Defective Machinery

The Dominion Alien Labor Act Declared to be a Dead Letter.

Delegate From The Revelstoke Trackmen's Union Interviews Attorney General.

P. J. Graham, secretary of the Revelstoke Trackmen's union, called upon Attorney-General Eberts yesterday to ask the aid of the provincial government to enforce the Alien Labor act. Mr. Eberts informed Mr. Graham that he was powerless in the matter, that under the act in force initiatory proceedings must be taken by some private individual, who must first have obtained the written consent of a judge of the court in which the action is intended to be brought. This action must be brought against the person or persons importing the alien laborers in the same manner as a suit for an ordinary debt. The party may be sued for and the case tried summarily before any judge of a county court, who is a justice of the peace, or any judge of the sessions of the peace, recorder, police magistrate, or stipendiary magistrate, but in that case the written consent of the attorney-general or a judge of the superior or county court must first be obtained.

If the plaintiff wins his case, the defendant may be fined any amount not exceeding $1,000, and not less than $50, which sum shall be paid to the minister of finance or receiver-general of Canada.

The attorney-general had no objection to giving his consent to an action being begun, and regretted that his power in the matter was limited to that meagre extent.

Mr. Graham was not prepared, nor did he think the union would care to begin an action against the C. P. R. which would very likely involve heavy expense and could not result in much good in any event. The Trackmen's union is not looking for chances to inflict fines on the C. P. R., what it desires is to keep alien laborers out of the country or to have them deported after their illegal importation. The act provides that the attorney-general of Canada, in case he shall be satisfied that an immigrant has been landed in Canada contrary to the provisions of the act, may cause such immigrant, within a period of one year, to be taken into custody and returned to the country whence he came at the expense of the person or persons who violated the law.

"But how to satisfy the attorney-general of Canada is the question," said Mr. Graham. "The act does not appear to provide for that in any way. In fact, as the Alien Labor act stands to day it is a dead letter, not worth the paper it is written on. The labor men of Canada asked for bread and the government has given them a stone."

Mr. Graham expressed himself as very well pleased with his interview with Mr. Eberts, who had carefully explained the position of the local government in the premises. The whole matter is one entirely within the jurisdiction of the Dominion, and with which no provincial government can interfere.

Continuing, Mr. Graham said that as the much vaunted Alien Labor act offers no relief to the strikers, they are left to their own efforts to combat the wholesale importations of foreigners. So far they have succeeded in persuading the men imported to refuse to go to work, and they will continue to do so, determined to act strictly within the law. This policy on their part is costing them considerable money as at Revelstoke alone they are paying the living expenses of 32 men brought all the way from Boston by an Italian employment agent. These men were promised return transportation if the work did not suit them, or that the real state of affairs were misrepresented. When they arrived and found the strike on, they refused to work and demanded to be taken back east, but the request was refused and they are now being supported by the union.

Mr. Graham says the company is offering as high as $1 an hour and cannot get men to work. The state of the road bed and bridges is becoming every day worse and the running of trains more difficult. The company has one gang of Japanese working under duress, being forced to it by armed special constables. The Japs, he says, are loyal to the union and walked out with the white men, but this particular lot are practically prisoners, driven to work by threats of personal violence.

Local labor men who are taking an interest in the strike, expressed their dissatisfaction with the Alien Labor Act, which, they say, is of no use whatever as a preventative of foreign labor being imported, and worthless, as it provides no machinery for their deportation. What they asked for and what they understood parliament was granting them, was a law which would provide a summary method of arresting and deporting foreign laborers—a law similar to that in force in the United States.

The Trades and Labor Council will meet tonight and it is expected that the act will be submitted to some severe criticism.

MICA IN EAST KOOTENAY.

Large Sized Deposit Discovered by Mr. C. P. Price.

From Golden Era.

Mica has been brought in from time to time by parties who have come from that part of this district lying between Beaver and the Big Bend, and fair specimens have been exhibited in this town very often, but it remained for Mr. C. P. Price, better known as "Kid," to bring in a piece to open the eyes of Goldenites, and which, if shown in any of the moneyed centres of the east, woul create a furore.

"Kid" has been trapping and prospecting the whole of the northern portion of this district for the past few years, and has traced the mica formation over a long stretch of territory before finally selecting the point on which he has now located.

Accompanied by Chas Hatch, he left in the middle of June for the north, carrying with him powder and steel with which to open up the ledge, but on unpacking his supplies no caps were forthcoming, and no work could be done. Just why the caps werenot there has been the subject of numerous debates between "Kid" and "Mac" and the decision is as far away as ever. Having to return, Price cut out a detached block of the mineral which had rotted away from the main ledge, and was lying embedded in the soil, and brought it in with them as proof of what they had found. It was this rotten piece that created so much excitement, and it well might, as it shows a clear surface when split of 23x15 inches.

