(From THE DAILY COLONIST, February 6.)

CARMANAH POINT WIRE

Mr Rithet Moves for Government Management—Gold Searchers Asking Fraser River Territory.

Cariboo Farmers Against Traction Engines—Small Farming—The School Boards' Deputation.

A matter of very general interest in Victoria especially is to be dealt with by Mr. R. P. Rithet in the following motion, of which he yesterday gave notice in the legislature:

"Whereas a resolution is before this house pointing out the urgent necessity for a vessel to render assistance to vessels and their crews in case of shipwreck on the west coast of Vancouver island; and whereas in order to render such service of the greatest utility it is desirable that telegraphic communication should be maintained with as little interruption as practicable; and whereas the telegraph line now existing between Victoria and Carmanah Point on the west coast of Vancouver island is maintained and operated by a private company, and communication is frequently interrupted for long intervals on account of the wires being down; and whereas this service is one which is of the greatest public importance and necessity, and might be made of greater utility and efficiency if managed and controlled by some of the departments of the Dominion government at Victoria instead of as at present:

"Be it resolved, That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor requesting him to press upon the Dominion government the desirability of placing the telegraph line and service between Victoria and Carmanah Point under the direct management and control of some department of the Dominion government at Victoria, with a view to its greater efficiency and utility in the public interest, humane as well as commercial."

FRASER RIVER GOLD DREDGING.

It is understood that the matter of the Fraser river dredging petition, ruled out of order in the house, is to be brought before the government in another form. The petitioners are the Dominion Dredging Company, who have equipped themselves with valuable dredging material designed to operate on a new principle which gives promise of excellent results. They already have this machinery at the scene of operations, but upon applying for a lease of a section of the Fraser river near Lillooet, they found that this territory and all the rest of the river have already been taken up, though the leases are not being worked. It is stated that leases covering about five miles were secured by a number of persons who subsequently transferred their rights to the Fraser River Dredging Company. These leases have been in existence a couple of years. One of their conditions is that a certain minimum quantity of work must be performed annually, and it is on the allegation that this requirement has not been fulfilled that the new company asks a cancellation of the lease to the territory at Lillooet for which it applied.

SMALL FARMING.

As the provincial government are now paying special attention to the matter of agricultural development, by the establishment of a system of small holdings and otherwise, efforts are being made to secure the advantage of the experience of other parts of the British dominions in similar directions. A short time ago Premier Turner suggested to Hon. E. G. Prior, as the representative of this province in the cabinet at Ottawa, that the Dominion government agent in the Australian colonies might furnish a report as to the method and results of the several systems of dealing with government lands there in vogue. Col. Prior gave immediate attention to the matter, and yesterday the instimation was received from him that instructions to the effect suggested have been forwarded to Mr. Larke.

STATUTE REVISION.

The order-in-council laid before the house yesterday in reference to the revision of the statutes, is dated 9th March, 1895, and carries out the report of a committee of council, reading as follows: "The committee of council in pursuance of bill No. 5 of the statutes of last session, intituled 'An act to authorize the revision of the statutes,' recommend that a commission under the great seal of the province issue to the Hon. Theodore Davie, Chief Justice of the Province, constituting him a commissioner for revising and consolidating a new edition of the laws of the Province of British Columbia and of the laws of England in force and applicable to this province."

AGAINST TRACTION ENGINES.

Mr. Stoddart received word by wire yesterday that a delegation are on their way down from Ashcroft to interview the government in opposition to the private bill to be introduced to permit the use of traction engines on the Cariboo road. The farmers of the district are very much opposed to the innovation.

SCHOOL TRUSTEE DEPUTATION.

Hon. Col. Baker, minister of education, was yesterday forenoon waited upon by a deputation of the Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster school trustees, who laid before him the suggested amendments to the school regulations which the conference of trustees had approved on the previous evening. Victoria was represented by Messrs. Chas. Hayward, McMicking and Yates, Vancouver by Dr. Brydone Jack and Mr. Templeton, and Westminster by Dr. Boggs and Mr. John Mackenzie. Hon. Col. Baker promised to lay before the Council of Public Instruction the various suggestions made by the deputation.

