[From THE DAILY COLONIST, December 20.]

THE CITY.

THERE was a sitting of the County court yesterday, but no cases of importance or general interest came up.

A 'BUSLOAD of jolly city folk drove out to Colquitz hall last evening to enjoy the concert and entertainment arranged by the ladies of the district Methodist church.

THE public offices of the provincial government will be closed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next—Wednesday being Christmas day—and on the 1st and 2nd proximo.

MR. JOHN L. MCKAY has been elected mayor of Wellington for 1896, the members of his board of aldermen being Hugh J. McDonald, Samuel Shore, Thomas Spratt, Absolem Wren and Murdoch McDonald.

AN election of overseers to carry into effect the provisions of the cattle ranges act in the Big Bar polling division of Cariboo is to be held at Big Bar on Monday next, Mr. John Gallagher acting as returning officer.

MR. J. A. GEMMILL, on behalf of the British Columbia Southern Ry. Co., has given formal notice that that company will seek an extension of time for the completion of its undertaking, at the approaching session of the provincial parliament.

YESTERDAY'S British Columbia Gazette announces that the Christmas vacation in the County courts of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo will extend from Tuesday next to Friday the 3rd proximo, both days inclusive.

A CIRCULAR letter bearing the signature of Rev. C. M. Tate is being sent to police and Indian agents throughout the province, directing special attention to the sections of the Indian act requiring the removal of Indian women from houses of ill repute.

WORD was received from Nelson yesterday that Captain Fitzstubbs has gone to Sandon to report as to the recent trouble on the railway line at that point. Captain Fitzstubbs is acting under instructions wired him by Superintendent Hussey on Thursday.

TATNAI lodge No. 9, I.O.O.F., Kamloops, has secured incorporation under the benevolent societies act. In addition to the usual objects set forth in the application for registration, Tatnai lodge aims to establish and maintain a home or refuge home for women and children.

THE Ashcroft & Cariboo Ry. Co. will at the next session of the legislature, make application for a private act of incorporation with authority to the company to construct, equip and operate a railway line from either Ashcroft or Kamloops, or some intervening point, to Port Simpson via Barkerville.

THE following donations to the Refuge Home have been gratefully received: Five tons of coal, Mr. S. M. Robbins, Nanaimo; free delivery of the same, Messrs. Spratt and Macaulay; one barrel flour, Mr. Cairn; sundries, Mrs. James McGregor, Mrs. D. Spencer, Mrs. Hayward, Messrs. Perry & Turner, Mrs. (Capt.) Grant, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Cohen, and a friend.

ADVICES from Ottawa indicate that Major General Gascoigne, like his predecessor, recognizes the exceptional importance of the militia of this province, and that it is due to his hearty endorsation of Col. Prior's request that the issue of Martini Henry rifles is now being made to the B. C. G. A. To no other corps outside of the permanent force has a full issue of Martinis been made.

THE Divisional court yesterday heard argument on the appeal of Davie v. Russell. This was an appeal by defendant from an order of Mr. Justice Drake made November 11 dismissing the application of defendant for further particulars in plaintiff's statement of claim. The appeal was allowed with costs. Mr. A. L. Belyea appeared for the appellant (defendant), and Mr. C. W. Ward for the respondent.

SCOTT and Dutton, the two English lads whose brief meteoric career was cut short by their arrest on a charge of theft, received their sentence in the police court yesterday. For the misappropriation of Mr. Barnsley's shotguns they will spend two months at hard labor at the provincial jail; Scott, who pawned one of the guns, was given a further term of two months on this count, the sentence, however, to run concurrently.

NEW Year's will be a gala day with the Y.M.C.A. The rooms will be open from 2 o'clock until 6, and during these four hours they will be made as cheerful and attractive as possible. Songs will be given at frequent intervals, and refreshments will be served to all visitors, while still another attraction will be the music of Richardson's orchestra. Decorations are now being made in the rooms for the occassion. On New Year's evening a concert under the capable management of Mr. George Burnett will be given.