Price left the samnle in Recorder Lang's specimen case, where it has been duly admired by local mining men.

Mr. G. B. McDermot, Dr. Taylor and Miss Lang are also interested in this proposition, and we learn that it is the intention of some New York gentlemen to secure machinery for splitting the mica into sheets and so be in a position to ship the finished product.

The location of the claims is in the Big Bend, two miles from the river, and almost directly opposite the mouth of Wood river.

The mineral is found in a dyke of quartz and is, as the loose specimen indicates, in large pieces. At points where the quartz has been exposed to the weather, there is a good showing, and the mineral can be traced for a distance of 200 yards on the surface.

Price brought in some specimens of tin that have been sent for an assay, but those who have seen the samples, and are in a position to pronounce on their value, say that the ledge is high grade.

North East Kootenay will soon be recognized as the banner division of the farfamed Kootenays.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the age of competition,
If you wish to conquer fortune,
Use good ads for ammunition.
—H. K. Fort.

A MYSTERY ELUCIDATED.

Sausages Made At Twopence a Pound With Spice, Paint and a Little Meat.

From London Mail.

Everybody eats sausages, though not always with an easy mind. The recently published "First Book on Sausages, Printed in English," is, therefore, of interest to the general public as well as to the manufacturer.

"Not many years ago," says the author "sausage was regarded with much suspicion, but that impression no longer exists, to the advantage of the producer and the consumer; but especially of the consumer, as it enables him to purchase at a moderate cost, a healthful article of food having all the nutritive value of the whole cut."

He then goes on to show how the manufacturer may reap an enormous profit, but the advantage to the consumer is dubious.

The most essential things in sausages are, apparently, spices and coloring matters. With an attractive color and a spicy odor and taste any rubbish will sell. Therefore, the sausage maker must provide himself with the best obtainable pepper, sage, basil, thyme, mace, nutmeg, allspice, etc. Likewise he must carefully select his coloring matters, which according to the manuals, are obtained from various vegetable and mineral sources, and "are not so injurious as general opinion would have them"—just what the brewers say of arsenic in beer.

The extra cost of good spices is easily saved in the meat. "By taking freshly killed beef while yet warm and chopping it up fine it will absorb 50 per cent or more of water. The beef from bulls furnishes the sausage maker with a profitable meat, as, being naturally dry, it will absorb at least half its weight of water." Water at 8d. a pound must certainly prove profitable. But the sausage maker has further resources. Stags and boars have an "unpalatable taste and a rank odor." Hence if sold as meat they fetch a small price. But, provided he does not use too much, the sausage maker can make delicious bolognas from these animals, and get tiptop prices for them.

As to casings, they are, as every one knows, the entrails of animals. In the old days they were used in their natural state, but the up-to-date sausage maker knows better. Some years ago, when you bought a smoked sausage you might feel assured it was a smoked sausage. Smoking was found troublesome, and the sausage making manual shows an inexpensive substitute. All you have to do is to buy some 'smoke color' and steep your casings in it. Sausages stuffed in such casings present a very rich appearance, and it is claimed that 'no smoking of the sausage is required.'

Now, the main object of smoking is to preserve the sausage for months. So that, if you eat a twenty-century sausage made in this fashion, you had better eat it quickly or beware of consequences.

"Fillers" form a very important subject. On "fillers" and water the sausage maker relies for his huge profits.

Fillers consist of bread, corn flour, potato flour, biscuit meal, sausage meal, boiled rice, and so on. Of buscuit meal it may be said that it absorbs a large quantity of water, but "it causes the sausage to be nicely browned and crisp, giving it an appetizing appearance." "Bread is an inexpensive article for filling sausages, ... and baker's bread is better than home made, as it will absorb much more water." "This material is very serviceable in reducing the cost without detracting in the least from the nutritive qualities of the sausage." Yet it will occur to the economical housekeeper that it is cheaper to give the baker five pence a quartern than the sausage maker eight pence a pound for this nutritive article.

As to preservatives, their use is legitimate and necessary. Borax, boric acid, salicylic acid, formaldehyde, and other drugs prevent "much good and valuable food from being wasted," while "it is doubtful if any of these are harmful to the consumer." The sausage maker takes the benefit of the doubt. The quantity of boric acid used, by the way, is from one-half to one ounce per ten pounds of sausages. Every time you eat a half pound of sausages, therefore, perhaps you will take a medicinal dose of boric acid, and if you are a regular sausage eater your stomach will be in a nice state at the end of the year.

The recipes are interesting. Here is one for ordinary pork sausages: Lean pork trimmings, 80 pounds; pig's liver, 2 pounds; lean bacon, 2 pounds; boiled rice, 16 pounds; salt, 11-2 pounds; boric acid 5 ounces. Add water to the desired consistency.

