WITNESS COULD NOT REMEMBER

JAMES LOWE UNDER SEVERE EXAMINATION

The Two Day's Proceedings Taking Evidence in Dunsmuir Will Case at San Francisco.

J. A. S. Lowe, examined before the British Consul-General, C. Bennett, in San Francisco, has amended his evidence given at the Hopper vs. Dunsmuir trial in Victoria. Before Consul-General Bennett, who is a commissioner appointed by the British Columbia Supreme court for the taking of this evidence, the witness Lowe has stated that he knew the document he signed was Alex. Dunsmuir's will.

The various interests were represented as follows at the hearing: E. V. Bodwell, K. C., of Victoria; E. P. Coyne, of New York; and Alexander Heynemann, of San Francisco, appeared for Edna Wallace Hopper. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K. C., for the intervenor, Joan Olive Dunsmuir; and A. P. Luxton, of Victoria, and Andrew Thorne, of San Francisco, for James Dunsmuir.

Mr. Lowe had come from England to give evidence at San Francisco.

The San Francisco Chronicle in its account of the proceedings says:

During the direct examination Lowe's testimony was to the effect that upon the night in which the disputed will was signed he had dined at the house of Mrs. Agnew in Oakland. After dinner he went into the sitting room and saw James Dunsmuir go into an inner room, followed by Alexander Dunsmuir.

"Did Dunsmuir make any remark?" the witness was asked. "Alex. asked James for the will. Alex. said, 'Here, Jim, give me the will and I will sign it.'"

"He asked me to witness Alexander Dunsmuir's signature," the witness continued.

"Did you see Alexander Dunsmuir sign?" asked Counsel Luxton. "I did."

"At the trial in Victoria you said you didn't know what was in the document. The question was put to you and you said no. Explain what you meant." "I meant that I did not know what the contents of the paper were."

"You did know that it was a will?" "I knew it was a will because Alexander Dunsmuir asked James Dunsmuir for the will."

The next matter of interest to be taken up was that of Lowe's salary. He was an employee, it appeared, of R. Dunsmuir Sons Company, being engaged originally as a cashier at $85 a month. About 1885, he having become manager of the San Francisco branch, it was increased to $250 a month, his relations with the Dunsmuirs having remained of the most amicable nature. After the death of Alexander Dunsmuir this compensation took a sudden leap to $500 a month, the additional $250, the witness explained, being given him personally by James Dunsmuir.

"What did you do for that extra $250?" was asked in cross-examination. "Nothing," said Lowe.

Shortly after the witness had given his testimony in Victoria this extra $250 a month was withdrawn, and he received a letter from James Dunsmuir stating that other arrangements had been made for carrying on the business in San Francisco, and that he would be given a six months' leave of absence on $250 a month, after which his connection with the firm would cease.

This part of the testimony was threshed out again and again by the attorneys connected with the Hopper interests.

"Did it never occur to you that James Dunsmuir had no further use for you after you had given such testimony?" asked Mr. Bodwell.

The witness answered that he had been indignant at his discharge, but had never connected it in any way with his evidence given on the stand.

In the afternoon the hearing consisted in a continuation of the duel between Mr. Bodwell and Witness Lowe, and the questioner delivered his interrogations in a manner which very much annoyed the witness, whose face betrayed the severity of the ordeal to which he was being subjected.

Lowe declared that when he gave his testimony at Victoria he had not told the whole truth.

"When did it first occur to you that you had not told the whole truth?" "After I left the stand."

"Then, why, as an honest man, didn't you ask to be recalled?" "Because I had answered all the questions that had been put to me."

At one time Lowe would not admit that he remembered having read in the papers an account of Dunsmuir's widow having been forgotten in the will, and as the day bore to a close his memory waned more and more.