A Family suffers for Want of a Mother's Attention.

Mr. Neil Morrison, St. John, N.B. "My daughter, Mrs. Gregory, has had rheumatism so bad during the last year that she was unable to help her children, or attend to her household duties. Everything imaginable was tried, but to no purpose. I was at last recommended to get South American Rheumatic Cure. One bottle cured my daughter within four days, and I take much pleasure in giving this recommendation." Sold by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Second Session of the Seventh Parliament.

NINTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 5, 1896.

Mr. Booth took the chair at 2 p.m. Prayers by Rev. J. H. S. Sweet.

THE SPEAKER ruled with respect to a petition presented by Mr. Smith, from G. B. Guthrie and other residents of Lillooet, seeking the cancellation of certain mining leases on the Fraser river. He held that the petition was out of order as interfering with the prerogative of the crown.

LANDS IN EAST YALE.

MR. GRAHAM moved for a return of all reports for the year 1895 made by Mr. Burnyeat with regard to explorations in East Yale. He said it is understood that report will show that there are all the way up to 15,000 acres of land in that district fit for settlement, and if this is the case it will be a good report to circulate widely.

HON. MR. MARTIN explained that the information asked for is shortly to appear in the report of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works; and in order to avoid reprinting the motion stood over until it can be seen whether extra copies of that part of the Commissioner's report will do.

LAND TITLES.

MR. WILLIAMS asked: Is it the intention of the government to introduce, at the present session, legislation relating to the transfer of real estate and the registration of titles to lands.

HON. MR. EBERTS—The matter is now under the consideration of the government.

STATUTE REVISION.

MR. WILLIAMS asked: 1. What was the date of payment of $7,500 to the commissioner appointed for revision and consolidation of the statutes? 2. What were the disbursements paid thereout by the commissioner? 3. Who paid expenses in connection with printing and binding the first report of the commissioner? 4. What is the cost of printing and binding same?

HON. MR. TURNER answered the questions as follows: 1. 2nd July, $3,500; 6th September, $750; 4th December, $750; 7th January, $2,500. 2. No statement has been furnished by the commissioner. 3. The government. 4. The printing was done at the government office, partly by the regular staff, of which no separate account has been kept. Additional printers were employed at a cost of $1,270.09. The paper cost approximately $175. The cost of binding 150 copies amounted to $167.50.

COUNTY COURT APPEALS.

MR. HELMCKEN asked: 1. Is it a fact that during the recess of this house any county court appeals have been heard at the city of New Westminster before a court constituted of one supreme court judge and the judge of the county court of the district? 2. Have any divisional court appeals been heard, either at the city of Vancouver or the city of New Westminster before a court so constituted? 3. If so, was the said court or either of them so constituted with the sanction of the government, and under what authority?

HON. MR. EBERTS—1. Yes, one county court appeal was heard at New Westminster before a court so constituted, the appeal being from a judgment of the county judge of Yale, who had acted in the absence of the county judge of Westminster; and another appeal was heard there from the county court judge before two judges of the supreme court. 2. No. 3. The government gave no sanction to and had no knowledge of the holding of the above courts.

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT EAST LILLOOET.

MR. SEMLIN asked: 1. Has the provincial auditor examined the accounts of the road superintendent of East Lillooet during the year 1895, or any part of said year? 2. Has the government received a report from the auditor or government agent for Lillooet referring to such accounts?

HON. MR. TURNER answered, to question 1, Yes; to question 2, Yes.

The questions of which Mr. Semlin had given notice respecting the removal of the gold commissioner's office from Richfield to Barkerville, were ruled out of order, as containing debateable assertions.

BILLS WITHDRAWN.

HON. MR. EBERTS, in accordance with the statement made yesterday moved the formal discharge of the orders for the several bills arising out of the consolidation of the statutes.

MR. KITCHEN protested that this would leave the house with nothing to do, and urged that these bills be proceeded with.