Let us work out the cost. The pork has already received 27 pounds of water Therefore there are 53 pounds of "trimmings" at, say, 2d. a pound. That makes 8s. 10d. Say 1s. for the 4 pounds of liver and bacon at wholesale price, another 1s. for the salt and spices. With 5s. for the casings; the total cost is 16s. 10d. For this sum the sausage maker has over 100 pounds of sausages, and they thus stand him 2d. per pound. As a matter of fact, the above allowances are liberal, for sausages do not cost so much as 2d. a pound to make. "Beef" sausages are made on the same plan.

For "Hamburg Knock sausage" may be used, says the recipe, cheap meat, snouts, ears, hearts, sinewy and tough meat, calf's lungs, etc. These are chopped fine, added to potato meal and flavored to taste. Chicken and ham sausage is made from pork, veal, tongue, rice, sausage meat, and spices. The sausage maker may add a little chicken as a salve to his conscience, but this is not necessary.

What is the moral to be drawn from this candid trade manual? Make your own sausages at home.

VANCOUVER SATISFIED.

Hon. Richard McBride Completes Arrangements for Purchasing Assay Office.

Referring to Hon. Richard McBride's recent visit to Vancouver, to arrange for the purchase of gold at full mint value by the banks of that city, the Province says:

"Hon. Richard McBride, minister of mines, was in the city today, one of the objects of his visit being the arranging of the detail of working of the provincial governent assay office in charge of Mr. W. Pellew Harvey in this city. The whole matter was gone into fully and an arrangement was made satisfactory to all parties of the officials as well as to the banks, and the ease with which it can be managed should make it popular with people who bring gold to this city.

"It has been arranged that R. J. Skinner, the government timber agent here, is to take the duties of gold commissioner. Gold left with Mr. Pellew Harvey for assay and sale to the government will be made into bricks and handed over to Mr. Skinner, who will in turn issue certificates that may be cashed for their face value by any bank in the city. The gold bricks will be kept in a big vault to be constructed in the court house specially for this purpose. It is expected that this plan will be very expeditious and have the effect of bringing a large trade to the provincial office."

The action of the provincial government in providing for the assaying and purchase of gold has been forced upon them by the fact that the assay office proposed to be established at Vancouver by the Dominion government cannot possibly be equipped and put in operation in time to deal with this season's output of Yukon or Atlin gold.

Racing Around The World

Representatives of Chicago and Paris Newspapers Arrive By Empress.

How Chicago Men Were Rushed to Seattle by Special Steamer.

Among the passengers of the R. M. S. Empress of India, which arrived at noon yesterday from the Orient, were two parties of racers who are rushing around the globe. There was S. M. Williams and C. C. Fitzmorris of the Chicago American, and Robt. Lebaudy and H. Stiegler of Le Matin, a Parisian newspaper. The coming of the Chicago racers was productive of more excitement than that ordinarily occasioned by the arrival of the Empress at William Head. The steamer Sea Lion was secured from the Puget Sound Tugboat company for the local correspondent of the Hearst newspapers, and it left the Outer wharf with him shortly after the steamer Otter started out to act as tender. Passing the Otter and leaving a long wake the fleet tug steamed down to William Head where Dr. Watt and Pilot Babbington were picked up, and carried on down the Straits to meet the Empress, which was seen steaming up the Straits at the other side of Race Rocks. In answer to signals from the tug, the Empress slowed up and a boat was put out from the side of the Sea Lion with the doctor, pilot and correspondent on board, and the trio were rowed in to the big steel wall of the Empress and clambered up the ladder which was lowered for them. As soon as an examination had been made to ascertain that all on board were in health, the American racers were released and with their effects they hurried down the ladder to the waiting boat, were rowed to the Sea Lion, which was hove too near by, and at 12.10 p. m. as the liner was tying up at William Head the tug swung around and dashed away under a full head of steam for Seattle, which port she reached after a very fast trip at 5:45 p. m. She was ordered to call at Port Townsend quarantine station, and as Capt. Manter was ignorant of these orders when he left another tug came out from that port to intercept him. The racers took the Great Northern train which left at 7:50 p. m. last night for Chicago, and as Sam Hill, a son-in-law of J. J. Hill, and a director of the transcontinental line had interested himself in their trip and wired to the general manager asking him to push the racers through to the Windy City, they will no doubt make a fast trip. They are due at Chicago tomorrow night, and it looks as though they will win the race around the globe, having gone from Chicago to Chicago via the Atlantic, Europe, Siberia and the Pacific in sixty days. Competing with them is a New York boy representing the Journal, now on the Atlantic, and W. Crittenden of San Francisco, representing the Examiner, who is going around the world by the ocean route.

