Somebody Was Mistaken

Body of John Duncanson, Teamster Found In Cowichan River.

Freeing His Disappearance from Possibility of Connection With Bings Murder.

Some five or six weeks ago, three or four days prior to the killing of Mrs. Bings and Mr. Michael Powers in this city, J. Duncanson—a teamster in the employ of the Tyee Mining Co., of Mount Sicker—disappeared under very peculiar circumstances, while on his way, supposedly, from the mine to Somenos, in order to attend the fall show at Duncan.

He was quite familiar with the trail, the path through the forest was a well-defined one, and Duncanson was himself an experienced woodsman. These circumstances made it all the more a mystery how he could have lost his way—as it appeared he had.

As weeks went by and a thorough search of the country failed to result in any discovery or the slightest clue to Duncanson's whereabouts, other theories as to how he had disappeared began to present themselves—and then came forward a number of volunteer witnesses who practically dismissed the original theory of accident, and placed a sinister construction upon Duncanson's disappearance.

One of these was prepared to swear that he had seen the missing teamster walking along the railway track toward Victoria; another was positive that he had seen Duncanson in this city the morning before the outrageous murder of Mrs. Bings; a third informed Provincial Officer Halhed of seeing the man in Seattle.

All these circumstances taken in conjunction with the fact that Duncanson had left something more than $1,100 behind him, and took no steps to communicate with his anxious friends with regard to it or to assure them of his safety, led to many dark conjectures as to the reason for his withdrawal from among his friends, and the latter could only point to the man's unblemished record and express confidence that it would all be cleared some day, and Duncanson would emerge without dishonor.

This prediction has been verified. The people who were ready even to make oath to having seen Duncanson on the railway, in Victoria and in Seattle, are now forced to the conclusion that with all their positiveness they must have been mistaken—and that Duncanson died, as at first supposed, without ever visiting Victoria or yet Seattle.

His body was found in the Cowichan river early yesterday morning at a point about three-quarters of a mile below the railway bridge, the corpse being considerably distended, but nevertheless easily identified by Mr. C. H. Dickie, Mr. H. Keast and others who attended at the coroner's inquiry held at Duncan yesterday afternoon.

"FOUND DROWNED."

Coroner's Inquest Upon the Death of John Duncanson Results in the Return of an Open Verdict.

Beyond fixing the identity of the body recovered from the Cowichan river, the inquest held at Duncan on Friday threw no new light upon the mysterious case of the young teamster, John Duncanson, referred to at some length in the Colonist of yesterday morning. The indentification even was circumstantial rather than direct, for the body had been so long in the water that recognition of features was an impossibility.

In height, build, and other primary respects, however, the dead man corresponded with the missing teamster; while a knife, a pocket book and a watch taken from the body recovered from the river were sworn to by Mr. Thomas Pitt of the Alderlea hotel, by Mr. H. Smith, and Mr. H. Keast, as property of the missing Duncanson.

Corroborating their identification of the body by these articles, Mr. James Jenkins, a boot maker, testified that he had repaired the boots on the feet of the deceased—and knew them to belong to Duncanson, a piece of evidence that was also borne out by Mr. Pitt.

The other witnesses were Charlie Crepamalt, an Indian who had found the body, and who described the circumstances of its discovery; Constable Morten, who had taken charge upon Charlie's prompt notification; and Dr. Foote, who deposed that there were no indications of violence, and gave as his opinion that death had been caused by drowning.

The verdict was in accordance with this expert testimony—"that the body we (the jurors) examined is that of John Duncanson, and that he came to his death by drowning, under what circumstances we cannot determine."

Accepting the case as one of purest accident, residents of the district and those who knew Duncanson best are still at a loss to account for his sad fate. He was well acquainted with the trail; he was a sober, industrious man; how he could wander from the road and ultimately into the river passes their comprehension.

It probably never will be explained—but remain as one of many unsolved mysteries.

"THE TWO VAGABONDS"

Not Up to the Usual Standard of the Grau Operas—Two Performances To-day.

The Grau Opera Company rendered "The Two Vagabonds" last evening at the Victoria theatre to a very good house. The opera is a very poor sort of an affair, with very little music worth mentioning and a poverty-stricken dialogue. Apart from some little comicalities of Lacques Strop (Stanley Felche), a pretty slumber song and chorus, and a graceful cotillion, there is nothing in the whole production beyond a poor average. The opera was very prettily staged, and it is seldom that a more beautiful picture is presented than that at the close of the second act. Miss Minnie Emmett in the role of Rosalie had the place of honor so far as singing and costume went, and she filled her part very well indeed. Miss Louise Moore was Fanchon, an inn-keeper's wife. She is much too young for such a role, but she was graceful in it, and showed better judgment than usual in her make-up. What little singing she had to do was well done. The remainder of the caste call for no special mention.