HON. MR. EBERTS expressed surprise at this change of front on the part of the opposition, who after railing at the government for several days because these bills were brought before the house at this session, now object to their withdrawal in order that the procedure of other provinces with respect to revisions may be followed.

Motions for discharge of orders agreed to.

BILLS IN COMMITTEE.

The house went into committee on the intestate estates bill, Mr. Stoddart in the chair. Bill reported complete without amendments.

The house went into committee on the Royal Inland Hospital incorporation bill, Major Mutter in the chair. Reported complete with amendments.

REPORTS PRESENTED.

Hon. Col. Baker presented a return containing the order-in-council and other papers relating to the appointment of the commissioner for the revision of the statutes. He also presented the annual report on the public schools.

DAIRYING BILL.

The bill for the encouragement of dairying was, on motion of Hon. Mr. Turner, referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Booth, Mutter, Adams, Kitchen and Kidd, to consider and report to the house such suggestions as seem advisable.

HOMESTEAD ACT.

DR. WALKEM moved the second reading of the homestead act amendment bill, to provide that no trader shall be permitted to claim exemption under this act for any part of the stock-in-trade of his business.

HON. MR. EBERTS spoke in support of the bill, declaring that the member for South Nanaimo deserves credit for his efforts in this connection.

Bill read a second time.

The house adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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MARCH OF EDUCATION.

Continued Progress Shown in the Education Report Just Given to the Legislature.

What the Government Has Paid and the Distribution Between Town and Country.

The twenty-fourth annual report of the public schools of British Columbia, laid before the legislature yesterday, contains the usual comprehensive details of the operations of the twelve months under review, and ending June 30, 1895. In that year there were 202 schools in operation, 172 of these being rural institutions. The teachers employed numbered 319, an increase of 24 for the year. There were 13,482 pupils enrolled, an increase of 869. The provincial expenditure for education proper was $189,037, of which $169,447 went for teachers' salaries, $7,701 for the incidental expenses of the rural districts, and $11,887 for the education office. The cost of each pupil enrolled was $14.02. The lands and works department expended $13,963 for school building and repairs in rural districts and $5,000 in aid of the school building in Nanaimo city, the total expenditure by the provincial government for all purposes of education being thus brought up to $208,000.

The cost of education in a city district is met by the city council, the provincial government paying a per capita grant of ten dollars per head per annum, based on the average actual daily attendance of pupils. In addition to this grant each municipal corporation receives the amount collected from its provincial revenue tax. The amount of per capita grant paid to each of the four cities during the year was as follows:

Victoria	$17,390
Vancouver	15,895
New Westminster	5,989
Nanaimo	6,129
Total	$44,404

The total expenditure for schools in rural districts, including construction of school houses, furniture, repairs, etc., was $145,707.98.

The average monthly salaries of 115 teachers in city districts were $66.62; of 183 teachers in rural districts $55.46. In the cities there were 43 male and 72 female teachers; in the country 94 male and 89 female. The growth of the schools during recent years is shown by these figures:

	Pupils on Rolls.	Paid for Ed. Proper.
1890-91	9,260	$136,901
1891-92	10,773	160,627
1892-93	11,496	190,558
1893-94	12,613	169,050
1895-96	13,482	189,037

The following is a comparative statement by towns and cities of the pupils enrolled for the last two years:

	1894-5	1893-4
Victoria	2,537	2,439
Vancouver	2,375	2,247
New Westminster	951	964
Nanaimo	948	895
Wellington	371	364
Northfield	210	250
Union Mines	187	...
Vernon	155	135
Kamloops	152	126

Inspector D. Wilson says in his report to the Superintendent of Education:

"The past school year has shown increased activity in every class of educational work. While there is no claim that the schools cannot be further improved, or that the teachers have always adopted the most approved modes of instruction, yet it must be admitted that educational work in this province is carried on under very favorable conditions. An advance has been made, not so great as desired, but still of a substantial character; and a sure foundation has been laid for still further progress. With proper application to school work, no pupil needs go out into the world without a fair equipment for life's duties. In regard to the various studies pursued and the progress therein, such remarks and suggestions as appear helpful and necessary are herewith presented.

