The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY-FIRST YEAR. VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10 1898 VOLUME XLI. NO. 19

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

The Queen's Speech Treats at Length of Warfare and Pestilence in India.

Defence of Empire Now Calls for Expenditure Beyond Any Precedent.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The fourth session of the fourteenth parliament of Queen Victoria and the twenty-sixth of the United Kingdom, was opened by commission at 2 o'clock this afternoon with the customary ceremonies.

The Queen's speech was as follows:

"*My Lords and Gentlemen*:

"My relations with other powers continue friendly.

"Negotiations between the Sultan of Turkey and the King of Greece have been brought to a conclusion by the signature of a treaty of peace, under which the territorial relations between the two powers are practically unchanged.

"The question of the autonomous government of the Island of Crete has occupied the attention of the powers. The difficulty of arriving at a unanimous agreement on some points has unduly protracted deliberations, but I hope that these obstacles will be before long surmounted.

"Intelligence, which is apparently trustworthy, has been received of the intention of the Khalifa to advance against the Egyptians in the Soudan, and I have therefore given directions that British troops should be despatched to Berber to the assistance of His Highness the Khedive.

"I have concluded a treaty of friendship and commerce with His Majesty the Emperor of Abyssinia.

"The report of the commission appointed in December, 1896, to inquire into the condition of certain of my West Indian colonies has conclusively established the existence of severe depression in those colonies, caused by the heavy decline in the price of sugar, which is mainly attributable to a reduction in the cost of production and the great increase in its extent in recent years. But the fall has been artificially stimulated by the system of bounties which producers and manufacturers of beet root sugar has maintained in European states. There seems to be a growing opinion in these states that this system is injurious to the interests of their population, and communications are now in progress between my government and the government principally concerned, with a view to a conference on the subject, which I trust may result in the abolition of the bounties. In the meantime a measure will be proposed to you for the relief of the immediate necessity of the West Indian colonies, for the encouraging of other industries, and the assisting of those engaged in sugar cultivation to tide over the present crisis.

"On the northwestern border of my Indian empire an organized outbreak of fanaticism, which spread in the summer along the frontier, induced many tribes to break their engagements with my government, to attack the military posts in their vicinity, and even invade the settled districts of my territory. I was compelled to send expeditions against these offending tribes for the punishment of the outrages and to insure peace in the future. A portion of the Afridi tribes have not yet accepted the terms offered them, but elsewhere operations were brought to a very successful close. The courage and endurance exhibited by my troops, British and native, overcame almost insuperable difficulties in the country in which they were operating, but I have to deplore the loss of many valuable lives, both among my own troops and those in the service voluntarily, loyally placed at my disposal by native princes of my Indian empire."

The rest of the speech deals with recrudescence of the plague, and says: "Although the mortality is less alarming than in 1897, there is still such cause for anxiety that no effort will be spared to mitigate it."

Her Majesty then rejoices in the fact that the famine is ended in India, except in a small tract near Madras, and says there is reason to anticipate a prosperous year both for agriculture and commerce throughout India.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

"The estimates which will be laid before you have been examined with the utmost desire for economy, but in view of the enormous armaments now maintained by other nations, the duty of providing for the defence of the Empire involves an expenditure beyond former precedent."

Dealing with the proposed legislation, the speech from the throne says that measures will be introduced for the organization of a system of local government in Ireland, substantially similar to Great Britain's, to secure increased strength and efficiency in the army improving present conditions of military service, to enable accused people to testify in their own defence, to facilitate the creating of municipalities in London, and to prevent recognized abuses in connection with church patronage.

There are nine other measures of minor importance.

The Queen's speech concludes:

"I heartily commend your momentous deliberations to the care and guidance of Almighty God."

Previous to the reassembling of parliament the usual party of beef-eaters, accompanied by a number of officials, headed by Chief Inspector of Police Horsley, made the customary search for imitators of Guy Fawkes. They ascertained that the vaults of the House of Parliament did not contain anything inimical to the safety of the members.