A matinee will be given to-day, at which "Paul Jones" will be repeated, and to-night the company will close their very successful week with "the Gondoliers."

LOCAL NEWS.

New Hours.—Hereafter the street cars will commence running at 9 on Sunday mornings instead of 8, which was the schedule hour during the summer months on account of the E. & N. excursions.

Workmen Protest.—A resolution has been passed by the Trades and Labor Council setting forth that agents of the Silver-Lead Miners' Association are in the United States offering miners $4.00 a day, and protesting against this alleged importation of laborers.

Cape Nome Robberies.—Shortly before the steamer Alpha left Cape Nome on her return to Victoria several robberies occurred. Late in October Mrs. Florence Shaw, a restaurant keeper, was relieved of a satchel containing $1,700 in gold nuggets, coin and currency and a draft for $1,500 on New York, and James B. Stair, the owner of the Anvil saloon, who was robbed of $800 on the same day.

To Discuss Arrangements.—A meeting in connection with the proposed musical festival, inclusive of the oratorio of "The Messiah," under the direction of Mr. F. Victor Austin and for the benefit of the Mansion House widows' and orphans' fund, is to be held in the council chamber at the city hall on Monday next at 4 p.m. Citizens generally are invited to attend—not merely those to whom special invitations have been addressed.

Sealers and Sailors.—The annual service for sealers and sailors at First Presbyterian church will be held on Sunday evening next, the Rev. Dr. Campbell officiating. The service will be largely of a musical character. A special service of song entitled "Under the Bethel Flag" will be sung by the choir of thirty voices under Mr. Brown. The service of song contains a number of solos and duetts which will be taken by prominent members of the choir.

New Machinery.—The Columbia Flouring Mills Co. at Enderby, B. C., have just completed the installation of the most modern machinery obtainable, the enormous demand for their different grades of flour obliging them to double their capacity. They now claim to have the best equipped mills on the Pacific Coast, and in consequence the grades of flour turned out will be even better than heretofore. R. P. Rithet & Co., Ltd., are the agents at Victoria.

Salvation Army Visitor.—Brigadier Howell, who for the past two years has been in command of the Salvation Army forces throughout the Kootenay and Coast districts, is paying his farewell visit to Victoria, and leaves almost immediately for the East. He will conduct the meetings at the barracks tonight and all day Sunday. The Brigadier is a good speaker, quite a musician and a universal favorite. The meetings, it is expected, will be of unusual interest.

Bengough Coming.—The people of Victoria have a rare treat in store for them in the two evenings (Wednesday and Friday next week) announced for Mr. J. W. Bengough of Toronto. Mr. Bengough has an international reputation as one of the most versatile entertainers before the public. Perhaps he is better known as a cartoonist than in any other role as he is ever sought after by the political press to give point and pungency to the great matters of conflict. It will be worth the cost to see Mr. Bengough illustrate the scenes of the war in the Transvaal. Miss E. Smith, late of Hamilton, a most accomplished violinist, will make her first appearance in Victoria on this occasion.

Lawrence Was Lucky.—Police Magistrate Hall had the duty of imposing punishment upon Edward Lawrence in both the city and provincial police court yesterday, Lawrence being the busy thief arrested by Sergt. Redgrave and Special Officer Palmer the previous evening, under circumstances related in yesterday's Colonist. For the theft of a mackintosh from Morris Marks' premises, a term of three months' imprisonment was ordered in the city court; while the stealing of a watch from the Globe hotel, Esquimalt, brought as its sequal a sentence of four months from the provincial police court. The charge of breaking into and entering the A.O.U.W. hall was withdrawn, and Lawrence was himself prepared to admit that he "got off lucky, all things considerin'."

Not Pretty But Valuable.—Since the arrival down of the steamer Alpha from the new treasure land of the North, a very considerable quantity of Cape Nome gold has found purchasers in this city, at the banks and at Challoner & Mitchell's. It is not pretty gold by any means—neither red gold nor yellow gold, but the dirtiest, most unattractive imitation of iron filings that a person could imagine. It has all been collected and saved with quicksilver, and some idea of its character may be gathered from the announcement that it is so dirty that even quicksilver fails to save a considerable portion. There is no coarse gold in the lot disposed of here—and there are no nuggets. For all that it is gold well worth the winning, for it leads even the Bonanza creek product in standard of fineness and value.

The Facts Are Against Him.—When Ah Luey appeared in the city police court yesterday, and was promptly convicted of supplying liquor to Indians, he was quite positive upon the side issue that he had never before felt the hand of justice upon his shoulder. He emphatically contradicted the statement of the police that he had been in gaol before; and he asked that his previous good character should be taken into consideration and himself restored to liberty. The court held, however, that a good character is something that will bear the test of inquiry, and an adjournment for sentence until to-day was ordered so that the police might look up the prisoner's record. They have done so, and will be able to report to-day that he has served time on four previous occasions. From which it may be surmised that Ah Luey will not escape as easily as he had hoped to.

