The Colonist.

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THE DAILY COLONIST

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THE OPENING OF THE HOUSE.

Today at 3 o'clock the second session of the Tenth Parliament of British Columbia will open. There will be the usual ceremonies. A little more than ordinary interest will attach to the occasion, because the public is in more or less of an expectant mood. Some expect to see trouble of a political nature, and others expect to hear His Honor outline in the Speech from the Throne a policy in respect to railways and other matters of importance.

In regard to the latter we do not know whether the visitors to the Legislative Chamber will be disappointed or not. It is becoming more and more the custom for governments to make the non-committal as possible. It used to be the vogue to include every imaginable thing that might either directly or indirectly affect the political situation. The greater the paucity of measures to announce the more necessary it seemed to be to fill up with political padding. It may be taken for granted that a long-winded Speech from the Throne means sailing in shallow waters.

On this occasion, in view of the occasional hints that have dropped from the members of the Government, it may be assumed that the legislative menu will have but few items; but we may expect these items to be of a particularly meaty character.

Naturally we shall have reference to the Estimates and the general financial condition of the Province. Although there has been a good deal of talk recently about a deficit having occurred, it would be pleasant to learn from His Honor's lips that for once in a long time revenue had caught up to and exceeded expenditure. Some such statement some time ago was made by one of the Ministers, and we trust to have the same confirmed.

Every session develops a great many measures not anticipated at the outset, but it would be a disappointment to have a session pass without the Game Act coming in for consideration. It is a never failing annual. In view of the great importance of the question of education, something will no doubt be said regarding amendments to the Public Schools Act.

With reference to our principal industries satisfaction will in all probability be expressed as to the prosperity being enjoyed in mining and agriculture. As the result to some extent of the general attention which has been directed to the West, but particularly as the result of the success which has attended farming operations in British Columbia for the past few years, and the intelligent methods of advertising our resources, there has been a considerable influx of settlers. These have been distributed in many of the settled parts of the Province, but the Okanagan valleys especially have benefited by this immigration, and it would be reasonable to have attention called to so satisfactory a state of affairs.

Frequent remarks have appeared in the Colonist, editorially, about the problem presented by the dyked lands of the Fraser River valley, which, though up to date they have cost the Government a very large sum of money, have been unproductive in revenue. The Province has had to assume practically the whole of the liability, and the arrears of interest on the dyked bonds, which are very large, remain unpaid. Such a matter must have the attention of the Government, and there will probably be some measure introduced, dealing with the whole subject, during the present session.

Owing to the intimation respecting the granting of Provincial autonomy to the Northwest Territories in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament at Ottawa, and owing also to the rumors emanating from there, bearing almost the stamp of official authority, that occasion would be taken at the same time to adjust the financial relations of all the Provinces with the Dominion, it would appear to be a most opportune time for the Province of British Columbia to assert its claims for special consideration. If His Honor should refer to the subject it may be taken for granted that the Provincial Government has already moved in the matter, and, in that case, we may look to see the papers in connection with the same laid before the House at an early date, and we trust to see some decided action taken by the Legislature in support of the representations of the Government in this most important matter.

But what the great majority of the people will look forward to with most expectancy is an announcement of the attitude of the Government respecting the subject of railway construction. Having in mind what the Premier said at the closing of the last session of the Legislature, and the feeling of interest manifested throughout the Province, it would be quite impossible for the Government to omit from the speech reference to that matter. There have been various rumors and considerable speculation concerning what was in view, but so far there have been no definite intimations of the Goverment's policy. Nevertheless we have strong hopes of something quite explicit and substantial being submitted at an early date.

We cannot think of any other subject of special importance likely to be included in His Honor's speech. The indications are that nothing else of moment will be taken up, and, therefore, that most desirable result, a short session, may ensue. It is possible, of course, that the Opposition may pursue a policy of obstruction whereby the session will be unduly lengthened. Judging from the hints that have been given of an onslaught on the Government being in contemplation, it is possible that there will be some lively and protracted debates. It would, however, be quite inadvisable, as a matter of policy, for the Opposition to go beyond legitimate limits. With the experience of the past few years in mind, the electorate are not enamored of long-winded parliaments. Their instructions to both sides of the House would undoubtedly be "be brief."

THE WATERWORKS SITUATION.

