Atlin Miners Await Spring.

Operations on Many Creeks to Start With Going of Snow.

Humor in Claim-Jumping--Atlin a Model Mining Town.

Captain Wallace Langley of this city, who left here for the Atlin country on the 23rd of last month, returned home yesterday evening, a little less than a month having been required for the round trip, in the course of which the Captain thoroughly satisfied himself of the indisputable richness of the Atlin gold fields.

He personally visited a number of the leading streams, and from reliable information obtained as to others is quite satisfied of the permanency as well as the richness of the Atlin camp. A new era may be said to have already dawned for it, inasmuch as hydraulicing machinery is now being got in for the company owning the discovery claim on Spruce creek—while Captain Langley will also take in similar machinery for the working of claims owned by the company with which he is prominently identified. It is his intention to return to Atlin before the breaking up of the trails giving ingress from Lake Bennett.

From his own experience, Captain Langley cannot join Norman Rant in condemnation of the fan-tail route as "gone" for the present season—he both went in and came out by this shortest cut-off, and found the travelling better on the outward journey than on going in. The Too-chi trail broke up about the time the Captain went in, while all freight of course must now be handled by the Lake Bennett trail.

There was not much practical work being done on the creeks when Captain Langley came out, on Wednesday last, the season being as yet very young—although better weather was being expected by the Atlin folk than even that with which Victoria is favored in April. In fact there cannot be much done on the creeks until the snow goes, there being two feet left a week ago although it was going fast.

Sluice-box building was in progress everywhere, and considerable prospecting was being done on Spruce creek—more indeed than at any other point in the district. Pine creek, the original gold stream of the district, was exceptionally quiet.

Nor was the news of gold heard only from the Atlin district. Over the provincial boundary—at a point about fifty miles north of the line, in the Northwest, a strike was reported to have been made, to which the exiled Americans were flocking with rejoicing.

In connection with these mineral finds over the provincial border, Captain Langley suggests that it would be highly desirable for the Dominion government to establish an office near Atlin, the distance to be travelled at present by those desirous of recording mining property within the territory being very great—something like 125 miles to Tagish Post, and this the nearest recording point.

As for the claim-jumping, it had been done everywhere and on all creeks—on chance and on certainty, claim-jumping by wholesale. On one claim Captain Langley counted no fewer than thirteen stakes, while a fourteenth stood proudly in the centre, and united a series of strings gathered about the outlying stakes. To the centre stake was attached a card, and on this card was printed the significant and humorously sarcastic legend:

"In Union There is Strength."

As for the alien exclusion law, there is much less heard concerning it than there was a few month sago, possibly because many of the alien miners have taken their departure for other fields. Among the population of the district, the opinion is growing, however, that the passage of the alien exclusion bill will not prove as detrimental to the ultimate success of the district as was at first anticipated.

Speaking more particularly of Atlin City, Captain Langley says that he found it a busy and most orderly place of perhaps 2,000, with a daily augmentation of the population by about fifty souls. The town is ideally situated, and cannot but hold its place as the centre and metropolis of the tributary mining country.

Victorians and Vancouverites even now form an appreciable part of the city's population, a number of the former being found among the representative business men. Mr. C. W. D. Clifford, M.P.P., has several important interests; J. S. Bowker and Harry Howard are preparing for mining work at the opening of the season; J. E. Scarlett and Major Wilson are engaged in general stores; while Alexander McDonald, ex-proprietor of the Clarence, has a busy hotel. Mr. A. Clearihue, also in the general merchandise business, had a hard time of it going in, the sun burning him severely, but was making rapid progress toward complete recovery when Captain Langley came out.

A notable feature of the city—distinguishing it from almost all other mining camps that the West has konwn—is the entire absence of gambling. There are no games running in the place, and during the ten days or more that Captain Langley spent there he did not see a single game of cards in progress.

As for the reported prevalence of pneumonia—the cases that had arisen, and three unfortunately fatal, were largely to be ascribed to carelessness on the part of the victims.

Just before the Captain left, there had also been a case of suicide, the victim being one Edward Hensel, of Sioux City, who had come in by the Stikine route. Hensel had started originally for Dawson by the all-Canadian route, and after a year's travelling finally reached Atlin, broken in health.