In Aid of Building Fund.—A very fine programme has bene arranged for the entertainment to be given in the A. O. U. W. hall on Tuesday evening next, in aid of the St. Savior's church building fund. Among those taking part will be Mrs. Prothero, Miss N. Powell, Mrs. Bullen, Lieut. S. Deacon, R.N., Mr. B. H. T. Drake, Mr. Scholefield and Mr. Bushby. The programme will be varied and will include the following features: Grand tableau of "Rule Britannia" (Miss Beaven); auction sale of amusing and original hand-painted posters, by the comical Irishman; prologue of local sketch, written by Col. Peters, delivered by the Ancient Greek; the laughable farce of "Dearest Mamma." The price of admission has also been placed at a very moderate sum and it is hoped the entertainment will be largely patronized.

No one knows better than those who have used Carter's Little Liver Pills what relief they have given when taken for dyspepsia, dizziness, pain in the side, constipation, and disordered stomach.

The Children Have Their Turn

Fancy Dress Ball at the Assembly Hall Last Evening.

Pretty Costumes and Lots of Them Make a Charming Scene.

Those who went into ecstasies over the charity ball on Thursday evening should have been at Assembly hall last night, when the children and the young adies and gentlemen who in the seasons to come will grace ball rooms with their presence, had their turn to enjoy themselves. Those who suggested the "Cinderella," as the children's ball has been christened, struck a happy and popular idea. Never has there been a prettier and more enjoyable affair, not only for the children and young folks who took part, but also for the several hundred "grown ups" who were there as spectators and chaperones. The large hall, still retaining the decorations upon which so much care had been bestowed for the hospital ball, was crowded to the doors, although the spectators left lots of room in the centre for the little ones to dance in. And dance they did, and enjoy themselves, too. The programme included all the popular dances, which the participants danced lige veterans.

The costumes—it was a fancy dress ball—were as varied as they were artistic and pretty. Here again the patriotism of Victorians was displayed, young officers of the army and navy and Red Cross nurses being quite numerous. But the quaint court costumes of bygone days are as popular as ever, and added to the beauty of the scene. As with their elders, the budding members of society enjoyed a supper, over which much pain and care had been bestowed as on the evening previous. The programme kept the young dancers busy until midnight, and then the floor was cleared for the older ones, who spent a couple of pleasant hours.

* * *

The fame of those supper room decorations, spread abroad by those who had been at the ball on Thursday evening, took quite a large number of adults to the party last evening for no other purpose than to see what it could be that had been so enthusiastically described by everyone as eclipsing anything in the decorative line British Columbia had ever heard of.

They saw the little fairyland—they, too, held their breaths with delighted amazement—and they were then prepared to join in the popular verdict.

It wasn't only that the supper room decorations were so complete and so eminently artistic—they were unique and original, graceful and quite sufficient. The room in its smilax and chrysanthemums and ferns, was itself a picture. The blending of the hospital colors and the use of the hospital cross was clever, while not unduly assertive; and each of the sixteen individual party tables showed the same care and taste in its arrangement as though it had been set in a private dining room for a private party of critical guests whom the hostess had delighted to honor.

When it is known that Mrs. H. D. Helmcken, the energetic and popular helpmeet of the young president of the hospital, had with her daughter, Miss Goodwin, spent practically the days and nights of three weeks in decorations of this department, and that they had employed all the resources of their well known skill in making the result perfection, some conception may be formed of the magnitude of the work—and as well as of the beauty of its completeness—for in such respects the ladies names have few compeers in the Pacific Northwest.

In the matter of the general decorations special credit must be given to Mrs. Elsden and to her lieutenants, Mrs. Dalby, Mrs. Appleby, Mrs. Tiarks, Mrs. S. Leiser, Mrs. C. F. Todd, as well as to the Invertavich nursery and to Mr. Dodds, for much appreciated loans of plants and flowers.

Mrs. Pemberton and Mrs. Burton played an important part in making the decorations of the ball room what they were; while Mrs. Richard Jones had been most useful in the arrangement of the dressing room; and Mrs. H. Granville-Smith, Mrs. Walter Langley, Miss Keefer, and a few co-workers had earned the heartiest thanks for themselves by providing an additional drawing room at the right of the front entrance—a drawing room abounding in cosy nooks and secluded corners; a little jewel of a drawing room, with its soft lights, convenient screens, and abundance of silken cushions.

The smoking, card, dressing rooms, etc., were all effectively decorated and conveniently played, so that fault-finding was an unheard-of discord in the merry festival.

