

THE MYSTERY

Connected With the Non-Marriage of John Ritchie Partially Explained.

The Cablegram a Forgery—Suspicion Aroused—Guiled or What.

A COLONIST reporter set out, yesterday morning, determined to solve, if possible, the mystery which, for the past week, has surrounded the case of John Ritchie. Ritchie was to have been married last Monday, but the wedding was indefinitely postponed in consequence of what purported to be a cablegram announcing that his father, mother, brother and sister-in-law had all been killed in a railway accident at Glasgow, Scotland.

The form on which the message was written (in pencil) was, as stated yesterday, a sending form, such as would be filled by a person sending a message from Victoria. The sender's name was omitted, as were also the initials of the operator, receiver, time check, and place from which the message came. It was a clumsy fraud on the face of it. The writing was anything but a business hand, and totally unlike an operator's, and the fact that the message was written with a lead pencil, in conjunction with the other details, stamped the document as bogus. The words "John Ritchie" were the only ones with any style about them. The second message had like defects.

It was pointed out to Ritchie that the messages never came from Glasgow, but that they must have been written in Victoria for the purpose of luring him. Several other accidents had named in the counterfeits telegram occurred, and it had been called to this country to the newspapers. These things having been mentioned, Ritchie brightened up wonderfully, and said that if he could find out who wrote the messages he would shoot him.

"Who gave you the first message," was asked by the reporter. "It was handed to me at Campbell's corner," said Ritchie, "by a man with a peaked cap, and I think he was in uniform. There were four others standing by. But there are no adult messengers in the telegraph service," was suggested. "I may be wrong about it," said Ritchie, "picking himself up, but there were four of them. I did not know any of them."

"Would you know the man again if you saw him?" "I think I would. And you tell me they are not dead. That my father and brother are still alive?" Here followed a few moments of utter unconsciousness or deep thought. When the outward signs of recovery became apparent, he was asked: "Would you do us when you got the telegram?" "I didn't know what I was doing. I asked the man if he would send a message back, and ask if my father was living? He said he would, and I gave him a \$10 bill. He gave me back \$2.50."

"Who gave you the second message?" "The same man. He told me to meet him at 3 o'clock the next morning, and he would have an answer. I went to the telegraph office at 3 o'clock and he handed me that (the second) message."

ALL RECORDS LOWERED.

Hanlan Wins the Great Boat Race at Shawnigan Lake.

Yesterday's boat race at Shawnigan Lake resulted in a victory for Canada and Hanlan, which was witnessed by upwards of six hundred enthusiastic spectators. The contest was a good one, and much to the surprise of many and the delight of all, Toronto's oarsman redeemed his promise and brought the world's record down three seconds.

All the conditions were favorable to fast time and a good race. The weather was clear, but not warm, the surface of the lake was unrippled, and neither steamers nor row-boats crowded on the course to interfere with the chances of either oarsman. In the opinion of the two well polished shells, the starter's boat and the launch which bore the referee and press over the course. The spectators lined the shore, filled the railway carriage or found convenient perches in the trees.

Four o'clock was the hour fixed for the start, which was from the upper end of the lake, in full view of the hotel. At ten minutes to the hour, the starter made his appearance, in plain white, with his world-famed old colors, red and blue, pinned on his breast. As he carried his shell to the landing, Canadian cheers welcomed him, and he turned to bow his thanks, at the same time assuring his friends that he felt victory in his bones. Certainly his condition justified his expression of confidence.

While weighing in at 160, every muscle could be expended, the sliver legs and mighty arms were not those of a broken-down athlete ready to retire upon laurels won, but rather those of a man in his prime, whose head and one could be depended upon to bring him to the front at any time. So thought the betting contingent, and as Hanlan took the water, and with his long swinging stroke proceeded to warm up, Canadian men, some of whom could not stand the pace, and the Navy added a goal and a try to their score. For the visitors, Ethelstone, Wright, Sir R. Arbuthnot and Graham were conspicuous among their followers for brilliant play, which was witnessed by Bill Hinghurst, Miller, Huggenot and Barrett playing well for the losers.