The first member to enter the House, Mr. Robert Ashcroft, Conservative member for Oldham, arrived at 5:30 a.m. The second member, Mr. Thomas Loughy, Liberal member for the West Division of Islington, entered at 6:30 a.m., followed by a continuous stream of members of parliament, the early arrival being due to the fact that there is not room enough in the house to afford each a seat, hence the annual scramble for places, which are secured by placing a hat with a visiting card upon the chosen seat.

The Irish parliamentary party met in committee room No. 15. Timothy M. Healy and supporters, who abstained from attending the party meeting at the previous last session of parliament, were present. Mr. John Dillon was re-elected chairman, and the whips and secretaries were also re-elected.

Mr. Healy proposed Mr. Edmund Vesey Knox, member for the city of Londonderry, as chairman, and Mr. Michael Davitt proposed Mr. John Dillon, who was elected by a vote of 34 to 14.

On the resumption of business in the House of Commons this afternoon the new members took their seats. Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, recently elected for York, was loudly greeted, while J. M. Campbell, the new member for the St. Stephen's Green division of Dublin, on taking the oath, was greeted by the Irish members with cries of "Lodger," referring to the alleged election frauds in that division.

On a sessional motion that peers and lord lieutenants should not interfere in elections, Right Hon. James Lowther, member for the Isle of Thanet, moved to amend it by omitting the word "peers." Mr. Balfour admitted that it was true the house had no power to enforce the order, but unless invited by the opposition leader, Sir Wm. Vernon Harcourt, to adopt another course, he would vote against the amendment. Eventually the amendment was negatived by 319 to 100 votes.

Mr. Gerald Balfour, the chief secretary for Ireland, gave notice that he would introduce on Thursday the local government bill for Ireland.

After notices of introduction of other bills had been given Speaker Gully read the Queen's speech which had previously been read to both houses of parliament and the address in reply was moved and seconded, Sir William Vernon Harcourt, the opposition leader, replied. He said the government could not complain that the house and country were demanding explanations upon many matters. When 100,000 men were in arms in various parts they could not congratulate themselves.

In reply to Sir William Vernon Harcourt's general attack on the government's policy in the past, Mr. Balfour spoke briefly, and to the same effect as Lord Salisbury had spoken in the House of Lords, conveying the impression that the negotiations as to the loan were ended. He added that the government adhered to the statements already made outside the house by the chancellor of the exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, and himself with respect to the protection of British treaty and commercial rights in China.

Sir Chas. Dilke, Radical member for the Forest of Dean, attacked Lord Salisbury's concessions to France in Siam, Tunis and Madagascar, which he said were not hopeful indications of firm insistence upon British treaty rights in China.

Mr. George N. Curzon, under secretary for the foreign office, said Russia's action at Port Arthur was fully within her rights as secured by the treaty of Tientsin.

Mr. Balfour announced that Great Britain, France and Russia had agreed to guarantee a Greek loan jointly.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—The morning papers generally praise Lord Salisbury's statement yesterday as to the Chinese situation. The Daily News, the Liberal organ, gives him credit for surrendering nothing and obtaining more than he asked.

It was said in city circles yesterday that China had dropped all negotiations with the powers for a loan. Lord Salisbury was rather reticent on the subject. Mr. Balfour, however, said the negotiations had been practically in abevance for several weeks, adding that the Chinese did not now ask for money and that there was the end of it.

JAMESON RAID TO DAWSON.

Story of American Plot to Fly the Stars and Stripes Over the Klondike.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The Star to-day, under the heading of "Raid of the Klondike," quoted an anonymous American correspondent who recently arrived in England, as saying with reference to the relief expeditions to the Klondike, that those who are familiar with the facts, "know that this excuse is as flimsy as Jameson's desire to relieve the women and children of Johannesburg."

Continuing the anonymous correspondent remarks: "Every American knows this to be another Jameson raid and that the Americans intend to keep control of the Klondike. The Klondikers have already announced that the Stars and Stripes will be flying at Dawson City by July 4.

"It would please a large body of Americans if the Klondike could be made a pretext for war between England and the United States, which would result in the annexation of Canada." There is much in the same strain.