The second day's proceedings in the Dunsmuir will case before British Consul Bennett at San Francisco, which were held on Wednesday last, appear to have been quite interesting. The Chronicle of Thursday in its account of it says:

Jas. Arthur Shakespeare Lowe, the alleged $20 a day witness for the defendant's side of the Dunsmuir case, did anything but earn his supposed salary at the hearing continued before British Consul Bennett yesterday. In the hands of Judge Coyne, who subjected him to a pitiless fusilade of clever questions, his testimony, surprising enough the day before, crumbled into confusion. Smoking a cigarette, by the indulgence of the commissioner, his lower lip trembling, his face scarlet with embarrassment, his eyes staring in rage at his inquisitor, Lowe allowed himself to be driven from one absurdity to another, until there was nothing which it seemed safe for him to say but the much overworked, "I don't remember," which has been his friend since the examination began. Judge Coyne began as follows:

"After the close of the session yesterday where did you go?" "Home."

"When did you leave your home?" "At 9 o'clock this morning."

"Where did you go then?" "I walked the streets until a quarter to 10, when I went to meet Attorney Thorne."

"Did you go by appointment?" "Yes."

"In reference to this case?" "I don't know."

The cross-questioner leaned forward in astonishment and fairly shouted in the ear of the witness, "What! Are you honest with me, and swear that you don't know what the appointment was about?"

The witness insisted that he had no idea why he went to see Attorney Thorne, and he was made to say that this statement was as true as any he had made in connection with the hearing.

"Was there anything said about your testimony here yesterday?" "I don't remember."

"It is not twenty minutes since you left Mr. Thorne's office, and you tell me that you don't remember?" "I have answered your question."

"You can remember things that took place years ago better than what happened a few minutes ago?" "Sometimes."

Lowe admitted that he had hopes of being reinstated in the employ of James Dunsmuir, and said that he based them on his long-continued services to R. Dunsmuir's Sons Company. He was asked if he did not think that James Dunsmuir would better appreciate his services in coming from Europe and trying to swear the case through. The witness said that he had never looked at the matter in that light.

Tuesday he testified that he had done nothing in return for the doubling of his salary after the death of Alexander Dunsmuir. Yesterday he affirmed that he had assumed additional responsibilities in the firm.

Among the exhibits in the case is the following letter, which was produced at the request of the attorneys for the complainant:

July 8th, 1904.

J. A. S. Lowe, Esq., San Francisco, Cal.:

Dear Sir:—I have made arrangements with the Western Fuel Company to handle our coal for California. As I am unable to go down myself, and as Mr. Lindsay knows what I want, and as it will be necessary to execute documents with R. Dunsmuir's Sons Company, and as there can only be two directors on the board, British subjects, and as I wish Mr. Lindsay to be put on the board, and in view of the state of your health, I would recommend that you retire in his favor. I would also suggest that you take six months' leave of absence, which will be granted you by the company, on half pay, when it is to be hoped your health will be all right. Yours truly,

JAMES DUNSMUIR.

In connection with the foregoing it is interesting to note that Lowe has testified that he was in his usual health when he was discharged from the firm of R. Dunsmuir's Sons Company, after his testimony given before the former trial of the case at Victoria.

After the presentation of the letter, Lowe fell back upon his favorite "I don't remember."

"Who told you to take refuge in 'I don't remember.'?" Judge Coyne demanded, impatiently. "I don't remember", the witness sullenly retorted.

"Is there anything under the sun that you do remember?" "I remember that I had breakfast this morning," was the response.

In the afternoon James Peter Taylor, the other witness to the disputed will, was called to the stand by the James Dunsmuir interests. He was as unlike Lowe in the manner and matter of his testimony as day from night, and adhered to his story told at Victoria. This contradicted the amended declarations of Lowe in several important particulars. Lowe says that he knew it was a will he was witnessing because in the several minutes during which he claims James and Alexander Dunsmuir were alone in the inner room where the document was signed he heard the latter say to the former, "Here, Jim, give me the will and I will sign it."

But Taylor stated yesterday that he and Lowe were asked to follow the Dunsmuirs into the inner room, and did so almost at their heels. He also contradicts Lowe in regard to the order in which the four of them passed through the door. The attorneys for Edna Wallace Hopper were so well satisfied with Witness Taylor that they sought to strengthen his credibility by bringing out the fact that he is a man of considerable means, doing business in Oakland.

The hearing closed with the examination of Albert James Bain, an architect, whose plan of Mrs. Agnew's house at 316 East Fourteenth street, Oakland, the scene of the transactions in question, has been offered in evidence. For some reason or other Attorney Luxton thought fit to spend considerable time in an unsuccessful effort to confuse Architect Bain, and apparently the presentation of the plan came as something of a surprise.

