AROUND THE HOTELS.

Prospects of Heavy Shipments From Slocan Mines, Says Bruce White.

St. Anthony Exploration Company to Purchase More Claims in Ominica.

Bruce White, manager of the Mollie Gibson mine near Nelson and part owner of the Slocan Star, one of the first Slocan shippers, is spending a few days in the city. Both of the mines mentioned are at present closed down, the Mollie Gibson on account of litigation and the Slocan Star because, as Mr. White says, "very little ore is shipped from the Slocan mines at this time of the year." But he says the Slocan Star will soon re-enter the list of shippers and the probabilities are that the Noble Five and other properties will be included in the list, so that the prospects for the Slocan district are very bright. Around Nelson the mines are being steadily worked, but with the exception of the recent strike of free gold ore in the Athabasca nothing new has transpired. Samples of this ore are shown in Nelson were very rich and the Athabasca mill should make a good run this month.

There is another section of Kootenay which Mr. White says will come to the front this year. This is the Lardeau district into which two railroads are about to be built. The C. P. R. have surveyors out laying out a route from Arrow lake, while another road will be built from the other side. There are some splendid properties in the district and with transportation facilities they would soon be developed.

* * *

So well satisfied are the members of the St. Anthony Exploration Company of Santa Barbara, Cala., with the mining properties in the Omineca district, which they purchased last fall that they have decided to purchase more ground in the same district. Such was the news given by Mr. Thomas R. More, manager of the commissariat department of the company, who returned last evening from a visit to California and registered at the Driard. The company, he said, had offered a price which they were willing to pay for the properties wanted and they were now awaiting a reply from the owners. That any properties they might acquire will not remain undeveloped long is shown by the manner in which they have gone to work. As soon as the claims purchased last fall had been transferred to them they ordered the necessary hydraulic machinery to work them and a month ago they sent in two parties one by the Ashcroft route and the other by the Naas route to prepare the ground for the machinery. After Mr. More had got these parties started he went to San Francisco to see to the packing and shipping of the machinery which arrived here on the Walla Walla early yesterday morning, but a few hours before his arrival by the overland route. On April 15 he will start for the interior with the machinery and will be accompanied by Mr. R. H. Hall, of the Hudson's Bay Company, who has undertaken to attend to the transportation of the plant from Hazelton to the mines. It is a big undertaking to transport such a plant through a country where pack trains will have to be used entirely, but the company believe they have good properties and they propose to prove it.

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C. H. Dickie, proprietor of the Cowichan Hotel, Duncan, is in the city, a guest at the Victoria.

* * *

F. E. Young and wife of Barkerville, are at the Victoria.

* * *

W. S. Wright and C. D. Kennedy, of Golden, registered at the Victoria last evening.

H. H. Higgins, of the Chemainus Saw Mill Company, returned last evening from a business trip to Seattle and is at the Dominion.

H. B. A. Vogel, principal of the Commercial College, Vancouver, is a guest at the Dominion.

SIR WILFRID'S FIREWORKS.

From the Hamilton Spectator.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier should never part company with his sunny smile. With the smile at hand he is able to use very pretty language in saying absolutely nothing. But when the smile has departed from him, as was the case when he spoke in the Commons yesterday, he gets rattled and angry, and is the very opposite of Chesterfieldian. Sir Charles Tupper's grand speech had a terrible effect upon the de jure leader of the government. It was too strong a dose and the premier was unable to ignore the smart left by Sir Charles' incisive words. Sir Wilfrid was at his worst. He was full of resentment and anger. And when he is resentful and angry his speech loses all its charm. He attempted to be theatrical and was only grotesque. He tried to return Sir Charles' sledge-hammer blows with sledge-hammer blows; but he was not equal to the task, and his most vicious blows fell short and harmless. He felt that he had met more than his match, and was chagrined because he knew that his manner betrayed his feeling.

During his speech he said that he would carry out his ante-election promise to redistribute the seats, and as he made the promise he struck a tragic attitude and said "So help me God." It may be that his promise, thus sworn to, will be better kept than his promises made without that formula. But it was very absurd.

Among other things Sir Wilfrid said that he had never promised to introduce a prohibition measure, in any event. That is strictly true. The Spectator mentioned the fact at the time he had the famous conversation with the prohibitionists. Be he used such language that the prohibitionists went away firmly convinced that he had fairly and squarely promised that, in the event of a majority of the vote being in favor of prohibition, he would introduce a prohibitory bill. He did not promise to do that, but he purposely used language to deceive the prohibitionists into the belief that he had really promised them something. He was guilty of a trick that was not at all statesmanlike. He put himself on a par with horse traders and fakirs.

