

FROM THE FAR NORTH

The Steamer City of Topeka Brings News of More Strikes on the Creeks of the Klondike.

The Dyea-Klondike Transportation Co. Now Ready to Receive Freight at Its New Dock.

Lopez, a Miner, Frozen to Death While Attempting to Cross the Summit.

From Monday's Daily.

The steamer City of Topeka arrived from Alaska this morning, bringing about 40 passengers, two of whom, Messrs. F. E. G. Berry of Seattle and George Barrack of Colorado Springs, have just returned from the gold fields. They left on December 13th, and bring news of new strikes that are being made on Hunker creek. On this creek big finds are being made periodically, the last at the beginning of December, when passengers all the way from \$2.50 to \$7.50 were taken out.

Mr. Berry, who went in some time ago to buy claims for a firm of English capitalists—he has succeeded in securing some good properties—speaks highly of the richness of the creeks entering the Klondike. Nearly every creek that has been developed, he says, has proved to be very rich.

Regarding the food situation he believes that there will be a scarcity before provisions can be got in next spring. While on their way out he and Mr. Barrack, his partner, had a long talk with Major Walsh, who is still at Big Salmon, mainly in regard to the new mining laws. From what the new administration then said, Mr. Berry is of the opinion that when the major gets there and sees the situation he will most probably request the government to modify them. If they are not modified, Mr. Berry says they will have the effect of greatly lessening the output of the mining district.

Another passenger who came down on the Topeka was Oscar Meyer, president of the Dyea-Klondike transportation Company. He went north on the last trip of the Corona to inspect the construction work of his company at Dyea and on the trails. He says his company is now in a position to receive freight at the dock at Dyea and convey it to the town of Dyea, or Canyon City, or Sheep Camp or Lake Lindeman. The wagon road from the dock is not quite complete, so that all freight will be lighted ashore. All arrangements are made to this end. Construction work is yet proceeding, but everything is sufficiently advanced to justify the receiving of freight now, and the passing of same on to the various points along the line. Not a moment will be lost in getting the machinery in place which was sent up on the last Al-Ki. This machinery is the best of its kind in the market and to ensure its proper installation experts accompanied it to Dyea and they will remain until everything is in proper running order.

The work of this company has been very arduous. The natural difficulties are great, but perseverance and energy, associated with ample working capital, have done wonders. Great difficulty has been experienced in getting supplies, chiefly lumber. The warehouses on the dock will probably be finished by the time the wagon road is ready, and then no necessity will exist for using lighters to take the outfits from the dock to the shore.

The Topeka brings news of the death of Lopez, a miner, who was frozen so badly while attempting to cross the summit on the White Pass trail that he died at Skagway shortly before the steamer sailed. He started from Skagway on Thursday week against the advice of men who knew the dangers ahead, with a team of two dogs and a sled to cross the White Pass up the Skagway trail. Upon reaching the summit he encountered a severe snow storm and became too exhausted to proceed. When in this condition he was found by some men who promised to send help to him. They built a snow house and left him there. Getting better he continued on his journey, but was unable to proceed and he died. Frozen and almost unrecognizable he was found by parties coming out from the lakes. They put him on his sled and did what they could for him, but shortly after reaching Skagway he died. The man was physically weak and should have paid attention to the advice given him. When found he was very far gone, almost no vitality was left in him. The Topeka continued her voyage to the Sound about nine o'clock. She will make one more trip to the Sound and Victoria, after which she is to be placed on the Portland and Alaskan route.

TO HANDLE THE CROWDS.

Mr. Goodall Estimates That 10,000 Will Go North Monthly.

Mr. Edwin Goodall, of the firm of Goodall, Perkins & Co., general agents of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, returned on the Topeka from Alaska. He is inclined to think that there will be a big rush to the gold fields this spring, for in an interview he said:

"There will be plenty of transportation facilities, but they will not be sufficient at the time when the people will want to go. They will all want to start in January, February and March, principally in February, and there will necessarily be much crowding during that period."

