# ELECTION DATE FIXED.

## The Nomination Day in Victoria Will Be On Next Monday Week.

## February Second Is the Time Named for Polling to Take Place.

Though there was a proclamation posted up yesterday morning on the court house door announcing the dates that the bye-elections would be held in Victoria City electoral district the fact did not seem to be generally known even late in the afternoon. The nomination day has been fixed for January 30, an ominous day for the government who are trying to override the constitution, for that is the anniversary of the decapitation of Charles I. Election day is fixed for February 2 and as has already been stated the writs must be returned before February 15. The members elected on February 2, will have about two weeks to sit this session, for the government hope to get the business through in six weeks from the time the session opened.

There was a rumor yesterday that Mr. Price Ellison, the opposition member for East Yale, had got into the same trouble as has caused the resignation of the other members and was going to resign. Mr. Ellison, on being seen during the afternoon in regard to this story, gave it an unqualified denial. There was nothing at all in it he said, for he had not sold anything to the government and had done nothing that could disqualify him in any way from sitting.

### FULL COURT.

A Number of Judgments Given On Appeals Recently Heard.

The Full court met for a short time yesterday for the purpose of delivering a number of judgments on appeals heard at the January sitting.

Plaintiffs appeal in E. & N. Co. v. New Vancouver Coal Co. was allowed with costs. The appeal was from an order of Mr. Justice Irving refusing plaintiffs' application to have some of the particulars of the defence struck out.

The appeal in Gaston v. Stewart was dismissed with costs, Mr. Justice Drake dissenting.

The appeals in Daniel v. Gold Hill Mining Co., and re B. C. Iron Works were dismissed with costs.

The appeal of defendants in Hornby v. New Westminster Southern Ry. was allowed with costs. This appeal was from a verdict awarding plaintiff $1,549 for damage by reason of his land getting overflowed from an obstructed ditch on defendants' right of way.

### CONVICTION QUASHED.

The Magistrate Had No Jurisdiction to Convict Mr. Sauer Summarily.

The conviction of G. C. Sauer by Magistrate Macrae last September for selling some bottles of beer with the trade mark of the Victoria Phoenix Brewing Co. blown in the glass, was quashed yesterday by Mr. Justice Walkem. Mr. S. Perry Mills appeared for the motion to quash and it was unopposed. The matter is interesting as regards the wording of the sections in the code dealing with the offence on which Mr. Sauer was convicted.

Section 449 of the code reads: Everyone is guilty of an indictable offence who sells or expose or offers for sale or traffics in bottles marked with a trade mark blown or stamped or otherwise permanently affixed thereon without the assent of the proprietor of such trade mark." Punishment for this is under section 450 which sets out: Everyone guilty of any offence defined in this part is liable

"(a) on conviction or indictment to two years' imprisonment with or without hard labor or to a fine or to both imprisonment and fine.

"(b) On summary conviction to four months' imprisonment with or without hard labor or to a fine not exceeding $100, and in case of a second or subsequent conviction to six months' imprisonment with or without hard labor or to a fine not exceeding $250."

The punishment in section 450 refers to more than section 449 where it is set out that the offence is an indictable one and therefore should be punished under (a) of section 450; but Mr. Sauer was punished instead on summary conviction. Mr. Mills pointed out the sections and argued that the offence was a statutory one and the magistrate had no jurisdiction to convict summarily, the offence being only an indictable one as held in R. v. Eaton, 29 Ontario Reports. There was no opposition and costs were not asked for. The conviction being quashed the fine of $47 paid by Mr. Sauer will be returned to him.

### COURT OF REVISION.

Trust Companies Must Pay Taxes on the Property Held in Trust by Them.

At the court of revision the sitting of which has just closed a somewhat peculiar case came up. The Toronto General Trust Co. was assessed for a charge or security registered in their favor in the land registry office for $42,000 on certain real property at Victoria, Nanaimo and other places. The company appealed from this, contending that they do not own any assessable property within the meaning of the act; that the company did not reside in British Columbia nor had they any money invested in British Columbia. It seems that the Hamilton Powder Co. under their powers have issued debentures and the Trust Co. is holding the land in question in trust for the payment of these debentures. Mr. Lindley Crease appeared for the Trust Co. and argued along the line that the company were only holding the lands in trust, but were not mortgagees or in any way owner of the lands and thus the debenture holders were not resident here. On the other hand Deputy Attorney-General McLean argued for the province that the Trust Co. stood in the position of the debenture holders and that the security was of the nature of a mortgage.