Throughout the evening of the ball the ladies of the Auxiliary were assisted in the reception and entertainment of their guests by Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken, M.P.P., the president of the general directorate; Vice-President A. C. Flumerfelt, Messrs. C. A. Holland, J. S. Yates, Joshua Davies, and Dr. Hasell and by a floor committee composed of Messrs. H. M. Grahame, A. T. Goward, B. Vandergucht, A. J. Dallain and H. Muskett. The ladies of the reception committee were Mrs. Prior, Mrs. H. Granville-Smith, Mrs. Croft, Mrs. F. B. Pemberton, Mrs. Dalby, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Redfern, Mrs. James Dunsmuir, Mrs. Hayward and Mrs. Tilton—Mrs. Hasell, as in the preliminary arrangements, making herself thoroughly useful, indeed indispensable, everywhere.

The patrons, whose hearty appreciation of the hospital and its work was attested by their presence and cordial support, were His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. McInnes, Rear Admiral and Mrs. Beaumont, the Mayor and Mrs. Redfern, the captains and officers of Her Majesty's Navy, Lt.-Col. Grant and his officers of the Royal Artillery.

Mrs. Beaumont unhappily was prevented by illness from gracing in person the ball, in the success of which she was so deeply interested.

Six Companies.—The re-organization of the Fifth regiment on the lines of a six company corps will be proceeded with next week. The officers commanding the companies will be: Major Munro, Major Hibben, Captains McConnan, Drake and Foulkes and Lieutenant T. E. Pooley. The new submarine miners company for which volunteers will be called will be commanded by Major Hibben. A large number of applications for commissions have been sent in.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

COLUMBIA.

Columbia, Nov. 13.—The report published on the 13th inst. as to a rich strike on the 300-foot level in the Winnipeg mine, Wellington camp, has drawn a great deal of attention to that property. The find is certainly a remarkable one, the ore being at least fifty feet wide, and very probably much more than that. At a point 130 feet north of the shaft the cross-cut runs into a solid body of pyritic copper ore, which will undoubtedly give excellent returns in copper and gold.

Mr. Donald A. Ross, superintendent of the Sailor group in Camp McKinney, left for Republic in the company of his brother, Mr. Hugo Ross, of the firm of Fox & Ross, mining brokers, Toronto, and of Mr. Hugh Sutherland, managing director of the Dominion Copper Company. He reports that the Sailor, which adjoins the Cariboo on the south west, is one of the most promising properties in Camp McKinney. The Sailor includes six full claims and two fractions. Development work is being done on the Sailor, but the Rover, Diamond, Toledo, Snowshoe, Bellevue and Bellevue and Alice fractions have as yet had but little money spent upon them. The total width of the vein is 15 feet between walls, and in it are four rich stringers of pay streaks. Assays have shown from $4 to $50 in gold. The dip is 70 degrees to the north. The Sailor is a free milling and concentrating proposition. The country rock is an altered diabase, the formation lying north and south, and, as is almost invariably the case in the camp, all mineral-bearing lodes cut it almost at right angles.

Twenty men are at work, and the main shaft is down 87 feet, with a 25-foot cross-cut. The machinery of the mine consists of a Jenckes steam hoist, steam drill, and a No. 5 Cameron pump. Surface water has been a little troublesome, but the cross-cut is dry, and pumping will cost but little hereafter. The main line of the Columbia & Western railway passes within four miles of the dump, and at 600 feet lower elevation. The Sailor is 4,000 feet above sea level. There has been snow on the ground for the past month.

The forthcoming prospectus of the Dominion Copper Company should make pleasant reading for its numerous stockholders in Eastern Canada. The six properties owned by the company in Phoenix camp are all turning out better than was predicted. Tenders for a heavy contract of machinery have been invited, and the order will be placed as soon as possible. The five drill compressor and steam hoist on the Brooklyn is to be transferred to the Rawhide, and the Stemwinder steam hoist is to go to the Idaho. A 20 drill compressor is to be bought, which will serve both the Brooklyn and Stemwinder, while each will receive a powerful steam hoist. The shaft on the Brooklyn is 250 feet deep, and all in ore except for a 25-foot horse at 60 feet from the surface. The Stemwinder incline shaft followed the ore to the 150-foot level, when the vein dipped back. The shaft is down 162 feet, and a cross-cut will be run to cut it.

The spur line from the Columbia & Western, at Eholt, is graded right to the dumps of the mines, and the steel should be laid by next week. When this shall have been done trial shipments will be made to the smelting works at Trail. Ultimately, however, all smelting must be local, the ore being too low grade to bear a long, costly haul. The assay of the Dominion Copper Company's mines in Phoenix is 3.5 to 4 per cent. of copper, and $4 to $5 of gold.

The company intends using coal from the Crow's Nest mines to run the hoist; it will cost $8 a ton delivered.

According to the latest report made by Mr. Frank Robbins, M.E., the manager, the average of all assays of Brooklyn-Stemwinder ore is $11.27, allowing 13 cents a pound for the copper contents. He says further, there are five or six lodes running across Phoenix camp, but that the full width of these lodes are not profitable ore.