"While in the Maritime Provinces during the early part of the present year, I utilized part of my time in visiting some of the schools which were regarded as being among the best. My object was, of course, to witness school work carried on under the most favorable conditions, and, by comparison, to note in what way our schools differ from those of the older provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The results of my observations lead me to the opinion that the work of our advanced grades is quite equal to that of corresponding grades of the schools visited, but that in methods of primary instruction our schools, with some exceptions, are certainly inferior. This defect I can only ascribe to the absence of a normal school, where suitable professional training could be given to those who propose to take up the difficult work of teaching. The establishment of such an institution has, on more than one occasion, been strongly advocated by you in the annual school report, and I trust that the time is not far distant when your valuable recommendation will be carried out."

Inspector Burns says: "There is an evident improvement in matters of discipline; and this, because, in the majority of cases, the teachers seem to be alive to the necessity of constant employment, especially for younger children, as the best means of obtaining good order at all times, as well as progress in education. It has invariably been observed that those teachers in our ungraded schools, who have the work of their various classes pre-arranged with the object of providing this constant employment, are the most successful in every respect, and the skill shown by many in our rural schools in doing this with their numerous classes, is sometimes surprising. Our teachers also are doing their utmost to train the pupils in what may be considered the practical side of school work; they recognize that neatness, accuracy, and thoroughness can only be attained by unwearying efforts on their part. When these are observed in all the work of a school they are evidences that the teacher's work is being efficiently done, although great advances in study may not be made."

TORONTO, Feb. 4.—Fred G. Polson, a mechanic, died very suddenly of heart disease on Markham street, near his house.

SUPREME COURT OF B.C.

Judge Walkem's Decision in McAdam vs the Horsefly Mining Company.

A Road Making Contract Declared Completed According to the Specifications.

The following is Mr. Justice Walkem's decision in the case of McAdam v. the Horsefly Mining Company:

By agreement in writing, dated the 31st day of August, 1893, and made between the plaintiff and the defendant company, through its manager Mr. J. B. Hobson, the plaintiff undertook, in consideration of $60 per mile, to construct a sleigh road from the 108-Mile post on the Cariboo trunk road, to a place known as "Wood's Cabin" near the head of Beaver lake creek, and about seven miles in a southerly direction from the defendants' mineral claim, commonly known as the Horse Fly mine. This road was to be constructed according to certain specifications, and in the words of the agreement, "To the entire satisfaction of Frederick Soues, Esq., Clinton, government agent, whose certificate in writing shall be a condition precedent to the payment by the company to the contractor of the money payable under this agreement." The distance from the 108-Mile post to Wood's cabin is, admittedly, 49¾ miles, which, at $60 a mile, makes $2,965. This sum has been reduced by payments made by the company during the progress of the work to $1,249.90, which balance the plaintiff now claims to be due to him on a certificate obtained by him from Mr. Soues, which is as follows:

"GOVERNMENT OFFICE,
"CLINTON, Aug. 13, 1894.

"This is to certify that the sleigh road from the 108-Mile post to Wood's cabin has been passed—completed according to specifications, by road superintendent Barton, and so reported to the Department of Lands and Works, on the 7th instant by

"F. SOUES,
"Government Agent."

The above figures are undisputed; but counsel for the defense contends that the certificate is insufficient, inasmuch as it contains no expression by Mr. Soues of his being satisfied with the work, and, furthermore, that it shows on its face that that gentleman did not personally examine the work but deputed that duty to his subordinate, viz., the superintendent of government roads. I overruled the first of these objections at the trial, as there is nothing in the contract that required Mr. Soues to express his satisfaction in writing; and I allowed the plaintiff to prove, as he did, that Mr. Soues had informed him, verbally, when the certificate was given, that he was satisfied with the road. If the contract had read "to the entire satisfaction of Mr. Soues, whose certificate in writing to that effect shall be a condition precedent to payment," I would have upheld the objection, but the words "to that effect" are not in the contract, and cannot now be read into it as their interpolation would be tantamount to an unwarrantable alteration of it. (See observations of Mr. Justice Patterson on the same point in Hamilton v. Myles, 24 U.C.C.P. at pp. 328, 329.)