Mr. S. Perry Mills, judge of the court, held that the Trust Co. held the property in the nature of a security and that it was taxable under the act. The assessment was reduced to $20,000.

A safety attachment for scaffolds has been patented, consisting of two auxiliary ropes to be fastened in windows above the highest point of movement of the scaffold, the opposite ends of the ropes being fixed around the scaffold to support its weight if the main rope breaks.—Chicago News.

### THE ALKI IN COLLISION.

She Knocks a Good Sized Hole in the Homer in Seattle Harbor.

The steamship Alki, bound in from Skagway, collided with the steamer Homer yesterday morning at 12.30 o'clock in Seattle harbor, says the Post-Intelligencer. The Alki was coming into port making for Ocean dock, and the Homer was just backing out into the stream from Schwabacher's wharf, bound for Skagway. The Alki struck the Homer head-on nearly amidships on the port side. The side of the lower cabin of the Homer was crushed in, but whether or not the hull was greatly injured could not be learned last night. The Homer was immediately run back to the wharf, where it was found that she was leaking. Capt. Jensen put the pumps to work at once, and they easily kept out the water. It is impossible to determine which captain, if either, is responsible for the accident. "I was coming in at usual speed, when suddenly a whistle blew for me to keep to starboard," said Capt. Rush, of the Alki. "I turned the wheel to swing her out and in a very few seconds the danger signal, several sharp whistles, was heard. At once I rang the bell to back, which we were going at full power when we struck the Homer amidships. There was no light on the Homer's foremast when she was in front of us, though I understand Capt. Jensen said we knocked it down.

Capt. G. M. Jensen, of the Homer, was disinclined to talk. "We were backing out of the harbor out on our way north with all lights burning," said he "I had gone out on the wharf to look at them just before casting loose. I do not want to say anything until I shall have considered the matter."

The Homer was just going to Skagway and Lynn canal ports with twenty-seven passengers and a cargo of freight. There was a big hole stove in her second-class forward cabin by the Alki's bow. One man was thrown violently against the side of a room and seriously bruised, while another who was just at the point of contact, was thrown against the bunks, but uninjured. The only damage to the Alki was the tearing of the railing from her bow.

### NEWS OF THE ORIENT.

Lawlessness of Chinese Soldiers Makes Demand for Larger British Garrisons.

Late Japanese papers contain much important news of the Orient. Commenting editorially on a reported outrage by lawless Chinese soldiers near Peking the Shanghai Press says:—

"The news we publish to-day from our Peking correspondent is by no means reassuring. The undisciplined troops of Tung Fuhsiang are still bearing out the character which they earned of lawlessness, and we are sorry to have to add that the legation guards have as a rule behaved little better. Affairs in Peking are evidently in a critical state, and the winter is approaching when access from the south will become impossible. Altogether a crisis is evidently within measurable distance, and it is noticeable that no one seems to be prepared. Our English garrisons in China in spite of concurrence of warnings are evidently insufficient, and nothing is to be hoped for from common action amongst the powers.

"The lessons to be learned from Crete are all thrown away and no one is sufficiently master of the situation to act. Altogether the prospects during the winter are of the most threatening nature, yet our government does not seem to recognize the danger, and we are drifting into a position from which it will be difficult to escape without serious loss of prestige. China is in fact rapidly disintegrating. Szechuan is in open revolt, the South is in a state of utter disorganization, Chihli is dominated by a disordering rabble, who set at naught the governmental decrees, and the only provinces where a semblance of order prevails are the Liang Hu and the lower provinces of the Yangtsze. Such are the effects of the return to power of the reactionary party at Peking. It is to be hoped that the horrors of the Cretan revolt will not find their counterpart in China."