The Brooklyn and Idaho are upon the same lode, and the Stemwinder and Montezuma upon another, while the Rawhide is upon a third. The Brooklyn lode has been cross-cut at the surface in several places, and also at 150 feet in the Brooklyn shaft, and has thereby been proved to be 100 feet wide. On the Idaho he same vein is 150 feet wide.

Assays from the Last Mine in the Summit camp are very satisfactory. The latest gave $23.15 gold, $1.51 silver and $12.54 in copper at 10 cents. This total of $37.20 was obtained from a general sampling of a 4 foot vein, taken at the bottom of a surface trench. The vein is said to be almost vertical and a tunnel less than 100 feet in length should be cut to it and give a good deal of stoping ground. Mr. V. Quinby, of Seattle, is the principal owner.

Dr. R. Bell, assistant director of the geological survey, has returned from a careful examination of Phoenix and Summit camps. It is understood that he was favorably impressed although he declined to say much. As to the geology of the region Dr. Bell says it is but little understood as yet, even by the officers of the geological survey. The mines seem to be near the contact of lime bearing rocks and a greenstone eruptive, the nature of which has not yet been determined.

Assessment work is being done on the Bonita claim, on Observation mountain, overlooking Columbia. In every direction on clear evenings the camp fires of the miners doing their assessment are to be seen flickering cheerfully through the gloom. As the surface showings are in many cases most promising, there can be little doubt that a fair proportion will be shippers in a year or two. When this is the case other smelters besides those now building must be built to handle the output of the district. Any smelting works properly laid out and managed economically and with skill should return at least 10 per cent a year on the investment.

It is rumored that the C. P. R. intend taking over the Columbia & Western from Robson to Greenwood on November 17. As soon as they do so regular passenger trains will be run as far as Greenwood. Although the contractors have been very obliging in the matter of trains, taking everything into consideration, the cities in the Boundary will welcome the regular service, as no doubt local rates will fall very appreciably.

But after all local rates are not as important to the well being of the district, for the present at least, as the through rates. Our merchants are getting their stocks from Winnipeg and Toronto and a low through rate is very necessary.

Mr. D. A. Ross, superintendent of the Sailor Bay mine, in Camp McKinney, is in the city. He believes his camp is to become a great producer, but at present, owing to lack of railway facilities, it is somewhat expensive work developing properties at that point at present.

A large force of men have been set to work by the C. P. R. upon the spur track from Columbia to the new Granby smelter, on the North Fork of the Kettle river. The line will cross at or about the dam which is being built one mile above the works.

The Stemwinder has mineralized cappings that can be traced for a width of 250 feet, but there are several faults and dislocations. The two lodes are parallel, and the side lines of the group are not over 200 feet apart. The Rawhide is almost a mile distant from the others, and has a vein 80 feet wide.

Their gentle action and good effect on the system really make them a perfect pill. They please those who use them. Carter's Little Liver Pills may well be termed "Perfection."

Two Ships In From China

Immense Cargo Carriers Arrive Heavily Loaded From the Orient.

Dirigo Brings Latest News from the North - Quadra Returns.

Two big Oriental steamships arrived at the outer wharf yesterday, with sufficient freight in them to load a string of railway cars three miles long. The vessels, which will be in port until early to-day, are the City of Dublin, of the N. P. line, and the Kinshiu Maru, of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha line. The former left Yokohama on October 31, just a day behind the latter. Both had quite commonplace trips. The City of Dublin's call was the first she had made to Victoria, she having only recently been added to the N. P. line under a six months' charter. She is an interesting looking vessel and carries a still more interesting looking crew, composed of Lascars, Japs and Chinamen, with Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen for officers. They are a friendly lot of men and keep everything in splendid order aboard. It was at Calcutta, where the ship was when chartered, that the Lascars joined the vessel. They are said to be devout Mohammedans and adhere strictly to the rules of their religious faith, even to the articles of wear and food. Capt. Rae is the genial skipper in command. He says that on Tuesday last he passed through an atmospheric pressure of 28:18, and yet encountered no hurricane. Everything had been made fast on board for a terrific storm, but it came not. It was the first time in a long experience at sea that he had ever seen the barometer drop so low without a hurricane following. There had been a little wind, but nothing to signify such a remarkable pressure, the ship brought but one saloon passenger, Mr. James Tuttle, of Petrolia, Ont. He has been to Borneo, where he was engaged in connection with the oil industry of Samuel Samuel & Co., of Yokohama. He is now on his way home. As Asiatic passengers the steamer brought 12 Chinese for Victoria. The vessel is not quite as big a cargo carrier as the St. Irene, which preceded her in port. She carried 4,000 tons of general freight, including 500 tons for Victoria. She brought the first of the new crop of Japanese oranges, there being in the shipment over 500 cases for Victoria and Vancouver, which the Kinshiu Maru supplemented with 1,200 cases. The City of Dublin is a Belfast built vessel of 2,115 tons net and 3,328 tons gross, 375 feet long, 42 feet beam and 26 feet depth of hold. Her cabin accommodation is all amidships, and it is in this respect and in the long sweep of deck aft that gives the steamer an uncommon appearance.