He then sent word to his mother to send him a new outfit, and Mrs. Hensel and a younger son came on to Skagway. Hensel was not there to meet them and they returned to Iowa.

The discouraged gold seeker on learning this news—and being also partially demented through illness, seized his rifle and ended his life by shooting off the top of his head, at Atlin City on the 14th instant.

During his brief stay in the North, Captain Langley examined the Atlin-too river very carefully. He declines at present, however, to express his opinion in regard to its feasability for navigation.

Parade For The Children.

A Little Host Nearly a Thousand Strong to Take Part.

New Sporting Attractions on the Birthday Celebration Programme.

One new feature of the Queen's Birthday celebration practically decided on at a meeting of the committee last evening was a school children's parade on Friday afternoon, May 26. Mr. St. Clair, physical instructor, had asked Chief Deasy to bring the matter up before the meeting. He had said that he could muster 700 well-dressed boys for the purpose, and Chief Deasy seemed to think the idea a good one.

Mr. Lugrin also commended it, and Mr. Hayward moved that a special committee be appointed to carry it into execution. The motion passed, and Messrs. Lugrin, Hayward and Shakespeare were appointed as the committee, to act in conjunction with the school trustees in the matter.

The only communication read was from Professor Woodle, of Seattle, offering to give a balloon ascension and parachute drop, which proposition the committee declined.

Secretary Boggs reported the progress made by the printing and finance committees, which met during the week and added that the programme would be in the hands of the printers very shortly. He had corresponded with outside city papers relative to advertising, and was in a position to go ahead with the work as soon as the necessary funds were at his disposal.

Ald. MacGregor wanted to know if the official programme was to be made an advertising medium, as he had heard that two were already soliciting for space contracts. To this the mayor was very much opposed, and a motion was put and passed, setting forth that the official programme, for which the committee only will be responsible, should contain no advertisements, and that all others should not be headed official or to make use of the chairman or other members of the committee.

In response to the advertisement asking athletic associations which wish to participate in the celebration to make application to the secretary before Wednesday evening, Secretary Dallain wrote in behalf of the J. B. A. A. lacrosse and basket ball teams. The lacrosse match, New Westminster vs. J. B. A. A., for Wednesday at 10 a.m. and the basket ball match, Seattle vs. J. B. A. A., for Saturday afternoon—this was the arrangement the association asked for, and which was acceded to by the committee.

The firemen, on the suggestion of Chief Deasy, will confine their sports to Thursday morning, when it is hoped the Nanaimo and Wellington departments will be on hand.

The transportation facilities for the celebration are being arranged satisfactorily. Mr. Charles Baxter, of the C. P. N. Company, said that a boat would leave Vancouver at 7 o'clock on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and that one organization had alone promised to bring down 1,000 people to the celebration. This fact created no small amount of good feeling.

On motion of Mr. Lugrin it was decided to extend invitations to the Japanese consul at Vancouver, and also to the officers of a Japanese warship, which he had heard would be here on May 20.

TRENT RIVER ACCIDENT.

Text of the Finding of Nanaimo Grand Jury on This Subject.

Below is the text of the bill returned by the grand jury at Nanaimo, to which the Union Colliery Company will be called upon to plead when the adjourned assize court meets on Tuesday next. To the intimation that a change of venue would probably be asked, Deputy Attorney-General Maclean, who appeared on behalf of the crown to prosecute the indictment, announced that he would oppose the application. The jury's finding is as follows:

"The jurors for Our Lady the Queen present that the Union Colliery Company of British Columbia, Limited Liability, is a company duly incorporated under the 'Companies act, 1878,' for the purpose amongst other things of acquiring coal lands in the province of British Columbia, for extracting coal therefrom, and of erecting and using tramways and roadways necessary for transporting said coal from the mines to the place of shipment.

"The jurors aforesaid do further present that the said company pursuant to said powers have for a long time past been mining coal near Union, in the county of Nanaimo, in the province of British Columbia, and have been transporting said coal from said mines to Union wharf, in said county, the place of shipment thereof, along a tramway or railway in cars drawn by locomotives.