A steamer (100 tons) called Shoko Go, owned by a resident of Daitokaho, Formosa, left Tamsui, on the 31st ult, for Tokatsukutsu, with twenty-one passengers on board, says the Globe Herald. When off Tsian Port, at about 1 p. m. the following day she encountered very tempestuous weather and sunk. One of the passengers, Matsumoto Bunkichi by name, managed to swim to Gosei Port, and reported the disaster to the authorities there. The rest of the passengers, twenty in number, and ship's crew, also twenty in number, are missing. It is thought that some of them may have escaped, but so far nothing has been heard to indicate that there is more than one survivor of the disaster.

It is known that excellent coal is found on one of the smaller Philippine islands, where a Spanish firm has some years been scratching away at the outcrop says the Hongkong Telegraph. The workings have been most primitive; no attempt has been made to sink deep, and when one hole got full of water it was left, and another begun elsewhere. The coal is, however, of good quality; engineers who have used it say that it is of a superior quality to Japanese, and almost equal to the best Australian.

The Yusin Nippo states that during the first half of this month the imports exceeded the exports by yen 1,129,866 at Kobe and Yokohama. The imports are given as yen 8,870,183 and the exports as 7,740,317—making a total of 16,610,500 yen. The specie exports in the same period amounted to yen 675,193 and the imports to 68,481—showing an excess of 606,712 yen in the export.

The N. Y. K. liner Inaba Maru, now on her way out from Europe, has on board, from Havre, a complete torpedo boat destroyer, in sections, to be landed at the naval dockyard at Kure, Japan. She is to steam thirty-four knots.

A vernacular paper states that recently upwards of 16,000 bags of rice were arriving daily at Hiogo from Banshu and the western districts, and now large quantities are coming into Hiogo from the neighborhood of Okalama. Special trains have been taking this rice to Nishinomiya.

In buying seeds "economy is extravagance," because the cost of cultivation wasted on inferior seeds always largely exceeds the original cost of the best seeds to be had. The best is always the cheapest. Pay a trifle more for

FERRY'S SEEDS

and always get your money's worth. Five cents per paper everywhere. Always the best. Seed Annual free.
D. M. FERRY & CO., Windsor, Ont.

# PROVISIONS SCARCE.

## Late Arrivals Say There Will B a Famine in Atlin Unless Goods Get In.

## Rich Strikes Made in the Vicinity of Surprise Lake—Find of Platinum.

The steamer City of Seattle, which is about to enter upon a new schedule on the Northern route running direct from Seattle to Skagway, cutting out all way ports, arrived last night from the North. She left Skagway on Tuesday morning and considering the weather that she encountered—a succession of snowstorms—she made a fast trip. There were fifty passengers on the Seattle, but only four of these, J. H. Searles, John Liddle, Alfred Lear and Aug. Oberle, are from Dawson, and they left there on December 6. The other passengers were business men and laborers from the northern coast cities, and a few from the lakes.

On her northbound trip the Seattle covered the 542 miles between Vancouver and Mary Island in forty hours, averaging 13½ knots. This, her officers say, is proof that she can make the trip from Seattle to Skagway in sixty-five hours, when President Wallace inaugurates his "lightning express" service.

### LATEST FROM ATLIN.

Some Good Strikes Made, but Provisions Are Getting Very Scarce.

T. Wallace, who was one of four to make important strikes in Union and Quartz creeks, on Surprise lake in the Atlin district, arrived at Skagway from Atlin on Sunday last in company with Jack Ferguson and Chas. Herne. They left Atlin City just a week before, and had to break trail all the way to Log Cabin. All the lakes around Atlin are frozen, the thermometer registering 38 degrees below when they left, but without any wind, the weather being clear and delightfully perfect.

Mr. Wallace brings the report of some rich strikes recently made on two creeks emptying into Thirty-Mile lake, which last fall was more familiarly known as Sucker lake. The claims on these new discoveries are being recorded at Teslin instead of Bennett, and a townsite has been laid out which the small community there promises to develop into a business centre. A party of eight men left Atlin New Year's day to investigate the new district.

Mr. Wallace's partners, G. and Wm. Garvey and C. Bowser, have gone to Chicago to organize a company to work their four discovery claims on Union and Quartz creeks by hydraulic means. On Union creek the dirt panned out $8 and the highest on Quartz creek was $1.50. Bedrock on Union is twelve feet down. There is a good fall to the creek for hydraulic purposes.

