

THE CITY.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, AUGUST 16.

The Sogobres reserve was again threatened with destruction by a grass fire yesterday afternoon, being saved by the hard work of the fire department.

AD DWYER thinks it is about time that the city council had some clear cut rules to govern the proceedings at meetings, and has therefore given notice of a by-law to regulate the proceedings of the council and committees.

Eight lodges, representing all the Sons of England in the Province, have the arrangements to attend the Westminister fair in a body. The meeting is being looked forward to by the local lodges as an important event.

Mrs. BERT RAMSAY, known to stagelands as Miss Esther Lyons, has been granted a divorce from her husband, Bert Ramsay, a St. Louis jewelry traveller, by a Cleveland, O., court; description being the ground of the position.

An important business meeting of the W. C. T. U. will be held this afternoon at the Temperance hall, Pandora street, the election of the remaining delegates to the annual meeting at Vancouver being one item of the day's programme.

A COMMUNICATION has been received by the city council from the Provincial Government to the effect that the royal commission asked for to enquire into the manner of the electric light and the recent purchase of copper wire, will be appointed just as soon as the council is ready to guarantee the cost.

The little leper colony on Darcey island yesterday received an addition of two, to its population, the unfortunate Nainaimo Chinaman Sing being taken over in an open boat towed by the Esperanza from the Coal City, and a Ksmloope victim of the fearful disease being landed from the ship by the Superintendent of Provincial Police, to whose custody he was committed on Tuesday.

THE U. S. STEAMSHIP McARTHUR spent her early part of yesterday in making her way to the city, and is now at the wharf.

THE CONTRACTS have not yet been formally awarded, the sewerage committee have decided upon the lucky tenderers for the sewerage extension, the last of the tenders being considered yesterday.

THE WINDUPPING of the late Mrs. M. J. M. BROWNING, C.P.R. land commissioner, Vancouver, has presented the legislative library with a copy of "An overland journey round the world," by Sir George Simpson, once governor-in-chief of the Hudson's Bay territory.

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has been run for several years in connection with the Seward mill, and Captain Holmes' record as a navigator is excellent. The tug is a valuable tugboat and is third in size of the Victoria fleet. The crew remained with the vessel last night.

There was considerable cheering among the passengers on board the steamer City of Puebla and City of Kingston as both these vessels left the wharf at the same time, and the tugboat was in the lead.

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NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Fraser River Pirates—Lt. Col. Prior Will Report on Westminster's Military Trouble.

Nanaimo Ratepayers Want the City to Secure Control of the Waterworks.

WESTMINSTER, Aug. 15.—Another raid was made by river pirates on the South side early this morning. At one of the camps visited one hundred fish were stolen from the boat of a fisherman who had been working nearly all night. The pirates appear to be able to cover up their tracks well, so no clue to their identity can be discovered.

Two tons loaded with fresh salmon were shipped to New York today. The vessel is the "New Westminster," owned by the B.G.A. last evening the three-ton boat was a good one. Afterwards he investigated the trouble concerning the newly gazetted office of the C.P.R. telegraph system; T. D. Conroy, E. Brackman, Rev. W. S. Stoney, a Methodist missionary, and two Roman Catholic priests, one of whom is Rev. Father Brabant.

The steamship City of Puebla arrived from San Francisco at 6 and called for the Sound at 9 o'clock last night. With exception of considerable fog experienced off the entrance of the Straits, the ship's passage was very pleasant. For Victoria the steamer brought good freight and passenger lists.

The big steam collier Costa Rica arrived from San Francisco yesterday morning for the Albion Iron Works some time ago. They will be placed in position at Spratt's wharf, where the steamer will be for some days. The steamship Minicola left for San Francisco at noon yesterday with the balance of the machinery of the wrecked San Pedro lying on the outer wharf.

The U. S. steamship McArthur spent her early part of yesterday in making her way to the city, and is now at the wharf.

Tug Lorne is at Spratt's wharf having her boilers cleaned.

The finance committee of the general committee on the Agricultural Exhibition held a meeting last night for the purpose of considering ways and means. Capt. Warren was called to the chair, and business was opened by laying the city off into districts.

It was thought best to follow the lines laid down in the 24th of May celebration. Some changes were made in the membership of the committee, which now stands: A. C. Flumerfelt, treasurer; F. Elworthy, honorary secretary; Capt. J. D. Warren, chairman; J. E. Gordon, J. H. Holland, W. K. Talbot, J. P. Bellmont, H. A. Holman, Ald. Humphrey, B. Seabrook, S. C. Holden, M. Young, J. B. Brownlee, B. Williams, J. B. Gordon, F. C. Davidge, F. J. Claxton, George H. Sheddin, J. Keith, J. E. Gordon, W. E. Snider and John Hall.

