THE METHODIST CONFERENCE

IT OPENS AT NELSON ON THE 9TH DAY OF MAY.

Some of the Notable Men Who Will be Present—Ministers to be Moved. Large Attendance Expected.

The fifteenth session of the British Columbia conference of the Methodist church will open in Nelson on May 9th. This will be the first Methodist conference held east of the Cascade mountains in this province, as all previous ones have been held at some point on the coast. It is thought that about 70 will be in attendance.

Rev. Dr. Carman, general superintendent of the Methodist church in Canada, will open the conference and will preside alternately with the president, who will be elected the first day. The jurisdiction of the British Columbia conference covers not only the work among the white population, but Indian, Chinese and Japanese missions as well.

A prominent figure in connection with the Japanese mission work is Rev. Goro Kaburagi, B. A., B. S. C., who is in charge of this branch of the work of the church. Mr. Kaburagi was a member of the official class in Japan. Another interesting individual, who will attend the conference, is Rev. E. S. Rowe, pastor of the Metropolitan church at Victoria. He has made a close study of social and industrial questions.

The conference program for the opening day calls for meetings of the standing committees, which from year to year transfers or confirms the pastors of the conference in their several pastorates. The report of this committee will probably be available by Thursday. No change will be made in the Nelson station, but several clergymen throughout the district will be moved. From this city Rev. George H. Morden will be moved. He has a call to Queen's Avenue church at Westminster, and will doubtless go there. Among the other changes will be the moving of Rev. J. A. Wood from Kaslo, and the moving of Rev. A. M. Sanford, B. A., from Sandon. A vacancy will also be created at Grand Forks, G. J. Bradshaw, who is at present stationed there, going east to complete his studies.

The conference will be in session from Tuesday to Saturday, inclusive, and on Sunday special services will be conducted in the Methodist church, the sermon in the morning being preached by Rev. H. Whitington, ex-president of the conference, and in the evening by Rev. Dr. Carman, general superintendent of the Methodist church in Canada.

ENTERTAINED MADAME ALBANI.

Governor Mackintosh's Speech at Last Night's Dinner Party.

Madame Albani Gye and the members of her concert company were entertained at dinner by the Mytton-Rolt mess at the Allan House last evening. Hon. C. H. Mackintosh presided, and those present included Madame Albani Gye, Mr. L. Gye, Miss M. Foster, Mayor and Mrs. Lalonde, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Oliver, C. St. L. Mackintosh, J. B. Johnson, Wylie Johnson, Mr. Marsh, Mr. N. F. Townsend, Mr. Rolt, Mr. J. S. Clute, Mr. J. M. Smith, Mr. Ellis, Mr. de V le Maistre, Mr. H. P. Mytton, Mr. C. E. Harriss, Mr. Douglas Powell, Mons. Frank Watkins, Mons. F. Brossa, Mons. T. Nachez, Mr. Hewar, Mr. Masters.

After full justice had been done to the recherche menu, Governor Mackintosh in a felicitous speech proposed the health of Madame Albani-Gye, coupled with the name of Mr. Gye. He said the gifted songstress had endeared herself to every Canadian by proving that the Dominion could produce artists equal to any in the other portions of the Empire, or in the entire world. Canadians had followed her artistic career with pleasure and pride, and had rejoiced in her great fame and triumphs. Hers was a household name that appealed to every inhabitant of the Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific. After picturing the manner in which Albani had brought credit on the land of her nativity, the governor referred to the part taken by the sons of the Dominion in maintaining British prestige in South Africa. "They were," he said, "prepared to make the same sacrifices again."

Mr. Gye replied on behalf of his talented wife in a happy speech, testifying to the love he knew she bore to Canada.

In the afternoon Madame Albani-Gye and her fellow artists visited the Le Roi mine and descended the shaft and inspected the workings. The visitors were delighted with their experiences, and carried away many specimens of ore. Mr. Bernard Macdonald, the general manager, conducted them through the mine.

Mrs. Meakin's Estate.

Judge W. J. Nelson, executor of the estate of the late Mrs. Meakin, is offering the hotel property in Trail for sale. Mrs. Meakin by her will bequeathed $100 to a stepson in the United States, $100 to a Mrs. Moore in Montreal and two lots in Vernon to Judge Nelson. The judge, however, found that the lots had been sold for taxes. The balance of the estate is left to Archie McGillivray as residuary legatee.

A LITTLE BOY DROWNED.