"The many buildings now going up in Atlin," said Mr. Wallace, "is remarkable. There are several large ones, one is 50x100, and a number of them are 20x50. A bank is being started and a man from Vancouver is locating timber land on Surprise lake, and will erect another saw mill. The two saw mills in Atlin are running over time, but they cannot get logs fast enough, and consequently cannot fill orders.

Provisions in Atlin are getting very scarce, and unless a fresh supply gets in soon there will be a famine. Bacon, sugar and beans are 50 cents a pound, butter $1, coffee $1, milk 75c, a can, rice 45 cents, oatmeal (none), flour $13 a sack, and $15 at Discovery on Pine creek. There is no horse feed there, and horses and cattle are being fed on flour, beans and bread. Tobacco is also scarce; with Seal of North Carolina at 75c. a four-ounce package, but none in camp. All they can get is T. & B., and very little of that, which sells for 75c. a plug."

Mr. Wallace reports a good strike made on the hill diggings on Spruce creek, an empty box, that had canned meats, filled with pay dirt giving $14. Pay dirt was found after tunnelling the hill for twenty feet.

Two parties from Nanaimo made a hole fourteen feet and struck good pay dirt on Otter creek flats, which last year were thought to be worthless.

E. C. Herron, of the Atlin country, says that Gold Commissioner Graham will straighten the prospective tangles in the ownership of claims in quick order when they come before him.

"Mr. Graham understands his business thoroughly," said Mr. Herron, "and will decide fifty cases in a half hour." The laws and rules are plain and provide for all sorts of contingencies. He will lay the law down with such clearness and force that the tangles will come out at once."

### NEW PLATINUM DISCOVERY.

Black Sand Taken Near the Mouth of the Hootalinqua Immensely Rich.

Early in December a very rich find of platinum was struck on the Hootalinqua. Black sand is found in nearly every stream of the Yukon territory, and while considered a good indication of gold, is always a nuisance to washers. On account of its great specific gravity it remains in the sluice boxes with the gold, and even hand panning will not always separate the two. It was this kind of sand that was found on the property of Capt. Jack Crawford and that was analyzed. Twelve pounds of it was taken from near the church of the Hootalinqua and found very rich. Further tests made showed the sand to be worth the fabulous amount of $768 to the ton in platinum, a metal that is used largely for crucibles, and that is to-day more valuable than silver.

### TELEGRAPH TO ATLIN.

Experts Believe That a Line Can Be Built Without Difficulty.

Mr. J. W. Bridges has been in the northern country looking into the question of building a telegraph line to Atlin.

"So far as I have been able to see there will be numerous difficulties to overcome," he continued. "The country is exceedingly rugged and broken, and between here and Atlin there are several lakes to cross which will necessitate the use of submarine cables. Some of these lakes, I understand, are both deep and broad, all of which increases the cost of construction. While ordinarily a fair estimate could be made as to the cost per mile for construction, in this case it would require a careful investigation of every foot of the ground to be covered, streams, lakes, depth of water, etc., before anything like approximate figures of cost could be given. Then, also, the cost of maintaining a line, winter and summer, must be considered, especially in winter. The snows in your mountains are deep and avalanches and slides are not uncommon at exposed points, so that a line constructed along the side of a mountain, which it appears to me will be necessary in order to get there for repairs, will be liable to injuries every winter.

"The parties that I represent propose a capital of $50,000 to begin with. This will insure the construction of lines to Atlin and other camps; also an extension south to Juneau. While coming up from Juneau I attempted to follow the appearance of the coast along which a line should be constructed, but owing to the snowstorm I was unable to do as well as I had hoped to. I saw enough, however, to enable me form an idea of the task of such an undertaking. There are many openings, canyons, creeks, etc., to cross, and the most practical plan perhaps will be to follow the shore line as close as possible, which will put the line within easy reach of the linemen in case of a break.

"The matter of a line from Juneau south to connect with the line at Victoria or some other point, has not yet been taken up and will not be until we have the line into Juneau, which of itself will be a great step taken towards reaching the outer world."