"The Pacific Coast Steamship Company is doing all that is possible to accommodate the people, and is now able to take up about 6,000 passengers a month. We shall run from the Sound and Victoria the steamers Queen, Victoria, Cottage City, Quana, and the Alki, with the Santa Cruz and the Willamette as freighters. From Portland we shall run the George W. Elder and the Oregon. We shall have the steamer Wolcott running from Seattle to Skagway and canal points, making close connections with the Topeka, which does not run to Skagway. Two steamers, the Columbia and the California, will also run from San Francisco to Portland to make connections with our boats there, in addition to the

Puget Sound boats, the City of Puebla, Walla Walla and Umatilla.

"Now, in addition to the 6,000 put down for the vessels of this company, there will be the City of Seattle, the 1,000 a month; the Rosalia, 500; the Farallon, 400; and a lot of little craft that will bring up about 1,000. From Victoria the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company will have the Islander and other steamships that will accommodate 2,000 a month; the Canadian Pacific, it is reported, will put on steamers that can carry 2,500; the vessels of the Pacific Steam Wharf Company will probably get away with 1,000 a month, and then there are the steamers that will run to the mouth of the Yukon. This makes a total of 16,900 per month, which is a pretty fair estimate of the facilities there will be for the accommodation of the immense crowds that are said to be starting this way."

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

THE RIFLE.

Volunteers Won.

For the first time in Victoria the new Lee-Enfield rifle was used on Saturday in a match, the competitors being a team from the Fifth Regiment and one from the navy. The match took place at Clover Point at 200, 500 and 600 yards, and resulted in a victory for the militiamen, the score being:

FIFTH REGIMENT.	Points.
Gr. S. W. Bailey	85
Sgt. E. McDonald	82
Sgt. W. H. Bailey	82
Capt. R. B. Bunnell	82
Gr. W. Duncan	80
Sgt. J. W. Winsby	78
Major Williams	78
Corp. Lettice	69
Gr. J. L. Beckwith	64
Total	703

NAVY.

	Points
Major Eastman, R.M.A.	81
C. Stanley	80
Lieut. Ley, R. N.	78
J. Sibley	73
F. Lawrence	68
J. Dutton	58
J. Welsh	55
W. Rose	54
P. Lloyd, R.M.A.	54
A. Akhurst	44

SOCIAL EVILS.

Rev. J. C. Speer Again Talks on a Very Delicate Subject.

From Monday's Daily.

A large congregation filled the Metropolitan Methodist Church yesterday evening when Rev. J. C. Speer, the pastor, preached his third sermon on immorality in this city. He dealt mainly with Sabbath breaking, and the number of saloons, and the growth of prize fighting in Victoria, touching incidentally on other vices. He took his text from the 11th and 12th verses of the second chapter of the prophecies of Habakkuk. He said that in Victoria there is a growing disregard for the Sabbath; the Sabbath laws were practically a dead letter. The places of business open on the Sabbath, he said, were, as a rule, those that were of the least use to society—excepting, of course, the drug stores, which would be glad to close, but it was remarkable how many people—a large number of church-going people among them—had on the Sabbath day, the cigar stores, the fruit dealers and the vendors of similar little luxuries who are "allowed to insult the British constitution, for it is an insult to the laws of Britain to break the Sabbath." They remain open, however, catching the children of the children as they pass on their way to Sunday school, and the authorities have the power to stop this, and the people should demand that they do so. It was absurd, he said, if the cigar stores and such places were allowed to remain open, why not dry-goods and groceries and other places of business?