The French journalists who came ashore here and remained until the steamer left for the Sound at 7:30 last night, will not make as fast a trip as the Chicago boys, not securing such close connections. Both are well known in the old world, M. Lebaudy being the president of a French club of baloonists, and a very wealthy traveler. M. Steigler is a journalist of the true Parisian school, with an Emil Zola beard, and an abhorrence of anything approaching a hurry. He is one of that school of newspapermen familiar in France to whom tomorrow is as good as today, and it was nothing to him that the Americans were rushed across to Seattle, "Pshaw," he said, as he shrugged his shoulders, "what is one day, more or less," and when informed that he could send correspondence from Victoria, he said he had decided to notify his paper of his arrival from Seattle today. "What was one day"—and had it not been for M. Lebaudy the people of Paris would have to have waited until today to know that M. Stiegler had arrived in Victoria en route home.

M. Lebaudy gives interesting particulars of his trip across Siberia. He said: Lebaudy said:

I left Paris by the Nord Express train de luxe at 2 p. m. on the 15 May, St. Petersburg at 10 p. m. on the 17th, and Moscow at 8 p. m. on the 18th, by the trans-Siberian Express, which took me in eight days to Irkutsk. After staying there a day or two, I continued by journey by rail to Stretinsk (three days from Irkutsk—including the crossing of Lake Baikal in 4 hours on a steamer.) From Stretinsk to Khabarovsk, (about 1,300 miles) I traveled by water, on the rivers Chilka and Amur—in about 13 days; from Kabarovsk to Vladivostock (one train daily) by train in 32 hours.

I reached Vladivostock on the 15th June, thirty days after having left Paris.

I had no special reason for hurrying; had I hurried, and with more favorable circumstances, I might have accomplished the journey in eight days less. I found the water very low in the rivers, not more than 3 feet in some places, and the steamers, which ply in rather great numbers—4 or 5 daily—between Stretinsk and Khabarovsk (with a change generally half way, at Blagovitchensk), get frequently stranded on sand bars.

I found the Russian trans-Siberian train de luxe very comfortable; it is very punctual, leaves Moscow regularly twice a week, Wednesday and Saturday at 8 p. m.; and Irkutsk Monday and Thursdays at 12 a. m.

There is a question of that train running very soon to Stretinsk (being taken over the lake, Baikal, on the large ferry boat the Baikal, which I saw working.)

The carriages of the railway between Irkutsk and Stretinsk, and of the one between Khabarovsk and Vladivostock, are very comfortable and all contain sleeping compartments, the latter one even a restaurant.

The hotels in Irkoutsk (Metropole, Russian), in Stretinsk (M. Schein), in Khabarowsk (M. Khabarovsk), in Vladivostock (M. Pacifique, Moscow, and Siberia), will probably be found by the majority of travelers to be lacking in comfort, the one exception being the French Grand Hotel at Blagovestchensk. The food on the steamers is also very poor.

I found the hotels, steamers, and trains crowded on the whole route.

Once or twice, I was not allowed to leave by the train, because no more tickets were sold, the train being full.

Going up river, on the return journey, Khabarovsk-Stretinsk, I would say several days more are required, the current being against the steamers.

On the whole, the journey after Irkutsk is rather a rough one, but on the other hand, the scenery is in some parts magnificent.

I may add that ladies and children formed the greater part of the traveling public on the trains and steamers I traveled by.

I heard the trans-Manchurian railway will be completed within a few months, and so will be the branch line to Port Arthur, but it will be some more months before trains run direct from Moscow to Vladivostock, many bridges and stations being not yet built on the Manchurian section.

Navigation on the above mentioned rivers is stopped by the ice between about 20th September and 10th May.

I found the weather to be similar to that of Europe at this time of the year.

In Vladivostock I met two American newspaper men going round the world, who had traveled (via Empress steamer to Japan, then by special steamer from Hakodate to Vladivostock) from New York to Vladivostock in 21 days, which is, I believe, record time.

No special permit, besides the Russian passport, is required for the journey through Siberia.

UNWITTING BENEDICT.

Did Not Mean Any Disrespect to the British Flag.

Toronto, July 16. — (Special) —Provincial High School Inspector John Seats, who has been making inquiries for the government regarding the removal of British flags from the Archaelogical museum at the Pan-American exposition, has reported to Hon. Mr. Harcourt that the incident did not arise from any desire to give insult or offence and was devoid of features likely to cause international friction.

Dr. Benedict, director of the Ethnological building, who is authorized to make any changes in displays under his charge, explained to Mr. Seats that in re-arranging the exhibit he did so without the slightest thought of causing any annoyance or irritation, and that far from being an Anglophobist, he is a great admirer of British institutions. He adds that he will be glad to make any suggested rearrangement of the exhibit. Mr. Harcourt also received a letter from Dr. Benedict conveying the same views and expressing regret for being unwittingly the cause of the trouble.

