PIONEER BANQUET.

The Old Timers' Society Have Their Annual Good Time at the Occidental.

A Jolly Sociable Evening With Decided Absence of Any Stiff Formality.

With another gold excitement in British Columbia, the annual banquet of the men who first came to the country, attracted by the gold discoveries of bygone days, is particularly timely. The British Columbia Pioneer Society still has in its ranks many of the men who were identified with the gold mining days of the Fraser and old Cariboo, though gradually as the years come round, one after another familiar face is missed from the convivial gathering when once a year the Pioneers re-unite round the banquet board to swap their stories, sing their songs, and keep green the days when they were young, and pork and beans was the diet which they waxed fat and flourished upon.

Pork and beans are always on the menu at the banquets still, and each guest has a taste, but the excellent dinner at the Occidental last night, with its numerous courses, and served as it was in the style that the Occidental is justly famed for, was far ahead of what any miner in the old days even dreamed of. Although the evening passed off in the pleasantest manner, yet in spite of all there was a tinge of sadness and regret that "Old Bob Ridley," always one of the most enthusiastic of the society, had that day been laid away in his long rest.

There never is any stiffness and formality about a Pioneer banquet. All present are treated like members of one big family, and the chee chako guests are made to as much possible feel that they, too, may aspire to being pioneers in the days yet to come, and when they, too, in the days of British Columbia's coming imperial splendor, may talk of the old days when the discoveries in Altin were just being made. The president, Mr. John Robertson, or "Jock" Robertson, as his old cronies like to call him, presided at the well filled board, round which were gathered over a hundred guests; and over his head hung the society's banner, with the date of organization, April 28, 1871.

On the chairman's right sat Senator Macdonald, on his left United States Consul Smith, while among the invited guests present were the mayor, Mr. Thomas Earle, M. P., Bishop Cridge and other representative men. The pioneers always seem to get young again on the nights of their annual banquets, and so there was a genial spirit around the board last night that is not always seen at a public dinner. Everyone has a good time and enjoys himself, and the singing of "They Are Jolly Good Fellows" has a real meaning and heartiness to it.

When the toast period was reached, the secretary, Mr. Allan Graham, read letters of regret for inability to be present from Hon. E. G. Prior, M. P., and Premier Semlin.

"Long drinks, short speeches and plenty of songs" was the rule laid down by the chairman, and he led the good example.

The usual loyal toasts of the Queen and the Prince of Wales were duly honored, and then came the President of the United States.

Hon. Abraham E. Smith, United States consul, in his response, brought out enthusiastic applause when he spoke of the feeling that has arisen between his country and the Empire. In his remarks Mr. Smith said honor to the pioneers of British Columbia, and predicted a great future for Victoria and the province because of the immense mining possibilities. The resources of the mines on Vancouver Island would do much for Victoria. Reverting to the great historical events of the past year, he said that when the inevitable struggle came in the Orient, Great Britain and the United States would be found side by side and shoulder to shoulder.

The typical pioneer song, "Riding on the Old Pack Mule," was sung by Mayor Redfern with a pioneer vim, everybody joining in the time-honored chorus.

The Governor-General was proposed in happy terms by Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken, Q.C., "For he's a jolly good fellow" and cheers being given by the guests in honor of His Excellency.

After the toast of the Lieut-Governor, proposed by the Mayor, came the toast of the evening,

"British Columbia" was proposed by Mr. J. W. Carey, who in glowing terms pointed out British Columbia's enormous size, her vast coast line, her wonderful harbors, her magnificent mines and her resources generally. The Kootenay country, which forty years ago was not thought to contain anything but immense mountains, might now be called an immense world. The timber and the fisheries were referred to and instances given of the almost fabulous shoals of fish.

Bishop Cridge, "one of the oldest pioneers in the country," as the chairman styled him, was called upon to respond to this, the venerable Bishop being very heartily applauded as he rose to speak. Looking back he spoke of the establishment of order in this country. In April, 1858, when they came out of church one afternoon they found six or seven hundred miners landed and it was not long before there were 10,000 men camped in Victoria eager to go to the mines. The question of establishing order in the midst of this influx was an important question indeed, but Governor Douglas, the greatest man that the country had produced, was equal to the occasion. Mr. J. D. Pemberton had been chosen as his agent and an efficient body of police were speedily enrolled. One night there was an alarm that the miners were about to rise and take the place. Mr. Pemberton reported to the Governor; a message was sent to Esquimalt; Mr. Pemberton went among the men and spoke to these miners. In a short time a whisper went around "the gunboat" and the warship appeared from Esquimalt, and the trouble was over. Bishop Cridge referred next to confederation and felt that the linking together of British Columbia with the rest of Canada was planned in heaven before it was brought about by the railway built on earth. Speaking of the two great Anglo-Saxon nations being in harmony with each other he closed with the prayer: "Give peace in our time O, Lord," and addressing the pioneers said "God bless you all, Good night."