SIXTEEN poor families in the city yesterday shared the generosity of the children of the South Park school, who, before taking their Christmas holiday, made a most creditable collection for the purpose of helping their less fortunate fellow citizens to enjoy a merry Christmas. This collection, which includes in cash $5.25, 26 bread tickets, and an endless variety of useful articles, was given to the Friendly Help Association for distribution, and nearly all found its way yesterday to needy families. There are still many articles of clothing, etc., left for distribution, but these will probably be issued to-day.

IN A very readable and profusely illustrated article on European and American ship canals, in the January number of Frank Leslie's Monthly, the writer says that "the United States has not been backward in the matter of canal enterprise. The earliest American ship channel is the Welland canal between Port Colborne and Port Dalhousie," etc. He then goes on to describe the works at Thorold and elsewhere; but does not give the slightest intimation that this important waterway is in Canadian territory or was constructed by Canadian enterprise and capital. This "Arthur Vaughan Abbott, C.E." leads his readers to infer that "Uncle Sam" owns this canal, and of course the whole of the Niagara peninsula through which it passes. The Sault Ste Marie canal is lauded to the very skies; and the fact just incidentally mentioned that "Canadian enterprise" has built an additional canal on the opposite side; but that it is "small potatoes" indeed when compared with the new American structure.

AT a meeting of the Liberal Association last night Mr. William Templeman announced that he had decided to accept the Liberal nomination to oppose Hon. E. G. Prior in the coming election for the Dominion parliament.

A LARGE gathering of friends surprised Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Coates at their residence on Chatham street, Wednesday evening, it being the seventeenth anniversary of their wedding. During the evening they were presented with an address accompanied with a handsome chased gold ring and breastpin.

WILLIE, the fourteen-year old son of Max Shultz, engineer, of 129½ Douglas street, died yesterday at the Jubilee hospital, of appendicetis. Much sympathy is felt for the family, the mother having two other children sick at present and the father being away on the Glad Tidings.

THE Divisional court yesterday dismissed with costs the appeal in Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway v. Jerry. This was an appeal by defendant from Mr. Justice Walkem's order refusing to strike out a certain portion of the pleadings. Mr. W. J. Taylor appeared for the appellant (defendant), and Mr. E. V. Bodwell for respondent (plaintiff).

LETTERS and papers received by the Empress of India yesterday characterize the story of the drowning of a large party of marines from H.M.S. Edgar, at Chemulpo recently, as a cruel fiction, without the slightest legitimate foundation. The story has been going the rounds of the American press for several weeks past with all the accompaniments of elaborate headlines.

ON account of the inclement state of the weather there was not a very large attendance at the regular meeting of the W.C.T.U. yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Capt. Grant read a very interesting paper explaining Lady Henry Somerset's views on the social training of children and also treating on the position of the mother. This principally occupied the attention of the meeting, although several minor affairs were talked over.

YESTERDAY afternoon at St. Saviour's church, the rector, Rev. W. D. Barber, performed the interesting ceremony which united in marriage Mr. Frederick S. Spain and Miss Marion Gertrude Clarke. The groom is a second son of the late Valentine Spain, R.N., and is at present in the service of the government of British Columbia on the West Coast of this island; his bride is a daughter of W. Palmer Clarke, formerly of the 100th Regiment.

"THE FOUR LEAVED CLOVER."

The wretched weather was, no doubt, the cause of the slim audience at the Juvenile Opera Company's presentation of the "Four Leaved Clover" in the Victoria theatre last night. Those who did see the charming performance of the children, however, were so delighted that the matinee on Saturday ought to make full amends. The very clever acting and singing of the little folk, the pretty dresses, the charming grouping and good scenery are worthy of a crowded house. The graceful dancing of Miss Juanita Davis and her delightful "coquette" dance with Miss Emma Casad were undoubtedly the best features of the evening. Little Sammy Johnson as "Pips" looked a little imp to the life, and his comic singing was marvellously good, and brought roars of laughter. He was recalled again and again. The chorus singing of the gypsy band and the march of the Amazons were very well done, showing what the splendid training of Mrs. Lang and Mr. Wolff in their respective spheres had accomplished.