"The jurors aforesaid do further present that the said tramway or railway is about ten miles in length, and that for some time past the company has been carrying passengers as well as hauling coal on said tramway or railway between said points.

"The jurors aforesaid do further present that the said tramway or railway on the day and year hereinafter mentioned was carried across the valley of the Trent river by trestle work and a Howe truss bridge erected several years prior to said date, which truss bridge was about one hundred and thirty-three feet in length and about ninety-five feet above the bed of the said river, and that the said trestle and truss bridge were maintained by the said company.

"The jurors aforesaid do further present that in the absence of reasonable precaution and care the said Howe truss bridge migh endanger human life, and that the said company were under a legal duty to take reasonable precautions against and to use reasonable care to avoid such danger.

"The jurors aforesaid do further present that said company unlawfully neglected without lawful excuse to take reasonable precautions and to use reasonable care in maintaining the said Howe truss bridge, and that on the seventeenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight a locomotive engine and several cars then being run along said tramway or railway and across said Howe truss bridge by said company, broke down said Howe truss bridge owing to the rotten state of the timbers thereof, and were precipated into the valley of the Trent river, thereby causing the death of Alfred Walker, Richard Nightingale, Walter Work, Alexander Mellodo, K. Nunko (Japanese) and Osano (Japanese), who were then on said cars and locomotive against the form of the statute in such cases made and provided and against the peace of Our Lady the Queen, her crown and dignity."

Will Call at Brisbane.

Canadian-Australian Liners to Receive a Subsidy from Queensland.

Two Northern and a West Coast Boat Leave With Heavy Cargoes.

The Canadian-Australian liner Aorangi with passengers and cargo (including much frozen mutton), from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Hawaii, paid the outer wharf a call at an early hour yesterday morning, landed a few travellers and a little freight, and by noon was well on her way to Vancouver. Leaving Sydney on March 25, and Suva on April 4, the liner had an orthodox passage to Honolulu, from which port to the end of the run high seas and thick weather prevailed. It was 90 degrees in the shade when the Aorangi left the New South Wales port, and the thermometer fell to freezing point before the voyage was completed. The most interesting subject of antipodean discussion when the just-arrived steamship started north—aside, of course, from the Samoan tangle—was the progress of the federation movement and the new plans for the Canadian mail steamship line. As to the former, Queensland was having an election with this as practically the only live issue; while in regard to the latter, considerable interest had been aroused by the publication of a statement that on the return trip of the Aorangi, the New Zealand call would be cut out of the schedule. It is extremely improbable that this will be done, however, for it is part of the intercolonial agreement that the steamers from Vancouver and Victoria shall call at either a Queensland port or at New Zealand. Negotiations were recently opened up for the steamers to call at Brisbane, and possibly this change has been agreed to. The New South Wales government have only just decided to continue their annual subsidy of £10,000 for a further period of four years, the new contract stipulating that either a Queensland or a New Zealand port may be made a port of call. The preference in New South Wales is possibly slightly in favor of Brisbane.

BOTH WANT IT.

Brisbane and Wellington Fighting for the Canadian-Australian Liners.

There is a lively contest in progress between Brisbane, Queensland, and Wellington, New Zealand, as to which shall be the point of call for the Canadian-Australian liners. The steamers cannot very well call at both and as several days are lost in going to Wellington and both colonies have offered the same subsidy, £7,500 per annum, it is probable that Brisbane will win the prize. A Wellington despatch published in the Australian papers says: "At the annual meeting of the chamber of commerce today the Vancouver mail service was discussed and the speakers urging its retention and the necessity of urging upon the government the benefits to be derived from entering into a reciprocal agreement with Canada. Ultimately a motion was carried that the chamber, as representative also of other chambers of the colony, represent to the government the necessity of taking steps to prevent the Vancouver service being lost to New Zealand."

And a Brisbane despatch says:

"The Huddart, Parker Company has again approached the government with a view to arranging for the Canadian mail liners to call at Brisbane. The company considers that the proposed round trip via New Zealand would occupy too much time, at least three days more than it would via Brisbane. Now that the company has three steamers instead of two, and is likely soon to have a fourth, it asks for a subsidy of £7,500 per annum, instead of £5,000, which was asked when the company had only two vessels running. The government is disposed to favorably view the offer. Mr. S. Larke, the agent of the Canadian government in Australia, arrived in Brisbane to-night to discuss the matter. It is considered probable that within a few weeks the contract will be signed, making Brisbane the first port of call and the last port of departure."