On account of a statement in the letter of Mr. Buntzen, General Manager of the B. C. Electric Railway, published in the city papers to the effect that the Company did not seek the agreement with the City, and if the City so desired he was perfectly willing that it should be revoked, Ald. Hanna is moving in the Council to accept the invitation and annul the agreement. Whatever the merits of the agreement, which have certainly not been rendered less inviting by the explanations given by Mr. Buntzen, it seems to be a childish proposition to withdraw it from the consideration of the ratepayers. The Council has appointed an expert to examine into the whole question of waterworks, as we understand it, from a financial as well as from an engineering point of view, and until his report is received judgment should be reserved. When we say that his report will affect the financial aspect of the subject, we mean that it must necessarily take into consideration the cost and possible revenue to be derived by putting into operation the Goldstream proposal. The judgment which the ratepayers will pass on the agreement when the bylaw is voted upon ought to depend upon the expert's report to a large extent. The matter should have the fullest investigation before conclusions are arrived at definitely for or against. It is possible that to whatever extent the public mind has been prejudiced against the agreement it has arisen out of misconceptions or lack of information. It is unfortunate in that respect that some of the facts brought out in Mr. Buntzen's letter had not been known at the outset. After the report of the expert has been received, it seems to us to be the duty of the Mayor and those who believe in the benefits of the proposed scheme as compared with those of any other scheme that has or can be proposed, to hold a series of public meetings, and through the press and in every other way place them clearly before the public. Admitting the superiority of the Goldstream supply to that of any other, the next question to consider is its cost and the advantages to be derived by an arrangement with the Tramway as compared with an arrangement in which the Tramway would not be a customer of the city. Is it such a scheme as the city can afford to undertake? Is the arrangement with the Tramway Company a good one considered apart from the question of monopoly to be enjoyed? It must be remembered, too, there is still the legal rights of the City and of the Esquimalt Waterworks Company, respectively, to be determined, and we presume the bylaw would, if carried, be subject to the issue. As to the fate of that bylaw, it should depend upon the merits it may be deemed to possess by the ratepayers. Let it be fairly fought out after all the available information affecting the issue has been forthcoming.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

An effort is being made to establish more experimental farms in British Columbia. This is worthy of every support on the part of the agricultural community. The need of a revision of the policy of the Dominion authorities in this matter in respect to British Columbia has been evident for some time. When the Experimental Farm was located at Agassiz the selection was severely criticized, as not being sufficiently representative of the conditions of the Province as a whole. As a matter of fact any selection that could have been made would have been open to a similar objection. The same general uniformity of conditions does not exist as it does in the other Provinces, where any fairly central locality would reflect more or less accurately all phases of the entire agricultural community. In British Columbia there are three or more distinct sets of conditions, and instead of having one experimental farm at Agassiz in the Westminster district there should be at least one station in the Lower Fraser valley, one on the Island and one in the Interior. Results, as shown by experiments at Agassiz, would not apply to the Island, and would be wholly inapplicable in the Okanagan. In fact, it seems more and more clear to practical men that an entire change of policy in respect to experimental work is required for this Province. It should be in the direction of a greater number of small stations, much less expensive than the one at Agassiz, and more useful and detailed in the character of the information supplied to farmers.

The criticisms of work at the Experimental Farm in British Columbia reflect not on the management there, but upon the system, which has been in vogue ever since the Farms were established. The Agassiz station can boast of a greater number of varieties of trees, and grains, and vegetables grown successfully than any other similar institution on the continent of America. The fact, it is true, is of importance as illustrating the wide range of products possible in this Province; but it has demonstrated little else of value to the farmer. If we look for the varieties best adapted to the special conditions obtaining in British Columbia, we look in vain. If we look for comparisons based on different modes of treatment and different classes of soil we also look in vain. What the farmers want at the present is not a catalogue of a huge nursery, but the kinds of products best suited to his particular case, and the varieties commercially most profitable for him to grow. He wants, too, information as to the best methods to adopt based upon actual, practical experiments. Such results are not possible even with a changed system, if that system be applied to but a single locality. Vancouver Island wants a station to meet its special conditions, Westminster district another, Okanagan another, Kamloops another, and so on. Then, each of these districts have their own special adaptabilities. One district can do better in dairying, another in fruit growing, and another in hogs, and another in grain. Commercially, success lies in following the lines that Nature indicates. Hence the obvious necessity of a series of small experimental stations, each meeting the requirements of some particular district or large section of the Province. The efforts being made to bring this about should have warm support, and the present system should be discouraged.

A MULTI-MINISTER OF MINES.

