Golden Wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Gladstone celebrated their golden wedding to-day. They were the recipients of hundreds of letters and telegrams congratulating them upon the event and many numerous presents in consequence thereof. At the reception given by Lord Spencer at his residence Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone were presented with magnificent portraits of themselves. That of Mrs. Gladstone was by Herkomer and the ex-premier's by Hall. Lord Granville presented the portraits with a short address appropriate to the occasion. The couple were also presented with three large silver cups and a handsomely illuminated address, signed by 150 persons, whose names figure prominently in the most select circles.

Gladstone Eulogizes His Wife.

Mr. Gladstone in replying to the presentation and speech of Granville on the occasion of the celebration of his golden wedding, said he wished to endorse all that the address of his parliamentary colleagues contained in reference to Mrs. Gladstone. It would be difficult, he said, to give an adequate idea of the happiness of his married life; but he felt that the allusions to himself were too flattering. His conduct had often been criticised, sometimes unjustly, but on the whole had been more beneficial than otherwise to him. He could fairly say he was hardly able to recall an incident of his public life that was in any way painful to recollect.

Information Wanted.

A commission of Parnellite members of the commons have drafted a series of amendments to the Parnell commission, instructing the commission to enquire how the *Times* obtained the information upon which its charges are based, and further demanding that the names of "other persons" referred to in the bill be stated specifically.

Will Visit Rome.

A dispatch from Rome to the *Chronicle* says: "It is asserted that the Italian government has been officially notified that Emperor William will visit Rome and that it is possible that Emperor Francis Joseph will come at the same time.

The Leicester Handicap.

The Leicester handicap was run to-day and resulted in King Monmouth being 1st; Woodland, 2d; and Mosspaul, 3d. There were nine starters. Betting at the stand was 5 to 2 against King Monmouth; 8 to 1 against Woodland, and 7 to 1 against Mosspaul.

Killed by Elephants.

Deane English, formerly commander at Stanley Falls, was recently killed in an elephant charge in the Congo country.

Another Discoverer of America.

Mr. W. W. Story, American sculptor, in Rome, will shortly publish an article in the *Fortnightly Review* attributing the discovery of America to Jean Cousin, of Dieppe, some time before Columbus.

Mackenzie Prepared to Vindicate His Character.

An eminent publisher of this city has received an offer of the translation of a pamphlet in preparation by the German physicians of the late Emperor Frederick, reporting their views and treatment of the case. The publisher asked Dr. Mackenzie if he had any objections to the publication of the pamphlet and in reply Mackenzie intimated if it were published he would not shrink from taking prompt legal means of obtaining a vindication of his reputation.

Dillon's Release.

DUBLIN, July 25—The Exchequer Court to-day, on the application of Mr. Timothy M. Healy, M. P., and counsel for Mr. John Dillon, granted a conditional order in the *habeas corpus* proceeding for the release of Dillon from the Dundalk jail, where he was serving a term of six months imprisonment, begun on June 2nd, for violation of the Crimes Act. The order was granted on the ground that owing to certain information the County Court Judge before whom the case was brought had no jurisdiction in the matter.

Imprisoned at Boyle.

O'Kelly has been taken to Boyle, where his offense against the Crimes Act is alleged to have been committed.

The Emperor's Leave Taking.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 25.—On taking leave of the Czar, Emperor William and the Czar embraced and kissed each other three times. The Emperor kissed the Czarina's hand and then saluted her on the cheek. He also embraced all of the Grand Dukes. Emperor William, before his departure, distributed numerous crosses of the Crown order among the officers of the Viborg regiment. Emperor William also handed to the Czarrina a present from the Empress of Germany, consisting of a violet wood fan, upon which are painted portraits of her four sons sitting under a bower, and on the reverse side verses expressive of friendship. The fan is trimmed with white silk, upon which the Empress embroidered her own and the Czarina's monogram. He also presented gifts of jewelry to various nobles, and gave a bust of himself in marble to Count Vortonzoff Dashkoff, Minister of the Czar's household.

William's Object Attained.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* commenting on Emperor William's sojourn says: "If his friendly visit arose from a desire to establish relations based on mutual good nature and to consolidate the friendship of the countries, and strengthen confidence in Europe on a peace footing, this end has been attained for many long years to come."