In explanation of the reference to Mr. Lowe as an alleged $20 a day witness, the San Francisco Call says: "The question of compensation for his services was brought up for his trip from England here. He said he had not been promised any specific sum, but he thought $20 a day would be what his services were worth, and he thought the representatives of James Dunsmuir would pay him this amount."

PROTEST FROM FARMERS.

Stock Men of Interior Want Representation on Assessment Commission.

At a meeting of the Live Stock Association, which was organized at Kamloops last month, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

In view of the fact that a commission has been formed to inquire into the Provincial Assessment Act and the workings thereof, and as very great agricultural interests of the province lie in the interior; therefore be it resolved, that, in the opinion of the B. C. Live Stock Association, it would be advisable to have a farmer east of the Cascades appointed as a member of the commission, and that meetings of the commission be held in Ashcroft, Kamloops and Vernon.

The meeting was presided over by the president, Senator Bostock, and about 50 stock raiser were present. The resolution was moved by J. P. Shaw, of Sauswap, and seconded by J. B. Leighton, of Savona.

Among female Moors birthday celebrations are unknown. A Moorish woman considers it a point of honor to be absolutely ignorant of her age.

A SAFE ROBBED THE OTHER NIGHT

THIEF ENTERED STORE OF CAMPBELL & CO.

And Made Off With Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars—Circumstances of the Robbery.

Some time on Thursday night or early on Friday morning, the premises of Campbell & Co., ladies' outfitters, Fort street, were robbed of a little more than three hundred and fifty dollars. The money was taken from the safe, but nothing else was tampered with. The theft was discovered next morning when the store was opened, and the police were at once notified.

Examination of the premises discloses indications that the thief gained access by means of one of the rear windows. A passage way leads from Broughton street to a backyard immediately back of the store. A view of the window that had been used is totally obscured by a shed which stands so close to it that there is left a space just large enough to permit a man to work in. The window just above this one had been smeared with a substance resembling paste, and the lower part had been broken in, creating an aperture big enough for one to insert his fingers and manipulate the catch of the window below. This done everything would be easy. The paste was evidently used to deaden the sound of breaking glass. Just what its constituents are the police are unable to ascertain.

Entering the store the thief must have gone directly to the safe, which stood on the left hand side, as there was no indication that he busied himself with anything else. Inside he found two hundred and fifty dollars and a cheque for one hundred dollars. He appropriated the lot and departed. The window was found partially open the next morning.

Mr. Campbell left the store about ten o'clock on Thursday night, fastening the doors and windows as usual before he did so. There had been some defect in the combination of the safe for several weeks and it could not be locked. In consequence of this it was the custom of the proprietor to conceal the money in different parts of the store. On this occasion, however, he deposited it in the safe, which could have been opened without much difficulty. The banks were authorized to decline payment of the cheque in the event of it being presented to them. It was one signed by Mr. Mitchell, of Challoner & Mitchell. As this cheque is still in possession of the thief store keepers will do well to keep on their guard, as an attempt may be made at any time to negotiate it with them. Chief Langley and Detective Sergeant Palmer made an examination of the premises on Friday morning.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FRIDAY

I. O. O. F., Woodmen of World and K. of P. Ceremonies Conducted on Friday.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

Installation ceremonies were conducted in connection with three local orders last evening. Members of Victoria, Columbia and Dominion lodges, I. O. O. F., held a joint meeting, while the Woodmen of the World held their annual gathering, and Far West Lodge, No. 1, K. of P., marked the occasion by assembled in large numbers at their hall, corner of Pandora and Douglas streets.

Frank Nelson, D. D. G. M., presided at the Odd Fellows' meeting, and was assisted in the ceremony of installation by the following: J. H. Meldram, G.W.; S. V. Reid, G. S.; Chas. H. Hayward (ex-mayor), G. T.; A. Henderson, G. C.; R. Livingston, G. M.; W. H. Huxtable, G. Guard.