We are assured by the Nelson Tribune in a "scare line," which extends across a page, that W. A. Galliher, M. P., is to be Minister of Mines at Ottawa, for whose office $20,000 has been appropriated. It is alleged that Senator Templeman, who has prior claims upon a portfolio, prefers his present position without responsibilities to one with responsibilities, even though no salary is attached to his present irresponsible office of Adviser-in-Chief on British Columbia Affairs.

Judging, however, from the very positive statements that are being made in other quarters it seems likely that the new portfolio, for which provision is being made, will be amply, even if it may not be ably, filled. At the time of the Templeman banquet in Victoria, Senator Templeman left no doubt about his ambitions in the direction of being a full-fledged Cabinet Minister, and it may confidently be assumed in the case of the new position now being created that he will not permit himself to be overlooked.

From Nanaimo comes the absolute assurance that Mr. Ralph Smith is to be the occupant of the envied office. The statements contained in the papers in the Black Diamond city are of such a character as to leave no doubt in the world on that score.

The Boundary papers are booming Duncan Ross as eminently fitted for the job. As a journalist, whose avocations in the mining hub of the province have made him familiar with mines of every class, he outdistances all competitors, none of whom are practical, except Ralph Smith, and his experience is limited to coal pups and simple. In a country of such illimitable and varied resources a mere coal miner has no possible chance with an aspirant who has intimate knowledge of "formations of every character, mineral and otherwise; who has been personally in contact with lime, porphyry, diorite, granite, slate and country rock; who is an authority on deposits whether in the form of lenses, kidneys or overflows; who has been associated with every kind of gangue that carries ore; and who writes knowingly about drifts, levels, upraises, winzes, tunnels, crosscuts, shortcuts, dips, variations, faults, horses, double compartment shafts, and hot and cold air compressors. Such a man in that country is held to have many claims, peculiarly his own, upon an office with a rich pay-streak and assured monthly dividends in sight.

Coming to Vancouver, the Liberal newspapers have already installed Mr. Macpherson. It is true that gentleman is not a mining man, but in the estimation of Vancouver people, who have at all times taken a deep interest in the flotation of mining companies, knowledge is the least of the necessary qualifications. Besides Mr. Macpherson once lived at Kamloops and imbibed the mining spirit at that point, of the Interior. He is a man of both push and "pull," and would be just the kind of Minister to make the mineral industry boom.

It is true we have not heard any special claims put forward on behalf of Messrs. Sloan and Kennedy; but then they have not in their constituencies any newspapers supporting their cause. Besides, Mr. Sloan has other fish to fry. He has been successful in getting a biological station for Vancouver Island. His specialty is in cultivating the favor of the finny tribe and investigating deep sea problems. Mr. Kennedy represents an agricultural riding which has few ambitions in the way of mining, besides which he secured the Dominion Exhibition for New Westminster, and that honor must suffice him for the rest of his term.

With five Ministers, the Department of Mines at Ottawa will assuredly be well administered. In much counsel there is wisdom. The arrangement of their duties may be left with some difficulties. Whether they will take turns or act in unison as a council of war, and divide the salary is not stated, nor indeed has it even been suggested. That there will be five Ministers from British Columbia, however, occupying that office is quite certain if we accept the confident statements of the newspapers in as many constituencies.

THE TWO PER CENT. MINING TAX.

It is difficult to do the right thing and be wise at all times. The Tax Commission is made up of men as shrewd in a political and a business way as you could find in the Province possibly; but when they permitted evidence on the two per cent. on minerals they evidently took little thought of what was in store for them. As the scope of the Commission did not include investigation of the effect or incidence of the two per cent. tax, they, nominally at all events, exceeded their jurisdiction in taking evidence on the subject at all. If, however, the matter had been studiously avoided, and no mining man had been heard, there would have been serious criticism of their actions in not considering one of the alleged gravest injustices of all in connection with taxation in British Columbia. Having heard the statements of a few of the mine owners, they were in duty bound to hear the statements of others as well. As this is not practical at the present time so as to make the investigation thorough, there is a demand for another commission. The reason advanced for the appointment of such a commission is, practically, that the mining men cannot agree among themselves as to the kind of a tax there should be imposed.