Miss Lily Lyons as Lady Hinda and Miss Mabel Lyons as Gretchen sang very sweetly and acted their parts well, as did all the children. Some of them were so very small that one wondered how they had managed to learn so much and act and sing so well. Miss Laura St. Clair as Countess Isabella, Miss Ethel St. Clair as Fedelma, queen of the gypsies, and Miss Emma Casad, the heavy villain who stole the baby Hinda (Little Mary Wolff) were all very clever little singers and actresses. The same may be said of Madge (Miss May King) and the rivals for the hand of Lady Hinda, Sir Rowland Graeme (Miss Tory Penketh) and Don Carlos (Master Percy Thomas). The Gluck Auf (Misses Celia Tugwell and Emma Casad) deserve notice; in fact the whole cast is worthy of praise.

The dainty little operetta must be seen to be appreciated, and people cannot do better than take their children to the Saturday matinee and so give a hearty support to the Juvenile Opera Co. in their efforts to raise a good round sum for the benefit of that most worthy institution—the Orphans' Home.

SINGLE STICK CHAMPIONS.

The public schools singlestick competition for the senior championship medals presented by Mr. Clive Phillips Wolley and for the junior championship offered by Lt.-Col. Peters, took place at the Pemberton gymnasium yesterday afternoon. There were quite a number of competitors and the contests were close and lively. Mr. Clive Phillips Wolley, who acted as referee, gave as his opinion that, everything considered, the play was very good, especially amongst the seniors. Sergeant-Major Fawcett, who played better than all the competitors, seniors and juniors alike, lost nothing by the generous lightness of his play with plucky little Boorman. Mr. St. Clair, the physical instructor of the schools, considered it a good exhibition of grit, but the boys were too excited to play up to their average standard.

The exercise is a good healthy training for boys and no mishap can possibly happen them. The senior championship was won by W. N. Winsby, of the Central school, with Huxtable second; while F. Fawcett, of the South Park school, carried off the junior championship, with O'Brien, of the Central school, second.

Trustee Mrs. Grant presented the medals and spoke a few kindly words of encouragement to the champions. Mr. St. Clair acted as timekeeper.

Mayor Quennell has definitely decided to again be a candidate for the mayorality. He will be opposed by Ald. Davison.

DELAYED BY STORM.

"Empress of India" Completes a Boisterous Voyage—Saw Nothing of the "Strathnevis."

Notable Passengers From the Far East—"Topeka" and "Maude" Sail To-day.

Those who accounted for the one day's delay in the arrival of the R.M.S. Empress of India, Henry Pybus, R.N.R., commanding, by confidently predicting that she had fallen in with the ill-starred Strathnevis and was towing her to port, were fated to disappointment. When the big white liner—hardly white indeed on this occasion—arrived yesterday she had no rival in tow upon which to claim salvage; her delay was due to quite another cause, continued rough weather. The storm set in on the China coast and fully eighteen hours' delay at Yokohama resulted; then all the way across the gale kept officers and crew at attention, trying the seaworthiness of the ship in every detail of construction, breaking off a portion of the bridge, and causing numerous minor accidents on board. Stanley L. Beale, a globe-circling passenger, was one of the unfortunates, breaking his knee-cap by a fall on deck in the storm; his travelling companion, Dr. A. H. Copeman, had had the rare good fortune to be one of the only two survivors of an Australian shipwreck only a few months before—and his luck remained with him. Another of the passengers homeward was Commander Wm. M. Folger, late of the U.S.S. Yorktown, who having been relieved of his charge is returning to Washington; his departure was witnessed with genuine regret by many friends in Japan, where he leaves a service record of which any officer might be proud. The Yorktown when he bade her good-bye had just been relieved by the Machias, and left for Shanghai to be docked. Mr. and Mrs. W. Graham, the former resident agent of the Canadian Pacific at Foo Choo, are returning to England on a visit; Dr. E. H. Horsey, of the Sun Life Association, has been doing missionary work for his company in the Orient; and Col. M. Hunsiker, of the Carnegie Steel Works, is returning from a conference with the government of Japan on the steel plate question. The others crossing in the first cabin were Mr. F. Davis, Miss A. Dudley, Mr. B. Hatzfield, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Horne, Mr. H. A. J. Macray, Mr. and Mrs. Yasukata Murai, Mr. R. C. Ross, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Shaw, Mr. A. Sheffield, Mr. E. R. Smith and Mr. Walter S. Ward. The Empress had a full cargo and a profitable number of Oriental steerage passengers.