Appended is a complete list of the officers installed:

Victoria Lodge, No. 1—R. W. Short, N. G.; Wm. Wrigleseworth, V. G.; F. Davey, Sec. and Fin. Sec.; T. M. Brayshaw, Treas.; T. Jones, Warden; W. Paddison, Con.; J. Kerr, I. G.; R. Livingstone, R. S. N. G.; J. W. McCabe, L. S. N. G.; J. D. Matheson, R. S. V. G.; Geo. Grimason, L. S. V. G.; W. W. Thrall, R. S. S.; P. W. Linklater, L. S. S.; W. H. Huxtable, O. G.

Columbia Lodge, No. 2—David Mowat, N. G.; C. A. McGregor, V. G.; R. W. Fawcett, Rec. Sec.; W. Jackson, Fin. Sec.; A. H. Porter, Treas.; J. H. Meldram, Warden; B. Deacon, Con.; W. Somerville, I. G.; Jas. Pottinger, R. S. N. G.; E. Pearce, L. S. N. G.; F. Edner, R. S. V. G.; A. P. McConnell, L. S. V. G.; F. Taylor, R. S. S.; A. S. Ashwell, L. S. S.; W. H. Huxtable, O. G.

Dominion Lodge, No. 4—A. A. Milligan, N. G.; E. A. Goodall, V. G.; Thos. Bamford, Rec. and Fin. Sec.; D. A. Babbington, Treas.; W. Wilks, Warden; J. A. Dresser, Con.; T. W. Hawkins, I. G.; W. H. Cullin, R. S. N. G., J. M. Munnis, L. S. N. G.; F. Dresser, R. S. V. G.; J. L. Hornibrook, L. S. V. G.; F. Mahoney, R. S. S.; R. C. Douglas, L. S. S.; W. H. Huxtable, O. G.

This business completed the remainder of the evening was spent in pleasant social intercourse. Refreshments were served and an impromptu programme, consisting of songs, recitations and addresses, was rendered. Undoubtedly the principal feature of the entertainment was a magic lantern exhibition by Bro. T. W. Hawkins. He displayed a large collection of excellent views, also throwing on the canvas some local scenes from slides kindly lent by the Victoria Association.

During the evening the chairman, D. D. G. M. Nelson, had the pleasant duty of presenting Bro. T. M. Brayshaw, treasurer of Victoria lodge, with a handsome gold-headed cane, the gift of members of that society. The recipient thanked those present in a few appropriate words.

The singing of "God Save the King" brought the proceedings to a close in the early hours.

As mentioned, the annual meeting of the Woodmen of the World attracted a large number. The meeting was held at the A. O. U. W. hall. Of course the principal business was the installation of the following officers: P. C. C., W. H. Pennock; C. C., A. M. Gregg; adv.-lieutenant, F. E. Plummer; banker, A. H. Maynard; clerk, W. Jackson; escort, W. A. B. Hoffman; watchman, E. Macdonald; sentry, W. Eldred; manager, T. Cashmore.

After the adoption of an exceedingly favorable report from the secretary and speeches by each of the new officers, a pleasant presentation took place. It was performed by Sov. Lindsay, who handed P.C.C. W. H. Pennock and Banker A. H. Maynard a set of carving knives and salad bowl, respectively, on both of which were engraved the recipients' names. The two latter thanked the lodge for their expression of esteem in a few well chosen words.

Brief addresses were delivered by Sov. Richard Hall, M. P. P., and Sov. Fox, after which refreshments were served, and the company treated to a phrenological display by Sov. W. H. Pennock, and a hypnotic exhibition by Sov. F. E. Plummer. This brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

At last night's convention of Far West Lodge, No. 1, K. of P., Deputy Grand Chancellor L. Oliver, assisted by G. G. C. Hughes and Byrne, installed the following officers: C. C., N. H. Hendrick; V. C., R. Daverne; M. of W., Thomas Walker; M. of E., S. L. Redgrave; M. of F., W. r. Smith; K. of R. and S., Hy. Weber; M. at A., A. Hodnett; I. G., H. Keown, and O. G., J. W. Elliott. The rank of Page was conferred on several candidates. For representatives to the grand lodge, Bro. L. Oliver and J. L. Smith were elected. For hall directors, Bros. Oliver and Gold were re-elected.

After business refreshments and an excellent programme were enjoyed.

VANCOUVER NOTES.