He then spoke of the barbers, who, because people wished to go to church with a clean face, were obliged to poll for at least half of each Londoner. The evil of drunkenness was then commented upon, and the speaker gave many statistics in support of his contention that there were few cities in Canada where so many licenses were issued. In Victoria 98 were issued yearly, while in 5 drinking places to every 2,000 men, women and children in the city. The saloons, he contended, were the roots of the social evils of the day. Without them, he said, we would not have "the wretched girls who flaunt their millinery on the streets." Without the saloons there would be many other evils could not exist. People say that it must be remembered that this is a seaport town. "Even so," said the preacher, "if the Satanical Majesty came here, would we organize a place of business to sell him brimstone?"

Then again, there were the prize fights, which were held under the head of sporting exhibitions. Many people were coming here and it was not true that they should come to a place where only man is vile. If such things are allowed to continue many undesirable results will come, and milliners, dry-goods stores and saloons will make money out of the degraded women. A good city should have a different class of residents. He did not think it right that any city should have its visitors see the prostitutes boldly walking its streets. This thing should not be tolerated. The people should rise in one solid phalanx and regain this city for the Lord. In concluding Mr. Speer said he had preached three destructive sermons, and on next Sunday evening he would preach a constructive one, showing how the people could make this a good city.

DEATH OF AN OLD RESIDENT.

The death occurred this morning at the family residence, 113 Quadra street, of Mrs. Partridge, wife of Thomas J. Partridge, the city water collector. The deceased lady had been ill but two days, having contracted blood poisoning while attending her husband, who has been ill for some days. Mrs. Partridge was a native of North Walsam, Norfolk, England, and was 71 years of age. She had resided in Victoria for upwards of thirty years, and was universally esteemed. Besides her husband, a family of six sons and daughter survive her. They are ex-Ald. John Partridge, Mrs. H. Cameron, Mrs. W. J. Cameron, F. Cameron, present, to draft a charter and by-laws, to be submitted to a general meeting of those interested in mines in the whole province, at a date on or about February 15th.

CHAMBER OF MINES

The Second Step Taken Towards the Formation of This Association.

Provincial Committee Formed Which Seeks the Co-operation of All Sections of the Province.

(From the Vancouver News-Advertiser.)

The second step in the formation of the proposed British Columbia chamber of mines was taken yesterday afternoon, when a meeting was held at the Hotel Vancouver and a committee was appointed with power to add to its number of representatives from Victoria, Rossland and Slokan and other mining districts of the province—to consider the rules and regulations and report to a public meeting to be held on Monday. The circulars have been sent out stating the object of the meeting, and the representative mining men who met at the hotel were thus prepared to intelligently discuss the proposal. Among those present were Messrs. J. C. Ferguson, C. O. Bennett, W. J. Waterman, Osborne Plunkett, Barclay Bonthorne, Frank S. Faggart, W. Gordon Ross, Hugh F. Kester, D. G. Smith, H. Bell, J. A. Smith, George Hammett, R. Hamilton, J. M. Mackinnon, G. W. DeBeck, W. Skene, J. M. Buxton, F. Alexander, F. Warner, H. T. Copeley, C. Tetley, M. Bower, C. W. Weeks, A. G. Thynne, G. W. Willis, Dr. J. A. Letevre, Mr. Lamb and others, including Messrs. A. Bell and A. E. White, from New Westminster.

Major Garden was unanimously voted to the chair, and Mr. Tetley was appointed secretary of the meeting. The chairman expressed his cordial approval of the proposal to form a chamber of mines for British Columbia, which, as the circulars which had been sent out, said, was not a technical and non-political, and had for its sole end, the furtherance of the welfare of the mineral industry of the province. He noticed with a good deal of satisfaction that the chamber was to be, as was absolutely necessary, representative of the whole province. He would call upon Mr. Waterman to explain the object of the meeting.

Mr. Waterman fully sketched the idea of the chamber. He declared emphatically that they were not a technical and non-political, and had for its sole end, the furtherance of the welfare of the mineral industry of the province. He noticed with a good deal of satisfaction that the chamber was to be, as was absolutely necessary, representative of the whole province. He would call upon Mr. Waterman to explain the object of the meeting.