Mr. Foster's speech was, as usual, perfect. When Mr. Foster speaks he always knows what he is talking about, and has the faculty of putting his thoughts into forceful words, the meaning of which cannot be misunderstood. His speech, coming as it did soon after the terrible arraignement of the government by Sir Charles Tupper, had a telling effect upon the people of the treasury benches. They have had a free and easy time of it, and are now invited to explain.

When two such men as Tupper and Foster get after a government of parish politicians the latter do not show to good advantage.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

R. E. Hanson Formally Appointed Superintendent of the Victoria Juvenile Reformatory.

Long List of Company's Incorporated and Registered During the Past Week.

The current issue of the Provincial Gazette contains the information that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to appoint: Ald. John Davis Moore to be a member of the license commissioners board and the police commissioners board of the city of Kaslo; Reginald E. Hanson, of Victoria, to be superintendent of the juvenile reformatory; and Joseph Scott, of Chilliwack, to be a collector under the Revenue Tax act. He has extended the jurisdiction of William George Paxton as a notary public for the county of Kootenay by adding thereto the county of Nanaimo; and has accepted the resignation of James J. Murray, of Mission City, as a coroner for British Columbia.

NEW COMPANIES.

Notice is given of the incorporation of the following new companies: Greenwood Cannery Co., of Eburne, capital $15,000; Sailor Consolidated Mining and Milling Company of Camp McKinney, Limited, Non-Personal Liability, capital, $1,250,000; Greenwood Trading Company, capital $50,000; Guinea Gold Mines Company of British Columbia, Limited, Non-Personal Liability, of Rossland, capital $1,500,000; John Bull Mines, Limited, Non-Personal Liability, of Rossland, capital, $150,000; British Columbia Anchor Fence Company, Limited, of Vancouver, capital $10,000; Burleigh Drill Contracting and Development Company, Limited, of Greenwood, capital $50,000.

The following have been licensed to carry on business as extra-provincial companies: The Vancouver Agency, Limited, head office in England, capital £20,000, local office Vancouver, J. G. H. Crawford, attorney; Cosmopolitan Gold Mining and Smelting Company, of Spokane, local office Greenwood City, with A. S. Black attorney, capital $50,000; Scottish Copper Mines Syndicate of British Columbia, Limited, head office Scotland, capital £25,000, local office Victoria, Henry Croft attorney; Yale Dredging Company, Limited, of Glasgow, Scotland, capital £19,000, local office Vancouver, Charles Wilson attorney.

DREDGING LEASES.

The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council has approved of the order-in-council of March 3, 1898, providing that the annual rental of dredging leases existing at the said date, when next payable, be reduced to $10 a mile, and that an exception from the payment of royalty of 50 cents per ounce be made so soon as the amount of royalty equals the amount of the personal property tax on the plant employed. The recession will take effect from the date of the order (March 18, 1899), and from that date the original terms and conditions contained in all dredging leases affected by the order will be reverted to.

A reserve has been placed on the foreshore surrounding Sandy or Seal islands, Nanaimo district, for admiralty purposes.

A provincial court of revision is to be held at Chilliwack on May 1.

GREATER BUNGLING THAN HAS BEEN.

In the columns of that staunch Liberal newspaper the Montreal Witness, a writer thus passes on the great work of I. William Mulock, as a stamp issuer:

"First came the Jubilee issue, in which faith was broken with purchasers, causing merited condemnation in all countries. It was more like a piece of commercial huckstering than the official act of a Government. The Imperial issue brought upon us nothing but ridicule on account of its bumptiousness and bad taste. It might fairly be thought that the department would learn the common rudiments of business from these two transactions. But worse was to come, the three-cent issue had to be recalled because the Postmaster-General did not know his own mind a month ahead, when he sprang his two-cent game; then came the two-cent issue with maple leaves in the corners, of which the users could not literally make head nor tail. The outcry against them was so loud that these, too, had to be recalled. Instead of issuing the same dies with the denominations added, he allowed a new stamp to be made, differing in many particulars from the former, and now after a period of retirement of some months he brings the old issue out again.

"The absence of a good settled standard confuses the public, enrages collectors and dealers, and pleases nobody but counterfeiters. All the other denominations have been dealt with in the same way. A large expense was incurred by issuing three-cent envelopes. Instead of confessing his failure and setting them aside as a mistake the Postmaster-General resorts to the puddling operation of marking them down to two cents, with a rubber stamp, and disfiguring her Majesty's profile. The letter card was mutilated in the same way. The whole business of stamp issue has been bungled in such a way as to make us the laughing-stock of every country with whom we have any correspondence."

