

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Nanaimo's Wordy Warfare—Poultry Show to Open To-day.

An Ungrateful Tramp—Ranching in the Nicola Valley—The "Homestead."

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER. Feb. 11.—Hon. J. C. Fraser, of the telegraph operating staff of the C.P.R., was married this morning to Miss Janet Wilson, sister of Superintendent Wilson of the C.P.R. Telegraph Co.

VANCOUVER. Feb. 12.—Messrs. Wilson and York, who are travelling around the world without money, arrived in Vancouver to-day. Wilson is connected with the Sydney Bulletin, and has been through the Egyptian and Sudanese wars as correspondent, and York is with Gallman's Messenger, of Paris. They started from London, Eng., six months ago to-day. So far they have not spent a cent, getting passes for the water travel and walking by land, which they prove by documentary evidence. Five thousand dollars were put up for the C.P.R. guaranteeing that every inch of their road would be travelled on foot. They proceeded from here to San Francisco, thence to Singapore and India.

WESTMINSTER. Feb. 11.—Shorty Wilkinson brutally assaulted Robert Hogan some time ago, Mr. Hogan has recovered sufficiently to appear at Wilkinson's trial for attempted murder, which takes place on Thursday.

Judge Sparks has sustained the conviction of Chung Nye, charged with having collected under false pretences the poll tax from fifty of his employees, which the court attempted to set aside so that they might recover the poll tax.

Chicago firms have offered to provide the capital necessary to bring water on to the gold bearing benches of the Anglo-American gold mine claim on the Similkameen river, provide all the machinery and put the enterprise on a sound footing. The Anglo-American company are considering the proposition and conditions.

An auction sale of 4,597 shares stock of the Vancouver & Westminster Tram Co., will take place on March 12.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO. Feb. 8.—The preliminary hearing of J. P. Planta on the charge of misappropriating \$1,199.88 of the Hamkey estate funds was continued to-day. Nothing new was brought out. Planta elected for a speedy trial and wanted very much to proceed at once. This was argued at some length, Judge Harrison concluding to sit on Monday at 11 o'clock to try the case. Mr. Planta again refused to avail himself of the opportunity offered to procure bail; he would not trouble his friends further and returned to jail.

NANAIMO. Feb. 11.—The speedy trial of Mr. Planta has been postponed until Wednesday.

The editor of the Free Press and Rev. Mr. McKee pastor of the Presbyterian church are engaged in a wordy warfare just now. In the church last night there was an immense crowd to listen to the reverend gentleman and to night the papers are full of it. The town is much interested and amused. So far nothing appears even.

A few weeks ago T. Le Boeuf took a heavy tramp into his cabin. To-day the tramp cleared up with \$85 which he lifted out of the pocket of his benefactor.

The poultry show opens to-morrow with every indication of being a grand success.

NANAIMO. Feb. 12.—The Free Press-McRae controversy promises to assume new and interesting features. A rumor is on the streets to-day to the effect that reporter Deane was about to institute a suit for libel on the grounds of a personal attack in Sunday evening's address on his character and ability. Deane, when seen about the matter, said he was of the opinion that he would in some manner vindicate himself. In the meantime the affair is getting warmer, and the public interest is growing.

Mr. Planta will come up to-morrow for speedy trial on the charge of misappropriating the funds of the Humkey estate. Present indications point to the dropping of the other charges in case a verdict of guilty is rendered in this matter.

The tramway law passed its first reading in the city council last night, and will be discussed at a public meeting this evening.

The Nanaimo poultry show opened to-day. The show is probably the finest ever held in this city. Some 800 first-class birds are on exhibition and all the details have been carefully carried out. No doubt the affair will be very successful.

NANAIMO.

(From the Ledger.)

J. W. Thompson recently disposed of a twelfth interest in the Antelope to W. J. Tretaway for \$1,000. Tretaway subsequently disposed of half of his interest to A. Smith for \$500.

With the spring comes the usual equities after reality, with the expectation of a boom.

Fifty hundred tons of ore have been taken from the Blue Bell and shipped to the Pilot Bay smelter.