The contract, according to my construction of it, entitles the contractor to payment upon his complying with two separate conditions, viz., obtaining Mr. Soues' approval of his work, verbally or otherwise, for it does not say which, and also getting his certificate in writing to the effect, as one is forced to assume, for the kind of certificate is not prescribed, that the work has been completed according to the specifications. Even this assumption might, it seems to me, be fairly complained of by the plaintiff, for the rule of construction in such cases, as stated by Chief Baron Kelly in Roberts v. Bury Commissioners, L.R. 5 C.P. at p. 331, is that the court "is not to assume a jurisdiction which it does not possess to mitigate the hardship upon contractors of clauses, however oppressive, which are sometimes, and indeed most commonly introduced into agreements of this nature; but it must take care also not to add to their severity and to the injustice which they are often the means of inflicting upon a contractor by imagining stipulations which are not to be found in the contract, and which the parties have never entered into or contemplated." However, that a certificate of the description I have mentioned was contemplated by the parties is very probable.

The objection that Mr. Soues did not inspect the road personally, and thus ascertain whether the specifications had been carried out or not, but delegated that duty to the superintendent of government roads, who was his subordinate, appears to me to be disposed of by the case of Clemence v. Clark, reported at page 141 of the third edition of Roscoe's Building Cases. Mr. Soues was, and is, government agent for the district surrounding Clinton. His public duties, as the president of the company must be taken to have known, are multifarious. His selection as arbitrator in the matter of the contract could not have been a mere matter of chance; on the contrary it is only reasonable to infer that he was purposely chosen because, as controller of the district, he would have to report upon the road to the government, as the government had agreed with the company to contribute $3,000 upon its completion to the company's mine. This accounts for the presence in the certificate of the concluding words, "and so reported to the Department of Lands and Works on the 7th inst." Barton, from the government's point of view, and not Mr. Soues, was the proper person to examine the road. He was competent, while Mr. Soues might have been incompetent, to do so. Moreover, Mr. Soues' manifold duties would have prevented him from doing so; hence, he acted very properly, in the interests of all parties, in availing himself of Barton's skill and experience just as the architect, mentioned in the case I have just cited, availed himself of the skill of the measuring surveyor whom he employed. Although the architect checked none of these measurements, his certificate, to the effect that the builder was entitled to be paid for "works as certified by the measuring surveyor," was held to be a valid certificate, notwithstanding the contention that it was on its face, not the architect's, but the surveyor's, certificate.

Again, Mr. Hobson accompanied Barton when the latter inspected the road from end to end in the fall of 1893, and heard him direct the plaintiff to make several alterations in the road which he considered were necessary to fulfil the terms of the specificatious. He never objected to Barton, but seems to have recognized his right to make the inspection. Mr. Hobson also states that the company made a claim upon the government for the $3,000, and received it. The company must have received this sum upon the report to which Mr. Soues refers in his certificate, viz: that Barton had passed the road as having been completed according to the specifications. There is no evidence before me of the fact; but it would be unreasonable to suppose that the government paid the amount without having being convinced by the company that Mr. Soues' report, based as it was on Barton's inspection and report, meant that the road had been completed. Mr. Abbott's two letters to the government respectively asking, on behalf of the company, for the contribution of $3,000, and for the form of specifications to be used, are published on p. 713 of the Sess. Papers of 1894-5. Under all the circumstances, Mr. Soues' certificate appears to me to be sufficient, and hence the plaintiff is entitled to the balance he claims.

With respect to the extras, the item of $125 for widening bridges was abandoned at the trial. The charge of $180 for changing the road at McIntosh's has not been satisfactorily established. The two items of $298.50 and $248.75 for widening, and "extra close cutting" the road cannot be allowed, as Mr. Hobson, the manager's brother, by whose orders the work is alleged to have been done, had no authority to give such orders, as his duties were limited to keeping the company's books.