A mirror could not lie if it wanted to. The glass has nothing to gain by flattery. If the rose of health and plumpness of beauty are leaving your face, your mirror will tell you so. Health is the greatest beautifier in the world. When a woman sees the indications of ill-health in the face, she may with almost absolute certainty look for the cause in one or both of two conditions—constipation, and derangement of the organs distinctly feminine. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will cure permanently and positively any so-called "female complaint." Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets will cure constipation. There is no reason in the world why a woman should not be perfectly healthy. She will gain in health, strength and flesh. Hollows and angles will give place to fullness and grace. She will be that noblest and most beautiful of all creation—a perfect woman.

Send 31 cents in one-cent stamps to World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y., and receive Dr. Pierce's 1,008 page "Common Sense Medical Adviser," profusely illustrated.

A MAYOR'S NEW OFFICE.

Winnipeg, March 31.—J. G. Dagg, mayor of West Selkirk, has been appointed principal of St. Paul's Indian industrial school, vice Rev. Mr. Fairlie.

SEALERS DOING WELL

Good Tidings of the Fleet Now Operating Off the California Coast.

Schooner Diana Goes Sea Otter Hunting—Sister Merchantmen in the Straits Together.

"Fur bearing seals have been unusually plentiful off the California coast during the past winter," says a San Francisco despatch. "The British sealer Geneva put into Monterey, after a cruise of a little over two months off here, with 1,243 skins. The British schooner Mermaid sailed from Victoria with the Geneva, and was reported having had good luck. The Zillah May and Diana sailed from Victoria about a month ago, and three weeks after they were out they had an average of 300 skins each. From all reports recently received the fleet of sealers is heading for Fort Ross where they will provision and fit out for cruises in Behring sea." In reference to the above despatch a few of the prominent sealers were asked last evening if it was the intention to outfit the fleet, as stated, at Fort Ross. Each emphatically denied the report and stated if the schooners called there at all it would only be for mail or a fresh water supply.

A SHIPPING COINCIDENCE.

After a splendid passage of 131 days from Cardiff, England, the British ship Powys Castle arrived in Esquimalt yesterday with 2,030 tons of coal for the navy. By a remarkable coincidence her sister ship Rhuddlon Castle came up the Straits almost in company with her, although coming from an entirely different point of the compass, being bound for Tacoma from Hiogo, Japan. The tug Wanderer had hold of the latter, and reached Tacoma on Wednesday. Capt. Robert Thomas of the Powys Castle is a namesake of the owner of the vessel.

TO HUNT OTTERS.

Tug Mystery has returned from the Coast, having gone only as far as San Juan. There she delivered to the sealing schooner Diana a fresh supply of provisions and placed aboard her two seal hunters taken down from here to relieve two others who were on the sick list, and then towed the schooner out of port. The two sick men are Messrs. McCrae and Lang, the latter of whom suffers from a festered hand. The Diana also transferred her catch of 333 skins to the Mystery before putting to sea. She will from now till the season opens for Behring Sea sealing, engage in sea otter hunting on the coast of Vancouver Island.

NO COCAINE IN DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH CURE.

Prof. Heys, Ont. School of Chemistry and Pharmacy, says: "I have made an examination of Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure for Cocaine and in all its compounds, from samples purchased in the open market, and find none present." We offer a reward of $1,000, to be devoted to any charitable institution if any druggist or doctor can find the least trace of that deadly drug Cocaine contained in Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure. Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure is recommended by all dealers at 25 cents per box, blower included free. *

THE OLD MAHOGANY DISEASE.

It Begins With a Chest of Drawers and Makes Trouble for Families.

"A friend of mine who has been too busy with the problem of ways and means to pay much attention to the adornment of his house, asked me yesterday to select for him a good piece of colonial mahogany, as he wanted to have one such piece in his house, and I declined to do so until I had explained to him the cost," said a scenic artist to a New York Sun reporter, whose house is one of the show places in a town near New York. "I knew that his furniture was oak and upholstered stuff, and that just so sure as he placed with it a good sample of old mahogany his troubles would begin. The mahogany would kill his oak, and in course of time would mean the refurnishing of his house.