The first Association match of the season was played at the Hill, yesterday afternoon, between the Iron Works team and the Victoria Association. The game at first was of a loose character, the play of neither side being brilliant; but after the first quarter of an hour, both sides turned to their work, and the game developed into a really tough struggle. The play was even up to half time, which was reached without either side scoring. Re-energized, the play proceeded in the same manner, when, after a bit of good passing by the forwards, the monotony was relieved by Victoria scoring, the ball cannoning off one of the Albion backs. This seemed to rouse the Albion team, and they made desperate efforts to equalize, but without avail.

The finest and most exciting paper chase of the season came off yesterday. The hares, three in number, left Fairfield road, near the residence of Mr. Langley, and were followed shortly afterwards by several hounds, all exceptionally well mounted. After a long and fast chase, the hares were captured at the West estate. One of them in jumping a fence met with a slight accident. It was the first jumping day of the season. Very little road was included in the course taken, and most of the cross country fences were pretty stiff jumps. Everybody who participated had a most enjoyable afternoon's sport.

Restiguation of the President of the Council—Important Acquisitions by the U.S. BREKID, Oct. 30.—Advices from Apia, Samoa, states that Baron Zuit Von Pilsch, president of the municipal council and adviser to the King, has resigned. He charges that he has been persecuted and blackmailed by the white residents of Samoa, who have written letters to the King about German currency and other matters. Memorial, signed by Robert Louis Stevenson and the majority of the residents of Apia, will be forwarded to the three treaty powers for the recall of Baron Pilsch. Matafua has been proclaimed a rebel, and all the chiefs supporting him have had their lands confiscated. The American Consul has been instructed by his Government to inform Matafua that the case is now under review, and that he should stand by at once break up the party at Matafua. There are about 900 in the party.

MEMBERS RESIGNING.

A Member of the Trustees Board and Their Resignations.

Yesterday, continuing his investigation from the previous day, a COLONIST representative visited Mr. McLaughlin, the only one of the School Trustees not interviewed before, and asked him to express his opinion on the Board split, thinking that, as one of the signers of the now famous document to the head of the Central school, he would be glad to ventilate his ideas. But such was not the case. Mr. McLaughlin refused, emphatically, to say anything on the subject, and put an end to the short conversation by remarking: "I will say nothing to you. I prefer to make my statements on the subject to meetings of the Board. It's no good trying to ask me anything, now. I won't do it."

With this small satisfaction Mr. Charles Hayward was again sought. There was a rumor that the resignation of the trustees, Mr. Erskine, had handed in his resignation, and the chairman, on being questioned concerning the truth of it, said: "Yes, I am sorry to say that the report is true. Mr. Erskine's resignation is now in my hands, and notices have been issued calling a meeting of the trustees for next Tuesday evening to deal with it, as well as other matters that have been lately broached. It would not be courteous to our school system, which is second to none in the old or new world. The School Act is a masterpiece of liberal consideration for the present and coming generations. Its terms are faithfully and honestly interpreted, and I agree in suggesting immediate steps to have the few incorrigible Trustees removed from the Board of the school."

Mr. Erskine, however, the Council suggested the advisability of the appointment of a monitor to watch the conduct of these divisions, as a temporary expedient to meet this overworked condition, until a graded school in James Bay, recommended by me in the last School Report, was established. The provision having been made for the salaries of the teachers in the estimates of last session. The Trustees, acting upon this suggestion, appointed Mr. Erskine as monitor, and the Divisions referred to. These monitors entered upon their duties in the first week of October, and everything continued to proceed in a very satisfactory manner until the end of the month. The monitors were radical changes in the positions in the teaching staff of the school. Under the statute they have no power whatever to do this. According to the rules and practice, the Principal must leave the school, and the First Assistant the 2nd Division, and so on. But, in violation of these rules, the trustees have placed, or attempted to place, one division in charge of two teachers, and another division in charge of three teachers. According to statute, salaries can only be paid as voted on the estimates, hence two teachers cannot draw salaries for two divisions, nor can any division be in charge of two monitors.