The districts as outlined and the collections selected are:

No. 1.—South of Yates and west of Government streets: E. Seabrook, M. Young, J. E. Gordon, J. H. Holland, W. K. Talbot.

No. 2.—West of Government and north of Yates streets: Capt. J. D. Warren, W. K. Talbot, E. Williams and J. P. Bellmont.

No. 3.—South of Yates and east of Government streets: J. Holland, J. E. Gordon, J. H. Holland, W. K. Talbot.

No. 4.—East of Douglas and south of Yates street: Ald. Humphrey, J. H. Falconer, J. C. Holden and G. E. Powell.

No. 5.—North of Yates and east of Douglas streets: J. H. Sheddin, Ald. Dwyer, W. H. Snider and J. Hall.

No. 6.—North of Yates between Government and Douglas streets: F. Elworthy, F. C. Davidge, J. P. Bellmont and F. J. Claxton.

Mr. Falconer proposed that the collectors be furnished with membership tickets to sell to those who felt that they could not subscribe. In this way a considerable revenue might be added. It was resolved that the suggestion be carried out.

It was further decided that all bills be rendered to the general secretary, who should classify them and submit them to the finance committee, only vouchers signed by the chairman of the finance committee to be received by the treasurer. All subscribers to be bound strictly to the amounts of their appropriations.

A considerable amount of informal discussion followed. Mr. Holland gave some figures on a series of lectures, which will be submitted to the sports and games committee.

As a result of the various estimates the finance committee thought that \$2,000 could be collected for the purposes of the general committee. A printing contract, consisting of Messrs. Tompkins, Boggs, Holland and Falconer was appointed.

Mr. Falconer stated that members of the committee had received a proposition to have a chorus of 500 children trained for their part in the concert. The action club might also be secured.

Referred to the sports and games committee. August 23 was appointed for the next meeting of the committee, which then adjourned.

COMMERCIAL PROGRESS.

BERLIN, Aug. 15.—The last annual report of the Melhusen Chamber of Commerce contains a review of the recent commercial progress of the annexed provinces. It shows that the industries of Reichland have developed rapidly since the Franco-Prussian war. In textiles the increase of product, profits and the number of workmen engaged has been especially noticeable.

The chamber declares that the reciprocity treaty with Russia has proved distinctly beneficial to Alsace and Lorraine, and quotes statistics to confute the forebodings of the agrarian opposition. The report does not allude to the Strasbourg exposition of 1893, which is expected to show the Reichland's progress in 25 years since the war, but passes a few unfavorable comments on the policy of holding expositions as frequently as they have been held in recent years.

The cotton and linen trades of the upper Rhine also have protested that industries and exports have become too numerous in the provinces, and probably will remain unrepresented at Strasbourg. They say that in general the practical benefits derived by exhibitors are usually very small in comparison with the expense of the exhibition.

Buckingham's Dye for the Whiskers can be applied when at home, and is uniformly successful in coloring a brown or black. Hence its great popularity.

The Standard warns the British investors against buying all kinds of United States securities. It will be a long time, it says, before the country recovers from the stupor of the past year, and a half.

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JAPAN'S ATTITUDE.

A Yokohama Journal Declares Her Occupation of Korea as Quite Indefensible.

The Ministry Unwilling to Hasten the Elections—Death of Territorial Army Officers.

(Japan Herald, July 25)

No better illustration of the false and indefensible position which the Japanese, in violation of international law, are occupying in Korea, could be furnished than by an incident which is said to have taken place on the 17th instant, of which intelligence is now first published; on that date 37 British marines crossed the line of defence adopted by the Japanese commander in the vicinity of Seoul. They were remonstrated with, and there was a slight collision, the marines forcing their way through, in order to go on duty to protect the British Legation in Seoul. Naturally, whoever was in command of this small body of men would refuse to pay any regard whatever to the dispositions of Major Gen. Oshima since he and his troops are unauthorized intruders; neither there by request of the Korean government, nor by virtue of conquest. If the Japanese commander was legitimately in position with his troops, it would have been his duty to have regulated by force the attempt to penetrate his lines if the British had resisted capture, but the Japanese commander seems to have been too judicious to proceed to extreme measures, so the British wended their way into Seoul without being farther molested.