The Kinshiu Maru came in from the quarantine station at 3 o'clock. She had quite an uneventful passage, and brought for Victoria 113 Japanese, including 7 women, and 65 for Seattle, 1 Chinaman for Victoria and 3 for Seattle; and four European passengers, of whom Dr. de Saavader and wife are round-the-world tourists, returning to France; H. Thompson is a Seattle newspaper man who has made a trip on the Kinshiu, and M. I. Johanes is an Armenian who has for some considerable time been in Japan. The vessel's freight for Victoria amounted to 40 tons.

QUADRA IN PORT.

Two New Lighthouses Established—Another Dangerous Rock Located.

The Dominion government steamer Quadra returned to Victoria yesterday afternoon from a cruise as far as Port Simpson. The fisheries, lighthouses, buoys and beacons have all been attended to. Seafaring men in the northern trade will be interested to know that the new lights on Pointer Island, east entrance to Lama Passage, and on Turn Point, Seaforth Channel, west entrance to the same passage, were put in operation on the 5th and 7th November respectively. Capt. Walbran reports the finding of an unknown rock in the eastern fairway into Metlah-catlah harbor, with nine feet on it at low water. This dangerous rock is not marked by kelp, and from it, as fixed by angles, the middle of the northern islet of Straith Point bears E. N. E., distant 3½ cables; Quartermaster rock, S. S. E.—bearings magnetic. It was also noticed when remooring a new buoy on Hodgson reef that the flood tide came from the northward; the color of the buoy has therefore been altered from red to black. With the exception of two or three days, the weather has been wet and stormy, a heavy gale from the S. E. being experienced at Alert Bay. Full particulars of the above lights, danger, etc., will be issued without delay by the marine and fisheries department.

WATER FRONT BREVITIES.

Notes of Interest Respecting Local Shipping—Vessels to Arrive and Sail.

Tug Mystery, with the schooner Oscar and Hattie in tow, returned yesterday from Clayoquot with 2,000 cases of salmon from the West Coast cannery. Captain Baynes says he passed a schooner off Carmanah on Thursday showing flash lights but he was not close enough to make her out.

The ships C. D. Kennedy, Colusa, Ruth, C. D. Bryant and Theobald are all en voyage from the Hawaiian Islands to Departure Bay for coal cargoes.

Steamer Willapa left last evening for Northern British Columbia ports.

OFF FOR AUSTRALIA.

The Miowera Departs Full of Passengers and Cargo for Southern Points.

Steamer Miowera left last night at midnight full of cargo and passengers for Honolulu and Australian points. She received here a shipment of salmon for Australia and four passengers. The complete list is as follows: S. Allhusen, H. G. Bolins, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Grimwade, J. W. Slattery, Mr. and Mrs. R. McPherson, Mrs. J. Raymond, Mr. and Mrs. Weatherley, Mrs. Alberg, W. McKinnon, J. Halliday, Miss Weld, Mr. and Mrs. T. Powers, Mrs and Miss Weld, Mrs. and Miss Gibbons, C. McCullock, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. Henricks, R. E. Turner, W. Taylor, D. Young, J. Anderson, Miss M. Taylor, N. Bell, T. Revar, F. Mainfold, the Jones party, T. Dearden, M. Hexson, J. A. Martin, Mrs. Tichborne and children, J. B. Orton, L. Ward, A. S. Terrin, B. F. Blaylock, J. Craik, A. Benson, J. McGill, P. J. Smith, W. Payne, P. L. Massey, A. Milne, J. Savage, W. Sinclair, W. Knowles, J. Tollis, G. Lawson.

Letters to the Editor.

THE POLICE FORCE.

Sir: It was fondly hoped that the side light thrown upon the management of the police department in this city during the investigation of the charge preferred by the late Sergeant Walker against a woman named Julie Lacoste, for "soliciting," would have led to a searching inquiry, and that the result of that inquiry would be the cleansing of the festering filth prevailing in the force, and to the lasting benefit of the city. The police commissioners have been constrained to hold an investigation, not so much, it would seem, for the betterment of the personnel of the police force as to call Officer Clayards to account for having exposed the shortcomings of his superior officers. Let it be borne in mind that Officer Clayards was called to the witness box by Officer Walker to testify in the matter of the charge preferred by him (Walker) against the woman Lacoste. He was made to declare under oath that in the matter under investigation he would tell "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," and for so doing he is called upon to show cause why he should not be dismissed from his office under the pretext of insubordination to his superior officer.