"What do you think of the conduct of Trustee Jessop, as representing the Educational Department upon the School Board?" "I prefer not to discuss the subject, and will refer you to the Minister of Education."

"How is the new School Act working in the other cities?" "How is the new School Act working in the other cities?" "How is the new School Act working in the other cities?"

"In what respect is the Board of Trustees exceeding its authority?" "In what respect is the Board of Trustees exceeding its authority?" "In what respect is the Board of Trustees exceeding its authority?"

"You have, doubtless, read some of the statements made by Board Trustees, and published in this morning's COLONIST, in which they contended that, if they do not possess the power under the statute to regulate the internal affairs of the school, they ought to possess it. Would it, in your opinion, be in the interest of education that School Trustees should possess that power?" "Decidedly not. And perhaps a stronger argument could be advanced. The power to regulate the internal affairs of the school, and to elect the staff, is a power which the trustees have officially admitted they did not possess under the act."

FIGURES FOR THE MONTH.

Customs Returns Still on the Increase—Many Rises.

Another month has rolled into the past, and the statistics for October have now to be recorded. Several statements usually published could not be secured last evening, being prepared on the first instead of the last day of the month, the facts and figures to hand are given below.

Table with columns for CUSTOMS, DUTIES, EXPORTS, and POLICE OFFENSES. Includes sub-headers like 'Duties', 'Exports', and 'Police Offenses'.

During the month 222 vessels entered at the port of Victoria, and 233 cleared there. There has been one new ocean steamer in port each day of the month. The tonnage of the fleet cannot accurately be estimated.

The total number of alarms for the month numbered six, of which three were still calls. The total damage was something like \$5,000, by fire and water, including the loss at the fire in the telephone office and Spencer's Arcade.

Sad End of a Pioneer Miner's Life—A Victim of Insomnia and Delirium. Last Tuesday, John A. Mable was admitted into the Jubilee Hospital suffering from insomnia and delirium. He had also taken with an accident to his foot, and when taken into the hospital was raving like a madman, and, besides, in a fearfully weak state, owing to his not having tasted food for some days. Yesterday afternoon he was sent in a hack from the Jubilee Hospital and taken to the police cells. The afternoon was very cold, and the chief constable of Mable saw a perceptible change come over his face before they reached the city hall. Arrived at the cells, he was too violent to be allowed his liberty, and was locked up. For some hours he raved incoherently, and then became very quiet and docile. When the jailer went into the cell he found the patient on his knees, praying, and evidently in great pain.

Doctor Milne, but when the doctor arrived, Mable was quite dead. The deceased was a man about 40 years of age, a miner, and well-known in this city. The doctor states that at the cause of death was heart failure, caused by excessive weakness and delirium. There is no doubt that the exposure to the cold air that the deceased experienced when being transferred from the hospital to the cells, was a considerable factor, if it was not altogether responsible for it.

REPLY TO "ENQUIRER." To THE EDITOR.—Although it is by no means considered obligatory to reply to an anonymous correspondent, yet that the public, for whose benefit I have been writing, may be interested in the Crofter question, may neither be alarmed nor misled, and in case "Enquirer" may still be suffering from the effects produced by the "rude shock" which Dame Rumor hurled against his delusionary program, I will answer so far as to say, that no such firm exists as "Begg & Co." in connection with the Crofter scheme. The company's committee, the Crofters were, instead of being philanthropic, but "purely and simply" a commercial transaction. "Enquirer" is mistaken. The "huge land speculation" he speaks of is a myth. ALEX. BEOO.

OLD FOLK'S HOME.