He Met His Death in the Fishing Pool at Halcyon Springs.

Frank Woodside, secretary of the Miners' Union, yesterday received a telegram from Halcyon Hot Springs from Mr. J. J. Hand, stating that his three-year-old son, Garnet Hand, had been accidently drowned in the fishing pond there. Mr. Hand went to the Springs on Saturday last, taking with him his little boy. The body will be brought to this city for interment this evening. Mrs. Hand was apprised of the death of her child last evening, and was almost beside herself with grief over her bereavement.

BRIDGE NEAR NELSON.

It Will Be Ready for Use by the Coming Fall.

The piers for the Canadian Pacific railway bridge across the Columbia river near Robson are approaching completion. The steel for the superstructure of the bridge has not come to hand, but it is thought that it will by the time the piers are completed. There may be some delay in the delivery of the steel for the reason that the manufacturers are pushed to the limit and have orders extending months ahead. It is thought, however, that the bridge will be ready for the passage of cars by fall.

UNFOUNDED CHARGES.

A Deliberate Attempt to Blacken the Character of the Chief.

The rumor having been persistently, and industriously circulated for the past few days that Chief of Police Vaughan was on the night of the 15th and the morning of the 16th inst. in an intoxicated and disorderly condition in the lower portion of the city, the police commissioners have made careful enquiry and investigation into the charges and found the rumors to be absolutely without foundation and the charges (although none were actually laid formally) made out of whole cloth. The origin of the report and the surrounding circumstances seem to point clearly to an organized attempt by those who are at present inimical to the chief to blacken his character in the community and to embarrass the commissioners in their task of reorganization of the police department.

That there existed such a plot there can now be no doubt, and these rumors having been so widespread, it is but just and fair to the chief to state that there is not a vestige of fact in them.

A Tour of Observation.

Mr. J. S. Deschamps of the Blue, Fisher & Deschamps sawmill, returned yesterday from a visit to Spokane, where he went for the purpose of purchasing wagons for use in the lumber business. Mr. Deschamps intends to visit the coast in a few days, whither he goes for the purpose of inspecting the sawmills around Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle. Near the latter place he will inspect Port Blakely sawmill, which is claimed to be the largest in the world. The object which Mr. Deschamps has in view is the learning of the latest wrinkles in the sawmill business. If he sees anything that can be used advantageously in the mill in which he is interested, he will put it into use. His motto, he says, is "Live and learn."

Fell Down a Chute.

An Italian whose name is unknown, fell down one of the chutes in the Centre Star at 11 o'clock last night and sustained painful injuries, including contusions of the scalp and one eye. There was a wound on one of his knees, but fortunately none of his benes were fractured. He was removed to the Sisters' hospital, but will be able to be about in a few days.

RATES TO THE EXPOSITION.

Railways Have Not Yet Taken the Public Into Confidence.

There is considerable inquiry as to when the reduced round trip rates to the Pan-American Exposition and return wil be put into effect. Inquiry among local railway men brought out the fact that nothing was known concerning the matter here. The heads of the passenger departments of the several transcontinental lines have kept their intention in this regard a profound secret, and if the matter has been arranged not a syllable concerning it has leaked out. It is the impression among many that the reduced rates will not be put into effect until some little time after the exposition opens, and that the real sweeping reductions will not be inaugurated by the railways until it is nearing its end. It is thought by well-informed railway men that the round trip rate from here will be in the vicinity of $75, but as they have no reliable data on which to base this the estimate is mere guess work. Railroad men claim that the putting into effect of low excursion or exposition rates has a tendency to injure the regular business, and think that this is the real reason why no announcement in regard to the Pan-American exposition rates have yet been made public.

BACK FROM THE NORTH.

Trip Up the Coast to Naas River—Bright Prospect.

Thomas Morrow, secretary of the Vancouver Liberal association, returned on Thursday from a visit up the Coast, as far as the Naas river, says the Vancouver World. He went on the round trip of the steamer Tees, which arrived in port at midnight on Saturday. He visited 42 different settlements along the Coast, and everywhere he found the cannery people especially hopeful for a good season in the northern fishery business.