The cabin passengers from here on the steamship Walla Walla, which sailed for San Francisco last evening, were: Miss M. Williams, Miss A. Williams, W. Pollard, wife and child, Miss F. E. Arrowsmith, Mrs. McCandless and two children, Mrs. F. R. Thain, Mrs. A. A. Allan, Thos. Mackie, R. W. Clark, B. Williams, R. E. Anderson and wife, S. Appleby, wife and child, Miss E. White, Miss Mary Burns, Q. J. Keon and wife, Geo. Lockie-Brown, J. C. Pope and S. F. Stelly.

In crossing the Straits yesterday afternoon the steamer Evangel had rather a rough experience but came through it all in good shape. She brought over from Port Angeles a big lot of poultry for the Christmas trade.

The schooners Sadie Turpel and Mascot will be leaving here for Masset for their Indian crews on the 28th or 29th instant. They will proceed to Japan from Masset.

The steamer Maude came in from Comox yesterday with a load of coal. She will sail for the West Coast this evening.

DEATH OF MRS. PORTER.

To-day the grave will close over all that is mortal of the late Mrs. Agnes Porter, relict of the late Joseph Porter, private secretary to Sir James Douglas during the stirring times of the Fraser river and Cariboo gold excitements. Mr. and Mrs. Porter arrived at Victoria in 1859, and for thirty-seven years, with the exception of a visit to Europe, the deceased lady continued to reside in the province. All the early settlers knew and revered Mrs. Porter. She was a typical Englishwoman of the old school, a consistent Christian, and before the infirmities of age laid their hands upon her, an active participant in all good works. Hers was a nature to invite and inspire confidence, and the young men who in the wild days of the early gold "rushes" found themselves in British Columbia without friends or resources, ever recognized in Mrs. Porter a true counsellor and friend. More than one of that class who have since risen to places of honor and distinction are alive to-day to bear willing testimony that but for that lady's influence and advice they would have become waifs and strays—mere derelicts of society. There are times when a few words judiciously spoken, a few kindly acts discreetly performed, will win a wanderer back to the path of rectitude and virtue. These acts and words were always spoken and performed as occasion required by Mrs. Porter; and now that she has "drawn the drapery of the couch about her and laid down to pleasant dreams," the hearts of those who loved her and whom she loved, while saddened by their bereavement, have the one consolation that the end was without pain and that she passed away with a full belief in a glorious resurrection.

Mrs. Porter was born in Wigan in 1817, her father (John Brigham) being a cotton spinner in that town. She was twice married, her first husband being Mr. John Holmes. About three years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Holmes sailed to Sydney, New South Wales. From Sydney they went to Hongkong, where Mr. Holmes died. Two years later she married Mr. Porter, and after a residence of six years in China followed her husband to California, arriving there in 1850, coming to Victoria nine years later. Mrs. Porter leaves one daughter—Mrs. J. W. McKay—five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

The funeral services will be conducted at Christ Church cathedral, and the remains will be interred in Ross Bay cemetery.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

Pupils of Three More Public Schools Turned Loose for Vacation Enjoyment.