THE CANADIAN SPRUCE FORESTS

A Description of the Vast Areas Throughout the Dominion.

From Montreal Witness.

Since the wood has been found so preeminently excellent for the making of pulp, the spruce forests of Canada have excited the interest of all the world. Apart from the making of pulp for paper purposes, however, our spruce wood has always been a valuable asset, and in the eastern provinces it is the chief wood used for house building and flooring, being tougher, stronger and more elastic than pine. So far as white spruce alone is concerned, it is said that the value of the growing timber is already as great as that of all our other trees combined. The white spruce (picea alba), is easily recognized and separated from the black spruce (picea nigra) by the difference of the cones. In the black spruce they are quite short, seldom an inch long, and the scales are croded and deep purple, even when quite old. The white spruce, on the other hand, has narrow, drooping cones, never under an inch in length, and the scales are pale straw color or brown at maturity. Picea nigra is abundant in Newfoundland and in every part of Canada, except southern Ontario and the prairie region. Prof. Macoun says it climbs the highest on the Shickshocks, in Gaspe, and creeps the closest of any of our creepers to the cold waters of the Labrador coast and Arctic sea. At its northern and southern limit it nearly loses its tree form, becoming in the north a bush, while in the south, in the deep swamps, it is little larger than a hop-pole. All specimens of spruce obtained from Labrador and the far north are this species. It is closely related to the red spruce, and prefers damp situations, while white spruce prefers drier, well-drained soil. According to the late Prof. Dawson, it is very likely a common tree in northern British Columbia, having been observed on the Blackwater and other rivers up to 55 degrees. The black spruce in suitable soils attains a height of a hundred feet, but is a little inferior to white spruce in the quality of its wood for joiners' use. With the tender schoots of the black spruce is made the noted "spruce beer," the favorite beverage of the "Canadian" during the summer months. Both black and white spruce have been found to increase in value as pulp woods the further north they grow.

Respecting the distribution of p. nigra and p. alba, Sir John Richardson and Prof. Sargent assert that picea alba is really the more northern one, while Prof. Macoun holds the contrary opinion. He has specimens from Truro, N. S., from Gaspe, from Nepigon, north of Lake Superior, and from various points on the prairie, and from the foothills and slopes of the Rocky mountains, but not one from north of the Saskatchewan, except Dr. Dawson's, from the Athabasca, all the specimens from that quarter and northern British Columbia being most decidedly black spruce. The white spruce in habit is totally different from the black spruce. N. Nibra is a lover of damp localities, as we have said, while white spruce prefers comparatively dry woods, and is found mixed with poplar, birch and other trees. On the prairies it is pound on sand-hills and dry slopes of river banks, and, this being the case, Dr. Macoun contends that it is not reasonable to expect it to take to cold and damp localities in the north. Without a doubt, however, this species ranges from Newfoundland, Anticosti, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, through Quebec and Ontario, westward to the forest limit of Manitoba. In the prairie region it is found on the sand-hills bordering the first prairie steppe. Occasionally trees are met with in the Saskatchewan valley and in the ravines of the Cypress hills are numerous small groves. It ascends the Bow river from Calgary, and becomes intermixed with Uicea Engelmanni at Silver City, within the Rocky Mountains. Richardson gives its range as "throughout Nova Scotia and Canada, to within twenty miles of the Arctic Sea and on the Coppermine river; in latitude 67 degrees it attains a height of twenty feet or more. Spruce trees have no top root, the roots are all lateral, so that the soil in which they grow need not be deep. The seed ripens in autumn and one pound contains about fifty thousand pickles, of which about eighty per cent. germinate under ordinary conditions. The seed is winged, and this is a common characteristic of the family, as of all of the conifers, it is contained in cones of overlapping scales. The white spruce attains a height of about fifty feet and a diameter of two feet at the base. Forests composed of these trees may be felled every ten or fifteen years for lumbering purposes, provided that all trees less than a foot in diameter are left standing. A great part of the subarctic forest is composed of white and black spruce. White spruce is being more generally used now for railway ties, fence posts, piles and telegraph poles, besides the general building purposes already mentioned; black spruce is considerably best suited of the two for masts and spars.