Mr. Barclay Bonthorne remarked that no one would be interested in the chamber unless it was absolutely necessary for some such chamber to be formed. It had been a great success in South Africa and Western Australia in other countries. The object of the chamber was principally to protect the mining interests of the province, and there must be some means of bringing them before the public. The people of Great Britain to-day knew very little of the mines of this country. The information they had received regarding the mines of this province was very vague. What was wanted out here was more British capital. The introduction of Canadian capital had not been attended with any very great success. He thought it was the duty of the British government to develop Great Britain in company with the United States. They should try to get a strong chamber of mines formed here. It should be a body that would make generally known the mining resources of the province, and it should be one of the finest mineral countries in the world. All that was necessary was capital. They must have a special charter from the government for the chamber, but, as stated in his charter, would be of great use to the province.

Mr. Waterman informed the meeting that he had seen Hon. Col. Baker, minister of mines, and that he had been assured of his support. He had been assured that the government would be of great use to the province. The information they had received regarding the mines of this province was very vague. What was wanted out here was more British capital. The introduction of Canadian capital had not been attended with any very great success. He thought it was the duty of the British government to develop Great Britain in company with the United States. They should try to get a strong chamber of mines formed here. It should be a body that would make generally known the mining resources of the province, and it should be one of the finest mineral countries in the world. All that was necessary was capital. They must have a special charter from the government for the chamber, but, as stated in his charter, would be of great use to the province.

Some further discussion took place, and it was proposed that the chamber would be a protection to the capital, as well as a guide for the benefit of capitalists.

Mr. O. Plunkett then moved: "That this meeting, representing the mining interests of the district, considers it advisable that a chamber of mines should be formed, under the name of the British Columbia Chamber of Mines, or such other name as may be decided upon at the formal meeting."

Before this motion was put, Mr. DeBeck, referring to an allusion which had been made to the way in which the council of the board of trade had received the deputations, which reception Mr. Skene would explain, moved that a committee be appointed to confer with the board of trade to see if it was prepared to take any active part in forming the chamber. The matter had not yet come before a regular meeting of the board of trade, but it was decided that that body should be obtained.

The resolution was passed, but it was understood that the board of trade was to be approached on the matter, as its cooperation, and that of the mining interests throughout the province, is desired. It was next resolved: "That a provisional committee of twelve, with power to add to its number from any part of the province, be named by the committee present, to draft a charter and by-laws, to be submitted to a general meeting of those interested in mines in the whole province, at a date on or about February 15th."

Major Garden remarked that it would

be part of the duty of this committee to call upon the board of trade and enlist its sympathies, and also that of other bodies interested in the project.

A committee was then appointed as follows: Mayor Garden and Messrs. A. St. George Hammett, B. Bonthorne, F. S. Taggart, G. W. Willis, O. Plunkett, W. F. Harvey, H. Bell, J. A. Smith, J. M. Mackinnon, J. M. Buxton and W. Gordon Ross. It was distinctly understood that the additions to this committee were to consist of those members not named there, but who had worked actively to secure the formation of the chamber, and were therefore familiar with the details; and also representatives from Victoria, Rossland, the Slokan, Cassiar and all other districts of the province.

The committee will meet at the Hotel Vancouver at 4:30 o'clock to-morrow afternoon, and its first business will be to seek the co-operation of the other parts of the province.

LOCAL NEWS.

Gleanings of City and Provincial News in a Condensed Form.

From Friday's Daily.

—Miss Margaret Doran, of Esquimaux, was married a few days ago in San Francisco to Mr. T. Pein, a resident of that city.

—Yesterday afternoon the Rev. W. L. O'Brien, minister of the Methodist church, officiated at the wedding of Mr. McKenney, of Alekh, and Miss Helen McFarlane, late of Toronto.