A Visit From the King of Sweden.

The King of Sweden is expected to arrive here on August 2nd.

Plot to Assassinate the Prince.

VIENNA, July 25.—A dispatch from Rutschuck states that a plot has been unearthed there having for its object the assassination of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria. Two Russians, Bognelieff and Ivanoff, have been arrested as leaders in the plot.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Sir Adolphe Caron Gives a Flat Denial to the "Times'" Statement

That He had Instructed Col. Holmes to Order out "C" Battery.

The Department Receiving Offers for Service on the Skeena from all Quarters—The Provincial Authorities Have the Matter in Hand—Judge Burbidge Coming to British Columbia to Try Cases.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, July 25.—Sir Adolphe Caron gave a flat denial this afternoon to the statement of the Victoria *Times* that he had instructed Col. Holmes of Victoria to order out "C" Battery. The department is receiving offers for service on the Skeena from all quarters. Col. Maunsell, of Fredericton, says: "A" School will be ready at any moment as also the provisional battalion of New Brunswick." Replies sent are to the effect that the provincial authorities have the matter in hand.

Judge Burbidge of the exchequer court, goes to British Columbia after the holidays to try cases.

CANADIAN NEWS.

The St. John "Globe" Warmly Advocates Annexation With the United States.

The Political Atmosphere in Quebec Agitated—Another Case of Never Knew it was Loaded—Valuable Invention Purchased by the C. P. R.

A Brampton Fire.

MONTREAL, July 25.—The saw and grist mill of William Cavin, of Brampton, was destroyed by fire yesterday. Loss, $2,500.

Didn't Know it was Loaded.

Chief of Police Hughes was slightly injured by a revolver this morning which he was handling. He didn't know it was loaded.

A Telephone War.

Judge Dandward this morning gave judgment in the case of the Federal Telephone company against Bell & Co., for cutting the former's lines, and condemning the Bell company's employees in fines. An injunction will be asked by the Federal company to restrain the Bell company from interfering with the progress of building wires.

Quebec Politics.

QUEBEC, July 25—The political atmosphere is again agitated. Rumors are circulating as to marshalling forces by the Liberals and Nationalists for a deadly struggle. Mails and telegraph lines are reported to be monopolized with communications to Mercier, and the Liberal chief will probably have to hurry back to town and try to patch up matters between his dissatisfied followers. The approaching reconstruction of the cabinet is the bone of contention. The Nationalists want further representation, and the Liberal brethren think that the rope around their neck is already tight enough and intend to fight.

A Warm Annexationist.

ST. JOHN, N. B., July 25.—The St. John *Globe*, of which J. V. Ellis, Grit M. P., of this city, is editor, responds warmly to the proposal of Senator Stewart that the fishery question be settled by the annexation of Canada to the United States. The *Globe* says: "Great Britain would rejoice at the union of Canada with the United States. She would see that the union was of great natural advantage to herself. This union, Ellis observes, would blot out any unpleasant memory which may remain of revolutionary struggles and establish beyond doubt perpetual harmony between Ireland and America." The *Globe* proceeds to outline the scheme of union, even going so far as to arrange that the Province should become one of the states of the Union.

A Valuable Invention.

It is announced that J. H. Leslie, a Canadian engineer, has invented an immense rotary steam shovel which will do away with the necessity of snow plows. The C. P. R. has bought exclusive right to build the machines on its line.

THE MASTICK RETURNS.

She Arrives at Port Townsend Yesterday with the Four British Schooners, Seized in Behring's Sea.

(Special to THE COLONIST.)

PORT TOWNSEND, July 25.—The tug Mastick arrived to-day from Alaska with the British schooners Dolphin, Grace, Ada, and Anna Beck in tow. It will be remembered that the schooners were seized in Behring's Sea for illegal seal fishing. They will be sold here at public auction on August 22d.

MAINLAND NOTES.

Professor Menzies Coming Back to Victoria

To Seek an Investigation Into the Charges Preferred Against Him by the "Times."