A VERY LIGHT ROAD.

Ottawa Agitated Over Prospect of But a Tramway on the Stikine.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 7.—Great disappointment is caused here at the announcement that Mackenzie & Mann will use the rails, cars and locomotives from the Lethbridge road for the Glenora-Teslin railway. They are tramway rails, only weighing 30 lbs. to the yard.

Magic Liniment is the Miners best Friend. Don't go north without it.

H. H. Sanders and wife and L. Nadleman and wife, Vancouver, arrived last evening to attend the opening. They are at the Wilson.

UNEASY AS TO YUKON.

Reasons of State Suggested to Explain Precipitancy of Stikine Railway Contract.

Senate Assured That Facts Now Kept Secret Will Justify Government Action.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 8.—The house has been engaged all day in discussing the Yukon railway bill. The terms of the contract, as explained by Mr. Blair, contain important points not covered by the biassed version first given by the government press. The contractors may elect to start from either Glenora, Telegraph Creek or Clearwater river. The railway when fully completed is to be of standard gauge, equal to the Kaslo & Slocan railway. This year the line need not be fully completed, but must be available for operation. The contractors may locate the line as they please and need not file plans with the department. Power is conferred to build to Dawson City as well as certain branch lines. The company has full powers regarding docks, wharves, telegraph and telephone lines, mining and smelting powers.

As soon as the company is incorporated to acquire the works or carry them out the contractors are to be relieved of personal responsibility. The contractors are to receive interest on their deposit.

Half of the lands given as subsidy must be chosen within three years from September 1, and the remainder within six years. No portion of the beds of the rivers Yukon, Lewis or Hootalinqua, or of lakes Teslin, Bennett, Tagish, Lebarge, or Marsh, or of the banks thereof, to 25 feet above high water mark, shall pass to the contractors.

The contract was signed January 25, and approved by His Excellency yesterday.

Mr. Blair spoke with unnecessary warmth and was evidently not very familiar with his subject. Mr. Foster elicited the confession that the minister knew nothing about the transhipment of goods at Wrangel from ocean steamers to river boats, neither had he sought an authoritative opinion from law officers of the crown as to the status of Canada there.

Messrs. Haggart, Wallace, Montague and Robertson strongly opposed the deal, insisting that by Mr. Blair's adsion an all Canadian route had not been unquestionably secured. The contract was defended by Messrs. McMullen and Morrison. The bill was finally read a first time.

The Senate spent the afternoon discussing the address. Sir Mackenzie Bowell said the subsidy given to Mackenzie & Mann showed wanton extravagance on the part of the government. The case for urgency was not made out.

Hon. David Mills, leader of the government, made the somewhat startling announcement that there were special reasons of state for rushing this railway. If the Senate knew all the facts not a dissent would be raised.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell remarked that this information should be forthcoming, but Mr. Mills said he was not in a position to give it.

Mr. Mills' statement is the talk of the lobby and thought to be very significant. It is said the government fears lawlessness in the country and will send more police in.

COWICHAN AFFAIRS.

A Hog Department to Be Added to the Creamery—The Amateur Actors.

DUNCAN, Feb. 7.—Nanaimo won the Intermediate Association football match at Nanaimo against Cowichan, on Saturday last, the score being 6 to 2.

A general meeting of the Cowichan Creamery Association was held at the agricultural hall on Saturday afternoon last, when a resolution declaring the advisability of each patron owning and operating a separator was negatived by a large majority, and a resolution to keep hogs under the act was carried.

The Cowichan Institute amateurs go to Nanaimo on Saturday next to play "Our Boys."

HALIBUT TAKERS DROWNED.

The "Capilano" With Large Cargo Reports the Loss of Two Hands.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 7.—(Special)—The steamer Capilano arrived to-day with a large cargo of halibut. Two men belonging to Vancouver were drowned, Captain R. Driscoll and M. Loughead. The men were fishing in a heavy sea. The weight of the fish in the boat capsized it, and as they were a mile away from the steamer rescue was impossible.