Names of the Industrious Children Who Secured Promotion and Prizes.

Yesterday morning the Spring Ridge school was closed for the holidays, a good number of visitors being present and Inspector Burns presiding. Besides Mr. Burns, Bishop Perrin, Trustee Mrs. Grant and Rev. Mr. Bushell gave short addresses of congratulation to teachers and pupils on the excellent work done during the term just closed.

The closing of the Boys' Central school took place in the afternoon in the assembly hall of the Girls' school, which was filled with the pupils, their parents and friends. Inspector Wilson made a few happy remarks and was followed by Trustee Mrs. Grant, Bishop Perrin, Rev. Dr. Campbell and Trustee Glover, all giving words of encouragement to teachers and pupils and wishing the children a happy holiday time.

The promotion and prize lists were as follows:

SPRING RIDGE SCHOOL.

DIVISION I.

Mr. E. J. Doran, Principal.

To Central School—Elizabeth Jane Whittaker, Bernice Scowcroft, Louisa Clara Bragg, Florence Victoria Corder, Christien Christianson, Maud Eliza Lyall, Merton McKenzie, Maud Alice Copeland, Mary Jane McKinnon, Harold Thomas Rendell, Stephen Ernest Tanner, Guthrie Carlyle Gordon, Andrew Lewis Neelands.

Prize List—Head of school, silver medal (presented by Mr. J. N. Muir), Elizabeth J. Whittaker; written arithmetic (presented by Mrs. M. Grant), Florence V. Corder; diligence (presented by Miss L. A. Barron), Lena Breidfjord; geography, Harold T. Rendell; spelling, Louisa C. Bragg; proficiency, Elizabeth J. Whittaker.

DIVISION II.

Miss I. F. Barron, teacher.

To Division I—Nellie Priestly, Florence Hick, Margaret Jones, Florence Field, Richard Lory, Muriel Morry, George Little, Fred Chubb, Annie Banfield, Thomas Jones, Mildred Goodman, Otto Audermach.

Prize List—Nellie Priestly, proficiency; Annie Banfield, deportment and diligence; Margaret Jones, writing.

DIVISION III.

Mrs. Taylor, teacher.

To Division II—Alexander Gordon, Maggie Jameson, Mary Victoria Moore, Jane Brydon, Maggie Hodgson, Annie Mary Faulkner, Stephen Redgrave, Alfred McGregor, Solomon Phillips, Elsie Morry, Willard Dwyer, Theodore Gaerdes, Gertrude Bate and Lily Smith.

Recommended—Martha Faulkner.

Prize List—1st in general proficiency, Alex Gordon, presented by Mrs. Dwyer; 2nd, Maggie Jameson; 3rd, Mary Victoria Moore, presented by Mr. W. R. McIntosh; 4th, Jane Brydon, presented by Mr. W. Chapman; 5th, Maggie Hodgson, presented by Mr. J. Whitefield; 6th, Annie Faulkner.

DIVISION IV.

Miss Elsie M. Arthur, Teacher.

To Division III—Henry Obel Brown, Nellie Haughton Wescott, Annie Elizabeth Dempsey, Phœbe Harrison McKenzie, Fredeline Annie Renouf, Runnie Christianson, Lydia Maud Lory.

Prize List—Henry Brown, general proficiency; Phœbe McKenzie, regularity and punctuality; Nellie Wescott, 2nd general proficiency and deportment; Henry McGregor, deportment.

BOYS' CENTRAL SCHOOL.

DIVISION I.

Mr. S. B. Netherby, Principal.

To High School—Geo. Sayward Brown.

DIVISION II.

Mr. Thomas Nicholson, Teacher.