### DOUBLE DROWNING ACCIDENT.

Two Men Lost in the Five Fingers Rapids Through the Ice Breaking.

There is no doubt remaining in the minds of the four Dawsonites who arrived on the City of Seattle but that a double drowning accident occurred at the Five Finger Rapids within the last fortnight. They were making the trip out over the trail in easy stages, camping here and there, when they felt the fatigues of the journey, and had stopped for a short rest two and a half miles below the Five Fingers. Here a party of two, who had been staying at the Bunk house, passed. They had a team of four dogs, and were following a new sleigh trail cut through the rapids by the Mounted Police. Messrs. Searles, Liddle, Lear and Oberle followed their new-made tracks in the snow until coming to a point where the ice ended abruptly, and traces of the men could not further be seen. The sleigh lines run right to the verge of the ice and indicated plainly what had happened. Beyond this place the ice was badly broken, and the four men had to retrace their steps for a distance and try the mountain trail. Search was made for the two missing ones, but not even a trace of them was found. Their names were not learned, nor was it known to where they belonged. Oberle says the thermometer fell 65 degrees below zero at the Hootalinqua and from there on his party averaged between 25 and 35 miles a day.

### WEATHER MODERATING.

Better Weather Was Prevailing at Skagway When the Seattle Left.

The beginning of the present week saw a moderation of the weather, which had been very stormy, in Skagway and vicinity, and the many men bound for the interior were able to make a start on Monday last. At Skagway the thermometer registered from 5 to 10 above zero, and at White Pass City 12 below zero.

The trail to Lake Bennett is open, and packers are taking freight through every day. They charge 3½ cents to the Summit and 10 cents to Lake Bennett.

### DAWSON NEWS.

Claims Near Discovery on Thistle Creek Held at High Prices.

Two pioneers of Dawson have died this winter, Cash Ameber and Harry Spencer. Both had made fortunes and remained this winter to make final clean-ups. The extreme climate, however, had undermined their health.

Adolf Mosheim, a Norwegian, is preparing to make the trip from Dawson to Skagway on Skis. He is an experienced North traveller

M. J. Berry recently lost an $8,000 outfit in the Black river.

Claims near discovery on Thistle creek are being held at $20,000. At the bottom of a shaft 3x6, $175 was taken out.

### HEAVILY FREIGHTED.

The Danube Leaves With a Large General Cargo and About Fifty Passengers.

Upwards of 200 tons of freight and fifty passengers left here for Lynn canal points on the steamer Danube last evening. The freight consists of hay, grain and provisions and is consigned to the Pacific Contract Co., the Skagway and Yukon Railroad Co., J. Hepburn, R. Morgan, J. P. McLeod, S.A. Ballot, the Casco Trading and Transportaion Co., Johnson & Co., F. A. Atkins, B. C. & Northern Trading Co., and Mr. Pierstad and others. As live stock there were 35 horses and 40 dogs. Among the passengers were Mike King, of the Victoria Yukon Co., and party, B. E. Ball, Mr. Armstrout, Messrs. Cussage, Johnson, E. Marwood, A. C. Howe and party of three, Messrs. Judd, Atkins, Palmer, Lobbley and Petrie, Miss Harrington and Baroness Von Tilsa and party of actors and actresses for the Juneau theatre.

The most interesting freight on the steamer Queen City, which sailed for Cape Scott last evening was that consigned to A. J. Clide & Co., and intended for use in the opening up of a copper mine at Quatsino. The passengers leaving on the steamer were Col. and Mrs. Hayes, Mr. McCardtic, J. Dwyer, M. Fregan and wife, W. M. Brewer, H. Warner and Mr. Swatart.

### RIVER STEAMER BURNED.

Three Passengers Down the Mississippi Perish in the Wreck.

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 19.—Three bodies have been found in the debris of the steamer Ouachite, which was destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. The bodies are charred beyond recognition but are believed to be the remains of Mr. and Mrs. Veck, en route from Columbus, Ohio, to Greenville, Miss and Dr. Murray, of Vicksburg. All of the other passengers have been accounted for.