Chief of Police Submits Annual Report to the Commissioners.

A police patrol wagon, with the accompanying boxes from which to ring into the police station from various parts of the city, was one of the principal recommendations made by the chief of police, S. North, in his annual report, which was presented at a meeting of the board of commissioners. All the members of the board expressed themselves in favor of the proposed improvement, which would add greatly to the efficiency of the work of the department, and save perhaps a number of extra men. In his report the chief says: "The police force at the present time consists of chief, 3 sergeants, 1 clerk, 1 stenographer, 3 desk clerks, 6 detectives, 19 patrolmen, 3 gaolers, 2 chaingang guards, 1 matron and 1 caretaker, being a total of 41 of all ranks. The number of arrests made during the year was 1,694, being an increase of 87 over last year. The number of persons afforded shelter during the year was 77. I would recommend that your honorable body urge the mayor and council to appropriate a sum sufficient to warrant the addition of three more patrolmen." Reports were sent in from all the departments of the police service. While the arrests were 87 more during 1904 than 1903, the cases in the police court were over 200 less, having been 2,227 in 1903, and 2,004 in 1904. There was a decrease in the amount of fines and forfeitures during 1904. For the previous year these amounted to $9,025, but during the last twelve months they fell off to $7,200, or a decrease of $1,825. During 1904 there were 487 drunks in the police court, and 167 drunk and disorderly. Gambling cases throughout the year were 125, compared with 161 in 1903. The report of Charles Mulhern, sergeant of the detectives, showed that the value of goods stolen during the year was $21,494.60, of which $12,553.85 worth were recovered.

The announcement has just been made that G. H. Webster, divisional engineer of the C. P. R., has rendered his resignation, being succeeded by C. E. Cartwright. Mr. Webster has left the C. P. R. to accept the position of provincial representative of the B. C. Construction Company. The company was awarded the contract for the foundations of the new C. P. R. hotel at Victoria, and is now engaged on that undertaking. Mr. Cartwright has been a resident of Vancouver for several years and has been in the engineering department of the C. P. R. for some time. Mr. Cartwright, who is a nephew of Sir Richard Cartwright, is a graduate of the Royal Military College at Kingston, and has had considerable experience in both railway and mine engineering. He was at one time engineer of a mining company in Virginia and was also connected with the Pennsylvania Railway Company. Mr. Cartwright was engaged in mine engineering when he first came to British Columbia, and joined the C. P. R. staff about the time the Lulu Island branch was built, having had charge of the construction of that road.

At the annual general meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Vancouver General hospital the financial statement was submitted as follows: Receipts: Balance January 6th, 1904, $300.44; street corner boxes, etc., hospital Saturday, $844.50; S. S. Aorangi, donation, $50; C. Shields, donation, $150; sundry donations, $11; proceeds hospital ball, $555.65; spectators' platform, $50; membership fees, $77; annual subscription, $5. Total, $2,043.59. Disbursements: Supplies, $245.08; annuals paid to hospital board, $5; expense account, telephone, stationery, stamps, fire insurance, etc., $92.64; savings bank deposit, $1,000; balance in bank and in hand, $700.87. Total, $2,043.59. After the various reports had been adopted election of officers was proceeded with, with the following result: President, Mrs. B. T. Rogers; first vice-president, Mrs. Charles Wilson; second vice-president, Mrs. O. Gardiner Johnson; secretary, Mrs. T. E. Atkins; treasurer, Mrs. William Murray.

WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

New York and Boston Baseball Clubs May Play in Spring.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 7.—President Pulliam, of the National League, said to-day he was heartily in favor of the spring championship games between New York and Boston for the championship of the world, and believes they will be played. "There is much interest as to which club is the stronger, and it should be settled as soon as possible," he [illegible]

CEMENT WORKS NEARLY FINISHED

MACHINERY IS ABOUT ALL IN POSITION

Will Be in Operation Next Month—The Power to Be Brought From Sooke River.

Eighty men are hurrying to completion the cement works on Tod creek, Saanich Arm. Some time during the coming month of February the huge wheels of the great works will be turning out a product second to none in the world. Tests of rock and the limestone clay to be used in the manufacture of the cement have been demonstrated to be the very finest obtainable. There is such an inexhaustible supply, it is so convenient to the plant, there are such shipping facilities and indications of immense markets within the reach of the company, that it is hoped and confidently expected that the works will prove a great hive of industry rivalling, if not surpassing, anything else in the manufacturing line on Vancouver island.