The principal interest of the trip was the visit to the works of the Charlesson telegraph line. The wire is now strung a distance of 65 miles inland, and it is expected that it will be finished up to Hazleton by the middle of May. The work has been rushed so far and with the better weather of the spring it will be getting easier every day. The parties are having very little difficulty in making the trips up and down the river and in fact the natural lie of the country is not against the progress of the work. Mr Morrow has brought down a copy of a petition to be forwarded to the government at Ottawa, asking that a branch of the line be taken down to Port Essington. It is the intention to have this to accommodate the canneries and all the residents in the district have signed the petition. It will be necessary to have the wire cross the Skeena river and run south for 15 miles, but this arrangement will be a great convenience to a large number of settlers and cannerymen who have their headquarters at Port Essington. The line at present runs from Port Simpson and along the north side of the river.

Mr. Morrow says that the whole district up there is looking exceedingly well and everyone is looking forward to a good season. The canneries are all working and as many as 27 boats were started out last week from one cannery alone on the business of fishing for spring salmon. Messrs. Herman Bros. and Cunningham are building two large hotels at Essington and altogether the town is having quite a boom.

Messrs. J. S. Stevens and F. S. Forrest of the Slocan and Northern railway, were in the city yesterday.

A GREAT SOURCE OF WEALTH

AN OFFICIAL OF THE GEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT MAKES A REPORT.

The Measure Estimated to Contain Twenty-Two Million Tons of Possible Working Coal.

Ottawa, April 11.—J. McEvoy, of the geological department, has made a report on the Crow's Nest coal fields. As long ago as 1883 he had outlined the area of the coal bearing rocks of that part of the Rocky mountains, and in 1891 they were again visited by Dr. Selwyn, the late director of the survey. The latest report made by Mr. McEvoy justifies the earlier statements as to the exceptionally great value of this remarkable coal field, which he estimates to contain over 22,000,000,000 tons of possible working coal.

The report goes on to show the great value of this coal, which depends largely upon its excellent coking character and low percentage in ash or other deleterious substances, combined with its position in regard to growing centres of metalliferous mining. It must be added, however, that great skill and care will evidently be needed in properly developing and fully utilizing the field, which in some respects present peculiar conditions. The highly bituminous character of the coal, already gives evidence that very effective ventilating apparatus will require to be installed as the workings extend, in order to avoid dangerous accumulation of gas. The great thickness of some of the seams, with the often tender character of the coal composing them, will present difficulties in the way of cheap and complete extraction; while the fact that levels run in the seams from the bottom of the intersecting valleys are at a depth of 3,000 feet or more below the general level of the surface of the intervening plateau, like areas may probably render it necessary to contend with exceptional pressure upon the workings as these progress.

The output of the Crow's Nest Pass coal mines is at present over 1,000 tons per diem. Cooking ovens to the number of 360 are in operation, and large additions are in contemplation. In connection with the subject of coal in British Columbia it may be mentioned here that recent explorations, taken in conjunction with information previously obtained, lead to the belief that large and important coal fields will be available when required in the northern part of that province. The explorations particularly referred to are those which have been carried out for the department of railways and canals under Messrs. J. C. O'Dwyer and A. H. Dupont. Notes and specimens brought back by these gentlemen and handed over to the geological survey show that the coal bearing rocks occupy a much larger area than had been supposed between the 55th and 57th parallels of latitude, while anthracite coals have actually been found in the region about the headwaters of the Skeena and Stickene rivers. This northern region may eventually add materially to the already great wealth of British Columbia in coal.

Specimens of bituminous and coking coal of good quality, indicating a new and perhaps important locality for this fuel in British Columbia, have also lately been received from the south side of the Tulameen river, west of Granite creek.

ANOTHER TEST CASE.

Checkered History of Japanese Shipped From Seattle.

Another test of the new immigration law which requires Orientals to be able to read and write in some European language will probably be inaugurated within a few days. This morning a Jap was brought on the steamer Mainlander and was stopped by Officer McAllister of the Customs department, who has charge of these cases. The Jap was unable to comply with the provisions of the law, and was accordingly placed on the steamer again by the officer. He was, however, given his freedom, so far as the officers of the vessel were concerned, and they intimated their entire lack of intention of taking him back again to Seattle. So the Jap wandered back to the wharf and when he was threatened with arrest he walked up the gang-plank and looked worried at what it all meant. Captain McWilliams has become somewhat tired of carrying Orientals back and forth and is said to have intimated his willingness to have a test case, so that he will know exactly the position of the transportation companies. Vancouver lawyers have given advice, it is said, that the new law has not a good foundation and that flaws can be found. —Vancouver World.

DUMPED ON ROSSLAND.

A Demented Man Will Be Returned to the Boundary.