C. Teasdale has secured the fortieth interest in the Fenell group for \$500. The group consists of the Comstock, Silver Cup, the Silver Chief, Kentucky Girl and Ruby Trust.

The conviction is steadily gaining that the proposition of Montreal parties to establish a smelter at Nakusp is more than idle talk. It has been learned that \$2,000,000 have been subscribed for the purpose, but much more is wanted. The C.P.R. are using their influence to further the scheme. It is proposed to draw motor power from the local creek.

The Everett smelter has been closed owing to a lack of variety of ores. The smelter has been running six weeks, this being the third time an attempt has been made to operate it in two years. The roasters are still being used, but the blast, the smelter proper, is closed. The last run was the longest period the smelter had been operated at one time.

The Sunshine Mining Co., of Duluth, Minn., will commence work at once on the claims at Alsworth, the Sunshine and Free Silver. W. W. Warner, superintendent for the company, is confident that silver must be found before the March 1st, and his company are desirous of pushing matters in order to be in readiness when the white metal holds its head up again.

News of a strike on the Currie, one of the claims on the Galena farm, reached town last week, and on Sunday Messrs. Shannon, Currie and Kinney went down to have a look at it. A shaft has been sunk about thirty feet through the wash, and then a tunnel driven for a few feet. A side cut was next made heading for the shaft, and three feet in on this solid rock was struck and also the mineral. The width of the ledge has not yet been determined, but it is several feet.

Work is being pushed vigorously at the concentrator. Almost all the machinery and water pipes have been placed in position, while the shaft, pulleys and belts are all being obtained. The engine and boiler from Gennelle's sawmill at Nakusp has been obtained, which with the water wheels, the concentrator, and the boiler, will be in the mine by the end of the month. The bins are almost full. New Duluth is the name given to the mill site.

KAMLOOPS. (From the Sentinel.)

The Upper Nicola correspondent says: "Most of the ranchers are feeding up beef, but do not know whether they are going to sell them or not. There are about 500 head of beef feeding between Quilchena and Kamloops, and just as fine animals as anyone can get in any part of the country."

It is reported that Mr. T. Bulman and Mr. John Peterson met with quite a loss the other day by the ice at Rock lake giving away while a band of geese were on it, and eight hundred head were drowned, eleven of which belonged to Mr. Bulman and seven to Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Hatherly, formerly engineer on one of the Columbia river steamers, is building a steamer for hire and passengers at Salmon Arm, to ply on Shuswap lake and the Thompson river. It will be 85 feet long, with about 24 tons cargo capacity, and will have machinery sufficiently powerful to develop a good rate of speed.

Mr. J. A. Mara, M.P., James McIntosh, W. H. Pegram, manager of the bank of British Columbia, W. F. Wood and others interested in the purchase of the Homestake claim, went up to that property on Monday last, getting back on Wednesday night. They express themselves as much pleased with the appearance of the mine. As a result of this visit development work will be continued by making an uprise from the tunnel, following the vein to the surface. This will give further ventilation and establish a knowledge of the body of ore in sight. Arrangements will be made for putting in a stamp mill, but the richest of the ore will have to be smelted, and consequently shipped. Two shifts of men are now at work.

CAPITAL NOTES.

The Delayed "La Gascoigne"—The Premier and Minister of Justice Storm Stayed.

Lady Thompson—Finance Minister Going East—Christian Brothers in Separate Schools.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA. Feb. 11.—Hon. John Costigan's practical sympathy with the relatives of the passengers on the delayed French liner La Gascoigne was shown to-day. Representatives having been received early in the morning from New York that positively the big vessel had been wrecked on Sable Island, with the object of verifying this theory and rendering assistance to the vessel, the Minister of Marine gave instructions for the government steamer Newfield to proceed at once to Sable Island. Fortunately, however, word came early this afternoon that La Gascoigne was safe off Fire Island, New York.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Sir C. H. Tupper arrived home this morning. The two gentlemen in Toronto were met on the night by the Grand Trunk railway. They were stranded nearly the whole of Sunday at Brighton, and did not reach Ottawa until 10 o'clock to-day, after having been thirty-eight hours on the way.