Engelmann's spruce (picea Engelmanni), according to Prof. Macoun, is first met with in the Bow river valley, on the line of the C. P. R., about the Cascade mountains, but does not completely supersede the white spruce until Castle Mountain is passed. At Laggan and all points westward it is the only spruce, and at Kicking Horse Lake there are groves containing many fine trees. In the Columbia valley and all the valleys of the Selkirk mountains, it grows to a great size, often being four feet in diameter, and having an average height of over 150 feet. It is more a tree of the valleys than of the mountains, seldom ascending more than six thousand feet. The tree appears to characterize the interior plateau and eastern part of the province of British Columbia, with the exception of the dry southern portions of the former, and forms dense groves in the mountains. It borders nearly all the streams and swamps in the northern portion of British Columbia, between about 2.500 and 3,500 feet elevation, and forms dense groves in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains. The wood is largely used in bridge and trestle work and for heavy construction work generally. The wood is very like that of the black and white spruces, and is used for the same purposes. It was the chief wood used in the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway from the Rocky Mountains westward.

Western spruce, or Menzies' spruce (Picea Sitchensis), is confined chiefly so far as at present known, to the immediate vicinity of the coast of British Columbia, ranging from the international boundary north to Alaska. In the southern part of the province it grows scattered among other trees, but in the north it is relatively much more abundant, growing sometimes in large clumps. Occasionally trees of great size are found, but it generally averages less in diameter than the Douglas fir, those cut for lumber seldom being more than five or six feet in diameter. It is the most useful wood on the west coast, being in great demand for the manufacture of doors, window sashes, boxes, shelving and interior finishing. The wood is very white, is elastic and bends with the grain without splitting, so that it is much used in boat building, making of light oars, staves and woodenware. It resists decay for a long time, and, like the Douglas fir, is not attacked by insects. The chief value of the Sitka spruce in the near future, says Macoun, will be in the manufacture of pulp, for which purpose it is not excelled by any other tree. As soon as pulp mills are established in the vicinity of the large saw mills, the immense waste entailed by the present method of sawing dimension timber in British Columbia will be obviated. Dr. Dawson observed it on the summit between the Coldwater and Coquinhallow rivers (3,250 feet); also on the Nicolume, a few miles beyond the summit, between that stream and the Sumallow, and on the west side of the Spioos, near the Trail crossing. It is also noted (doubtfully) on the summit between the forks of the Speena and Bamine lake.

Norway spruce (Picea Excelsa) is not indigenous to the soil, but it deserves a place among the conifers fitted for cultivation in all the provinces of the Dominion. It is hardy, presents a magnificent appearance, and grows to the height of a hundred feet. It has been known, without special care, to attain a height of thirty-four feet by fifteen inches in diameter at the base in twenty-four years. One of its good qualities is that it throws out extremely strong lateral bushes, which makes it highly suitable for windbreaks around orchards, or permanent plantations of walnuts or oaks. There is one peculiar quality about its wood, it is fit to use before it reaches a foot in diameter, which is not the case with the other spruces. It is distinguished principally from the other spruces by its large cones and heavily drooping branches and branchlets. The spruces are distinguishable from the hemlocks from having their evergreen, needle-shaped leaves, which are somewhat four-sided, distributed all round the stem. The pines are easily distinguishable from both by their needless growing in small clusters, of from one to five, each assuming the shape of a cylinder when pressed together.

The pulp industry was first mentioned in the census of 1881, when the capital invested was stated to be $92,000, the wages paid $15,720, and the value of the product $63,300. Ten years afterwards the census of 1891 gave the capital invested at $2,900,907, the wages paid $292,099 and the value of products at $1,057,810. The comparison of these figures shows for the ten years an increase of 3,053 per cent. in the capital invested, of 1,758 per cent. in the wages paid, and of 157 per cent. in the value of the products turned out. Until the present census returns are published, the statistics of 1891 are the only correct and complete figures to hand respecting the consumption of spruce in the four older provinces of the Dominion, in which for many years to come the pulp industry is bound to increase in importance. According to the figures of the 1891 census the whole of the spruce consumed in the four provinces for all purposes amounted to 5,146,236,287 feet, of which 2,958,926,740 feet were consumed for sawlogs, 1,566,412,166 feet for firewood, 212,582,464 feet for square timber, 111,889,150 feet for lathwood, 130,400,000 feet for pulpwood, 98,267,801 feet for railway sleepers, and 67,749,166 feet for shingles. In each of the provinces respectively the pulp wood used was as follows: Ontario, 57,457,800 feet; Quebec, 1,812,740,038 feet; New Brunswick, 650,388,898 feet, and Nova Scotia, 705,226,450 feet. The proportion of pulpwood to the other uses spruce had been put to when these figures were compiled was 2.53 per cent. for the four provinces together, 2.90 per cent. for Ontario, 3.51 per cent. for Quebec, 9.03 per cent. for New Brunswick, and 0.23 per cent. for Nova Scotia.