Aeronaut in Luck.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—An aeronaut named Spencer, who started in a balloon from the Crystal Palace this morning for France, accompanied by a newspaper man, passed Boulogne sur Mer at 2:30 p.m. going in a southwesterly direction.

In Africa.

LAGOS, West Coast Africa, Feb. 8.—British troops have occupied Beregouron and Bashere, in the Orgu country.

THE TALIENWAN STORY

Lord Salisbury Explains That Russia Has Promised to Make the Port Free.

In Meantime the British Demand Withdrawn in Consideration of China.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—In the House of Lords, after the address in reply to the speech from the throne had been moved and seconded, the Earl of Kimberley, the opposition leader, replied that he regarded the local government of Ireland as being one of the most important subjects of the Queen's speech, and while he regarded the government measure favorably, he was compelled to add that the Liberal party remained of opinion that the only permanent way of satisfying Ireland was to establish home rule. He mildly criticized the government's policy in the Soudan, West Africa and the Far East, but he said he wished to extract no embarrassing information. When a cabinet minister, however, spoke of war he thought it time parliament was told plainly what was meant.

The Marquis of Salisbury replied. He expressed the hope that the efforts of the English in Egypt would result in the capture of Khartoum. Referring to the Chinese question he said: "I will not use a word which seems to grate on the ears of the Earl of Kimberley, but I may say there no effort which this country would not rather make than lose our treaty rights. At the same time no one has evidenced the slightest intention of infringing those rights. In regard to the loan, it is true that we suggested as one of the conditions the opening of Talienwan as a treaty port. China made some objections, and finally as a compromise on the 15th I suggested that the matter be left in abeyance until the railway reached Talienwan, when it should be opened as a treaty port. Sir Claude Macdonald, the British minister at Pekin, replied the next day that China accepted this, and since then I have heard nothing to the contrary. The old question of the loan is still negotiating." Lord Salisbury added: "I have received spontaneous assurance from the Russian government that any port opened in China will be open to free commerce."

Lord Salisbury said the concessions the government had asked in return for the Chinese loan were without exception directed toward increasing the trade with China and contained nothing injurious to China herself. Regarding the immediate opening of Talienwan, said his Lordship, "the Chinese council has informed us that it would embarrass them much. For reasons that it is not necessary to enter into very closely and for their own personal comfort and well-being, they expressed the desire that we should not insist on the proposal. Whereupon I replied that the proposal was not essential, though we thought it advantageous, and I suggested, as a compromise, that the opening of Talienwan be deferred until the railway reached the port.

"It is obvious to everyone knowing the country well that the district behind Talienwan is practically worthless. No trade could arise till the railway reached the port. A few days afterwards Sir Claude McDonald reported that the compromise was accepted as a condition of the loan, and since then I have heard no more about Talienwan. But I am bound to say I am not very much interested, as I recently received from Russia a written assurance that any port they obtain leave to employ as an outlet for their commerce will be a free port for all the commerce of this country. A free port is much better than a treaty port, and thus having ascertained that Talienwan was to be a free port, it interests very little indeed to know whether it will be a treaty port or not.

"I may say that similar assurances have been made by the German government respecting the territory they recently occupied. Indeed the German government went further and were more flattering to us, for the Garman ambassador told me they had concluded that our manner of dealing with such things was better than theirs, and, in this instance at any rate, they intended to imitate our methods.

"Regarding the loan, I hope in a few days to lay the papers on the table dealing with it, but I warn the noble earl that the information will be exceedingly scanty when it appears." Turning to India, Lord Salisbury declared that the troubles with the Afridis were not due to the occupation of Chitral nor to fanaticism, but to terror at the approach of civilization. It was only intended to occupy such additional posts on the frontier as competent military authorities deemed absolutely necessary.

Homeless Through Earthquakes.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 8.—Earthquake shocks continue to be felt at Balikesir, Asia Minor, and its vicinity. About 4,000 people have been rendered homeless, some 3,600 houses, 30 mosques and 15 khans have been more or less destroyed, and 120 persons have been killed or injured.