He Courts the Fullest Inquiry Into His Conduct in the Alleged Transactions With Chinese—Westminster Council Advertising the City—Railway Matters the Absorbing Topic in the Royal City—Sailing of the Schooner Puritan for Mexico—Forest Fires.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

WESTMINSTER, July 25.—The Westminster council has secured twenty-five thousand folders having three colored maps of the district, showing details, and with a printed description of each district and the city, which will be circulated to visitors and generally, and no doubt will prove a valuable advertisement.

It was stated here to-day that the Canadian Pacific authorities are going to submit a definite proposition to Westminster city regarding the railway to the boundary line.

The four-masted schooner Puritan left for Ensenada, Mexico, this evening, loaded with 700,000 feet of lumber and spars from the Royal City Planing Mills. The Bairnsfather family go to Mexico by her.

Railway matters are still the absorbing topic here. It is understood that final arrangements in the shape of an agreement and bonds between the city and company will be signed in the course of a couple of days. This is for the proposition of Senator Canfield and others, which includes the bridging of the Fraser and the establishment of workshops at Westminster. The people seem to be a unit on the question.

Professor Menzies, magnetic healer, formerly of Victoria, and the principal figure in the sensational disclosures made in the *Times* newspaper by Mr. J. E. Vrooman-Gardner, arrived from Blaine, W.T., where he claims he has been doing a rushing business. The professor is on his way to Victoria, and after securing an affidavit from a resident in Vancouver will proceed to Victoria on Friday or Saturday. He states that his mission to Victoria is for the purpose of seeking an investigation into the charges made against him by the *Times*, Mr. Gardner and others, and claims that he is in a position to establish his innocence of wrong doing, and perhaps prove it on others. He asserts that owing to profitable business in his profession he has been unable to proceed to Victoria until the present moment; but he is going there now, and courts every possible inquiry into his conduct in the alleged transactions with Chinese.

Forest fires are becoming numerous and smoke is covering the country. Mosquitoes at Harrison Hot Springs are few and far between, and life there is again tolerable.

AMERICAN NEWS.

Anti-Chinese Meeting.

NEW YORK, July 25.—An anti-Chinese meeting was held to-night, when resolutions were adopted protesting against Chinese labor, to be forwarded to the California delegation in Congress, which is asked to speedily legislate.

Sudden Death.

RICHMOND, Va., July 23.—Gen. Wm. C. Wickam, president of the Chesapeake & Ohio railway, died suddenly this morning of apoplexy in this city.

Smallpox Among the Indians.

TUCSON, Ariz., July 25.—Smallpox has broken out among the Indians on the San Carlos reservation. The disease is in a mild form.

He Was a Sunday School Man.

TURCOLA, Ills., July 25.—Jas. Stephenson, charged with embezzling $1,200 of the public school funds, of Monterema, Indiana, has fled to Canada. He was a well-known Sunday school superintendent.

Six Fire in a Factory.

CINCINNATI, July 25.—The seven-story brick building of the Mammoth shoe factory on Sycamore street was burned yesterday morning. Loss $300,000.

A Cow on the Railway Track.

WINONA, Minn., July 25.—The passenger train on the Cannon Ball branch of the Milwaukee road, carrying Stetson's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" company, about 1:30 p. m. yesterday struck a cow about ten miles out of Redwing and, three cars, including one passenger coach, went down a twenty-five foot embankment. W. A. Clark, of Hurley, Wis., was crushed to death. Two ladies, members of Stetson's troupe were injured, one having a leg broken; others sustained sprains and bruises. Another account says two men were killed, and the train is a complete wreck.

A $50,000 Fire.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 25.—Fire this afternoon almost entirely destroyed the beef-packing house of Roth, Bloom & Co., at Black Point. Loss, nearly $50,000. The fire originated in the smoke room.

Trains Ditched.

A broken rail ditched a freight train near Port Costa last evening. Nine cars were wrecked. No one injured.

Shocking Suicide.

LOS ANGELOS, July 25.—Charles James, formerly a sheriff of Sacramento county, committed suicide here this morning in a most shocking manner. He used a double-barrelled shotgun and tied a handkerchief from his right foot to the triggers so that both barrels were discharged at once, blowing the outside of his face and half of his head off. He was about fifty-six years of age and leaves a wife, who had been drinking heavily. He was suffering from an injury to his back.

Train Robbers Repulsed.