—Another Farmers' Institute is about to be organized in and for the district of Alberni. The meeting for organization will be held on February 19th.

—Mr. Cheehong and Miss M. C. Ah Thia Lita, two Chinese residents of the Chinese quarter, were married by Rev. Father Van Goethan at his residence yesterday evening.

—Word was received by the provincial police last evening of the arrest of Alexander the half breed, who at Stewart Lake, B.C., yesterday afternoon, is alleged, attacked Col. Weatherly, biting pieces out of his neck and back.

—Application will be made at the next session of the legislature for a charter for a cableway from Argentina, via Duncan, to Dawson, West Kootenay. The applicants are Sir Charles Hubbert, Tupper, Hon. Fred Peters and Mr. Cuyler A. Holland.

—The firm of F. C. Davidge & Co. has been changed into a joint stock company, under the title of F. C. Davidge & Co. Limited. The objects of the new company are to take over the importing, commission and shipping business of F. C. Davidge & Co.

—Rev. J. B. Haslam on Wednesday evening officiated at the wedding of Mr. A. J. Michie, of Steveston, and Miss L. Blake, eldest daughter of Mr. C. R. Blake, of Fernwood road. After the ceremony at St. Barnabas church the newly married couple left for their honeymoon by the direct steamer for California.

—Mr. C. R. Hosmer, general manager of the Esquimaux station, will leave for England to-morrow morning in charge of Lieut. Baird.

—Chief Ward, of the Vancouver police force, arrived in the city last evening having in charge three boys, Jno. Davy, W. Oleson and Guy Emery, convicted of stealing newspapers, and sentenced to three years in the reformatory.

—The C.P.R. Telegraph Company have removed to their new offices at the corner of Government street and Tremaine avenue. The offices are nicely fitted up, and the accommodation for the public as well as the employees is far in advance of that at the old office.

—The city tax collector having been unable to make Mr. James Angus, agent for the B. C. Sugar Refinery, responsible for a wholesaler's license, on account of the business done here by the company, has sworn to an information charging the manager with carrying on business without first having taken out a license.

—Ten residents of Chinatown were in the police court this morning charged with setting off firecrackers, contrary to the street by-law. Nine were fined \$5 each and \$2 costs, and the tenth, for whom a warrant had to be issued, was taxed an additional \$2.50. A drunk contributed \$10 to the exchequer, the amount of his bail, which he forfeited.

—The following admiral house tax returns have been received by the honorary treasurer of the Protestant Orphans' Home: P. J. Jones, \$80; H. J. Jones, \$14; Thos. Flevin, \$104; E. Brynjolfsson, \$44; L. F. Mould, \$22; Mrs. M. A. Booth, \$158; Cornelius Bode, \$108; W. Noble, \$88; and F. Curran, \$20, or a total of \$850.

—Among the arrivals from the north on the City of Seattle was a former Victorian, Mr. George Brimstone, who for two years has been in the Yukon country. He was in the first rush to the Klondike, and is said to have secured several good claims. Mr. Brimstone was at one time in the Victoria customs house and was one of the most active of Victoria's Rugby footballers. He has not been saying much since his return, but has confided to his friends that he is comfortably fixed financially.

—To-day the city is thronged with miners, and those who expect to become miners. The majority are here to outfit and the merchants are very busy. Many came over on the steamer City of Seattle this morning, intending to buy other necessities in Victoria. The Umatilla brought a crowd from San Francisco, and on the Charmer yesterday evening there was another contingent, all thronging to Victoria, now recognized as the starting and outfitting point for the gold fields. The majority of the new arrivals will sail on the steamers Tees and Willapa this evening.