### LORD ROSEBERY'S TACT.

The Scots Pictoral says that on one occasion Lord Rosebery was entertaining a large party, and had among other rural guests a farmer who tasted ice-cream for the first time. Thinking that something had gone wrong in the kitchen, and desiring to save his fellow guests the pain of his own experience, he whispered to his host that the pudding by some mischance had got frozen. His Lordship listened gravely, without moving a muscle of his face, tasted the pudding, thanked the farmer, and then called a servant. After some little conversation he turned to the farmer with a relieved expression, and said: "Its all right, Mr. ——; they tell me its a new kind of pudding, and is frozen on purpose." Thereafter the farmer partook of his portion with evident relish.

Spencer Pratt, consul-general for the United States at Singapore, has sent to Gen. Otis, United States military governor at Manila, a proposal that a memorial should be erected at Manila to the memory of all Americans who fell or died of disease during the campaign. The proposal is that all Americans now resident in the Far East, of whom there is a very considerable number, should be invited to contribute towards this object.

If there ever was a specific for any one complaint, then Carter's Little Liver Pills are a specific for sick headache, and every woman should know this. One pill a dose. Try them.

### THE PARSON'S TURKEY.

De parson say: "Dat turkey
De bes' I ever see!
I wonder where dey kotched it,
En whar de roos' kin be?

"I foun' him on de do'step
A-shiverin' in de storm;
I fotched him to de fire,
En put him on ter warm!

"En den, I git so drowsy,
I noddin' up en down,
En w'en I waked, de fire
Had cooked dat turkey brown!"

Dat way he tole de story,
W'en sudden on de do'
Dey came a mighty knockin'
Dat almos' shuck de flo'!

De parson stomped de fire—
He foot wuz fire-proof—
En den climb up de chimbly
En crawl out on de roof!

De sheriff say: "Dat turkey
De bes' I ever see!
I know des whar he kotched him—
He gwine home wid me!"

—Atlanta Constitution.

### TRYING TO SEE THE CZAR.

His Potent Aid Sought by All Sorts of People.—Hard to Get At, but Gracious and Kindly.

N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

One of the most interesting characters in Russia is the man who is trying to have an audience with the Czar. Nearly every day somebody turns up in St. Petersburg with a pet scheme or reform which he wants to bring to "His Majesty's notice," and he often hangs about the city an entire winter, waiting, generally hopelessly, for a presentation. Some have plans to lay before him about Siberia and the freeing of the prisoners there; others seeking mercy for supposedly persecuted sects in the south; and still others desire that he take an interest in this and that railway project. One wanderer from New Zealand was anxious to confer with him about making Russia a republic.

Probably not ten out of every thousand who make an effort to see him succeed, but these few take up more of his time than a president of one of our great railroads would be willing to sacrifice to such visitors. There is a long road to travel before one can pass the door of his "office" in the winter palace. It is said that the most difficult man in Europe to meet is the Emperor of Austria, but I doubt very much whether he is surrounded with any more protection and "strawmen" than the Czar is. To get at him one must first of all find some one who will introduce the would-be caller to the minister of the court.

The poor peasants who also come to St. Petersburg with tales of woe to tell to the "little father" have to give up all hope of getting to this official, and generally go direct to the winter palace and declare bluntly to the guard on duty at the gates: "We want to see our Czar." They are usually told to "get out" and to be "quick about it," but some of them are very persistent and keep on knocking at the gates day after day until perchance His Majesty goes out for a drive or walk, and then they touch their foreheads to the ground and whine: "Oh, little father, listen to our troubles." Perhaps he listens and perhaps he doesn't, but they tramp back to their villages greater men in their own estimation as well as in that of their fellow-villagers merely from having accosted him.

Persons who were not peasants have also tried this hanging around the palace gates to get an audience, but the more usual method, even among cranks, is to be regularly presented through the minister of the court. It is comparatively easy to have an interview with this functionary if one can get a letter to him, and a large percentage of the candidates for a presentation know how to arrange this. The consultation with him is always pleasant and polite, but generally brief. "So you desire to see His Majesty, do you?" he will ask. "What is the nature of the matter you wish to bring to His Majesty's notice? About your confiscated property in the Caucasus, you say? There is a commission, as, perhaps, you are aware, that looks into such matters, and I would advise you to apply to it." He then bows very graciously, frequently shakes hands helping the caller toward the door with a suggestive pressure of his hand in that direction, and then his secretary calls "next."