Mr. Holtz—"Dutch Charlie" as he used to be known in 1862—sang the "Red White and Blue" in great style, with a rousing pioneer chorus.

"The Dominion Senate, Commons and Local Government" was proposed by Mr. J. B. Lovell and responded to by Senator Macdonald and Mr. Thos. Earle, M.P.

Senator Macdonald as a pioneer said that he first landed in 1851 and he believed that Hon. J. S. Helmcken was the only man living in Victoria to-day who arrived before him. He could go back to the days when they had no house of assembly nor any Dominion. When he came here first there was but one house, the H. B. Co. fort, in Victoria. He recalled the time when one day you paid $50 for a lot and next morning would be offered $6,000 and $7,000 for it.

Mr. Thos. Earle, M.P., in responding for the House of Commons more particularly referred to the fact that most of the leading men in the province were pioneers.

"Forty Years Ago" sung in his best style by Mr. Thos. Flewin, varied the programme, the company joining in the favorite pioneer song.

Mr. H. D. Helmcken, M. P. P., asked to respond to "The Local Government," said jokingly that he would not take upon himself the responsibilities of the local government; he had his own sins to answer for, and unfortunately the Governor had not sent for him to form a government. They would like, no doubt, to know what would transpire on January 5, but he had no idea of what would transpire then, but he would tell them one thing, and that was that he would be right in it. (Laughter and applause).

Mr. Campbell gave a capital recitation about Barney and his klootchman love, before the next toast.

"The Army, Navy and Volunteers," proposed by Mr. Thomas Russell and responded to by Lieut.-Col. Gregory and Mr. Short, and Ald. Bragg followed this with the good old song, "Down on the Swanee River."

"The Mayor and Council" was proposed by Mr. N. Shakespeare, who complimented the present mayor and council for the way they had managed the city's affairs during the year.

The mayor spoke briefly in response, saying that he was glad to see the citizens waking up to municipal affairs and taking a part in trying to assist the council in doing the best for the city.

Ald. Humphrey, in his response, referred chiefly to the electric light system of the city, he being chairman of the electric light committee, and said in its management Victoria compared more than favorably with other cities, both as to the number of lights in proportion to the population of the city, and in the economy with which the system was run.

Ald. Bragg, in speaking of civic revenue and expenditure, said that while more improvements were desirable, this could not be done without money. The people were beginning to realize that the blame did not all rest on the shoulders of the council, but on the shoulders of the rest of the people as well. The council did the best they could, and if the wrong men got in, it was the fault of the people who elected them.

Mr. Flint sang in his own characteristic way, "Finnegan's Wake," as a prelude to "Sister Societies," proposed by Ald. Humphrey and responded to by Mr. Thomas Russell for the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society, and Mr. Flint for the Sons of Erin.

Mr. E. Pearson proposed "The Bench and Bar," which was responded to by Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken, Q. C., and Lieut.-Col. Gregory.

A song by Mr. Bishop; "The Press," proposed by Mr. E. J. Thain; and "The Ladies," proposed by Mr. Allan Graham, the secretary, and a splendid song by Mr. Walter Porter, the genial host of the Occidental, closed the evening.

THE PNEUMATIC HUB.

When It Comes the Bicycle Should Be Perfect.

Washington Star.

"The pneumatic hub is the coming invention in the bicycle line," remarked a representative of a bicycle manufacturing concern, "and it promises to be a bigger thing in every way than the pneumatic tire, which made the wheel the great success it is. There is no denying that the solid tire had about ended up the bicycle business, when the pneumatic tire was introduced and immediately caught on. But the pneumatic tire is not altogether a perfect thing, as many have realized to their discomfort and sorrow. While they don't puncture or explode as often as nonriders may imagine, there is an uncertainty about them that is very annoying. For there is no telling when they will break down, and somehow the break-down always occurs at the most inconvenient place.

"The dozens of patterns and styles of puncturless tires are all right, only they are not puncturless. In every other respect they are all that is claimed for them. The puncturless tire has not been invented yet, and probably will not be, for there will be no necessity for it. The pneumatic hub proves to be anything like as glorious an achievement as is claimed for it. There are already a half dozen different kinds, which have been offered to manufacturers, and experiments are being made as to their practicability. The principal idea in them is to have the hub of the wheel built so that it can be inflated. This will give all the resiliency that is needed to make riding pleasant, and a goodly can be said to pneumatic tires. There will be a solid tire again, as when the safety form of the wheel was introduced.