New York Canals.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—At a meeting of the municipal council to-day a resolution was passed denouncing the extravagant expenditure of $9,000,000 on the state canals and calling for the appointment of an investigating committee of independent citizens to look into the expenditure.

New Trial for Murder.

TORONTO, Feb. 8.—The Divisional court at Osgoode hall this morning granted a new trial in the case of W. J. Hammond, who was condemned to be hanged on Friday the 18th for the murder of his wife, Kate Hammond, at Gravenhurst. Hammond is very dangerously ill, and it is doubtful if he will live for a new trial.

FACING THE PLEBISCITE.

Government Not Yet Decided How to Pop the Question—The Financial Problem.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 8.—The legislative council of the Dominion Alliance met today to discuss the prohibition question. The consensus of opinion was that the plebiscite should be on the straight question of prohibition, and should not be mixed up with the question of direct taxation. A committee was appointed to interview the government on the subject immediately.

This deputation saw the Premier tonight and laid their views before him. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in reply, said all the government desired was to get an honest expression of opinion. There was no disguising the fact that if prohibition were adopted the revenue would have to be made up. The government had not yet made up its mind as to the particular form in which the question will be put, and the views of the deputation will receive careful consideration.

A MAN CHOPPED UP.

New York Crime With Both the Victim and Perpetrator Unknown.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—The mutilated body of a man without a stitch of clothing on was found in the East river by a policeman to-day. Half of the head was missing, the right leg was cut off at the hip, the left leg was cut off at the knee, and both arms were gone, having been cut off close to the shoulders. The police believe that another murder mystery of a similar character to the recent Guldensuppe case has been unearthed by the discovery of this body. The man apparently had been strangled to death, stabbed with some sharp instrument, thought to be a stiletto, and then cut to pieces in the most ruthless manner.

MANITOBA AND NORTHWEST.

Improvements in the Telegraph Service—Contractor Mackenzie Negotiating at Winnipeg.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 8.—(Special)—Supt. Jenkins, of the C.P.R. telegraphs, says: "I have a wire this morning from the manager of our telegraphs, Mr. Hosmer, that a heavy copper wire is to be strung from Montreal through to the Pacific Coast immediately. This will greatly facilitate the service. The new cable to be laid between Vancouver and Victoria will leave England on one of the company's new steamers recently purchased for the Yukon traffic."

Mr. William Mackenzie was in conference with the provincial cabinet ministers all morning. The ministers would not give out any information for publication, but it is understood that railway matters were under consideration.

Ratepayers of Assiniboia municipality have petitioned the municipal commission for a special audit, alleging that taxes are being used for the maintenance of Catholic separate schools.

CHINA'S MISERABLE PLIGHT.

Afraid to Accept Either British or Russian Money and Facing Default to Japan.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The Pekin correspondent of the Times telegraphing yesterday, says: "I have reasons to believe that China will be induced to decline the British proposals in consequence of Russian opposition, and similarly, that she will be unable to accept the Russian proposals, owing to Englands opposition.

The country is helpless and unable to pay the indemnity except by instalments, but China nurses the hope that Japan will agree to an extension of time. Meanwhile an imperial decree authorizes an issue of treasury bonds at five per cent. to the amount of 100,000,000 taels (about $78,000,000). It appears to the officials, the gentry and the merchants to assist the issue in the remote possibility of raising enough to meet the payment due next May. The method proposed increases the growing distrust in the government. Similar bonds issued at the time of the war of 1855 were repudiated in 1862.

"The unsatisfactory nature of the imperial edict in condemnation of the Shangtung murders affords Germany the desired pretext for remaining in military occupation of considerable territory, including the town of Kiaochou, beyond the area. China still maintains that the murder of the German sailor was justifiable homicide, and due to the sailor's misconduct; but she is powerless to refuse Germany's exactions."

NANAIMO MINERS.

A Long Meeting With Mr. Robins to Discuss an Advance in Pay.

NANAIMO, Feb. 7.—(Special)—There was a miners' meeting held in the power house yesterday afternoon. Mr. Robins addressed the meeting for two hours. Nothing was done, an adjournment being made until Saturday night. The meeting was private, no reporters being allowed, but it was stated by one of those present that a demand was made for a 10 per cent. increase.