The plaintiff is entitled to his costs of the action, as well as to the sum sued for.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

At a meeting of the Teachers' Institute yesterday, at which all but seven or eight members were present, a report was presented by the committee appointed on Monday to draw up a memorial to the school board on the subject of the cut in salaries.

In effect, it is understood, that the memorial urges that the reduction in the salaries of the school teachers was unnecessary, and that if a reduction in the estimates of the school board was required, the saving might have been effected in other ways. The teachers point out that the estimates for the Victoria schools are lower than those in Vancouver, and that the teachers here receive lower salaries than in the other cities of the province.

The memorial was unanimously endorse by the institute, and will be sent to the school board forthwith.

It is believed, too, that a communication will also be sent to the trustees from the High school, asking that the action in reducing the staff of that institution be reconsidered, as otherwise the work of the school would be to a great extent seriously interfered with.

TRAIL CREEK MINES.

W. Y. Clark, of Rossland, is on a visit to the city. He is one of the pioneers of the famous Trail Creek mining camp and an enthusiastic believer in its future.

"We have the greatest gold mine on earth in Rossland," said Mr. Clark, last evening. "I mean, of course, the famous Le Roi. Ten sleigh trains of ore recently shipped to the smelter from the 450-foot level netted the company $21,200. This is at the rate of $530 a ton. The Le Roi stock is climbing fast. The War Eagle is a peach and so is the Iron Mask, but so far the Le Roi caps them all.

"The development in the camp has been retarded by the bad roads, but the narrow gauged railroad is being pushed through and will be built by May 1. This will give an impetus to all the mines."

"What mines will be ore-shippers during the coming season?" was asked.

"In addition to the War Eagle, Le Roi, and Josie, the Columbia and Kootenay, Iron Horse, the Iron Mask, Virginia, Nickel Plate, the Nest Egg, Centre Star, Crown Point, Lee, Homestake, and the Commander."

"Have you seen the Homestake or Nest Egg, in which Victorians are interested?"

"The Nest Egg is quite near town and is, I believe, as promising a property as there is on the south belt. Indeed, I have always considered it the best on that side of Trail. The Homestake has more development and will undoubtedly make a good mine."

THE CITY.

THE annual meeting of the branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society will be held in the Metropolitan Methodist church on the first Wednesday in March.

JOSEPH Brown, accused of breaking into Landsberg's pawn shop on the night of January 26 and stealing a couple of revolvers, came before Mr. Justice Drake yesterday. He chose a speedy trial, pleaded guilty and was sentenced forthwith to twelve months' imprisonment.

THE funeral of the late Mrs. John Haggarty will take place at 2:30 o'clock to-morrow afternoon from her husband's residence, 195 Yates street. The deceased lady was a daughter of Mr. C. B. Brown and a sister of Mrs. (Captain) Morrison. Besides her husband, she leaves a little daughter.

FOR the worthy object of assisting the hospitals a concert is to be held this evening at Fairall's hall, under the patronage of Col. and Mrs. Rawstorne and the officers of the R.M.A. and R.E. A very good programme has been prepared and the affair should secure a large attendance. A sale of work at 7 o'clock will precede the concert.

THIS evening another lecture in the mining course will be delivered by Mr. H. Carmichael, provincial assayer, at the board of trade rooms, on chemistry. By synthesis he will show how water is formed from hydrogen and oxygen, and a number of interesting experiments will be made in the further consideration of the atomic and molecular theories.

A PARTICULARLY interesting feature of the law students' meeting last night was a mock trial before Mr. R. Cassidy, who for the occasion was elevated to the bench. The case was an appeal by defendant in Hirst v. Skinner, involving the sum of $600. The plaintiff (respondent) was ably represented by Messrs. Davey, J. Murphy and T. E. Pooley, while Messrs. A. S. Potts, K. Macrae and Kitto were the learned counsel for the defendant (appellant). After hearing the arguments on both sides the Court decided in favor of respondent and dismissed the appeal.