Lady Thompson has returned home from Western Ontario.

Hon. G. E. Foster goes East to-morrow to attend the King's county convention, New Brunswick.

The Roman Catholics of Ottawa are seemingly opposed to granting the demand for increased salaries to the Christian Brothers, eighteen of whom teach in the separate schools. The Brothers threaten that if their salaries are not increased they will leave the service of the board. In that event their positions will be filled by lay teachers.

GALLA COUNTRY.

LONDON. Feb. 9.—Dr. Donaldson Smith, of Philadelphia, who started last June at the head of a scientific expedition in order to explore the unknown regions between Barbora and Lake Rudolph and Sonalland, where traces of ancient civilization are believed to exist, has sent an interesting account of his travels, written by himself, while in the bush. The letter is dated from the Galla country, December 14. The doctor says that his two English companions, Dodson and Dodson, are well. He congratulates himself on his knowledge, and says he has surveyed a large tract of hitherto unexplored country, and with having obtained rich geographical and zoological results.

At no place in New York was the news of the Gascoigne's arrival hailed with as much joy as at the Hotel Martin, at the corner of University place and Ninth street. For days all the prominent Frenchmen of New York have been gathered at this popular resort for news. The long delay in the arrival of the ship has been a matter of constant conversation. In the afternoon when the United Press telegraphed that the vessel was safe, the Frenchmen were all there. The news was received with a shout, and the vessel was hailed as the savior of the French colony.

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SAFE IN PORT.

Arrival in New York Harbor of the Transatlantic Liner "La Gascoigne."

Great Excitement—The French Colony Especially Jubilant—Causes of the Delay.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

QUARANTINE, NEW YORK. Feb. 11.—La Gascoigne is safe. The big French liner, which is eight days overdue, dropped anchor at the bar just before midnight, all well on board, and a sigh of relief goes up from two continents. The delay was due to a broken piston rod and to the terrific gales which have swept the North Atlantic for the past week or more and brought disaster to so many staunch craft. Capt. Baudouin and the officers and crew of La Gascoigne brought the ship and passengers through the gales and made port without help from day out. They left Havre on January 26 until yesterday they spoke no transatlantic steamer, and saw only a four-masted schooner, the one which reported at St. Pierre Miquelon, as having been wrecked on the coast of the island.

The United Press telegraphed that the ship was safe, and the French colony was jubilant. The ship was hailed as the savior of the French colony.

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BEERING SEA.

WASHINGTON. Feb. 11.—The President sent to the senate on Saturday a number of documents regarding sealing in Beering Sea called for by the resolution adopted by the senate on January 8. Among the other things requested by the resolution are the logs of vessels engaged in enforcing the regulations respecting fur sealing established by the Paris arbitration, the number of seals taken in 1894, the steps taken to extend the Paris tribunal sealing regulations to the North Pacific ocean and Beering sea, and papers relating to the claims of the British government against the seizure of sealing vessels in Beering Sea. In his letter accompanying the documents the President says: "It is impossible to furnish the complete log-books of some of the naval vessels, but I venture to express the hope that the reports of the commanders of such vessels herewith submitted will be found to contain in substance so much of the matters recorded in said log books as are important in answering inquiries addressed to me by the senate."

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TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE.

Liverpool, N. S., Feb. 11.—Last night about down with thick weather at the fishing hamlet of Eastern Head, near this place. The storm of the week will prevail with violence. The wind after its sudden changes to all points of the compass blew a fearful gale. Suddenly a snow storm came on and ended in a blinding fury. The sea dashed upon the rocky shore in great waves and the surf raged with a deafening roar. The distribution of the elements was not the only terror of the night, for fifteen brave Gloucester fishermen met death and a watery grave. The schooner Clara, of St. John's, was wrecked on the rocks at Eastern Head, between Coffin's Island and Brooklyn. Through the semi-darkness late in the afternoon, two vessels were seen in company, one the friend and the other an unknown schooner. They parted company, the schooner was last sight of and the friend put to sea. This was the last seen of either of them. Yesterday morning wreckage along the shore revealed the fate of the schooner Clara. The bodies of seven of her crew told a ghastly story of death. They perished in the night without an effort from land to save them. None on shore knew of the schooner's danger until she had become a wreck and the bodies were found.