Has Strongly Influenced the Commons.

It is a fact worthy of record that at least fifty members of the House of Commons are able personally to bear united and convincing testimony to the good effects of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder in case of cold in the head or catarrh in its several different shapes. These columns have recorded the testimony of members representing constituencies in every corner of the Dominion. At this writing we have before us the words of Mr. Arthur A. Bruneau, M. P., Richelieu, Que., and Hugo H. Ross, M. P., of Dundas, who join with their other members in telling what this remedy has done for them in cases of catarrhal trouble. At the present time, when so many are suffering from influenza in the head it is a friend indeed.

For sale by Dean & Hiscock and Hall & Co.

YUKON IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. Foster Says the Railway Contract Is on Its Face Very Suspicious.

Sir Hibbert Tupper Would Give Foreigners Their Treatment of Canadians.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 7.—The Yukon railway contract was not brought down to-day.

Sir Charles Tupper asked if the government could furnish a statement of the gold taken out of the Yukon by Canadians and aliens respectively; and Premier Laurier said the information would be forthcoming as near as could be obtained.

Mr. Sifton told Mr. Foster that the question of permitting American soldiers without arms to pass through Canadian territory was now the subject of negotiation with Washington.

Mr. Foster made a slashing reply to Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the address, criticising severely his speeches in England. The Yukon railway monopoly, he said, on its face looked very suspicious. Sir Richard Cartwright made only a brief reply.

Sir Hibbert Tupper then took the floor. He made a splendid speech from a Pacific Coast standpoint, arguing that the coasting and mining regulations should be enforced in the interests of Canadians only so long as Americans are not prepared to reciprocate. He advocated the speedy construction of a telephone line at the canyon of the Stikine.

Mr. Davin resumes the discussion tomorrow.

RELIEF STORES SHIPPED.

First of the United States Expedition Sets Out From Portland.

PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 5.—The expedition which the United States government is sending into the interior of Alaska with supplies of the relief of the miners who are reported to be in want, sailed for Dyea to-night on the steamer George W. Elder. The Elder carried 350 passengers, 51 of whom are officers and enlisted men of the United States army, who will act as escort to the pack train, which, it is expected, will carry the relief supplies over the passes. About 200 tons of provisions were sent forward by the government from here, and an additional supply will go from the Sound in a few days.

Brigadier-General Merriam, commanding the department of the Columbia, who has had general supervision of the preparing the expedition, has assigned Major L. H. Rucker, Fourth Cavalry, to the command of the relief expedition. Major has been in Alaska for several weeks and has taken temporary station at Dyea, where he has established a camp and supply department. General Merriam expects to go to Alaska on the steamer Oregon, which is scheduled to sail from here on February 8, and from Dyea he will direct affairs until the expedition is started for the passes. Captain L. D. Brainard, commissary of subsistence, and disbursing officer for relief supplies, will also go forward by the Oregon.

The government has let a contract to the Snow and Ice Transportation Company of Chicago for carrying 150 tons of supplies from Dyea to Dawson, but as the paraphernalia of the company has not yet arrived on the Pacific Coast, it is probable that General Merriam will push on a portion of the supplies by pack train to Lake Lebarge and there build boats in which to carry the supplies down the Yukon.

It is expected that the 500 reindeer bought in Norway by the government will be landed in Alaska within a month, and if possible additional supplies will be taken in with them.

NEWS OF VANCOUVER.

Klondike Enterprises Reported—Gun Accident Victim Identified—A New Block.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 7.—(Special)—H. Gummer, of the Guelph Herald, Chief Ranger of the C.O.F., is in Vancouver, and goes to Victoria on Tuesday.

An American firm is locating here for the manufacture of a patent collapsible metal boat.

Captain Armstrong, a Kootenay steamboat man, leaves to-day for Teslin lake with forty men and the machinery for several steamers to run on Teslin lake.

The building of a two-story block on Hastings street, near Cambie street, is to commence shortly and is to be finished by May 1.