A Daring Robbery.

A daring robbery was perpetrated on Friday night at the jewellery and clothing store of Mr. Marks, on Store street. Yesterday morning, when the proprietor went to open the shop, he found that one of the large jewellery cases on the counter had been cleaned out of its contents. The manner in which the goods had been abstracted proved conclusively that the thief was well acquainted with the premises. On searching the building to ascertain how an entrance had been effected, it was found that two panes of glass had been clumsily taken out from a back window of the store by the burglar, who must have climbed up a ravine at the back nearly 28 feet in height, to reach the window. The great many valuable articles were stolen,

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LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Settled.

It is understood that an amicable arrangement was reached, yesterday, by the Vancouver Water Works Company and the city, upon something of the same conditions as outlined in yesterday's COLONIST.

Battled as Last.

Yesterday afternoon, Haydon, alias Harrington, the defendant in the abduction and seduction case, was, as was mentioned, obtain bail, and was, last night, walking about town with his bondsmen enjoying his temporary liberty.

For Young Men.

Sunday, Nov. 8th, will be the beginning of the annual week of prayer of the Young Men's Christian Association, throughout the world. Special services will be held each evening during the week, by the association. A union service will also be held Sunday afternoon.

Watermarks.

Officer Smith received a ugly blow under the eye from a drunken "C" Battery man last night. The soldier brave was creating a general disturbance on the street when the officer took him in charge, and while trying to position the man on his horse, the man balked off, and Smith wears a white steak plaster in consequence.

Planters in Luck.

Mr. J. Decker, a party of five, who have been enjoying a week's shooting at Cameron Lake, 90 miles from Nanaimo, returned to town, yesterday morning, and proceeded to divide the spoils of the chase, consisting of three male and two female elk, two buck deer, red; 25 brace of grouse and 31 ducks.

And Still One More.

The little steamer North Star, has again changed ownership, this time passing into the hands of an American. Mr. Williams, her former owner, intends building another steamer, which, when finished, will be much better and larger. The dimensions of the new boat will be something like 50 feet long, 16 feet beam and 7 feet hold.

British Farther Delegates.

Mr. Thomas Davy, of Cornwall, one of the British far delegates to the Maritime Provinces of Canada, after spending several days pleasantly in Victoria, left, this morning, for Toronto, where he rejoins his colleagues. Mr. Joseph C. H. Atwood, on his occasion to visit British Columbia recently. Both gentlemen are well pleased with the Pacific province.

Ran on the Rocks.

The steamer Macosote, while on her way into harbor, yesterday morning, from Nelson Island, with 200 tons of stone in her hold and a deck load of hay, ran on the rocks off Ten Mile Point, C. H. Atwood's Mystery, with a scow in tow, immediately went to her assistance, but finding it impossible to get her off without damage, she was left until high water, when she drifted off easily and safely.

Outgoing Passengers.

The steamship Umattila, which sailed for San Francisco, yesterday morning, carried a large number of passengers, and besides a considerable quantity of freight. The following were the state room passengers: Mrs. Gordon and two children, Mrs. A. Pitcock and son, W. Kennedy, G. H. Reed, C. H. Atwood, J. H. Atwood, Mrs. H. J. Scott and child, Miss Williams, Joseph Humphrey, Mrs. W. J. Taylor, Miss E. Williams, Miss J. Boyd, Miss McLean, Mrs. Flewelling, and two children, W. Robertson, W. Dickie and Miss Grace Guerrero.

H. M. S. Warspite.

H. M. S. Warspite, which has been in the drydock, requiring repairs, is under orders to leave for Chili on the 11th inst. During their long stay in this port, the crew of the Warspite has made themselves very popular, and have gained for themselves very high opinions. The ship's excellent band has at all times been available when called upon for any desirable object, and its sweet music will not be forgotten in Victoria, the citizens of Victoria, and with the Warspite, her officers, and crew with regret.