HAWAIIAN MATTERS.

(Special to the Colonist.)

HONOLULU. Feb. 11.—Hon. Loring Thurston, Hawaiian minister, this evening received the following telegram from F. M. Hatch, Hawaiian Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Honolulu, Feb. 11.—To Hon. L. F. Thurston, Hawaiian minister, Washington, D.C.: All quiet; trials progressing smoothly. The queen is to be tried on Monday, February 4. Cranston, an American; Muller, a German; and Johnston, an Englishman, were reported for Warrimoo for conspiracy to use dynamite. Minister Thurston maintains resistance upon the subject of Cranston's release, saying that he is not familiar with all the circumstances nor is he inclined to make any statement regarding the representations made to him by Secretary Cranston. If any such have been made, as to the propriety of the Americans now under arrest in Honolulu receiving a fair and impartial trial.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 11.—Rev. M. D. Porter, a missionary of the American board in Peking, China, recently journeyed to Tientsin, 180 miles northwest. He has written to his friends concerning the signs of war that he saw. He says: "The signs of war were the signs of war and the preparations. The forts at Tientsin were armed with the latest and most modern weapons. The channel across the bar was lined with torpedoes and machine guns. The immense train of cars which were to carry soldiers to new fields of destruction. On the river, both going and coming, we met an increasing number of soldiers, all going to the front. I saw many Chinese soldiers, some of whom were a little anxious for the foreigners who have learnt to live with quiet delight on the daily rumors and possibilities, were surprised to know that any should think of returning. There, of course, was no reason why we should not return. We had one existing hour on the return trip. Aside from that all was as quiet and peaceful as any of the many trips we have taken back and forth."

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FROST IN FLORIDA.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Feb. 11.—The full extent of the damage done by the cold wave throughout Florida will be hard to estimate for some days, because reports will be slow in coming from all points, and much will depend upon the weather that follows during the next week. After the freeze in December the weather moderated gradually, and it was fully ten days before the normal temperature was reached. This probably saved a large amount of damage to oranges, which might have been done by the sudden warming of the air and exposure to the sun. The area of low temperature has extended as far south as before, and vegetation was in not as strong condition to stand the cold as before. To re-plant the loss of orange crop many orange planters planted vegetables. They had started vigorously and were developing to a point where they could be more damaged by severe cold. Then came the second freeze. It is reported that the vegetable crop of Florida is an entire loss. The older orange trees throughout the state had already shown signs of putting out new growth, and along Halifax and Indian rivers and in the southern portion of the orange belt had come to bloom. As far as can be learned, this bloom and new growth has been destroyed.

Advice from Palm Beach and Lake Worth to-night are that the damage done is very slight. Latest indications for Florida are that there will be a slight frost in the northern portion to-night, followed by warmer weather.

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MINING REGULATION.

OLYMPIA, Feb. 11.—The most important measure passed by the legislature at this session is the Rogers bill, governing coal mines, passed by the house last week. It amends section two of the present law on that subject, and aims to better protect the lives and health of the coal miners. It provides that each level in any coal mine shall be furnished with separate exits of pure air, increasing the number of cubic feet per minute required at present. The temper of the present legislature is evidently to give better protection to miners, as the experience of the last three years, attended with great loss of life and property owing to mining accidents, have shown the present law to be inadequate.

OYSTERS IN DANGER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

SEA ISLE CITY, Feb. 11.—The oyster growers throughout South Jersey are worried over the continued cold weather and that unless it moderates gradually they will lose thousands of dollars. The bays in which the oyster grounds are situated are frozen solid, and the ice, reaching the bottom, has caught thousands of bushels of oysters. If a sudden warm spell should follow this extremely cold weather the ice will carry the oysters away and deposit them in the creeks and thoroughfares.

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