ASHTUBULA, July 25.—Eleven men boarded the west bound express at this place Sunday night as soon as the train left the city. They attempted to gain possession of it. They attacked the door of the smoker. The men took a stand and defied the passengers. Conductor Shephard and several drummers put on a bold front and drove them out of the car. The train was stopped at Geneva and a call made upon the citizens. Nine of the gang were captured and are now in gaol.

CUSTOMS OFFICERS HOAXED.

A Fruitless Search on the Umatilla for Smuggled Opium Reported to be Concealed in Her Hold.

(Special to THE COLONIST.)

SAN FRANCISCO, July 25.—Surveyor of Port Limpen received information that if a search was made of the steamer Umatilla, from Victoria, a lot of smuggled opium would be found concealed in her hold. A force of customs inspectors boarded the vessel as she entered this port and made a thorough search, which was continued all day to-day, but no contraband goods were found.

The death is announced of Rev. Canon Godfroi Lamarche, the well-known priest.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, July 26.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Arrival of the Schooner Sapphire.

The schooner Sapphire owned by E. B. Marvin and Capt. Cox, arrived from the sealing grounds last night with a catch of about 1,200 seals.

Tenders Opened.

Tenders for the experimental farm buildings at Agassiz have been opened at Ottawa. The contract will not be awarded for some time yet, owing to the absence of the Minister.

Skipped.

Vancouver *Herald*: Dame Rumor was busy this morning to the effect that a certain gentleman, a resident of Vancouver, had taken unto himself wings last evening, and flown far away, without paying several anxious creditors.

Chinese for Vancouver.

Those seven Celestial contrabands now in the custody of Sheriff Cochrane, will be taken to Vancouver, B. C., by a deputy marshal on the Premier.—Seattle *Times*. They will be warmly welcomed at Vancouver. It fairly dotes on Chinamen.

Y. M. C. A. Secretary.

Mr. Teague, who was partly engaged by the Y.M.C.A., of Westminster to come from the Boston training home for secretaries, to act as secretary there, has decided that he will not come. It is stated that he has accepted a position as secretary of the Victoria Y.M.C.A.

Squatters' Commission.

Chancellor Boyd was engaged yesterday in taking evidence in the squatters' case. The evidence of Mr. T. S. Gore, Mr. F. G. Richards, jr., and Hon. John Robson was heard, after which the enquiry was adjourned. The closing arguments of counsel will be heard at Vancouver.

Dinner at Government House.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Nelson entertained the following guests at dinner at Government House last evening: Hon. Justice and Mrs. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Rithet, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Richards, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Grahame, Hon. W. W. Hamley, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Pemberton, Mr. W. T. Ward, Mrs. Glenny Anderson, Mr. Cameron Stanton and Mr. Herbert Stanton.

Arrival of the Aberdeen.

S. S. Aberdeen arrived in the Roads at 4 o'clock yesterday morning, was boarded by Pilot Urquhart, and taken to Vancouver. The passage from Yokohama, which occupied 14 days and 7 hours, was uneventful. The passenger list consisted of 600 Chinese and 8 whites, none of these being people of note. She carried some 5,000 tons of freight, principally tea. She is said to be a magnificent steamer, and this is her first visit to these waters.

Painful Accident.

J. Mitchell, the lineman of the Telephone Company, met with a serious accident yesterday afternoon. It seems that while he was at the top of a pole on the Esquimalt road nailing on a cross-arm, the pole gave way and precipitated Mr. Mitchell to the ground. The cross-arm fell upon his leg, breaking it near the knee. Fortunately Mrs. D. R. Harris happened to be driving past at the time and went to Mr. Mitchell's assistance. Having temporarily bandaged the broken leg, Mrs. Harris directed her coachman to drive the injured man to St. Joseph's hospital, where Dr. Milne set the fracture.

The Methodist Church.

The Committee of Consultation and Finance in connection with the Methodist Church, Toronto, met on the 17th inst. Rev. Dr. Carman, general superintendent, in the chair. Several resolutions came up from the British Columbia district, one of special interest having reference to the employment of a Chinese missionary to meet the requirements of the growing work here. Rev. Dr. Sutherland stated that through the superintendency of the Wesleyan Missions at Canton he would be enabled to secure a proper person, and it was ordered that the Mission Secretary be requested to employ Mr. Chan for Chinese work in British Columbia; and also to correspond with the British Columbia Government for the remission of the taxes on him and his family.