—The reports of the officers and directors of the Vancouver Island Building Society were adopted at the fourteenth annual meeting, held on Saturday evening, and the old board of directors, secretary and auditors were unanimously re-elected as follows: Directors: H. R. Bell, G. A. Carleton, C. Booth, R. G. Gifford, F. Carne, Jr., R. Brinkley, Henry Moss; secretary, Ben Williams; treasurer, A. H. Maynard; auditors, Beaumont Rogers and R. Ross Munro. The 104th drawing for an appropriation resulted in shares 172 A and B, standing in the names of Miss Jo-

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—The funeral of M. H. Brown, who came here a little over a year ago from Sydney, N.S.W., took place from his late

residence on Port street this afternoon. Rev. Dr. Campbell and Rev. Mr. W. C. O'Connell officiated.

—The guard of honor for the opening of the legislature will be selected from the First Battalion, Fifth Regiment, Capt. McDonnell will be in command.

—At the Chinese Methodist mission on Esquimaux street yesterday the annual New Year's entertainment was held. Rev. J. F. Betts presided. Upwards of \$40 was subscribed towards missionary work.

—James White, a merchant of Juneau, who has just arrived in Victoria from a trip to the Klondike, has in his possession a number of gold nuggets that are attracting much attention. Mr. White is a brother-in-law of John Dault, whose guest he is during his stay in the city, and will leave shortly for New York, where he will purchase a quartz crusher to be installed in the Yukon country.

—One of the miners who returned from Klondike on the steamer Corona is in trouble. He has an action for specific performance of contract on his hands. It is alleged that claims 36 and 37 on El Dorado creek, owned by him and his partners, were sold once too often. A short time ago the miner in question, Andrew Olson, or, as some call him, the Big Swede, sold his properties to the purchasing agent of the Alaska Commercial Company. On returning to civilization he found that one of his partners, Knutson, had already sold the properties.

—Still another new line of steamers is to be placed on service between the ports of Victoria and Vancouver and Alaskan points, the Centennial Alaska Transportation Co., which takes its name from one of their steamers, which will sail for Victoria from Yokohama early in February, arriving about February 20th. The Centennial is a steamer of 2,075 tons gross, or 1,276 net, 325 feet long, 33 feet in the beam, and 30 feet deep. She has accommodation for 100 saloon and 700 steerage. Mr. James Griffiths, who will shortly open offices in Victoria, is to be the local representative of the company.

—Arrangements have been made by the Ministerial Association with the Rev. L. W. Munhall, D.D., of Philadelphia, one of the best known evangelists of the world, for holding of three or four weeks' special evangelistic services in this city, commencing on February 9th. Frequent special meetings of the association are being held to well organize, and otherwise prepare for the campaign. In a few days a complete list of the committee will be struck and more information placed to the public on the subject. Rev. Dr. Munhall is now conducting a very successful work in Vancouver, crowds assemble every evening, filling the churches to their utmost capacity. The evangelist will be accompanied to this city by Prof. Birch, who directs the singing of the meetings and who is a very skillful player on the cornet.

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sophie Salmon and Mrs. Steer, being declared entitled to \$1,000 each. After the adjournment the directors met and elected officers as follows: President, J. M. Reid; vice-president, G. A. Carleton; solicitor, C. D. Mason; surveyor, John Tenge.

CHILLIWACK'S NEEDS.

Mr. A. S. Vedder, M.P.P., Meets His Constituents.

At the forthcoming session of the provincial legislature, Mr. A. S. Vedder, who was last year elected to represent Chilliwack riding, upon the lamented death of Mr. T. E. Kitchen, will be introduced and will take his seat. He will not occupy that corner seat from which the late member made his telling speeches, for the old order has changed and given place to the new and the "attractive" for tourists will be the home of the legislators instead of the little red building.

In preparation for the session, Mr. Vedder, accompanied by Messrs. Thos. Forster and C. P. Sward, M.P.P.'s, has been holding a series of meetings to consult his constituents as to the requirements of the riding and the action which they might wish him to take on such questions as might be expected to come before the legislature.