Duncan McKay, who spent yesterday at the police station, will travel to Grand Forks today on a ticket supplied by the bounty of the city of Rossland. It is a case of this city returning a compliment. McKay, who is a middle-aged man, came over from Grand Forks Thursday night in charge of the conductor, who handed him over to the police. He seems to be slightly demented, but is perfectly harmless. He said he had been living at Greenwood and more latterly at Grand Forks. The authorities of Grand Forks, according to his story, presented him with a free ticket for Rossland. He came and has since been a guest of the police. The authorities here are determined that this city shall not be made a dumping ground for the helpless and demented of other points and decided to ship McKay back to the Bounary. The unfortunate man talks rationally except tht he is laboring under the delusion that he is going to operate big timber limits up the north fork. He said he has resided in the country six years since coming from Wisconsin, where he followed a lumberman's occupation.

AN IMPENDING CRISIS.

A Strong Revolt Against the Railway Policy of the Premier.

A gentleman, who arrived here from Victoria yesterday, stated that the impression was strong there that a government crisis is impending unless Premier Dunsmuir gets off his high horse and consents that the Coast-Kootenay railway shall be a competitive one to the C. P. R., which, of course, means that the bonus shall be given to the only bona fide company applying, namely, the V., V. & E. It is said that Messrs. Helmcken, Hall, Tatlow, Garden and McPhillips, all government supporters, are demanding that the competitive line be built and that they have threatened the premier, unless he comes to their terms, to join force with the opponents of the present administration. There are other supporters of the government who stand ready to join in the revolt and it looks as though the premier, by the stand he takes, is riding rough shod over the wishes of the people for a fall. It is alleged that the premier has assumed a dictatorial attitude and has gone so far to apply abusive epithets to recalcitrant members while in caucus. The breech is widening daily and it is palpable, unless the premier recedes from his position and adopts a more conciliatory attitude, that a crisis will ensue. It is claimed, if matters eventuate in this way, that Mr. Helmcken will be called upon to form the new government. It is also alleged that Mr. Joseph Martin will not be a member of the proposed government, in case it is formed.

A PUBLIC BENEFACTOR.

How Thomas Bradbury is Improving Rossland Streets.

Thomas Bradbury, the contractor who is erecting the Federal building, is considerable of a benefactor. The hill of rock which protrudes above the surface and so disfigures Queen street, south of Columbia avenue, is rapidly disappearing under the hands of his workmen. Already he has taken out 100 yards of stone there, and intends to remove at least 200 yards more. This would have cost the city about $2 a yard to take out had it been left to contract. Before he gets through he may remove the entire hillock. The rock removed is to be used in the foundation for the Dominion postoffice.

The earth that is being moved from the office site is being placed on Columbia avenue in front of the provincial court house free of charge, although Mr. Bradbury could have got 25 cents per yard for it from a citizen who owns a nearby lot. Besides this he has 20 men at work getting out dimension stone on First and Third avenues, for the removal of which the city would at some time have to have paid. It will, therefore, be seen from this that Mr. Bradbury is a man of considerable public spirit.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

The funeral of Bonnie Lenneau, who killed herself on Saturday with carbolic acid, took place yesterday forenoon, at 11 o'clock from the undertaking establishment of Lockhart & Jordan. The Rev. Wm. T. Stackhouse officiated and the interment was in the city cemetery.

The funeral of the three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hand took place on Sunday afternoon from the family residence. A number of the friends of the family were in attendance. The interment was in the Catholic cemetery.

Will Hold Court at Fort Steele.

Acting County Judge P. McL. Forin held court in Nelson during the latter part of last week and heard several cases in chambers. The case of Thurston vs. Weyl, involving the ownership of the lots in the Derby and Nelson mineral claims in the western portion of Rossland was partially heard and adjourned. It was stipulated that the case could be brought up at any time on two days' notice. Judge Forin left yesterday for Fort Steele, where he goes for the purpose of holding court on Wednesday next. He expects to return on Tuesday night.

Will Participate in Smoker.

Mr. Harry Daniel yesterday received a despatch from Mr. T. P. Hughes, formerly of this city, but who inlisted in the Canadian Mounted Infantry at Calgary, stating that he left Quebec for Rossland on the 18th instant and would be here on the occasion of the military smoker on the 25th instant. Mr. Hughes is one of the pioneers of the Rossland camp and is a member of the local aerie of Eagles.

On a Tour of Inspection.