E. C.'s Willows.

"The Willows of British Columbia and Alaska" is the latest scientific contribution to the *West American Scientist* by the resident of this city, Mr. Maurice Lopatecki. The author describes forty varieties, observed by himself on this island, and by Macoun, Dawson and others in other parts of the North-West. The author asserts that the willows grow almost everywhere, in very high mountains and in very low localities. The highest growing willow on this continent is *Salix arctica* var. *petraea*, *Anders.*, which is found in the Rocky and Selkirk mountains at an elevation of 8,000 feet. The willows growing near Victoria are: *Salix cordata mubl*, or the heart-leaved willow, and the *Salix proleca*. The article in question is very highly commented upon by the scientific press, and it puts in a new light the rich flora of our magnificent province.

A Legless Woman.

A woman *minus* legs and accompanied by a wholesome-looking sister in the full possession of all her faculties, an accordeon and a mezzo-soprano voice, appeared on the streets yesterday. Pedestrians, moved by the woman's helplessness, contributed liberally in coin to aid her. The pair were here several years ago. They have since travelled through the United States, singing and begging as they went. They are reputedly wealthy, the legless woman having reaped a fortune from what was at first deemed a grievous mis-fortune. The couple should not be encouraged. Whether they are rich or poor the spectacle is not a pleasant one, and the next generation may have reason to curse the day when the "freak" was allowed to convert the public thoroughfares into a museum. There are institutions in nearly every country where unfortunate persons of this class are cared for by the charitable.

LOCAL BRIEFS.

Salmon are very scarce in the Fraser river.

A man named Charles Swales was found dead in his cabin at Wellington.

A telegram received from Vancouver states that Mr. H. A. Harrison was resting easily yesterday.

A boom of logs containing 400,000 feet has been towed to Nanaimo by the steamers Lottie and Falcon from Moss Ireland's logging camp.

The Indians living around and about North Saanich are much excited over the abduction of a young woman by her lover on Tuesday night.

The steamer Sir James Douglas was engaged on Saturday night in replacing the spar buoys in the False narrows between Gabriola and Mudge Islands. The Douglas returned to Victoria on Monday.

The steamer R. P. Rithet stopped at the outer wharf yesterday and landed forty head of cattle, divided equally between John Parker and R. Porter. Some 616 sacks of flour for Welch, Rithet & Co. were also landed.

Messrs. E. J. Salmon and B. Williams, representatives of Victoria Foresters were at Nanaimo on Sunday and Monday conferring with the members of that city regarding the Foresters' re-union to be held there on August 11th. The Foresters of this city, Vancouver, Westminster and Nanaimo will take part in the re-union.

FROM THE NORTH.

Arrival of the Gospel Steamer Glad Tidings—No News of the Skeena Trouble.

The steamer Glad Tidings with Rev. Thos. Crosby on board, arrived from Fort Simpson and way ports at 1 o'clock p. m. yesterday. She brought no further news concerning the Skeena river trouble, having left there a week previous to the Cariboo Fly. Mr. Crosby expressed the opinion, though, that Messrs. Todd and Wootton on their arrival will settle the affair. He is of the opinion that there was no necessity of sending a man-of-war and an armed force.

The Glad Tidings has been cruising among the various inlets and bays, and brings news a week later than that received by the Fly regarding the canneries at River's Inlet and Alert Bay. The salmon were running in large quantities and consequently the cannerymen are feeling very happy.

The Barbara Boscowitz is expected to arrive here on Saturday, and will no doubt bring a full report of the trouble.

PERSONAL.

Rev. Mr. Crosby is in the city.

Forest Angus returned home last night from the east.

Dr. Harrington, of Montreal, is at the Driard.

A. P. Black, C. P. R. storekeeper, has gone for a trip to Ottawa.

Rev. Father Drummond, S. J., returned to Winnipeg yesterday.

Miss Good, of Nanaimo, is spending a few days in town visiting friends.

William Angus goes up to Chemainus to-day and will remain two or three days.

George A. Fraser, of Vancouver, went up to Nanaimo this morning.

Sir John Macdonald has gone to Mat