"The pneumatic hub which has the most springiness of resiliency about it, and which at the same time is thoroughly strong and safe will go into general use immediately. I do not know that any manufacturer is sufficiently satisfied with the various pneumatic hubs which have been offered to announce that it is practical and will do the work of a man that never rode a wheel of any kind. The next best as far as I learn is the invention of a mere boy, who is very likely to be a millionaire if his idea works out right. The wheelman, of course, can get along with the pneumatic tire and can keep on pumping and patching it up, but he won't do so if the pneumatic hub offers itself. It will be a satisfaction to him if he can leave his kit of tools home during his runs, for while many are experts in repairing punctures, ninety-nine out of every hundred riders are not, and are not inclined to learn how to do it."

A man's health is the rope by which he climbs to success. If he can keep his health, he will go on to success. Yet his health is the very thing he neglects more than anything else. It is easier to keep health than it is to regain it. When a man feels himself running down, when he realizes a loss of vitality and energy, he must call a halt. The strands of his rope are parting rapidly. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has helped thousands of men in just this condition. It makes health, it makes pure, rich blood, it forces out impurities and kills germs. It doesn't make any difference what name you call your trouble by—dyspepsia—kidney disease—rheumatism—consumption—skin disease, the "Golden Medical Discovery" will cure it absolutely. None of these diseases can retain hold of the body when it is full of rich, pure blood.

Send 21 one-cent stamps to cover cost of mailing only, and receive free a copy of Dr. Pierce's Medical Adviser. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y.

Mining Shares.—Nearly 100,000 mining shares in various mining companies were sold by Mr. Cuthbert on Saturday, including a large block of Oro sold in England. The latter stock will be advanced to 3 cents on the 17th, in consequence of certain reports from Oro City and the mines.

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

"Blackjack" Raid Yields Revenue to Greenwood—Sheriff for Nelson District.

New Government Economises on Cleaning of Schoolhouses—Sleighing in Okanagan.

HEALTH OFFICER.—Dr. Schon has been appointed medical health officer of Greenwood. He has had experience in England and the colonies.

POLICE CHIEF.—The police commissioners of Greenwood have made arrangements with Mr. John McLaren, of Rossland, to take charge of police matters in Greenwood. Mr. McLaren was chief of the Vancouver police force some years ago.

HOUSEHOLDERS.—The total number of householders registered in Rossland is 304, of whom 118 reside in the First ward, 135 in the Second, and 87 in the Third ward. These numbers are below those of last year, but the cause stated is that many have become owners and go on the list under that head.

GREENWOOD VOTERS.—The municipal voters' list for 1899 for Greenwood has been completed by City Clerk Taylor. It shows 112 names in the North ward and 178 names in the South ward, making a total of 290 names. Last year's list showed a total of 143 names, or less than half of this year's list.

NEW SHERIFF.—W. P. Robinson, who for several years past has acted as deputy to Sheriff Redgrave, of Donald, has had notice of his appointment as sheriff for the electoral divisions of Nelson, Slocan, Rossland and Southeast Kootenay. Heretofore Sheriff Robinson, as deputy, has covered the work in Nelson territory and divided the fees with the sheriff at Donald.

CASCADE CITY.—This city continues to grow steadily. New concerns are opening up in the merchandise business every week. There are now three large general merchandise establishments, besides many smaller concerns. In the hotel line there are 15 houses now open, but it is often impossible to secure a bed or a room. The travel into the Boundary country is increasing rapidly, and the several lines of stages are taxed to their utmost capacity, often finding it necessary to put on extra teams when the trains come in at Bossburg and Marcus.

A MEAN GOVERNMENT.—Mr. Geo. R. Naden, secretary of the board of school trustees, desired the assistance of the council. He found it necessary to dodge around corners in order to avoid unfortunate school creditors, and he was getting tired of the business. The government claimed a happy condition of bankruptcy, so no assistance was coming from that quarter. As a last resort he appealed to the council. The council took pity on the school trustees and voted $25 for keeping the school house clean.—Boundary Creek Times.

RAILWAYS IN BOUNDARY.—It is now almost certain that railway construction will commence in the vicinity of Greenwood before the end of the year. The contractors are busy grading up to the Summit or within eight miles of Greenwood. Contracts on this side of the summit will be let in a very short time. It is reported that the C.P.R. has come to the conclusion that the best policy is to build and the question of subsidy may be brought up afterwards. Dr. Foster, the company's physician at Cascade, has received instructions to remove to Greenwood in a very short time. Mr. Stout, who is getting out lumber for the contractors, is getting ready to erect a sawmill, and others are making preparations for active construction on this side.—Boundary Creek Times.