Speaking at a recent meeting, Mr. Vedder, a few days ago, Mr. Vedder dwelt chiefly with the question of the dying of the upper portion of the valley. He thought that the municipality could justly be proud of provincial assistance in this work. While mining meant the ultimate exhaustion of the mineral resources and so far the impoverishment of the province, agriculture meant a constant addition to the resources of the province. The taxing of mining properties would be a much more sensible mode of raising revenue than the continuance of the mortgage tax, which bore heavily upon the already burdened farmer. Government assistance to the main trunk road should also be given. With regard to the construction of a railway from the coast through Chilliwack to the Boundary Creek country and the Columbia river, Mr. Vedder thought that such settlements as Chilliwack and the Boundary Creek country, the assistance of the province than the opening of routes into the Yukon country, where the greater part of the benefits would accrue to the Dominion and not to the provincial treasury. If the companies at present in the field would build the railway with the assistance promised, he would support any satisfactory scheme for getting a railway built as a provincial enterprise.

Mr. Vedder was strongly in favor of the construction of the line from the coast to the Columbia river. He was sanguine that such a line would be a commercial success, but was not in favor of any attempt to obtain it by any other means. He thought that the assistance of the companies now in the field would confer it must be kept as a competing line, and the only way this could be done was to keep it in the hands of the government. By the system of financial assistance to companies we were simply giving them a margin on which to float bonds enough to build the line without calling upon the shareholders to furnish any of the capital required. From the proceeds of the bonds to provide the promoters with a very handsome dividend also. In addition to the waste of money thus involved in the construction of such a system would be to corrupt a legislature, member might think that seeing the country would be mulcted in any case, he would be doing no harm if he threw his influence in favor of one company rather than another, through personal preference. The continuance of the mortgage tax in its present form was certainly an injustice, and Mr. Vedder might count on the assistance of all the present opposition in his endeavors to have this injustice remedied.

Mr. Sward thought that without minimizing the need of the improvements required, Mr. Turner might plead that he had already run the province into debt to the extent of \$5,000,000, or which the new parliament buildings would account for at least \$1,000,000—and that the revenue was so far short of expenditure that the charges on the public debt for interest and sinking fund had to be provided for out of the Dominion revenue. He thought the result was one that condemned the government. With regard to the dying at the upper end of the settlement, it would have his cordial support; at the same time it might be as well to see how far the Dominion government was prepared to assist, so far as the damming of Hope and Camp sloughs—which would naturally result in an increased scour in the main channel—were concerned. While not quite so sanguine as Mr. Forster as to the immediate commercial success of the whole of the line from the coast to Kootenay, he quite agreed with his remarks as to the advantages of government ownership of the line. It was to be kept as a competing line and so far as the portion from Penticton to Boundary was concerned, he fully endorsed the suggestion of the opposition last session that this should be at once undertaken as a government work. Mr. Sward referred briefly to the unfortunate experience of the province in the past in regard to public assistance to railways, giving some figures as to the annual charge upon the banks on our revenue. He then pointed out the inconsistencies of taxing wool, that is, unimproved lands at a higher rate than lands in cultivation, and yet exempting mines from all taxation until there was a production of ore on which a royalty could be levied.

Mr. Forster thought Mr. Sward had not perhaps understood that in these meetings no party questions were to be raised, though he himself had no fault to find with his strictures on the present administration. It was only justice to Mr. Turner to say that he was anxious that no subsidy should be given to the Penticton and Boundary Creek portion of the line, with its necessity of giving security to the completion of the line to the coast.

The meeting closed by singing "God Save the Queen."

GLADSTONE'S FAST FAILING.

Canoe, Jan. 22.—Alarming rumors concerning Gladstone's health were further confirmed to-day. He is extremely weak and delicate and all are very anxious that he should get better.

There was quite a little news from the city a few days ago. The election on the question of road would be a success, and it was a success. The government was asking the government. But the civic committee petition counts for now in power at Ja-

Provincial

Vancouver, Jan. 21.