"His was a cause of ignorance being bliss, and I did not propose to upset his household. I have seen the old-mahogany disease work its way into many households, and in many cases the results have been disastrous. Talk about having a mortgage on your house, why that is nothing compared to the annoyance of finding that you have a lot of modern oak furniture on your hands, too good to be thrown away when you have once begun to collect old pieces. It has taken me nearly ten years to live down a collection of oak furniture which I made in St. Louis, and which has hung over me like the shadow of a great sorrow. I was boarding in St. Louis and doing work on a big production when my wife and I decided that we didn't like boarding and that we would try housekeeping. I had no time to spend in looking for a house, so we took the first one that we could find. We spent just one afternoon in furnishing it completely, dishes, draperies, rugs, carpets, and an outfit of very new oak furniture. The result was just what might have been expected. Our house looked like a Grand Rapids showroom. We moved to New York, leaving behind as much of our oak furniture as we could, but when we got settled here we found around us a lot of it which was too good to give away and which we could not sell.

"I had picked up by this time a few old pieces of mahogany, and the more I studied them the more I despised my oak. Then I built my house, and I was forced to move some of these pieces into it. I have been crowding them out by degrees ever since, however, and now I haven't got one modern oak piece left. In the meantime I have watched friends struggle with their modern furniture after they had picked up an old piece or two, and their troubles have been like mine. When my friend asked me yesterday to select an old piece for him I told him what I have told you, and I said that if after thinking it over for a week he still wanted to make the plunge I would help him. He will probably want to begin on an old chest of drawers, for that is usually the opening wedge, and then old andirons, tables with claw feet and corner cabinets will follow, concluding with chairs, and the latter will keep him poor for the rest of his life. It's like the opium habit, and you can't shake it off."

TIME TO CLOSE.

Toronto, March 31.—The Ontario legislature closed at seven o'clock this morning, having been in session continuously since eleven o'clock yesterday.

Weak and Depressed.

Weak and depressed expresses the condition of thousands of people at this season. It is one of nature's signs that humanity cannot undergo months of indoor life in badly ventilated buildings with impunity.

Breathing daily the poisonous gases arising from impure air, your blood has become poor and watery, your nerves unstrung, your appetite fickle. The least exercise tires you and you feel depressed and "out of sorts."

Do not use a purgative in the hope that it will put you right. Any doctor will tell you that purgatives weaken; that they impair the action of the liver and create chronic constipation—the bane of millions of lives. **What is needed is a tonic** to help nature fight your battle for health. There is only one always reliable tonic and that is

RECOMMENDED BY THE LIBERAL MINDED DOCTOR AND TRAINED NURSES.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People

These pills have no purgative action. They make rich, red blood, build up tired and jaded nerves, and make weak, depressed, tired people bright, active and strong.

But you must get the genuine Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Other so-called tonics are but imitations of this great medicine.

WEAK AND DEPRESSED.

Mr. Austin Fancy, who lives at Baker Settlement, N. S., says: "During the last winter, owing to close confinement and hard work, my blood became impure. I was very much reduced in flesh, and had severe pains in the muscles all over my body. I felt tired and depressed all the time; I had no appetite and was frequently so low spirited that I did not care whether I lived or died. Necessity compelled me to undertake a little work in my blacksmith shop, but I was not fit for it, and after doing a job would have to lie down—indeed I often felt like fainting. I was advised to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and after using a couple of boxes felt a decided relief. The pains began to abate, my appetite improved, and day by day I grew stronger. I used six boxes in all, and before I finished them I was able to do as hard a day's work at the forge as ever I had done in my life. Those who are not well will make no mistake in looking for health through the medium of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People."

The Genuine are sold only in packages like the engraving. WRAPPER PRINTED IN RED.

At all dealers, or direct from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., at 50 cents a box or six boxes for $2 50.

MR. FAWCETT SAYS NO

Ex-Yukon Gold Commissioner Arrives at Seattle on His Way to Ottawa.

Another Fire in Dawson Doing Considerable Damage—Jack Carr Out.

Among the passengers who arrived at Seattle on the steamer City of Seattle on Thursday evening was Mr. Thomas W. Fawcett, ex-gold commissioner for the Yukon, the official of whom the miners so bitterly complained. In an interview with a representative of the Post-Intelligencer, Mr. Fawcett said:

"I deny all the statements that have been made against me. The investigation which has gone on before the royal commission and which has just ended proved that I had conducted the office honestly and competently. Charges were preferred against me and we had a thorough and complete investigation. Not a single one of their allegations was upheld.

"They made six specific charges against me, one that I had sold information concerning good claims, another that I had charged an entrance fee to my office, that I had forced people to pay before they could record claims, another that I had not conducted my office competently. Then there were statements of particular cases in which it was said that I forced persons to give me, or my representative, interests in claims before they could be recorded.

"The investigation continued for a month before Commissioner Ogilvie as chairman. All the testimony was taken down and in will be forwarded to Ottawa to be reviewed by the minister of justice who will determine what action is to follow."