Supt. Losee told a Times representative the other day that during the coming summer the plant will be supplied with power from the Sooke river, sixteen miles distant. This stream will give 3,000 horse-power in the warm season and ten times that power in the winter months. It will be more than sufficient to meet the requirements of the works and at the same time will effect a great saving in the running expenses of the machinery.

The works will thus be equipped with water and steam power combined. "Once we are going," said Mr. Losee, "the plant cannot cease running for need of power. If one gives out we will have the other. Magnificent machinery is installed already, but more has yet to arrive before the plant has been completed. Two cars of this equipment are in Vancouver and will be shortly brought down, completing all that will be required for the works.

A Times representative who was over the works a few days ago was shown some of the massive metal devices for the manufacture of cement, now in place. A previous article in this paper described what these would be, and in position they impress one with their size.

From the main building to where the raw material is quarried is but a few yards. Just across the road, on the slope of the embankment of the Arm, it is conveyed to the crusher of the works. From the crusher it will drop into the rotary dryer, from which all dampness will pass off through a smokestack. From the dryer it will fall into a square brick-shaped structure in which it will be elevated to the burner. This is a big funnel-shaped retort, 45 tons in weight, which revolves every minute. Fire sweeps through it from end to end, forced by patent fans, which will also feed it with coal dust. From this retort the material will pass into a cooling machine, smaller but of the same shape as the burner, which revolves 30 times a minute. And the process of manufacture continues; the product in the cooler passing to tube machines, then into ball mills, where it is ground up into about the size of peas, thence into the bins, and from these into another tunnel-like retort, where with stones it is ground into powder and comes out a finished article.

An interesting factor about this latter machine is that the stone used in its operation can be procured at Sooke in any quantity. With all other cement works in the world the stones for grinding purposes have to be specially imported. They are a round, hard description and wear so fast that it is estimated that at least thirty tons of them will be required a year. The first installment is on hand ready for the commencement of operations.

For the working of such big machinery it is necessary to have great power, and this is in evidence in a 600 horse-power engine fed by four boilers of 125 horse-power. There are parts about the machinery for which various foreign countries had to be looked to, so that it is by no means difficult to conceive that the company have expended fully $300,000 in the installation of the plant and the construction of the several substantial brick buildings in connection therewith.

The works will not be confined to the manufacture of cement alone but it is the intention to manufacture pressed brick, tile, etc. A formal opening of the works will take place some time during February.

Supt. Losee purposes building a new home for himself on the Saanich Arm close to the works.

At the Coliseum, the largest music hall in London, a vivid representation of the Derby is reproduced by a revolving stage. Saturday night Jockey Dent, riding the outside horse, attempted to pull across, but his horse stumbled on the iron work surrounding the revolving platform and rolled over the proscenium into the orchestra. Dent was thrown violently on his dead and was taken to a hospital, where he died.

Get the Doctor Quick!

When accidents happen in the home quickly get the bottle of Pond's Extract—*the old family doctor.* Always ready—always sure, at any time, day or night. A bottle on the medicine shelf is like having a doctor in the house. When pain racks the body it relieves and cures. Imitations are weak, watery, worthless; Pond's Extract is pure, powerful, priceless.

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DR. WEAVER'S TREATMENT.

WEAVER'S SYRUP
For Humors
Salt Rheum
Scrofulous Swellings, etc.

WEAVER'S CERATE
Cleanses the Skin
Beautifies the Complexion.

Combined, these preparations act powerfully upon the system, completely eradicating the Poison in the blood.
Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd., Montreal.

SOLO WORK A FEATURE.

"The Messiah" Rendered at Wesley Church, Vancouver.

On Thursday evening last, at Wesley church, Vancouver, a Vancouver choir, under the direction of George P. Hicks, gave a very fair presentation of Handel's grand oratorio, "The Messiah." For the occasion a chorus of about 100 voices had been trained, and by the time G. Jennings Burnett began to play the opening overture the church was well filled.