GOOD SLEIGHING.—A correspondent writes from Vernon: "It has been snowing more or less here almost every day during the past week, but the weather has not been as yet what we could call cold. With the quality of snow now on the ground sleighing has now become excellent and the farmers are much pleased, as it affords them a very favorable opportunity to market their grain and hay. Since the advent of the snow many of our townspeople have taken a few days' hunting, hoping to have the good fortune to bag a few deer. Reports, however, indicate that as a rule they have not been so fortunate as last year, when deer seem to have been unusually plentiful."

ROSSLAND CUSTOMS.—The customs returns for November show that during the month the imports for Rossland were larger than usual. The total amount of revenue collected was $14,447, while during October the duties collected amounted to only $11,576. For September the revenue was $13,373; for August, $12,183; for July, $9,250. The total value of goods entered at the port of Rossland for the month of November was $12,184; of dutiable goods, $54,274.

The exports of the month were limited almost entirely to ore and matte. The total value of the two classes of products was $388,990, and their weight was 10,204 tons. The value of other exports was $1,790, which made the total exports passing through the Rossland office $390,780.

BLACKJACK RAIDED.—At Greenwood recently Chief of Police Taylor and Night Watchman Pearse walked into the Pioneer hotel and arrested eight of the players, confiscated $56 in cash and chips representing probably $100. The police did not get all the players. Three or four of them succeeded in getting out a back way. One fat gentleman, who had the satisfaction of seeing his five dollars disappear into the chief's pocket before he had a chance to risk any of it on cards, escaped through a a back door. The eight were marched to the jail and left there over night. Next day they appeared before Police Magistrate Wallett. The case was adjourned and bail was accepted for each in the sum of $50. When the case again came up there was a formidable array of legal talent for the defence. Andrew Leamy, J. P. McLeod and A. M. Whiteside being there to knock Prosecuting Attorney Black's case into a cocked hat. They found, however, that they could have no opportunity of enjoying a fight. Night Watchman Pearse, the chief witness for the prosecution, had resigned, and neither he nor any of the other witnesses could be found. Mr. Black asked for a week's adjournment, which was granted. The bail money was returned.

WRESTLING.—A foul on the part of Charley Moth gave a wrestling match at Rossland last week to Frank Saundry. The foul occurred in the fourth bout, when the two men were struggling furiously under the Cornish rules. Moth had Saundry tied with a wrist hold and a neck clasp, and was bringing his foot forward to trip his muscular opponent. At the same moment Saundry lurched forward and Moth's foot struck him square and fair on the thigh. No damage was done Saundry, but the referee, Ed. Trezona, gave the match to him, under rule 5 of the Cornish standard, as follows: "No kicking above the knee, and any wrestler so kicking his opponent above the knee shall lose his forfeit and the stakes. The referee shall declare the wrestler so kicked the winner of the match." The result of the match was generally unsatisfactory. The preceding bouts had been three in number. Of these Saundry had won a single bout at Cornish style, in 10 minutes and 22 seconds. Moth had been victorious in two events under the catch-as-catch-can rules. One of them he won in 15 minutes, while the second went to him in the phenomenal time of three minutes and 52 seconds.

SUPERSTITION IN RUSSIA.

A Priest Sentenced for Casting Out Devils by Fire.

Superstition is very rife throughout Russia and the East, says a St. Petersburg despatch to the London Telegraph. Not only does this apply to the lower orders, who firmly believe in the existence of good and evil spirits, which have influence upon the lost of mankind, but there are many intelligent and educated people who are extremely credulous in this respect. The story of the "devils of St. Petersburg" is not yet forgotten here. In this case, a certain medical man, who occupied apartments to the Rue Titejuaja, was afflicted by goblins, which every night changed the position of the furniture, knocked down china and copper ornaments, upset tables, etc., much in the same way as did the devils of Woodstock, celebrated by Sir Walter Scott in one of his novels. Later on it was ascertained that these "devils" were no other than the doctor's servants, who had been "squared" by certain people who wanted to get him out of his lodgings.

Another characteristic story of this sort relates to a country house in the little island of Kammeny, near St. Petersburg. The establishment in question was built for a lady of high rank, but she only lived in it for eight days, since which it has remained empty. It was alleged that apparitions and visions were seen during the night. Horrible groans and sighs and cries for help were heard. The mistress of the house stood this sort of thing for several nights, but finally was obliged to quit. In this case also it turned out that the servants, whom Mme. ... is said to have treated harshly, were at the bottom of the trouble.

In some parts of Russia the people believe that devils can enter into the organism of human beings, whose actions they thereafter guide, and there are sorcerers who profess to be able to case out the spirits. These men are utterly without scruple, and the suffering which they cause their victims to undergo may be easily imagined. Very few cases ever come before the law courts. The people look upon the wizard as a powerful personage who can work them much evil, and therefore not lightly to be provoked. Hence complaints are rarely laid before the tribunals. However, a typical case of the sort recently came before the court at Vladicaucase.