Occasionally the caller is of such importance that he cannot be refused an audience, and then the minister must prepare for it. There is a rapid drive to the winter palace, or wherever else it is that the Czar may be, a hasty final consultation in an ante-room about the etiquette to be observed, and then the ambitious one walks into a not very gorgeous apartment, and the Czar greets him. He rattles off his memorized petition, or whatever it is that he has to say, the Czar very possibly toying with a paper-cutter or a pen during the speech, and when it is finished the Czar expresses interest in his remarks, in some cases honors the caller with thanks for having his attention brought to the matter in hand, and then there is a bowing and knocking of heels together, and the Czar's secretary also calls "next."

Nicholas I. is reported to be a very agreeable monarch to meet, and he interests himself in a great many more things than he is given credit for. He does not make as much noise about his interests as William of Germany, but he has them, just the same, and, perhaps, one of the greatest difficulties involved in getting an audience with him is that his enterprises are not always popular with the camarilla around him.

An interesting character from our far west turned up one day in St. Petersburg with lots of money and a fad about interesting young Russians in a religious organization to which he gave most of his time and income. It is difficult to introduce church novelties into Russia, and this was made very clear to the westerner, but he was as good a business man as he was a religionist, and on learning that the Czar was the only one who could help him, he asked: "What will it cost?" This question had never been put to the functionaries so bluntly before, and they were at a loss to know how ot reply. The westerner, however, came to their assistance: "Ain't you got any hospital he's interested in that I can give something to?" It was eventually decided that it would be a very gracious act for the stranger to add to the endowment fund of a certain hospital and in due time he was notified that an audience had been arranged. He had met only a president before coming to St. Petersburg, and the possibility of meeting an emperor went to his head. In the shops in the Neffsky where he made certain purchases necessary for the audience, he notified the salesmen immediately why he needed the things. "Ha-ha-ha! I'm going to see your king!" he said to each one, not a word of which they understood. He managed to gather himself together by the time the presentation was to take place, and he not only had a very charming conversation with His Majesty, but thoroughly interested him in his work.

Another story is told in St. Petersburg about two Quakers. One day they arrived in the city for the purpose of interesting the Czar "in the welfare of his own soul as well as in those of his subjects." At last, so the story runs, after they had tried in their simple way all the ordinary approaches to his presence, they called one afternoon at the house of the procurator of the holy synod. This gentleman was about to go out for a drive when they rang the bell, and he opened the door himself. "And who are you?" he asked of the two strangers.

"We have been moved to come to you by the Spirit of God," the replied.

"Is that so?" he answered. "Well, I cannot close my door to the Spirit of God, come in."

They remained closeted with him for nearly two hours, telling him how they had been impelled to go to Russia, and what it was that they were anxious to bring to the Czar's notice. The call to make the journey had come to them simultaneously, it semes, but while one was in Africa and the other in India. They met each other for the first time in Germany and travelled together from there to Russia. The procurator was so struck with their simple faith that he took them to the Czar, who was equally impressed with their peaceful errand. As a result of the interview they were allowed to do missionary work among the proscribed sects of southern Russia, a privilege never before officially granted to any one outside of the Greek church.

Perhaps the most pathetic petition for an audience with the Czar is that of the poor woman who seeks mercy for some relative in Siberia or for funds to take care of her family. If St. Petersburg has one of these forlorn women it has hundreds, and as long as there is the least hope they keep knocking at some official's door. I knew a girl in St. Petersburg who was turning every stone she could to persuade the Czar to pay her debts so that she could marry "with a clear conscience," and I believe he finally did pay them.

The Armenian troubles brought an army of audience seekers to Russia. Missionaries, politicians, reformers, mesmerists, refugees, metropolitans, priests and a thousand and one other petitioners flocked to the capital from all over the "near esta," and not a few knew how to secure an interview.