To Division I—Preston M. Coates. Promoted by recommendation—James C. Brady, Hugo Seelig, Douglas Scholefield, Julian Robertson, Albert Ward, Benjamin C. Pettingell, Vigel O'Brien, Herbert Hobbis, Joshua Marks, George Noble, Charles Gaerdes, Richard Lowe.

Prize for general proficiency, Preston Coates.

DIVISION III.

Mr. J. F. Sallaway, Teacher.

To Division II—Frederic Hathaway Peters, John Ableson Coates, James McLean Wilson, Albert Edward Shanks, John Henry Renfree, Charles Coates, John Barber Holdcroft.

Promoted by recommendation—Arthur Douglas Belyea, Nello Brinkworth Smith, Percy William Keefer, William Raymond Elford, Samuel Lamerton Crocker, Sydney Seymour Sauuders, Stephen Cullum, Robert Henry Browne, Robert McLachlan, Millen Sutherland, William Harrison.

DIVISION IV.

Miss E. E. Sylvester, teacher.

To Division III—William Herbert Stebbings, Dale Stanley Ewart, Christopher Geo. Behnson, Samuel Johnson, James Goodman, Lewis Fuller, Sydney Joseph Winsby, Samuel Shanks, Arthur Bray Whittaker, William Walter Baraswell, Thomas Hugh Winsby, Edward Rendell, Ralph Wales, Ernest Edward Robinson, Herman Gaerdes, Edward J. Townsley.

Promoted on recommendation—John Henry Higgins, William Patterson, Arthur Dods, Charles Alex. McKilligan.

DIVISION V.

Miss G. H. Fawcett, teacher.

To Division IV—Allan Campbell Wilson, Frank Archibald Waller, Sterling May Smith, Joseph John McTeigh, William Henry Turner, Frederick Marshall Garlande, George Frederick Sallaway, Stanley George Bridges, Leopold Freeman.

Promoted by recommendation—Cuthbert Keefer, William James Maynard, Harold Helmcken Brown, Benjamin Levy, Alfred Irving Lemm.

DIVISION VI.

Miss C. C. Christie, Teacher.

To Division V.—Harvey Sexsmith, Lloyd Dickinson, James Caldwell, Noel Bridges, Walter Walker, Napier Gowan, Percy Sherett.

Promoted by recommendation—Cleaver Wilson, Ernest Maynard, Robert O'Brien, Edgar Parberry, Alex. McKenzie, Charles Kinlock, James Bolden.

DIVISION VII.

Miss E. Jesse, Teacher.

To Division VI.—Bertram Spain, Harry Jones, Milton Seelig, Allen Loat and Victor Rolfe equal; Joe Rausch, Chester Paulson, Michael Conlin, Willie Bryce, Edgar Phillips.

Promoted by recommendation—Roy McKitrick, Frank Carson, Willie McDougall, Melvin Knapp.

DIVISION VIII.

Mr. W. N. Winsby, teacher.

To Division VII—Patrick Kelly, Lawrence Paschal Macrae, Stanley Hobbis, Daryl Herbert Kent, Balmer Williscroft, Frederick Henry Waterson, Archibald Arthur King, Gus Carne, Allan Bennett, Joseph Kelly, Colin McKenzie Wilson, Ernest Saunders, Frank Lounds, George Phillips.

Recommended for Promotion—William Andrew Munro, George Henry Hartnell.

Prize List—General proficiency, Patrick Kelly; diligence and deportment, Daryl H. Kent, Balmer Williscroft.

OAK BAY SCHOOL.

The results of the promotion examinations at the Oak Bay school are as follows:

Senior Fourth to Fifth Reader—Frank Bagshaw.

Prizes—Proficiency, Frank Bagshaw; deportment, Ethel Eleanor Soule.

Junior Fourth to Senior Fourth Reader—Flora H. Gowen, Ethel Reid.

Junior to Senior Third Reader—Thomas Wilson Astie, Ann Holmes.

Second Primer to Second Reader—John Hooper, Frank Hooper.