INDIAN SUPERSTITIONS.

Consumptive Woman's Strange Means of Freeing Herself From Disease.

An almost incredible story of Indian superstition is told by late arrivals from Ahousett, a small West Coast village less than a hundred miles from Victoria. Here, as elsewhere along the coast, the ravages of disease are yearly laying sad claim on the natives, and consumption above all other kinds of sickness is being regarded with a peculiar horror. This was very oddly demonstrated on Saturday last, shortly before the regular West Coast steamer made her periodical call. An Indian woman in the village, in about the last stages of the disease and being a favorite, the natives of the reservation were resorting to desperate means to cure her. The blood she coughed up after a very severe hemorrhage on Sunday morning was preserved, and with it they painted the door-knobs of every cabin and house in the village, even to the door of the white storekeeper. This naturally aroused consternation among many, and on investigation afterwards the reason of it was learned. There is a belief among the Indians that when this is done another contracts the disease and the woman is cured, but the practice is not customary.

FLOUR FOR CHINA.

Sailing Vessels Chartered on the Sound to Relieve the Liners.

The British ships Hutton Hall, Pomys Castle and Drumbarton, which were recently in Esquimalt, are loading 90,000 barrels of Washington flour for Hongkong. It was hoped by flour mill men that the chartering of sailing vessels would become a permanent thing, says the Seattle P.-I., but this is prevented by the recent rise in charter rates, amounting to 8 shillings 9 pence per ton since the foregoing charters were made.

In the Hotel Corridors.

Influx of Miners to Outfit for Gold Fields Has Commenced.

Honeymoon Parties in Victoria --British Launches Seized by Uncle Sam.

The spring "rush" of miners and prospectors into the Northern gold fields may be said to have fairly commenced and although the parties of treasure-seekers are not so large and perhaps not so blindly enthusiastic as two years ago, very considerable additions are daily being made to the population of the Klondike and Atlin districts by the men who make Victoria their outfitting point. Possibly one-half, and at least one-third, of yesterday's arrivals at the city hotels were North-bound prospectors. Luke Daniels, who although a British subject, comes here from San Francisco, is at the Dominion, bound for Atlin. D. Kennedy and Alec Kennedy, with William Beckler, from St. Peter and Tracy, Minnesota, are making the new British Columbia placer district their objective point, and are also quartered at the Dominion while they are engaged in outfitting. Bertram Tennyson and J. W. McGillivray, the former from Moosomin and the latter from Inverness, Scotland, are two Hotel Victoria guests who also have set their faces toward the country of which Atlin City is the capital. The latter gentleman left the "old country" by the steamship Britannic, and both are going equipped for the destruction of all big game that the country may be possessed of—in addition they hope to win their share of the district's gold. Mr. Tennyson was a visitor to Victoria in 1892, and sees many interesting changes since that date. The Queen's has its contingent of gold hunters, too, one party being composed of J. McLaren, T. Broomer and W. M. C. Spadden, of Inverness, Scotland; and another of Californians—Herbert S. Ashton, from Riverside; H. A. and J. S. Kent, from King City; John Frell, of Applegate, Placer county; A. Tryhorn, A. Glassman and H. Wakes, of San Francisco; and T. Shey, of Oakland—all miners of experience. Those of the party who are British subjects will probably go to Atlin, while the others will press farther, and try their luck in the Northwest Territories of Canada.

* * *

Capt. William Buckley, who came out from England with a large party a year or more ago, on the steamer Manauense, proceeding from here to the Klondike, has just returned from Dawson, having been a late arrival out over the ice and a passenger to Seattle by the Humboldt. He is now on his way to England, whence he will return in a few months, as he is thoroughly well satisfied with the Klondike and his chance of winning a fortune there. The two steel launches which were brought out from England on the Manauense are understood to have been seized in the American portion of the Yukon by the United States authorities, and will probably be confiscated.