Mr. James Wilson, superintendent of the western division of C. P. R. telegraph lines, with headquarters at Vancouver; Mr. H. McEntire, inspector of the same company of Nelson, and Mr. R. Helme of Nelson, route agent for the Dominion Express company, are in the city. They are making a tour of inspection and intend to next visit the Boundary country.

WAR ON TRAMPS AND BEGGARS.

Chief Vaughan Ordered Six Characters to Leave Town.

Chief Vaughan has decided to wage war on the tramps, gambling "boosters" and beggars, who infest the town. His fiat has gone forth and henceforth the members of the force will be on the lookout for people of this description. Early yesterday morning he personally cast his drag net and gathered in six vagrants, who gave their names as Frank McCluskey, Dave Christie, John Struther, M. J. Ryan, John McKinley and Charles Adams. After a brief stay in the cells they were ordered to leave town under penalty of being sent down. McCluskey is a cripple and has been making good money by soliciting alms, which he did not put to the best of uses.

White Man Turned Yellow.

Great consternation was felt by the friends of M. A. Hogarty of Lexington, Ky., when he saw he was turning yellow. His skin slowly changed color, also his eyes, and he suffered terribly. His malady was yellow jaundice. He was treated by the best doctors, but without benefit. Then he was advised to try Electric Bitters, the wonderful Stomach and Liver remedy, and he writes: "After taking two bottles I was wholly cured." A trial proves its matchless merit for all Stomach Liver and Kidney troubles. Only 25c. Sold by T. R. Morrow and Goodeve Bros., druggists.

Mr. Daniel Thomas, of Thomas & Grieger, returned yesterday from a visit to the Boundary country.

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MISSING MAN LOCATED.

Emil Holmberg, Who Disappeared on the 17th Inst., Writes From Spokane.

Emil Holmberg, a miner who disappeared on the 17th inst., has been heard from in Spokane. His wife notified Chief Vaughan at the time and the Spokane police were notified. Yesterday Mrs. Holmberg received an undated letter from her husband stating that he would return shortly. The letter was undated but the Spokane postmark indicated where it had been mailed. Holmberg has been acting rather strangely of late and his wife has been quite anxious respecting his welfare and whereabouts.

RED MOUNTAIN WINS.

Columbia and Western Cannot Use the Tracks of the Hill Road.

Mr. Justice Irving, sitting in the supreme court at Vancouver has denied the application of the Columbia and Western railway to use a portion of the tracks of the Red Mountain railway up Centre Star gulch.

The Red Mountain has extended its tracks as far as the Legal Tender and is now applying to the railway committee of the Dominion house for the privilege of using the tracks of the Columbia and Western from that point to the War Eagle and Centre Star ore bins, a distance of about 2,000 feet. It is claimed that the Columbia and Western occupies the only ground that is available for the construction of the line over the section mentioned.

In the proceedings relative to the above had before Mr. Justice Irving M. A. H. MacNeill appeared for the Red Mountain railway and Mr. E. P. Davis for the Columbia and Western railway.

Boarding House Trouble.

There has been trouble between the War Eagle company, limited, and Mr. C. E. Chittenden, the lessee of the hotel at the War Eagle mine, for some time past. This resulted in the closing of the house a few days since and to the arrest of Mr. Chittenden last evening. He was arrested on an order made by His Honor Judge P. McL. Forin, at the instance of the War Eagle Hotel company, limited. The amount claimed by the company as due from Mr. Chittenden is about $1,300, and it is alleged that the arrest was made because it was feared that he was about to leave the country.

Mr. S. W. McMichael, chief inspector of the Dominion customs service, and Mr. E. G. Sease, his assistant, arrived here on Sunday and left for Trail yesterday. They are on a tour of inspection and came through direct from Ottawa.

Mr. H. S. Wallace, formerly mayor of this city, but who has been living in Southern California for several months, returned to this city yesterday.

Fortunes have been made in California Oil Wells. Every person is talking of the wonderful Oil Wells of California; don't you read about them in all of the newspapers? Here is a golden opportunity to buy stock in one of the best Oil Companies of California. The Bankers' and Brokers' Oil Company, San Benito District, San Benito County, California, is now offering for sale a small block of treasury stock at Fifty Cents per share. Apply for further particulars, prospectus, maps, etc., to

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Maps of the Myers Creek District for sale, $1.00.

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European plan, $1 to $2. American, $2 to $3

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Mr. Richard Plewman returned last evening from a visit to the Winnipeg mine.