First Primer to Second Primer—Myrtle Noble; Joseph Eden and Lizzie Bagshaw, equal; Ellen Radford, Nora Rich, David Soule, Nellie Bagshaw.

The High school closes to-day at 2 o'clock.

HON. E. G. PRIOR'S RE-ELECTION.

TO THE EDITOR:—So the Liberals are to contest the Hon. E. G. Prior's re-election on his elevation to the Dominion Cabinet! Well, surely this decision has been reached from a spirit of "pure cussedness" rather than from any well considered question of right principle which is involved in the issue. The question is a provincial one, not a local one, and I imagine the Liberals of the province will emphatically condemn the action of the executive of the Victoria Liberals. What have British Columbians been contending for during many years but that they should in justice to the commercial and territorial importance of their province be entitled to representation in the council of the Dominion. Now that the federal government has practically recognised this contention by calling the Hon. E. G. Prior to a seat in the Cabinet, the Victoria Liberals by the attitude of their executive seek to nullify the decision of the federal government. I am much mistaken in my estimation of the good common sense of all right-thinking British Columbians if they will endorse this act of political suicide.

Surely the most ignorant man in British Columbia, be he Liberal or Conservative, can see the evil effects that are sure to follow the anomalous position into which the Liberal Association have placed the whole province. Anyone who holds even the most pessimistic views of British Columbia cannot shut his eyes to the fact that we are just on the eve of some change for the better in our commercial history. At no period in the past has there been such a consensus of opinion as to the value of our possessions, nor has the spirit of inquiry by those qualified to judge been better exemplified than now, by the hard cash put into our province in developing our resources.

I can hardly imagine a check more serious to our success as a province than this silly and petty local jealousy on the part of a few, who in order to test their chances of success at the next general election have resolved to oppose the re-election of Hon. E. G. Prior, and have selected as their scapegoat a gentleman who deserves from them a better fate. Had they waited for a real test of strength as between the principles upheld by Conservatives and those advocated by Liberals, until these issues were squarely before the electorate, it would have given their candidate an opportunity of knowing the power of his party.

I remark that their candidate deserves a better fate at their hands, and this remark is caused by the apparent half-hearted support that they have given him in the past, a fact quite patent to any citizen of Victoria who may have watched the history of the Liberal party here. Had it not been for his pledding attention to his paper the Liberal cause would have been dead from sheer inanition. A few shouts and hurrahs and a few resolutions moved in caucus do not fill the exchequer of a party newspaper nor pay even the legitimate electioneering expenses of a candidate. If Mr. Templeman consents to run it must be against his own better judgment, as I am quite sure he sees for himself not only defeat now but in the future. The action of the executive of the Liberal Association as advertised will not, I am confident, receive the support of Liberals generally in this city, and certainly not in the province.

This opportunity is not a party one, has nothing to do with party politics; it rises beyond that, it is purely and simply whether we want our province to remain non-progressive or to take its proper place in the affairs of the Dominion, to which it is now conceded it has the right. I am not one of those who would willingly belittle the conscientious political beliefs of my neighbors, nor refuse to accord to those who differ from me in politics a fair chance to meet the issues between us at a time when such may be properly tested, but I do object as a British Columbian to have my rights (now recognized and acted upon) attempted to be wrested from me, to please the whims and vagaries of a few who are continually carrying the chip on their shoulder, aching for a fight, and who cannot take a wider view of the present situation than that compassed by their own shadow.

I do not look upon this recognition of our rights in the light of personal honor to the gallant Colonel, nor to the Conservative party (although inferentially it is both), but I feel it is a just recognition of British Columbia's importance as a factor in the confederation. The purse-strings of investing capitalists are of very sensitive mechanism and are being gradually relaxed in our favor in the development of mining and, otherwise, but any sudden act of ours to retard our progress will tighten them so closely that they may not open again in the next decade. Let the right minded Liberals of Victoria reconsider their ill-advised and hasty action, and let them and all well-wishers of our province return our cabinet minister by acclamation.