The man Richard Fraser, who died in the hospital on Thursday from a gunshot wound, was a native of Scotland, and had been living at Aliceville. It is supposed that deceased was taking his gun from the boat by the muzzle when it was accidentally discharged into his lung.

The finance committee has appropriated $250 for a Klondike pamphlet folder. The printing and circulation of the folder will be undertaken by the Board of Trade.

The Mining Critic Printing and Publishing Company has secured the contract for the city printing.

Absconded to Klondike.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—Edward Hodyman, the absconding treasurer of the Chicago Building Trades Council, has been located on his way to Klondike. He is under arrest in a remote part of the Northwest and a detective left Chicago to-day to bring him back. Hodgman's shortage is said to reach nearly $25,000.

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

JAPANESE FOR YUKON.

Story That Five Thousand Are About to Be Shipped from Honolulu.

They Would Work in Gangs as Contract Laborers at Plantation Pay.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—A special to the Tribune from San Francisco to-day reports Alexander Sheppard, who has just reached that city from Honolulu, as saying: "Japan is going to invade the Klondike. An army of 5,000 able-bodied laborers is being got together for the gold fields and in a month it will make a descent upon Dawson City.

One of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamers will bring the men over, but as they will not land on the soil of the United States there will be no one to say them nay unless Great Britain takes a hand in the matter. Either they will go to Victoria and thence over the British trail into the Yukon district or they will go to St. Michael's and then up the Yukon on river steamers.

"Nearly all the Japanese who will go to the Klondike will come from Hawaii. Many laborers on the islands are getting ready to go north as soon as their contract time expires.

"A syndicate in Japan is behind the scheme, and the laborers will only get the same pay as they do in the plantations. Overseers will go with them, and the coolies will be worked in gangs. Outside of these, lots of Japanese who have saved a little money on their own account will go, and I would not be surprised to see 7,000 or 8,000 stretched out along the banks of the Yukon."

COPPER RIVER ROUTE.

A Prospector Declares That This Alleged Entry to Yukon is Altogether Impassable.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 8.—(Special)—T. F. Sinclair has returned from the Copper river district, so much advertised by the Northern Pacific Railway as a likely route to the Yukon. He says the route is utterly impracticable. A short distance from the sea the river divides into three or four mouths, all of which are beset with flats and sand-bars, and the water is extremely shallow and swift. Further up the river are numerous glaciers which project and are continually breaking off into the river, causing whirlpools and eddies. After the glacial belt the river passes through a succession of deep canyons, resulting in impassable rapids. The river is not navigable for craft of the lightest draft; even Indian canoes in experienced hands can only be used in certain places. Valdez bay at the head of Copper river, has a glacier at the head of navigation which is impassable except on foot. Pack animals cannot cross it, and it can be only crossed on foot at great hazzard. The interior of this district is unexplored, but from the nature of the surrounding country is deemed impassable.

TROOPS FOR SKAGWAY.

Washington Orders a Detachment Sent Forward Immediately.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—In accordance with a decision of the cabinet to take steps to protect life and property at the Alaskan seaports, the war department to-day framed and forwarded the following instructions to General Merriam at Vancouver barracks, Washington: "Make all necessary arrangements to send the regimental headquarters band and companies of the 14th Infantry to Dyea and two companies of the same regiment to Skagway, Alaska, prepared to stay at least through the summer season. Some suitable and temporary quarters to be arranged for the troops. Further instructions to be sent later and the troops will go as early as proper arrangements can be made."

ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

Members of the Commons Helping the Provincial Opposition—The Candidates in Frontenac.

TORONTO, Feb. 8.—(Special)—Dr. Montague, M.P., is taking the stump in behalf of Mr. Whitney, and will speak throughout Monck and Haldimand. Lieut.-Col. Sam. Hughes, M.P., who has just arrived home from Australia, will take part actively in the two Victorias.

KINGSTON, Feb. 8.—McRae, the Liberal candidate for Frontenac, who was supposed to be out of the field since the convention decided not to run a candidate but to leave the contest between the Conservative candidate and Patron leader Hancock, announces that he will be an independent Liberal candidate.