A Mohammedan mollah, or priest, named Ahmed Ramasanoff was charged with torturing a peasant woman named Kotchertova, his object being to drive devils out of her. At the beginning of the present year, Katchertova, who was only 20, fell ill, her mania being accompanied by epileptic fits. The village elder and her husband, a man named Aslan-Bek, came to the conclusion that she was afflicted by evil spirits and the husband called upon the mollah, Ramasanoff, to cast them out. The priest came to the house and commenced his treatment. First of all, they made a big wood fire, and when there was plenty of hot ashes they stripped the young woman and tied her hands and feet. Seeing these ominous preparations Katchertova began to cry and begged them to desist. "Cut off my arms, put out my eyes, do what you like, but do not burn me." They paid no attention to her pleadings, and picked her up, placed her on the fire. She then became insensible. She was covered with burns, which the doctor who examined her declared to be of a very severe character. When brought before the court the priest explained that the woman's husband had sought his advice. He counsel Aslan-Bek to force his wife to name the spooks, and he (the priest) would be able to restore her to health. He had put her on the fire until she gave the names of the evil spirits, which he then wrote upon a piece of paper and threw into the flames, after which he was quite sure the devils would leave her. He added that when she cried before being put on the hearth it was not she that wept, but the devils. The inquiry showed that the woman had been kept on the hot ashes for eight hours. The head-man of the village denosed that such methods of treatment were often employed, and were always successful.

The court found the priest guilty, and sentenced him to deprivation of all his civil rights and to one year's imprisonment. The husband could have also been tried, but his wife declared that she forgave him.

PIERRE LOTI ON VIRTUE.

What He Had to Say About Charity, Sweet Charity.

From the London News.

Pierre Loti read to-day his report on the Montyon prizes of virtue. For the first time since the academy was founded, a chapter of the Bible was quoted. The one he chose was St. Paul's exhortation on charity: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass and as a tinkling cymbal." All the thirteen verses of the chapter of this epistle to the Corinthians were read, ending with: "And now abide faith, hope and charity." Paraphrasing the apostle, Pierre Loti said of the poor old philanthropic winners of virtue prizes:

"Oh! they have charity, these poor people to whom we now offer as a very inadequate honor these too small rewards. They are daily workers, broken down with years, old servants whom their labors have worn out, poor men and poor women, some paralyzed, nearly all infirm. It is in their honor we accomplish a too mean apotheosis. We admire in a wordly, inattentive way, but we may be sure that of the slender sums of money we give them they will keep none for themselves. They have charity, and true charity, such as St. Paul defines.

"I shall quote again his definition. For it is not enough to do good; we should do good in their way—with patience, tenderness, amiability and a pleasant smile. Charity suffereth long and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself; is not puffed up. It may be added that during the last two thousand years charity has not varied. Such as St. Paul understood it, so is it now practiced by those exceptional and most admirable men and women whom the academy seeks out and finds, astonished and confounded, in poor suburbs and remote provincial places. I have said 'astonished and confounded,' for charity is not puffed up, and they have no idea of the priceless value of their hearts. They did not crave your suffrages. No, most of them to-day have learned with amazement how you have chosen them. They were first marked out by the public rumor which so often runs astray when hatred is to be shown, but hardly ever when goodness is to be praised and blessed."

HEARD IN THE HOTELS

Rich Showing Up of the Mines of Western Vancouver Island.

Hawaii's Police Superintendant Visits Victoria — Coming Stageland Attractions.

Some wonderfully rich free gold quartz was brought down from Granite creek by Mr. E. J. Short and his associate, Mr. M. Sullivan, of Spokane, who reached the city yesterday. Mr. Short showed this quartz yesterday as he stood chatting in the Victoria hotel, and explained how it was discovered last July by young "Jimmy" Wilson. Wilson and his uncle were up at the head of Granite creek, and were sitting down resting when the young man with his pick knocked off a bit of the outcropping rock, a rotten red quartz that would have attracted the attention of any miner. Wilson, however, was not a miner, but when he looked at the fragment of broken rock he saw glittering particles which, inexperienced as he was, he knew were gold.

"I am not much of a miner," said he, "but I'll bet that's gold."

Gold it was, and as a result a group of three claims have been bonded to Mr. Short and his associates. The lead is from half a foot to eighteen inches wide, but when Mr. Short was there the snow was a couple of feet deep, and so he found it impossible to follow the lead far. Mr. Short has a very high opinion of the Hayes property, on the Canal, and would have had a look at the Alberni Consolidated had the snow not been so deep. He is greatly impressed with the possibilities of the Alberni and West Coast country, and says that what the people of the Island want to do is to talk up their mines, if they expect to attract attention to them.