THE Rugby match at Caledonia Park on Saturday between Victoria and H. M. S. Royal Arthur will draw a large attendance should the weather be fine. The Victoria team meet Nanaimo on the Saturday following in the match for the Rugby championship. The match with the Navy men begins at 3 o'clock, and Hon. V. A. Stanley, R. N., has been chosen referee. The teams are: Royal Arthur—Back, H. Chance; three-quarter backs, Lt. Loring, Lt. W. O. Boothby, E. Wigram, J. A. Shuter; half-backs, G. Ward, W. Alexander; forwards, I. B. Clarke, C. F. Petch, C. M. Maitland, W. H. Beckett, Lt. F. H. Walters, H. Llewellyn, Tucker and Vickery. Victoria—Back, H. Petticrew; three-quarter backs, C. Gamble, H. D. Morton, J. M. Miller, K. Scholefield; half-backs, F. B. Ward, A. T. Goward; forwards, L. Crease, J. K. Macrae, J. P. Hibben, J. H. Austin, A. A. Langley, A. B. Spain, W. F. Loveland and A. A. Green.

SHIPS AND SHIPPING.

A special dispatch to the COLONIST from Port Townsend last evening, says: "The British ship Kilbrannon, 34 days from Callao, coming up the Straits before a westerly gale this morning, ran ashore at Point Wilson, crushing the plates of her keel and greatly damaging her hull. After the accident her sails remained unfurled, which together with the wind and tide lifted the vessel high up on the beach, and embedded her deeply in the sand and drove her on the rocks. During the afternoon several feet of water leaked into her hold, and it is considered extremely doubtful whether she can be got off, especially if the storm continues.

THE "THISTLE'S" ADVENTURE.

When about 400 miles north of here the steam schooner Thistle, Capt. Langley, which arrived in port from the Northern fishing grounds yesterday morning, broke her propellor. The wheel struck a floating log and had to be renewed by beaching the vessel. In conversation yesterday Captain Langley said he left Refuge bay on the morning of January 31, and had a strong S.E. wind all day. He had crossed Wright's sound and had entered the McKay reach, when just off Tivet point at 11 p.m. a stick of driftwood got foul of the propellor, breaking all four blades. The ship was then at the mercy of the wind, but the place where the accident occurred being sheltered the steamer drifted around until 4 a.m. Next morning, when getting within half a cable of the shore, the anchor was lowered in 40 fathoms of water. This held on until daylight, and the great object was to get to some beach to adjust a spare propellor aboard the vessel. To accomplish this Wrights sound was headed for, but before the desired spot was reached all the sail possible had to be spread. After five hours hard work Homes bay was reached and the vessel grounded at 2 p.m. At 2 a.m. next morning she was again afloat and once more speeding in the direction of Victoria. From this on the trip was continued in the worst kind of weather. The Thistle will go on the beach to-day to have another wheel placed in position, and will leave again in the evening for the fishing grounds.

BIRTHS.

PIERCY—At 169 Menzies street, in this city, on the 3rd instant, the wife of John Piercy, of a daughter.

DIED.

HAGGERTY—At the Jubilee Hospital, on the morning of February 5, Clara Ollena Brown, beloved wife of John Haggerty, in her 34th year.

WORK—At "Hillside House," Victoria, British Columbia, on the 30th January, 1896, in the 87th year of her age, Susette, relict of the late Hon. John Work, member of the Council of the Colony of Vancouver Island, from 1853 to 1861, and Chief Factor of the Hudson Bay Company.

ANDREWS—In this city, on the 29th instant, R. B. Andrews, suddenly.

FRANCIS—At Lake District, on the 1st instant, Robert Francis, aged 25 years.

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MAIL CONTRACT.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Postmaster-General will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 28th February, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's mails on proposed contracts for four years in each case, each way between Cedar and Nanaimo, Kamloops, P.O., and C.P.R. Station, Mission City and Mount Lehman, from the first April next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contracts may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Cedar, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Mission City and Mount Lehman, and at this office.

E. H. FLETCHER,
P.O. Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office, Victoria, B.C., 17th January, 1896. ja26-3tw

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