We do not say that the two per cent. tax is a wholly just one. We do not say that the principle of the tax is the best that could be devised. In fact, if we are to judge by the opinions expressed by many practical mining men, our position on the subject is not very different from theirs, inasmuch as it is evidently very difficult for any one to say what is the best mode of taxation to adopt. What we do say, however, is that the extreme opinions and criticisms, which the two per cent. tax has elicited for several years past, have not been justified. An agitation was got up which had for its basis the assumption that the tax was not only vicious in principle, but spelled ruin to the mining industry. The Colonist has all along held that, whether the agitation was sincere or insincere, it went far beyond the limits of what could be maintained. It has turned out that after all so very much fault cannot be found with it, as compared with other modes of taxation that have been discussed as substitutes, and that the complaint is not that it has unduly taxed the mines but that the incidence is not just, in that it bears more heavily upon one class of ore than another. It is evident that much of the criticism has arisen out of a desire to effect a purpose other than the readjustment of the incidence of a tax. In not a few cases we are sure that it was political; and we feel certain that if the Government had been approached in the spirit in which some of the mining men now are coming there would have been less difficulty in arriving at an understanding on the subject. The members of the mining community are beginning to realize that the clamor that was for some time kept up, and which in certain quarters is being persisted in, is having an effect upon the mining interests much worse than any injustice arising out of the present system of taxation, and they would even prefer to see a larger sum contributed to the Provincial treasury than is at present if the subject, by some even nominal change, could be removed from the realm of controversy. They do not wish to have the impression to continue that British Columbia is, from a mining point of view, unduly burdened, and, therefore, an undesirable place in which to invest capital.

To show how unsettled mining men themselves are as to the true mode of taxing mines, we may enumerate the principal suggestions that have been made and that have been endorsed by some sections of the mining community. There are the advocates of—

The two per cent. tax as it is at present;

The imposition of a personal property tax as in certain States in the Union;

A lower rate of taxation imposed on the gross output without any deductions;

A higher rate imposed on the net profits;

A tax, higher if necessary, on the present basis, with the exception of a deduction of the amount of the pay-roll in addition to that for freight and treatment;

A specific tax of so much per ounce on gold and silver, and of a certain percentage on lead and copper;

No taxes at all, on the ground that the indirect benefits amply repay the Government.

There are strong advocates of all the foregoing. Taking the present circumstances of mining, it will probably be found that some of the producing mines are earning dividends that should yield much larger returns to the Government than they do, and that there are others upon which, on account of adverse conditions of some kind or another, the two per cent. bears hardly, though perhaps, not more than taxes do upon any business or industry that is not profitable. If there were hopes of finding a happy method that would apply automatically to all circumstances it would be well worth holding another commission for the purpose.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

VANCOUVER BRANCH OF PROVINCIAL MINING ASSOCIATION.

Sir—The publication of the reflections on the Vancouver branch of the Provincial Mining Association that appeared in last evening's issue of the Times was, to my judgment, both unfortunate and harmful, and had the Times telephoned me for exact information, I, in my capacity of secretary of the Provincial Mining Association, would have been glad to have stated the position fairly, if it were deemed desirable to publish anything at all on the subject at this juncture.

It is true that Vancouver branch is in arrears for its proportion of dues for 1904, but so are other branches. Vancouver branch, therefore, should not have been singled out for the reflections cast upon it, especially as its president wrote me on the 30th ultimo as follows:

"We shall be obliged if you will inform us what dues are payable to the general treasurer from the Vancouver branch. As soon as we know this, you may rely upon our making the payment."

As to the dues for the current year, these have not yet been received from any branch, so that all branches in common have failed to observe the rule which calls for payment of the year's dues on January 1.

Regarding the holding of a convention this year—if it be deemed inadvisable to summon delegates from the various parts of the province having branches—it will not be for any such reason as that suggested, but for good and sufficient cause, apart altogether from the entertainment of delegates. On payment of its dues, which will doubtless be forthcoming, Vancouver will, I think, be entitled to the convention, if one be held. The executive committee, when it meets in Victoria on the 20th instant for the transaction of general business, will deal with this question on its merits. Meanwhile it behooves all well wishers of the association to avoid stirring up ill feeling between branches. Let us promote harmony rather than discord, for we need all our strength to compel success to result from our efforts.

E. JACOBS,
Secretary.

Victoria, B. C., February 6, 1905.

URSUS KERMODEI.

Sir—It is with some diffidence that I yield to the arguments of my friends, who insist that I should make public the true history of the discovery of this woolly and interesting bear (Ursus Kermodei).