The specimens brought from Granite creek are speckled over beautifully with gold quite visible to the naked eye, and certainly are wonderfully promising looking croppings.

* * *

Sam Thall, the veteran theatrical manager of the Pacific coast and Northwest routes, arrived here by the City of Seattle last evening, and, as he has done once a year for the past quarter of a century, went straight to the Driard for the key of his room. This time it is "Yon Yonson," the original and best of the Swedish dialect comedies, that Mr. Thall is bringing on Friday next. The play is a famous one with which all theatre-goers are familiar. It is now the joint property of Mr. Thall and the theatrical Napoleon, Jacob Litt, the present being Mr. Thall's first season as an "owner of the show." He has surrounded the great Ben Hendricks with a cast of 16 other clever people, and presents the play with a complete outfit of special scenery and all other modern mechanical factors going to make up a stage success. Following close behind the genial "Yonson," according to Mr. Thall, comes "Greater New York," a blood-and thunder melodrama of the "Air Ship" brand. Later on Victoria is to be visited by the Jules Grau opera company, who have been scoring a great success in Southern California, and are playing the New Year's date at Stockton. Other treats to look forward to are Dorothy Morton, at the head of her own comic opera company, and Hoyt's "A Contented Woman," with handsome and clever Belle Archer at the head of the Metropolitan cast.

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Mr. Arthur M. Brown, marshal of the Hawaiian islands, is with Mrs. Brown visiting the various cities along the Pacific coast, and spent Wednesday in Victoria. Mr. Brown comes armed with a letter from Hon. W. O. Smith, Attorney-General of Hawaii, one of the objects of which is to make the acquaintance of the heads of the police departments along the Coast, so as to get more in touch with the authorities in keeping posted on the members of the criminal class going to or from the Hawaiian islands. While here Mr. Brown visited the provincial departments, and he and Mrs. Brown were entertained at dinner by Superintendent and Mrs. Hussey. From here the visitors go to Seattle and thence to San Francisco. Mr. Brown was born in the Hawaiian islands, of United States parents, while Mrs. Brown's parents were English, although she was born in Hawaii.

HOP GROWING.

Sir: We address you on the subject of hop growing, which must be of importance to your growing agricultural community. Our customers are taking year by year increasing interest in British Columbian hops, the supply of which is quite inadequate to fill the demand. To prove this, take the year 1897, one of depression in the hop trade; yet the 1897 crop of a large British Columbian grower fetched about 15½ cents per pound for clusters and about 24 cents per pound for hops grown from English golding hop sets, free on cars at the station nearest to the farm. Now, the cost of growing, picking, packing, curing and putting on rail cannot have exceeded 10 cents per pound. It is acknowledged that it costs hardly that in Washington, Yakima, Oregon, etc. This year we offered in vain 30 cents for British Columbian hops grown from English golding sets, though the crop is again a good size one per acre. All this shows clearly what a future awaits the farmer who goes into the business carefully. The conditions of lasting success are that he should plant only English sets, the sorts being Brambling, Goldings and the true Canterbury Goldings—the former ripening before the latter—as these are the best and fetch the best price; they are good croppers, too.

He should not plant any American-bred sorts—Washington, Oregon and California produce enough of those already. Pick the hops free from green leaves and stalks and cure properly.

The system of curing and packing as in use in Washington, Oregon, etc., will do for British Columbia very well.

We recommend farmers to order their sets from England as soon as possible to ensure a full supply, and will gladly help them to obtain sets, charging out of pocket expenses only; and also do not doubt that the agent-general of Canada here would gladly give a helping hand to so promising an industry if applied to.

We shall also be glad to give information to any farmer writing to us on any points omitted in this letter, and close with the strong hope that British Columbian farmers will act on the advice given.

We shall gladly undertake the sale or purchase the produce.

M. H. RUSS & CO.

18 Southwork street, London, England.

There is a rosary in the British museum made of the vertebrae of a snake's backbone. Another is composed of rat's teeth.

"PUDD'NHEAD WILSON."

How the Tacoma Critic Received Mayo's Dramatization of Mark Twain's Great Story.

The following from the Tacoma Ledger will show how that keenly critical paper endorses Mayo's dramatization of "Pudd'head Wilson" to be presented here on Tuesday evening next:

"That Edwin Mayo as Mark Twain's Pudd'nhead Wilson bears every honor of his father, and that his company is of the degree of excellence which never for a moment allows the audience to feel that it is a "support," was the verdict of the crowded house which saw him last night at the Tacoma theatre. Although the play is one of quiet action, without a scene which would not be intolerable in incapable hands, the interest was increased with every word until the climax when ridicule turned the tables on the scoffers and made his pet theory the instrument of justice.