The extent of our spruce forests may be faintly imagined by stating the fact, that if since the date of the first census there has been cleared and put under crop about 2,000,000 acres of wood lands in Ontario, 1,500,000 acres in Quebec, 250,000 acres in New Brunswick, and 300,000 in Nova Scotia, the present forest area in Ontario would be 52,818,420 acres; Quebec, 144.363,454 acres; New Brunswick, 11,224,540 acres, and Nova Scotia, 10,853,544 acres. If this is divided by 260,818 acres, which is about the area demanded each year, even if the pulp industry were to consume 1,500,000 tons a year, it is estimated that it would take 840 years to exhaust our spruce forests. The period of exhaustion for Ontario is estimated at 860 years, but now he has numerous applications for work from Rossland, owing to the strike there. From all indications the centre of active mining is rapidly changing from Kootenay to Vancouver Island, a fact which must add greatly to the prosperity of Victoria.

Rumors of Rebellion

Plans to Waylay the Chinese Emperor and Raise Standard of Revolt.

Details of the Assassination of Hoshi Toru at Tokio City Hall.

According to advices received by the Empress of India, which arrived yesterday, rumors of a rebellion headed by Tsung Fu Hsien are current among the Chinese. It is reported that Gen. Tsung intends to waylay the Chinese Emperor on his way to Pekin and raise the flag of revolt under the pretence of driving away the corrupt officials that now surround the Emperor. While the rumor has not been confirmed the allied troops are making inquiries about the matter.

A Shanghai despatch to the Japanese native paper Asahi states that the Chinese Emperor intends to leave Sianfu for Pekin, as previously announced, and preparations are being pushed ahead. Gen. Tsung Fu Hsien, who is in Kansu, petitioned Their Majesties to proceed to Joyang, urging that considerations of safety rendered it inadvisable that the court should return to Pekin while it remained in the hands of the "foreign devils." The real purpose of the general is to divert attention from himself as if the court returns to Pekin his own punishment cannot be much longer delayed. The petition was promptly rejected.

Details were received by the Empress of the assassination of Hoshi Toru, the well known Japanese politician, at the city hall of Tokio. He was stabbed to death by a fencer named Iba Sotaro. There appears to be no desire on the part of the assassin to hide the motive of his act. The murderer is a man of influence and high aims and has apparently been a well-to-do citizen. From accounts published in Japanese papers, it seems that Mr. Hoshi had been attending a meeting of the aldermen. The meeting was held in private and the discussion was concluded at about 3 o'clock. Mr. Hoshi, with the mayor and others, were having a social chat when the assassin entered the room. The man was well dressed. He gave his name and said he was a member of the educational committee of Yotsuya Ku. No one suspected that the man was bent on evil, and consequently little attention was paid to him. He walked behind Mr. Hoshi and drew a dagger, instantly plunging it into Mr. Hoshi's right side, penetrating the lung. The assassin, who is a skilled fencer, dealt the blow before Mr. Hoshi could offer any resistance. Mr. Hiraga, clerk oft he city assembly, was the first to see what had taken place, and he at once sprung on the assassin and held him. The others in the room then helped to secure the assassin, which they succeeded in doing after a struggle. The police authorities arriving on the scene shortly afterwards the assassin was taken into custody. The wounds sustained by Mr. Hoshi were so serious that he fell dead without uttering a word. The remains were sent to his house in Akasaka in a carriage after an informal inquest. The assassin was taken to the Metropolitan police bureau, which stands close to the city hall. The assassin told the police authorities in quite a composed manner that he had been watching for a chance to kill Mr. Hoshi, as he had resolved to sacrifice his property and his love for his wife and family in order to strike the man. He gave as a reason for his bloody deed that it was necessary to strike a blow in the interest of sound educaton. He was bleeding freely from the forehead when arrested.

The wounds sustained by Mr. Hoshi were five in all. All were deep and mortal.

The assassin Iba is described as a man 51 years of age. He was originally a follower of the Tokukawa dynasty and was skilled in the art of fencing. He founded two schools after the reformation of the Meiji era and has taken an active part in educational work among young people. In 1892 he and others promoted the Japan Savings Bank of Tokio, of which institution he was elected president.

CHARACTER IN SMOKING.

A Pipe or a Cigarette Proves a Very Close Indication.

From Royal Magazine.