The feature of the rendition was the excellence of the solo work. H. J. Cave, an old Victorian, and for many years a member of the Arion Club, was the tenor soloist, and performed his most difficult role very creditably. Gideon Hicks, the leader of the Metropolitan Methodist church choir, took the bass solos, and, though suffering from a throat affection which his physician declares will shortly require an operation, added another to his already long list of triumphs as an oratorio soloist. His singing was exceptionally good, especially in the beautiful air "But Who May Abide," followed by the dramatic and difficult solo, "For He Is Like a Refiner's Fire."

Vancouver possesses in Miss Ella Walker a solo soprano of undoubted power and brilliance. Her work on Thursday proved what she is, a singer of the highest class. In her rendition of "Come Unto Him All Ye That Labor," Miss Walker created a profound sensation. Miss Brenton, the alto soloist, sang her solos exceedingly well, and received perhaps more applause than any of the others. Indeed, her work in "Oh, Thou That Tellest" and "He Shall Feed His Flock" was beyond criticism.

The chorus work was distinctly inferior to what has been given in time past in Victoria.

At the organ, Mr. Burnett did wonders, especially in view of the fact that Wesley church organ is fearfully slow to responding to the touch and often plays for over a second after the key has been released. Miss Villa Hall, at the piano, maintained a difficult role with success. The "Pastoral Symphony" was played by Mr. Burnett and Miss Hall exquisitely.

ACCIDENT IN THEATRE.

Staging Collapsed and Twenty Members of Chorus Were Injured.

New York, Jan. 7.—More than twenty members of the chorus of the Metropolitan Grand Opera Company were seriously injured to-night by the collapse of the staging in the opening act of "Carmen." None of the principals were on the stage at the time of the accident and other members of the chorus heroically massed at the front of the stage and sang on in an attempt to prevent the public from learning what had happened. The curtain was run down as soon as possible. Heinroich Conreid, the impresario, prevented a panic by urging the audience to remain seated and not be frightened. The injured were removed to the hospitals. They were: Giovanni Rossi, two ribs fractured; Wand Armsby, ribs fractured; Natalie Cornnolie, both legs fractured; Katherine Hahn, left rib injured and ribs bruised; Ida Rebelstein, internal injuries; Italio Langogari, dislocated right shoulder; Desadoria Paccettir, right leg fractured; Vincenzo Riggario, fractured rib; Giovanni Manino, fractured rib. In addition to these twenty or thirty more members were painfully hurt.

All of the exits of the theatre were opened immediately after the accident, but scarcely half a dozen persons of those of the handsomely-dressed audience left their seats. Within fifteen minutes after the crash the performance was resumed and few persons in the big theatre realized how serious the accident was.

At the close of the performance, Frank H. Palmer, manager of the Metropolitan, was arrested and locked up charged with criminal negligence. He refused to make any statement and will be arraigned in court Monday morning.

Madame Ackte was slightly bruised on the right arm and the right foot by a piece of flying timber from the bridge, but she continued in the cast.

CHURCH UNION.

Toronto, Jan. 6.—A stir has been caused in church circles by a strongly worded attack on the union of churches' movement by John F. Ellis, a prominent Methodist and member of the union committee which recently held a conference here. He says he makes no secret of the fact that he is not in sympathy with the movement, and knows that at least a very large proportion of the ministry and membership are opposed to the project; is confident the bands of Presbyterians and Congregationalists feel similarly in regard to their own churches. He says the proposed union cannot be consummated without a great sacrifice of principles, and favors a federation in preference to organic union. He is of the opinion they can do greater good by federation than by organic union.

JURY DISAGREED.

Amsterdam, N. Y., Jan. 7.—This afternoon the jury in the trial of Jephtha Johnson, the Cloversbilled dog catcher, charged with the murder of Charles Rohrer, reported that an agreement could not be reached after deliberating for twenty-five hours. The jury was accordingly discharged.

KIDNEY DUTY.—It is the particular function of the kidneys to filter out poisons which pass through them into the blood. When the kidneys are diseased they cannot do their whole duty, and should have the help and strength that South American Kidney Cure will afford in any and all forms of kidney disorder. It relieves in 6 hours.—14.