The exhibition in the city police court last evening was one long to be remembered by those who witnessed it. The Mayor, as chairman of the police commission, took the precaution to inform the audience that this is not a court of justice, but simply a committee of inquiry, and the object to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion as to why and wherefore Officer Clayards had testified as he did on the occasion herein referred to. It was well the chairman of the commission did so, for the entire proceedings was a most glaring travesty on an investigation having any regard whatever to the measurement of justice between man and man. Mr. Bradburn, as city solicitor, represented the commission, and only through him or the chairman could any questions be asked—in writing. Poor Clayards was put through a most excruciating ordeal by Mr. Bradburn, for a period of about three hours in an effort to make the witness contradict himself by letting drop some word that he, as a lawyer, might use as a weapon wherewith to weaken or destroy the witness's testimony. He failed, however, most signally, and Clayards left the witness stand with his character as a truthful man unshaken by, apparently, every man in the court room.

As a matter of fact the Chief of Police was on his trial, and not only the testimony of Clayards but several other members of the police force, proved beyond all doubt, that the incapability of Chief Sheppard was beyond question, and that with such a man at the head of the police force little better could be looked for than habitual drunkenness, neglect of duty, and insubordination generally, on the part of the officers under him. It cannot be said, however, that all the men are equally bad, for it must be confessed there are honorable exceptions to the rule—sober, trustworthy men, who know their duty and are ever ready to do it.

To judge by facts, which sometimes speak louder than words, onlookers on Friday evening could scarcely have come to any other conclusion than that the sympathy of the commissioners is on the side of the men who have been neglectful of their duty to the public, and not with those who had exposed wrong-doing. If Clayards is not officially decapitated for the part he has taken, they will not be for want of a disposition to do so by those in authority, but because they are not altogether callous to public opinion.

CEPHAS.

SMELTING IN B. C.

Sir:—Ever since the development of the silver lead mines of the Slocan, there have been discussions relative to smelting in Canada. The only result that has been attained, until recently, has been that all the lead ores mined in British Columbia have been shipped to the smelters in the United States for treatment under a duty of 1½ cents per lb. of lead contained in the ore.

But the Dominion government has apparently awakened to the fact, that lead smelting in Canada should be encouraged, and has taken one step in that direction. This is by way of a concession, by allowing pig lead produced from Canadian lead ores to be returned to Canada, free of duty.

This concession on the face of it would appear to offer many advantages to the Canadian smelter, but as an actual matter of fact, because of the limited demand for pig lead in Canada, the market only consuming from 2500 to 3,000 tons per annum, which on a basis of 50 per cent. lead ore would mean the product from some six thousand tons of ore mined. The Slocan and East Kootenay mines are the main producers at present, and in consideration of the quantity of lead ore mined in these districts alone, it will readily be seen that this concession only benefits the miner to a very small degree. But if the government will, as it is sanguinely hoped, before the expiration of another year, increase its duties on white lead and other leads used in the manufacture of paints, to the same amount as is charged now for duty on lead pipe, viz.: 30 and 35 per cent. ad valorum, this will then mean a total demand for about 12,000 tons per year of Canadian pig lead, and should result in the establishment in Eastern Canada, of plants for manufacturing these lead products.

That such results should be brought about, is a question of vital importance, not only to the lead miners and smelter companies, but to the entire population of Canada.

There are to-day three smelters on British Columbian territory, the first under the management of the Canadian Pacific Railroad at Trail, where a furnace with a capacity of 150 tons per 24 hours is being installed, and will be ready to be blown in about December 1st next; the second at the Hall's mines at Nelson, and the third at Pilot Bay on the Kootenay lake.

Up to the beginning of this year, all the lead ore mined in British Columbia, was exported to the United States smelters, and a duty of 1½ cents per lb. for lead contained in the ore charged therefor. But in future it is expected that Canadian smelters will handle at least half of the lead ores mined on Canadian territory. Until the manufacture of lead products is encouraged in Canada, by high tariff, of course the products of the smelters above the quantity in demand in the home market will be sold on the London market. In fact a prominent smelter manager in conversation with the writer a few days since, stated to him, that it is only rarely that either the United States or Canadian smelters sell their product on the New York market, and although the lead ores have in the past been purchased on a basis of New York quotations, the bulk of the lead, this gentleman informed me, goes to the English market.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad company at Trail has, since it purchased the Heinze smelter plant, invested in addition to the purchase price, about $225,000 in improvements, which included a new copper furnace, a lead furnace, six Bruckner roasters for ores, and many others too numerous to mention in a brief communication.

WM. M. BREWER.

Coal Mines Arbitration.

Witnesses Asked Why Chinese Used to Push Cars Are More Dangerous Than Mules.