* * *

W. E. Blythe and bride, of Duncan, are spending a few days at the Hotel Dallas before proceeding on their honeymoon trip to England. Mrs. Blythe was until yesterday morning Miss Fannie S. Edgson, being the third daughter of Mr. Milton Edgson, of Cowichan. They were married at 8:30 yesterday morning and came to Victoria on the noon train. Numerous friends witnessed the ceremony and gathered at the train to wish them a safe journey.

R. H. Cavill, who came up from San Francisco by the direct steamer yesterday morning, expecting to join his old partner and proceed on a mining expedition into the Atlin, was at the Dominion yesterday. He did not find the partner awaiting him here, and consequently abandoned the trip.

R. van Berger, of Shanghai, China, with with Mrs. P. C. Smith and Mrs. W. G. Greaves, of Portland, form a family party who arrived in the city by the Kingston yesterday evening, and are enjoying the hospitality of the Hotel Driard.

C. A. Schroeder, the Tacoma hypnotist and mind-reader, who is shortly to give a series of exhibitions of psychic power at the A.O.U.W. hall, is a guest at the Hotel Wilson.

J. F. Stewart, a Vancouver accountant, who yesterday morning took unto himself a wife, is with his bride enjoying the honeymoon at the Dominion.

Joseph R. Roy, the Dominion engineer, now resident at New Westminster, came over from the Mainland yesterday evening, and is at the Driard.

S. L. Dowell, a prosperous Dawson miner, who arrived down by the Laurada a few days ago, is a guest at the Dominion.

I. A. Nadeau, of the N.P.R. at Seattle, and E. J. Pearson, Tacoma, are at the Hotel Driard.

MR. CHARLTON'S MOTION.

Usually Mr. Charlton, M.P., manages to concentrate public attention upon himself by a bill aimed at compelling the newspaper men of Victoria, Vancouver and Rossland to work on Sunday. This is not the avowed object of the bill, but it is what it amounts to. This session he is to the fore with a resolution which will strike a responsive chord in the hearts of the public. It reads as follows:

1. That the prevailing practice of delivering in the Canadian House of Commons, speeches of great length, embracing voluminous and often irrelevant extracts, has introduced a discursive and diffuse, rather than a concise and incisive style of public speaking; is destructive of pertinent debate upon public questions, is a waste of valuable time, unreasonably lengthens the sessions of parliament; is in marked contrast to the practice that prevails with regard to debate in the British House of Commons, and tends to repel the public from a careful and intelligent consideration of the proceedings of parliament.

2. That it is expedient that rules be adopted limiting the length of speeches, and regulating the general conduct of debate in that regard.

Mr. Charlton may very properly say in support of his resolution that no one reads long speeches. Hansard of this session up to the close of Sir Hibbert Tupper's speech, which is as far as has come to hand in Victoria, makes a book of 400 pages. The debate on the address in all will probably take 800 or 1,000 pages. This is utterly preposterous. The worst of it is that it is almost all about one subject. The Colonist does not favor anything like a cloture, except in cases of intentional obstruction, but it submits that something will have to be done, if public interest in the proceedings of parliament is not to be destroyed altogether.

A Depressing Season.

Winter is the most trying season of the year, so far as health is concerned. Confinement in-doors, and over-heated and impure air makes even usually strong people feel dull, languid, easily tired and generally run down.

A tonic is needed to aid nature in regaining lost energy. April is the month of all months when a tonic is of most service.

DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS FOR PALE PEOPLE

is the only true tonic medicine. These pills make rich, red energy-giving blood and transform listless, dull, tired and worn-out men and women into smiling, healthy, happy, work-loving people.

Thousands—some of them your neighbors—have been made well by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, but you must get the genuine.

NERVOUS AND WORN OUT.

Mrs. Peter Mahar, Seal Cove, Que., writes: "It gives me real pleasure to acknowledge the benefit I have derived from Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, for I believe had it not been for their use I would now be in my grave. My health was broken down, and the least exertion would fatigue me. I was troubled with dizziness, shortness of breath, and palpitation of the heart; my appetite was fickle, and I was extremely pale. I gave the pills a fair trial, and they have restored me to perfect health, and I can do all my household work without experiencing the least fatigue. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are the best tonic I know of for weak, tired pale people."