KANG YU WEI HAS BEEN PARDONED

ACCORDING TO NEWS RECEIVED FROM CHINA

Illustrious Chinaman and His Lieutenant Are Told They May Return—Ruse is Suspected.

Apparently that lively old lady who occupies the throne of China, the Dowager Empress Tsu Hsi, has undergone a change of heart. The local branch of the Chinese Empire Reform Association has been informed that Kang Yu Wei and Leong Kai Chew, the two stalwart heads of the great reform movement, have been granted a full pardon and may return to their native land when they desire. It will be recalled that last July general amnesty was granted to the other reformers by the Chinese government, but the price for the heads of Kang and Leong remained at the same old figure.

The announcement of the pardon is accompanied by the assurance that the government intends to inaugurate many of the reforms proposed by the two leaders, and further that military officers are ordered to dispense with their queues, which in modern warfare would be a nuisance.

Just what the significance of this announcement is it is somewhat difficult to comprehend at first blush. Were it made by any other government in the world it could be accepted as a sincere intimation. But the unscrupulous old Dowager has played so many double games in the course of her chequered career that it would be well for Kang and Leong to thoroughly explore the situation and its possibilities before availing themselves of the opportunity to return. It may be that the authorities view with alarm the rapid progress the reform movement is making throughout the world, and fear that unless it is under proper control it will sweep the decayed old fabric that the Empress is trying to uphold, from its very foundations. They know full well that Kang Yu Wei is anxious for a bloodless revolution, but that unless he is on the spot his followers might make it a very bloody one.

Then again they may be taking a page out of Japan's book. The splendid progress made by the Island Empire may have inspired them with an ambition to achieve a like record. It may have brought home to them a consciousness of their strength, or they may apprehend that having been successful against Russia, Japan may be inoculated with the virus of expansion and seek territorial aggradizement in the subjugation of China. Or after all, it may be nothing more nor less than a trap to add the top pieces of Kang and his devoted lieutenant Keong to the choice collection of heads the Dowager has been so assiduously accumulating during her long career of crime. It is understood that Kang will not accept the invitation to return for some time, as he has a great deal of work still before him. In that he is wise. He only escaped by a neck in the first place. The old Empress had set her heart upon his head and those of some of his disciples. A domestic in the palace warned the chief, who, with Leong, fled to India. Six of his followers were not so lucky. They were hurried across the great divide through the energy and skill of the lord high executioner.

Kang is nothing if not practical. While in Victoria he investigated the conditions which had aroused the antagonism of the white population against his countrymen. He saw that they scorned sanitary methods and lived in a manner that was reverse of cleanly. This he reasoned was why they were able to work so cheaply. He urged them to pay more attention to their manner of living; to employ sanitary methods, to emulate the white in these essentials. Following his address members of the local reform association determined to establish baths here and each agreed to patronize them at certain intervals.

CANCER NON-CONTAGIOUS.

Medical Commission Will Publish Results of Investigation in a Few Days.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 27.—The Advertiser says to-day that the Harvard medical commission, which has for the past two years been making a study of cancer, will in its report to be made in a few days, declare the malady to be non-contagious. The commission will find:

First, cancer is not infectious; second, it is an hereditary affliction; third, its cause is as mysterious as that of human life; fourth, the remedies are either a knife or a serum.

Dr. E. B. Nichols is at the head of the commission, which was made possible by a bequest from Mrs. Caroline (Brewer) Crofts, who gave the Harvard Medical school $100,000, the interest of which is to be spent in original medical research.

TIDAL FLOOD.

London, Jan. 7.—A tidal flood on the east coast this morning caused an enormous amount of damage at watering places from Scarborough as far south as Dover.

Eight hundred feet of the pier at Scarborough, which cost $125,000, were swept away, and the promenades on the sea front were torn up.

Nearly all parts of the town of Yarmouth were inundated, hundreds of houses were flooded and the inhabitants were obliged to vacate the ground floors. The esplanade and beach gardens were swept bare. Blocks of concrete were tossed about, wrecking everything they came in contact with.

Similar destruction was caused elsewhere. Sea walls were washed away and waves swept over adjoining esplanades, destroying numerous costly permanent attractions, inundating houses, churches and stores and causing immense losses both to corporations and individuals.