The present "Chinese problem" is without doubt causing numerous similar pilgrimages. From what I know of former cranks who have tried to get to the Czar, I should not be at all surprised if at this moment there is some fool in St. Petersburg trying to have an audience with him concerning the practability of His Majesty immediately declaring himself Emperor of China. I actually met one man there who was planning to get the Prince of Wales and the Czar to come to an understanding about China.

### THE MORMAN CONGRESSMAN.

He Is "a Good Provider" and His Three Wives Have the Happy Homes Promised Them.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Rev. J. F. Huckleberry, pastor of the Baptist church of Walla Walla, and president of the Ministers' Union of that city, is the first signer of a resolution adopted by the union at its last regular session, emphatically protesting against the election of Roberts, of Utah, the man with a superabundance of wives. Although his election is past and gone the Ministers' Union of Walla Walla emphatically protest against it. Although Messrs. Lewis and Jones do not return to the next congress, and, therefore, have no more to do with the Roberts matter than the man in the moon, they are respectfully urged by the Ministers' Union to put forth every effort to prevent Mr. Roberts from taking his seat. If they cannot do that the Ministers' Union is willing to permit the alternative of securing the passage of an act which will "effectually," to quote the language of the resolution, "prevent the admission of a polygamist into either the senate or the house of representatives of the congress of the United States."

If Congressman-elect Roberts, of Utah, does not become so disgusted with the whole matter that he cuts the Gordian knot by resigning, it is safe to say that he will take his seat; and if the next house of representatives looks at the matter in the same way as a majority of the present house does there is little likelihood of any action being taken which will cause him to vacate.

Mr. Roberts admits the fact of having three wives. According to the reports of busybody correspondents who have tried to get at the bottom of this tri-partite alliance in the Roberts family, each one of his wives is healthy, strong and well contented with her present lot, and until informed by the various "resolutionary" bodies throughout the country was never aware of the terrible condition of life into which she had fallen.

From all the evidence which has been gathered together it does not appear that Mr. Roberts has ever beaten any of his wives; that there have ever been any police court scandals, or hair-pulling contests between the female trio compelled to divide one man's affections between them. A man who makes a good home, keeps it well stocked with provisions, well warmed in winter and provides good, substantial clothing for the inmates, is highly respected in New England and other eastern states. There is no higher compliment to be paid to such a man than to say "he is a good provider."

Mr. Roberts is a good provider, it appears, three times over. He has not only one such home, but he has three, for it appears that the tri-partite Roberts alliance is something like our own great union of states—sovereign in the individuality of each one and inseparable against the world.

The city of Salt Lake knows three pleasant little homes, each presided over by a Mrs. Roberts. Two of these ladies, so local history informs us, have been in the past and are still to-day to each other the same as sisters. In sickness and in health have they tested each other's friendship and affection time and again. The third Mrs. Roberts is a later comer, and does not appear to bear the same close relations to the other two that they do to each other. She is a doctor by profession, and her life has been much in the busy world. This, probably, accounts in some degree for the lack of intimacy, but nothing has ever been related by the most captious critic showing anything but the most friendly relations between the three wives.

When Mr. Roberts married these women he was permitted to do so by the law of the United States territory in which he lived. No federal act of congress at that time denied him the right to do this. When congress did enact a law stating that such marriages were illegal it did not provide any pension fund by which a man could divorce from his bed and board any one, two or three of the women whom he had promised to love, cherish and protect while both should live.

"Mr. Roberts may be a polygamist, a Mormon, perhaps, and not a Christian in the general acceptance of the word," said one of the most prominent members of congress in conversation with your correspondent. "but he will certainly receive the praise of every true, noble man for having continued to maintain in comfort and contentment the women who in earlier years plighted to him their troth, despite the fact that the law of a great nation gave him the power to cast them adrift to live in poverty or die, as a cold, unfeeling world might decree."

This sentiment has been echoed again and again by many prominent legislators. It is not likely that there will ever be any debate upon the matter in the house of representatives, but if it should be forced upon the house the pages of the congressional record for that part of the session will contain some very interesting reading.

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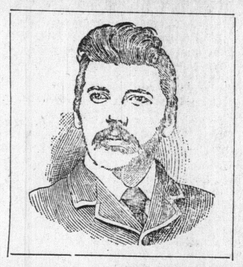

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