"The shrewd and sweet philosophy of the unappreciated country lawyers, who whiled away his enforced idleness by studying thumb prints on bits of glass and longing pathetically for the day when he should be vindicated, kept the audience in a ripple of laughter.

"The needed contrast was abundantly supplied in the utterly contemptible nature of the changeling slave, who sold his mother into slavery to pay his gambling debts, and after attempting to murder his uncle, shifted the crime to his valet, the true heir, who was changed in the cradle.

"Frank Campean, in this part, was almost above criticism. Miss Ada Dweyer as Roxy, his mother, who met retribution for her act in the ingratitude of her son, and was driven to desperation by the suspicion of the villagers, had a unique part in modern drama, and her revenge on seeing his exposure by the fatal thumbprints, was a bit of exceedingly powerful acting.

"W. R. McKey, as the pompus and blockhead sheriff, was inimitable, and Messrs. Curtis and Wasseif were irreproachably inseparable as the Italian twins.

"The great secret of the play is in the sympathy of the audience, which knows from the first of the change of the children with the emotions of Pudd'nhead as step by step he finds his theories verified.

PAX BRITANNICA.

I.

Behind her rolling ramparts England lay,
Unmoved and safe by cliff-built towers,
Weaving to peace and plenty, day by day,
The long-drawn hours.

II.

In peace Spring freed her flocks and
She showered her grain,
Summer sate smiling under peaceful
leaves,
And Autumn piled on the unwarlike wain
Her sickled sheaves.

III.

And white-winged keels flew fluttering
to her shore,
Laden with Eastern bale or Southern
fleece;
And from the fields of far-off labors bore
The spoils of Peace.

IV.

Then, seeing Her within her waves so blest,
The jealous nations, panoplied alike,
Said, "Look, She wears no armor on her
breast,
Still across ocean ploughed her peaceful
way,
In strong disdain."

VI.

Then each to other muttered, "Now at
last
Her splendor shall be ours, and we shall
slake
Our envy. She is pillowed on her Past,
And will not wake."

VII.

Slowly as stirs a lion from his bed,
Lengthening his limbs, and crisps his mane,
She rose,
Then shook out all her strength, and,
flashing, said,
"Where are my foes?"

VIII.

Thus to herself She did herself reveal,
Swiftly yet calmly put her armor on,
And, round her Empire sentinelled in steel,
Like morning shone!

IX.

From field and forge there thronged embattled hosts,
And those who struck the anvil, this the
lyre.
And from the furnaces of war her coasts
Were fringed with fire

X.

Dazed and dismayed, they veiled their
futile vow;
Some fain would be her friend, and some
would nurse
Their hate till they could curb the might
that now
They could but curse.

XI.

But they who watch from where the west
wind blows,
Since great themselves, proud that their
kith are great,
Said, "See what comes when England with
her foes
Speaks at the gate!

XII.

Then back to loom and share her people
poured,
Chanting peace-paeans as they reaped and
sowed.
While, gazing worldward, on her undrawn
sword,
Watchful She leaned.

ALFRED AUSTIN.

Villa di Bellosguardo, Nov. 16.

THADDEUS HARPER DEAD.

Member of the One Time Wealthy Firm of Harper Brothers.

Thaddeus Harper, a few years ago one of British Columbia's wealthiest citizens, died yesterday morning at the Jubilee hospital, after a several months' illness. Harper Brothers—Thaddeus and Jerome—came to British Columbia in 1858 from California, having previously been in the cattle raising business in South America. Soon after their arrival here they went to the interior, Jerome taking in cattle and supplying the miners of Cariboo with meat, and Thaddeus erecting a sawmill and supplying the camp with lumber. Both amassed fortunes, beef and lumber in those days commanding fabulous prices. They finally consolidated their interests, and besides the cattle and sawmill business they launched out in mining, trading, transportation and other enterprises, most of which were successful. Jerome died in California while there for the benefit of his health, and the management of the immense business fell to Thaddeus, and for a time all went well. He met with an accident, however, being kicked in the face by a horse. His brain was affected, litigation followed, and in a few years the fortune that it had taken him and his brother years of hard work to amass was wiped out. During late years the deceased had resided at the Driard hotel in this city. Although he never fully recovered from the accident he was quite rational, and in fact kept himself well posted, being an inveterate reader of the newspapers. He was also very careful of his health, and for years, winter and summer, walked daily to Esquimalt.

Mr. Harper was a native of West Virginia and was 65 years of age. He has relatives residing in California.

FARMING MADE EASY

Immense Irrigation Plant Installed Near Ashcroft by an Eastern Company.