Mining Engineer Who Thinks It Unnecessary for Miners to Be English Scholars.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nanaimo, Nov. 17.—Better progress was made at to-day's session of the coal mines arbitration, there being nine witnesses examined. Ralph Johnston was the first witness and was examined by Mr. Yarwood. He had twelve years' experience and had worked with Chinese in the New Vancouver Coal Company's mines until they were put out in 1888. When he came here first he could not make Chinese understand and did not understand them. They always said "No sabee." Had to ask the other white men what "No sabee" meant. Belonged to a miners' union which desires to exclude Chinese.

The attorney-general objected that the witness could not speak for the association.

Jas. Perry had had experience in England and British Columbia. Had experience of Chinamen in the coal mines of the Union Colliery Co. Thought them unsafe. They would nail up canvas and prevent the air from passing into the proper direction. They had no idea of ventilation. Chinese were only employed pushing cars when he was there. Thought they should be able to speak English. In answer to Mr. Cassidy he said ponies pulled the cars in England. Ponies could not speak English. Had not been in Union or Extension mines. Did not belong to the miners' union. He had no objection to Chinese if they could read and write English and understand danger signals. But he could not compete with them.

Henry Peterson gave evidence along the same lines.

Richard Booth had had 36 years' experience in mining and thought Chinese dangerous. He belonged to the miners' union.

Geo. Cuthbert gave similar evidence. White men, he admitted, caused accidents as well as Chinese. Mules were sometimes used to draw the cars. Mules did not speak English, but were harnessed and driven.

Wm. Edmonds had worked in Wales. Some of the miners spoke English and some Welsh. If Welsh, the fire boss spoke Welsh to them, if English, English. He had been Chinese boss in the New Vancouver Co.'s mines when they were employed there. Thought them unsafe.

After lunch Mr. Cassidy, by leave, called Albert J. Hill, mining engineer. He had managed coal mines at Cape Breton and managed Chinese in construction work on the C.P.R. He did not think it necessary that a miner underground should be able to read and write English; he could understand signals without that. He thought Chinese of average intelligence. Mines in the same locality differ materially in management, and so on.

Evidence for the crown was then resumed. Thos. Green said he had had experience in mining for 15 years, and thought Chinese unsafe. He had employed Chinese himself and had set fire to gas himself.

John Rowen, a coal miner of 32 years, did not think Chinamen safe to work in a gaseous mine. He had employed Chinamen and some are very intelligent. He was a member of the miners' union and opposed to Chinese. There are different degrees of intelligence amongst Chinamen.

This ended the day's evidence.

SLAPPED HIS FACE.

Ivan De Malchin Runs Foul of a Detective in Salt Lake City.

The Salt Lake Tribune has the following, in regard to a recent occurrence in that city:

"Ivan De Malchin, the champion Russ broad swordsman, who is stopping in the city for a few days, is in trouble. Ivan has also suffered the humiliation of being slapped in the face by Detective Sheets. Last evening the great duelist, who is on his way to France to vanquish swordsmen of note there, went out for a stroll about the city. It was not long ere he ran across Louis Oliverson, a German laborer, who was also out for a constitutional. Swordsman and laborer passed the time of night, and concluded to make a tour of the business portion of the city together.

"The fair daughters of Zion looked good to the Russian, and when he and his companion saw a couple of young ladies going east from State on Second South, the two men started in pursuit. Their actions were noted by Detective Sheets and Sergeant Janney, and these officers say the pair of would-be mashers stepped up to the ladies and tried to form an acquaintance, but were repulsed. Again and again, it is stated, they tried, but the young ladies, who had become badly frightened, did not case to make their acquaintance, and the obnoxious actions of the two would-be gallants were finally brought to a close by Sheets and Janney, who took them into custody.

"At the station, De Malchin tried, in strong terms, to convince Detective Sheets that he was mistaken, and the big detective finally lost his patience and swatted the swordsman a goodly blow in the mouth. De Malchin and his companion were booked for assault, and their bonds were placed at $10 each. Oliverson furnished the required cash, but De Malchin had no money with him and was locked up in a dingy cell in the old city gaol, where he had a chance to ponder on the queer things they say and the queer things they do in the wild and woolly West, and that his 27th engagement was with a Salt Lake detective.

"Upon his release, De Malchin will undoubtedly issue a challenge to Sheets, for the honor of the man who challenged Capt. Phelan, who challenged Esterhazy, must not be lost in a small city like Salt Lake."

OF LOCAL INTEREST.

To all who have felt the evil effects of deranged kidneys is the assurance that Dr. A. W. Chase's Liver-Kidney Pills are meeting with enormous sale and unparalleled success in this district. Backaches and aching kidneys are fast becoming a thing of the past where Dr. A. W. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills are known. One sent a dose, 25 cents a box, at all dealers.