The Genuine are sold only in Packages like the engraving. WRAPPER PRINTED IN RED.

At all dealers, or direct from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., at 50 cents a box or six boxes for $2.50.

DR WILLIAMS PINK PILLS FOR PALE PEOPLE TRADE MARK REGISTERED

MAIL ADVICES FROM SAMOA.

Story of the Bombardment With Which Hostilities Opened--A Clumsy Sensational Fake.

A story bearing the ear-marks of a "fake" was received here by the steamer Aorangi, from Honolulu yesterday. It was to the effect that the commander of the German man-of-war Falke had been arrested by the British and American authorities at Apia, and was a prisoner on board H. M. S. Porpoise. The story goes on to say that this action was taken after a conference between Admiral Kautz and Captain Sturdee, who were convinced that the German had been supplying arms to Mataafa and his followers. This is a clumsy invention to publish now, after the cable has brought detailed reports from Samoa of proceedings up to a later date, showing that no such incident could have occurred.

Somewhat more reliable news is contained in the Suva papers received by the Aorangi. They contain the details of the fighting between the Anglo-American and Mataafa forces, the news of which was received by cable. The officers of the collier Taviuni, which arrived at Suva previous to the departure of the Aorangi, told the following story:

"The Taviuni arrived off Apia on March 16 in the early morning, and from search-lights playing round the beach from the men-of-war we at once knew there was something unusual going on. When steaming into the harbor at 6 a.m., the big guns were firing from the warships Porpoise, Royalist and Philadelphia, the Falke not taking any part whatever. We were stopped by one of the officers of the Porpoise, who came out to meet us in one of that ship's boats, telling us at the same time that serious fighting was going on. We at once dropped anchor outside the line of fire, to await instructions, as we had coal on board for both the Royalist and Porpoise.

"Every place was closed on shore, and as the town might be destroyed at any minute, all white people called to take up their quarters on board the different warships. We managed at last to get 23 Solomon island boys, after a few hours' hunting around Malietoa camp, to come on board, so we started coaling the Royalist at 11 a.m., and finished toward dusk, then steamed closer to shore and coaled the Porpoise all night and part of the next forenoon. While coaling the Porpoise she was shelling the bush part of Apia during the whole night, and the shots from the natives' rifles ashore were striking the Porpoise and Taviuni, which made all people come from the deck. I may state that the Taviuni had between 60 and 70 refugees living on board for two days and two nights, who were very thankful for the way in which they were treated.

"The Taviuni left Apia on March 19, and up till that time three sailors from the Royalist were killed, one from the Philadelphia, and several wounded. The Taviuni brings on to Suva hospital two sailors from the Royalist, both being shot through the legs.

"Mataafa's men lost, so far as could be ascertained, between 200 and 300 natives. Up till our time of sailing the firing was just going on the same as on our arrival. Between 30 and 40 decayed bodies were found behind the British consul's house on Friday morning, Mataafa's side not being able to carry off their dead. Serious fighting is expected, as the natives from outlying islands are arriving in thousands for either side. There is some talk of shelling the Tivoli hotel, German firms' property, and several other prominent buildings where natives are supposed to be in hiding."

As a sign of the feeling in Australia, Fiji and New Zealand over affairs in Samoa, it may be stated that when the news was received an agitation was started to send forces from the colonies to aid the Anglo-American forces, and on the British warships that sailed the citizens sent arms and ammunition, so that the Britishers in Apia could be armed.

The Aorangi brought details of the action of the volcano Kilauea. The first disturbance occurred the last of March, and did not seem to be a breaking out of the slumbering fire, but rather a caving in of the floor of the great crater. By a peculiar freak of nature the crater was floored over by lava. Early on the morning of March 23, there was a rumbling sound from the mountain, followed by great clouds of dust and smoke. Down the mountain side came an avalanche of rocks and dirt, burying the vegetation for some distance from the edge of the crater. Later in the day and at subsequent intervals during the week that followed, prolonged rumbling was heard without any noticeable disturbance of the earth. An investigation disclosed the fact that a hole more than 200 feet in diameter had been made in the floor of the crater by the crust giving way. An attempt was made to ascertain the depth of the hole, but nothing definite could be learned.