In order to have a free hand in the regulation of the Korean Government, to establish reforms which no one will deny are much needed in that misgoverned country, and to make such arrangements as shall ensure to Japan a preponderance of power in the management of the little Kingdom's affairs, the necessity of course, has been seen, that a pretended independence of the country should be secured, and that the Chinese influence and interference should be denied, or got rid of, in order to clear the way. This incapability of being supported assumption is naturally very displeasing to China, Korea, and Russia. No better evidence of the right of holding troops in the peninsula without leave, it not being stipulated that it must first be obtained from the Korean Government. The absence of such a stipulation goes to prove that neither China nor Japan regarded Korea as having a right to insist on excluding what cannot be contested as the sovereign prerogative of every independent state, of excluding the occupation of any portion of its territory by a foreign force, except by its own consent.

Several of the Tokyo papers are at last turning from the popular topic of a war with China to the rather important one of the re-assembly of the Diet. The ministry are evidently in no hurry to assemble that body, which they never as yet have been able to control, nor permit to try what to expose their present line of policy to the criticisms of a capping majority. The evil day is to be postponed as long as possible. That day cannot, however, be indefinitely postponed. According to article 45 of the constitution, when the house of representatives has been dissolved a new house must be convened within five months of the day of dissolution. As this last took place on June 2, the new house must therefore meet by November 2, and if the ministers wish to drive off the convocation of the Diet until that date, they need not apparently make any move for upwards of another month, for the law of election says that thirty days' notice must be given of the date of an extraordinary meeting, and the law of the house necessitates that notice of the date of convocation of a new house must be notified forty days beforehand. It is, however, scarcely probable that the cabinet will postpone the election until the last moment allowed by the law, and the necessary steps will therefore probably be shortly taken for re-assembling the Diet, especially now that public attention is being called to the subject.

The Jiji gives the total number of officers on the active list of the Japanese army as 2,759, a number which is no doubt fairly sufficient, but if Japan should ever have to call upon her reserves, the number of officers, there would seem to be a dearth of officers for these two latter bodies, which would certainly militate against their efficiency. On the 31st December, 1892, the last year for which we have complete returns, there were altogether in the Japanese army 843 generals and superior officers, 3,715 other officers, 11,704 non-commissioned officers, 2,066 cadets, etc., and 249,983 men, making a grand total of 288,111. These are divided as follows:

General Staff 135 344 325 100 2 207  
Military Schools 35 203 347 1,024 63 2,222  
Artillery 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 5,000  
Infantry 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 5,000  
Cavalry 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 5,000  
Engineers 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 5,000  
Medical 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 5,000  
Veterinary 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 5,000  
Total 2,759 11,704 2,066 249,983 288,111

It will thus be seen that whereas the active army has 2,906 officers to 64,004 men, the reserve army only has 898 officers to 87,493 men, and the territorial army only has 253 officers to 104,480 men. In the event of these troops being called out to take part in a war, they would apparently have to do so without officers to lead them.

CALIFORNIA WINES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 15.—The wine syndicate, organized under the name of the California Wine Association, is expected to accomplish the object proposed by the growers of wine, grapes, and makers of wine consent to sign options prepared in place of those that have expired. After the plan of controlling the wine output was first formed, the options were obtained for the purpose of doing about 80 per cent. of the total acreage of wine vineyards. These options ran to August 1, but the strike delayed the contract, and the syndicate was not organized until a few days ago. It is probable that the options will be renewed in a more or less modified form, as the interests of all concerned may require. Action must be taken promptly, if at all, as the vintage season will soon open in Fresno, and in some other counties begins this month. Steps are being taken by a number of prominent wine producers and dealers to send representatives to the City of Mexico for the purpose of working a good demand for California wines in that market.

H. OUTHBERT & CO. AUCTIONEERS.

Are instructed by J. A. Lawrence, Esq., to sell by

AUCTION

ON MONDAY, AUGUST 20, AT P. M. ABOUT

20 New Carriages,

Complicated 4 very fine Double Winged Phaetons, leather canopy tops and leather lined 3 Single Winged Phaetons; all these are very Canopy Top Rockaways, all upholstered in leather and suitable for livery or hotel use; 1 Waggonette, worth about \$350; 1 large Ext. Top Landau, a very fine rig; 2 fine large Express Waggonettes, for one or two teams, worth about \$300 each.

These rigs are new and most of them are manufactured in the city. Parties seeking a good, substantial and easy rig for livery, hotel or private use cannot do better than attend this sale.