Other Enterprises That Have Been Made Possible by the Erection of the Plant.

There has just been completed in the vicinity of Ashcroft one of the largest power plants in the West and one that means much for the town of Ashcroft and the surrounding country. The plant is being used for many purposes, chief among which is the irrigation of several thousand acres of land between Boston Flats and the Bonaparte and Thompson rivers but besides this power is being supplied for the Ashcroft waterworks, electric lighting and heating, a telephone system and a sawmill.

The work was carried out by the Ashcroft Waterworks Company, two representatives of which, Mr. John Shields, of Toronto, the well known railway contractor, who built a large section of the C.P.R., and Mr. J. B. Leighton, are at present in the city guests at the Driard. To get the privileges that they required to carry out the immense undertaking that is now all but complete it was necessary to organize four district companies and one of the objects of Messrs. Shields and Leighton's visit to Victoria is to endeavor to have passed through the legislature a special act to consolidate the companies and thus simplify the management of the works. They will also ask for power to build electric tramways, —to be run by the plant which has been installed—in the districts of Yale and Cariboo. These tramways, Mr. Shields said last evening, would be built just as soon as the business warranted it. Up to the present it does not.

The company's power house is situated on the Bonaparte river, three and a half miles from the town of Ashcroft, alongside the Boston Flats valley, to irrigate which Thaddeus Harper, who died yesterday at the Jubilee hospital, and Mr. Sanford some years ago spent $20,000. There are two large horizontal turbine wheels capable of developing 1,000 horse power, which, driven by the water of Bonaparte river, furnish supply the power for the company's plant. An immense pump is being installed and will be in operation by spring. This pump will raise 10,000 gallons of water a minute to a height of 250 feet, thus supplying water for irrigation purposes over the several thousand acres of land comprised in the Boston Flats and the valley between the Bonaparte and Thompson rivers. The company already controls 1,000 acres of this land and has leased it in sections to responsible parties. The company erects the necessary buildings and fencing, digs the irrigation ditches and suppy their tenants with telephones connected with the town, power to run their machinery and electric lighting. Farming under these conditions is somewhat different to what most tillers of the soil have been used to.

The irrigation system, however, is not to be confined to the area mentioned. It is to be extended to the vicinity of Ashcroft, and a pump is already in operation three-driven by the power from the Bonaparte river plant—which will irrigate the lands near the town with the waters of the Thompson river. The water is taken from the Thompson through a rock tunnel and pumped to the mountain 250 feet above the town, where a 60,000 gallon tank has been erected.

The town of Ashcroft is supplied with water by the same pump, the company having completed their waterworks system. Not only have the people a perfect supply of water, they have better protection from fire than any city in the West. Hydrants have been placed on every corner and at all times there is a pressure of 95 pounds to the square inch. A system has also been installed to supply the C.P.R. with water.

But even this is not all that the company has been enabled to do by "harnessing" the Bonaparte river. They have erected a sawmill, run by motors for which power is obtained from the main plant; they have an efficient telephone service and all their own buildings are heated by electricity and they are about to ask the people of Ashcroft to throw out their stoves and put in instead electric heaters. Should anyone desire to start a factory in the vicinity the company is prepared to supply them with power; in fact they are prepared to supply almost any amount of power for whatever it may be required.

The system adopted is what is known as the three-phase system, thoroughly up-to-date and the very best for conveying power and supplying light, as either incandescent or arc lamps can be used. The power is carried by three copper wires, the voltage leaving the power house being 2,300, which, however, is transferrdd to 104 volts just outside the town. The loss is practically nil.

The irrigation plant is the largest in the West, the system being similar to that carried out in the Western States. It is the first time the system has been tried in British Columbia, the efforts heretofore having been directed in the way of carrying water down hill, while by this system water can be placed anywhere. It is probably the forerunner of many more plants, as the water power in the interior of British Columbia has been said by experts to be the best in the world.

As to the building of electric tramways, Mr. Shields says he can build them for one-sixth the cost of ordinary railways, while they can be operated for one-tenth the cost.

TWO TRAINS WRECKED.

Lubois, Pa., Dec. 9.—Three persons were killed, three wounded and one is dying as the result of two wrecks on the Clarion River railroad near Portland Mills on Wednesday.

A PURE GRAPE CREAM OF TARTAR POWDER

·DR·
PRICE'S
CREAM
BAKING
POWDER

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

FORTY-SE

JUBILEE

McKinley and Hi
at Pretty Ce
Geo

President Grace
Gallant Loyal
of the

Every Soldiers' G
ing Civil War
American

By Associated Press.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec.
Kinley, the members
a party of prominent
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is the national anthem
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made we differed widely
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