The island of Nihau belonging to the Hawaiian group has been leased by Senator Henry Waterhouse for 50 years and will be turned into a sugar plantation. Nihau lies 15 miles from the shore of Kauai. It is 20 miles long by 7 broad, and contains an area of 97 square miles, or 70,000 acres. Some 30,000 sheep, 1,000 head of cattle and about 50 head of horses graze upon the island. Ten thousand acres of fine land may be put into sugar without interfering with the grazing district.

"THE MEDDLER."

Mr. Stuart Robson Scores a Complete Success at the Victoria Theatre.

A very clever play very cleverly played was the unanimous verdict of the large audience which greeted Mr. Stuart Robson and his company of players at the Victoria theatre last night. The play, "The Meddler," is an odd conceit, abounding in very funny, though not much involved complications. It calls for well studied work in every portion, for it would degenerate into an absurd farce in the hands of any but artists. Mr. Robson has created the role of Francis Ell, the Meddler, and portrays a highly amusing individual. The temptation to exaggerate must be strong, but he never yielded to it. His tricks of voice have a very grotesque effect, and his peculiar mannerisms are extremely taking. While he may not be what some would call a great actor, he is undoubtedly a very successful one, who can amuse without offence, even though he may not instruct. His success last night was such that he could easily count upon an audience equal to the capacity of the theatre, if his engagements permitted a repetition of the play.

His support was strong. Mr. Edwin Holt as Mr. Chandler treated the audience to some excellent passages; Mr. Frank C. Bangs made a capital old gentleman as Capt. Ollphant, while Mr. Harrold Russell's Mr. Bancroft and Mr. Willard Curtis' Mr. Shirlaw were wholly satisfactory.

Among the ladies, the first place belongs to Miss Marie Burroughs, who is well know to the Victoria public by a reputation which she fully sustained. She looks charmingly upon the stage, and her costumes were beautiful. She gives evidence of very careful analysis of her role, and sustains her idea of it with thoroughness. Mrs. Stuart Robson is very amusing in her easy way. Miss Perry is not quite even in her work. At times she was very taking; at others somewhat indifferent. Miss Van Courtland was equal to the requirements of her role.

Speaking of the play and its production, it is perhaps open to the criticism that the characters portrayed and the plot are hardly worth the great amount of talent and the study that is displayed in their presentation. And yet, as the object of Mr. Robson is simply to amuse and his success in this regard is beyond all question, The Meddler may be pronounced a complete success, such as will ensure him the hearty support of Victorians on his next visit.

MAY BE ARCHBISHOP.

How the Reported Elevation of Bishop Christie is Viewed in Washington.

A special to the Portland Oregonian from Washington says: "Archbishop Martinelli has received no official information of the selection of an archbishop of Oregon. He has seen a report that private information is to the effect that Bishop Christie of Victoria, B.C., has been selected. Christie's name was among those sent to Rome, and the report of his elevation might well be true. It is also possible that he, being a former Minnesota man, the influence of Archbishop Ireland, now in Rome, might have had something to do with the selection, if it has been decided upon.

"The papal legate says the delay in the Oregon archbishopric vacancy has been due to the ill health of the Pope. The selection is made by the propaganda, but must be approved by the Pope before being definite.

"Some archbishops of th church will be designated to confer the pallium upon the new archbishop. This ceremony will take place at Portland, the residence of the archbishop. It is possible that Archbishop Martinelli may be designated or may make the ceremony an occasion for visiting the Pacific Northwest. This will be determined by the season of the year, and his duties here.

"Bishop Christie is spoken of as a very strong man intellectually, and was popular in his former stations, especially in Minnesota, where he was located for several years."

SEALERS DOING WELL.

There Were Lots of the Fur Bearers Off the Coast Last Month.

Capt. S. Balcom has received a letter from Capt. Haan of the sealing schooner Zillah May confirming the news of his reported catch of 471 skins. Capt. Haan reports the schooner Enterprise as having 500 skins on April 8; the Viva, Capt. McPhee, with 325 on April 6 and the Ocean Belle with 100 on April 18. He states in his letter that seals are plentiful and that the weather in March was good up till about the first of this month.