COUNTRY BEFORE PARTY.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

CRIPPLE CREEK BOOM.

Ores of Some of the Developed Mines Exceptionally Rich—Many "Prospect Holes."

Possible Influence Upon Mining Enterprise in British Columbia Which Has Much to Show.

The Cripple Creek mines of Colorado are now attracting the attention of mining men in the United States, and, as is said in that particular section of the country, the old Leadville days are being repeated with more vigor, and the additional excitement of gold discoveries tends to relieve the depression which has so long existed since the closing down of most of the silver mines. Whether or not this boom will last the future alone can determine. The fact remains that at the present time thousands of men are pouring into the country by every conceivable means of conveyance, and sleeping accommodation is very scarce. Some are bona fide prospectors leaving other camps to seek new diggings; some speculators come from all parts of the world to see for themselves, others are brokers, "mining men," etc., etc., while there are all classes of the usual followers of mining booms, with a large percentage of gamblers.

Your correspondent, besides visiting several mines in various parts of Colorado, Utah and Idaho, had the advantage of bringing with him letters of introduction to the owners of some of the largest mines which are in operation in the vicinity of Cripple Creek, and was thereby able to see for himself the reason for all the excitement. These large mine owners are very chary about letting people down their mines as in some cases visitors have spread reports which have materially influenced the stock market. Some of the ores from these mines are so rich that the miners are searched when coming out of the pits, and detectives placed on watch, as it was discovered that a great deal of ore was being actually carried away by the miners in their boots and dinner pails. But this great development work is confined to only two or three mines, the remainder being mere "prospect holes" which show good outcroppings just sufficent upon which to form joint stock companies and enable the mines to be quoted on the Denver stock exchange. Those who have visited large mining camps know too well the appearance of the country under this state of affairs. Indeed, it seems as if in the distance for miles round some huge animal had been at work digging holes and throwing the earth out behind him.

Naturally an equal excitement prevails on the Denver stock exchange, lately established. Mining shares are bought and sold eagerly and "all on the rise." There is a rumor current that "Barney Barnato" is coming; he may be coming or may not, but it all tends towards their one great aim, i.e., to create a huge mining boom. The New York World and other Eastern papers have written warnings to the country against these rash speculations, and in spite of this the great excitement still continues, and even has spread as far east as Chicago where several of the "mines" are quoted on its exchange. If this state of affairs lasts in all probability it will spread to the far Eastern States, and then will come the crash. Many fortunes will be lost and made and those who are unfortunate enough to have invested at top prices will be in the same fix as our friends who have been dabbling in South Africans.

There are some people who think this mining boom will extend to the camps in Montana, Utah, Idaho and other states throughout the West in a similar way to the growth of the great land boom from 1888 to 1890. If this prediction proves true British Columbia must necessarily be drawn in, and thanks to the energy of several of our mine owners we shall be able to show the world something substantial—not mere "prospect holes," but actually work done and ore being shipped.

It may interest your readers to hear that the general impression among mining men in the Western States is that British Columbia is a wonderful ore producing country, and those who have travelled through the Kootenay and Cariboo districts return with the most favorable reports, and, as we already know, many mines are bonded by American capitalists and development work is pushed forward. Some special features in our British Columbia mining laws are thought by American mining men to be far ahead of their own, the general absence of claim jumping being especially remarked upon. It is commonly said that the British Columbia government knew what it was about when it made its laws; in fact it is generally conceded that we have a good mining country and exceptionally good mining laws. Our development is slow but sure, and when this great mining boom spreads itself through the West we are ready for them. We have the country, and in our case no wild cat schemes, but something substantial to show and give in return.

L. H. W.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

MONTREAL, Dec. 20.—William Alexander & Co., dry goods, have suspended payment. The demand of assignment was made by Gault Bros. Mr. Alexander was formerly in business in Winnipeg. His liabilities are about $90,000.