A man may possess a most secretive nature, he may have a face as destitute of meaning as a stone wall, and a manner of speech absolutely non-committal; but watch him over his cigarette; note his manner of holding between his lips or his fingers; see how he puffs the smoke out of his mouth, what he does with the ash. If he consumes the cigarette to a mere stump or throws it away half smoked, and, sure as fate, you will read his character like a book. Cigarette I said, for a cigarette (and a cigar in a less degree) are much better character revealers than a pipe. A man sticks a pipe into the side of his mouth and puffs away, and there's an end to it. You discover next to nothing unless, indeed, he happen to puff very violently, which is a certain indication of a nervous, irritable temper. From the filing of a pipe, to be sure, many luminous little hints may be gathered. You see a man stuff his bowl quickly and lavishly, letting loose threads of tobacco dangle over the brim while he applies the match; if he be not good-natured, generous to a fault, careless, indolent, quick to make friends, I shall be much astonished. One notices men very often taking cigars from an upper waistcoat pocket into which they have been stuffed. Too poor to buy themselves a cigar case? Not a bit of it, but too untidy to keep one or too lazy to arrange their cigars into one. And the same men almost invariably bite the tips off their cigars, instead of using a penknife or a cigar-clipper—a shocking habit that not merely fills the mouth with tobacco grit but disarranges the outer leaf, often spoiling an otherwise excellent smoke.

The cigar once happily prepared for smoking, observe how your man holds it between his teeth. But stay! The operation of lighting has also its interest. The tobacco epicure grips his cigar not merely with his teeth when applying the match, but with the finger and thumb of his left hand also; and between every third puff draws the weed from his mouth and examines the glowing end, in order to make sure that it has been ignited equally all round.

The majority of men hold their cigars with the front teeth, and puff the smoke out on either side of it. A large minority hold them in the corner of the mouth, so that if you happen to be walking behind them on a dark night you catch sight of the glowing end protruding just below the ear. Others, again—and these, as a rule, are persons of vivacious temperament — seldom keep their cigars for two consecutive moments between their lips. They take a few puffs, and then the cigar is given a rest between finger and thumb.

A man of determined character, energetic, pugnacious, impatient, often betrays himself by giving his cigar an upward tilt while consuming it—a favorite method with the Yankee, to whom the above epithets are distinctly applicable. The contemplative, dreamy individual will let it droop towards his chin; while level-headed persons—and fortunately they form the vast majority—hold theirs horizontally. Naturally insolent people frequently omit to remove the cigar from their mouths when speaking to you, while others of a sullen, brooding disposition chew the end into a horrible pulp. And is there anything more eloquent of stinginess than the habit, largely indulged in by Germans, of sticking the stump of a cigar on the small blade of a penknife and consuming it until the glow almost touches the lips?

Pat—Are you good at arithmetic, Mike?
Mike—I am.
Pat—Well, if you had ten shillings and I asked you for the lend of five how much would you have left?
Mike (strongly)—Ten shillings.
Pat—Ah, ye don't seem to ketch onto my idea.
Mike—No: an' you don't seem to ketch onter my five shillings.

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New Strike at Mount Sicker

Large Ledge of Gold Bearing Quartz Located on the Lenora.

Progress of the Camp—Activity on Every Side—Tide Turned.

New strikes of valuable ore on the Lenora have been so common of late that they are accepted as a matter of course by the management, but the latest discovery at the mines opens such a vista of golden promise that it must cause a commotion in the cardiac arrangements of even those self-possessed gentlemen. Just on the line between the Lenora and Tyhee claims, and extending through both, is a big ledge of white quartz on which some work was done in the early days of the properties, but abandoned for the more promising looking prospects lower down the mountain. The other day a visitor passing by this ledge with Mr. Croft, carelessly picked up a piece of rock and there, imbedded in it, were three tiny nuggets of free gold. Needless to say, Mr. Croft was delighted with this new evidence of the wealth of the Lenora, and lost no time in putting men to work to investigate the ledge. It is 15 feet wide where exposed, and as it has not been cross-cut there is no means as yet of judging of its full extent. From its position, however, Mr. Croft says he will strike it by a cross-cut in No. 3 tunnel at 250 feet.

Work in No. 3 tunnel is progressing satisfactorily, a good body of copper ore having been encountered a few days ago.

The mine is producing 70 tons a day of sorted ore, which is shipped to Tacoma, and 60 tons of second class, which is being added to the big ore dump.

The Hotel Mount Sicker is now in perfect running order, and as soon as the new locomotive (which is daily expected) arrives and the passenger car is put on the Mont Sicker railway, the camp should attract numerous visitors to see the mines and enjoy the invigorating air of the mountain.

The buildings on the Copper Canyon are being pushed to completion and active mining will go on with a large force of men.

The Mount Sicker & British Columbia company, owning 17 claims, are building a manager's residence and bunk houses, and when these are completed they will put on a big gang of miners and develop some of the most promising of their claims.

Lloyd's sawmill, at Mount Sicker junction is nearly completed, and will start some day this week.

Mr. Croft says miners were scarce a while ago, but now he has numerous applications for work from Rossland, owing to the strike there. From all indications the centre of active mining is rapidly changing from Kootenay to Vancouver Island, a fact which must add greatly to the prosperity of Victoria.

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