Another of the Seattle's passengers whom the northern gold fields has made famous, was Jack Carr, the mail carrier, the first man to give to the world the news of the discovery of gold in Klondike, and who last year brought from St. Michael an alleged message from Andree. Carr claimed to have made the trip down from Dawson in ten days, but refused to be interviewed.

The remains of two men who had gone North full of hope, were brought down on the steamer. One of these was Wm. Clark, of Rhinelander, Wis., who died at Log Cabin, on March 24, of pneumonia. Mr. Clark was a member of a large party from his town, of whom T. Lemon and J. Tompkins were leaders. The extent of their equipment may be judged from the fact that the duty on their outfit was about $1,000.

The other body was that of Herbert A. Wells, who died at Skagway March 14 of concussion of the brain, complicated with erysipelas. Mr. Wells leaves a wife in Seattle.

Particulars of the fire which visited Dawson March 9, the third within three weeks, were brought down by the Seattle. The total loss was $20,000, distributed as follows: Adcock building, $5,000; stock in same, $3,000; Rosenthal building, $2,000; barber shop and laundry, $3,000; Mrs. Fancher, $2,000; Eagle restaurant, $1,000.

The fire started in a barber shop in the Rosenthal building, being caused by a defective flue. The flames spread to the Adcock two-story building and that occupied by Mrs. Fancher. Both were destroyed. Damage to the Eagle restaurant was chiefly by water.

What, if true, is one of the most remarkable trips ever made over the Dawson winter trail, is reported to have been completed by William J. Terry, who reached Skagway from Dawson last Friday with a bicycle. He had a letter certifying that he had left Dawson March 15, on a bicycle, carrying mail. This would have made a record-breaking journey of eight days and nineteen hours.

Terry said in Skagway that he had been forced to walk 125 miles of the distance. He claimed to have been laid up two days from snow blindness. The wheel was of a popular make and had stood the trip well.

ORE FOR TRAIL SMELTER.

Huge Contract Said to Have Been Made With War Eagle and Centre Star Mines.

The largest smelting contract in the history of the Pacific Northwest has been closed at Trail, B. C., within the past few days. William K. Esling, of the Trail Creek News, thus describes the deal in an interview in Seattle:

"The most important event of late in Trail creek mining news is the contract whereby the Canadian Smelting Works at Trail are to treat 300,000 tons of ore for the War Eagle and Centre Star mines. Two years is said to be the minimum period in which this amount of ore is to be handled. It is probable, however, that the amount of ore specified will be increased by 50,000 tons.

"The rate at which the contract was taken is said to be approximately $6 per ton. The smelter at Trail, now owned and operated by the Canadian Pacific railway, was built by F. A. Heinze, of Butte, Mont., when he secured the contract to smelt 75,000 tons of the Le Roi ore. He received about $11 per ton on that contract.

"Heretofore the smelter at Trail has confined its operations largely to handling gold-copper ores. During the past year, however, it has expended $1,000,000, approximately, in improvements, etc., and has added a furnace for the treatment of silver-lead ores of the Slocan district.

"The entire output of the Rossland district, with the exception of the Le Roi mine, is treated at Trail, and within six months the mines at Rossland will be shipping to Trail between 600 and 600 tons of ore daily. The Le Roi product is being treated at the plant owned by the company at Northport.

"Rossland is rapidly assuming the proportions and characteristics of a very substantial city," said Mr. Esling. "The mines in the vicinity of the camp employ very nearly 1,000 men at good wages. Development work is proceeding in numerous properties, many are equipped with the latest electrical machinery. The power is generated on the Kootenay river, about thirty-five miles away.

"By June the narrow gauge railway between Rossland and Trail will be standardized, and before the summer is over the Canadian Pacific will be running cars over the new line from Trail to the Boundary district. This road was built at a cost of $32,000 per mile, in fulfillment of the company's promise to give the people of the Boundary country the much needed transportation for the development of their mines. A feature of the construction work is a tunnel more than 3,000 feet long through solid rock, now under construction. Switchbacks will be used until it is finished."

A PURE GRAPE CREAM OF TARTAR POWDER.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER

Awarded Highest Honors. World's Fair Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair

RECENT INVENTIONS.

Dental floss for cleaning the teeth is easily manipulated by a new tool which has the floss wound on a spool suspended between two hollow arms, through which it is threaded, passing from the tip of one arm to the other, to be drawn tight by a reel and inserted between the teeth.

Sand beaches can be formed along the banks of streams by the use of an Ohio man's device, consisting of wooden cribs to be filled with stone and sunk in the water, projecting arms being arranged at the sides to prevent the crib from tipping over as it sinks, allowing the water to deposit soil and form the beach.