In 1890 I was camped, with two companions, in the Ground Hog country in Chilcotin. We were hunting marmots and big game generally, and were well armed, my favorite rifle being a 45.90 Wells, Fargo express.

One afternoon in October I strolled far into the wilderness, fully a mile from camp, and cached myself behind a large rock to await whatever game might come my way, and when I awoke the dusk of evening was deepening.

Obedient to the pangs of hunger and the dictates of a cautious nature, I put for home, not forgetting to bring my trusty weapon.

I had traveled some distance, startled occasionally by the hideous cry of a loon from a nearby lake, when I suddenly heard an ominous sound of scratching, and almost before I had selected a suitable tree, I beheld a hugh quadrupedal form, fourteen hands high, vast, "indistinct in the twilight," coming towards me. To climb a pinus ponderosa with a gun in one's teeth is a feat not to be lightly undertaken, but I rose to the occasion and was soon snug among the topmost branches. The foliage about me prevented me from seeing my quarry, but I fired several shots in various directions and succeeded in keeping him at a safe distance. I think I fired a shot every half hour through the night, but I do not like to dwell on the horrible experience. I heard the beast growling from time to time.

"In the cold, grey dawn of the morning after" my faithful friends in camp came out to my rescue and pulled me down from my entrenchment.

Beating about the timber we soon found the enemy cronched in a similar refuge to mine, and about thirty yards distant. A few well directed volleys put him to flight, and as he disappeared over the ridge he was easily identified. White, woolly, fierce, hornless or shortherned, and about half the size of a small house, I recognised him at once as a true Ursus Kermodei, and bound my friends to secrecy, lest a knowledge of the district being so infected should injure the prospects of agricultural settlement.

One of our party suggested that our find was a common black bear, whose hair was turned white by a night of terror, but this theory would not account for the wool on the cocoanut—I mean the bear.

My own hair, however, formerly a lovely red, has ever since been quite grey, and bald in places.

I inclose my friends' names as witnesses to the truth of my story. I regret that I cannot add their addresses, as they are both dead.

Yours for science and sport.

NIMROD.

THE KOOTENAY CENTRAL RAILWAY.

Sir—With regard to an interview reported with Mr. Whyte, second vice-president of the C. P. R. at Winnipeg, and to many inquiries that have been made at the offices of this company with reference to the building of the Kootenay Central railway, I am desired, on behalf of the board, after consultation with Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, to state that by an arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company the surveys are now being made by the engineers of that company on behalf of the Kootenay Central Railway Company.

It is understood that if the costs of construction and the prospect of traffic prove satisfactory, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company will be inclined to assist this company in the construction of its railway.

The final surveys have not yet been completed, and in consequence exact estimates of the cost cannot be made. The building of the railway will depend largely upon the measure of the assistance that it is expected will be given at the coming session. The company have approached the government upon the subject and have agreed to renew the guarantees as regards building the line that we offered last year.

C. HUNGERFORD POLLEN,
President K. C. R.

MR. BUNTZEN'S STATEMENT.

Sir—There is a comic character in the Christmas pantomime, who, when pursued and hard pressed, dodges round a corner, grabs hold of an innocent passerby, and, as the pursuers come up to him, hands over to them the amazed and speechless citizen, shouting, "Here you are! I caught him!" and makes good his own escape.

My humorous friend, Mr. Theodore Lubbe, must have seen and enjoyed that joke, and is just now trying it on the public of Victoria. To those who have read Mr. Lubbe's letter published in both dailies about the terrible tramway company, at a time when the issue is one between the city and Mr. Lubbe's water company only, the application of the joke is clear, and the red herring drawn across the scent smells to heaven.

The tentative contract between the city of Victoria and the B. C. Electric Railway Company has now been published in the papers, and anyone who has the patience to read it through and compare it with the existing contract between our company and the Esquimalt Water Works Company, can form his own opinion on it. Before binding the city the contract must be approved by the ratepayers. If they think it a good contract for the city they will no doubt pass it, whether Mr. Lubbe likes it or not. If, on the contrary, they disapprove of it, the contract will be voted down, whether our company likes it or not. I really do not think any advice offered by either the Esquimalt Water Works Company or the B. C. Electric Railway Company will have much weight with the voters as coming from interested parties.

That is perhaps all the answer necessary to Mr. Lubbe's letter, for I doubt whether the public cares to go into the question of the profits made by our company on Mr. Lubbe's water. There is nothing so easy as juggling with figures, and when the printer's devil comes to Mr. Lubbe's assistance by dropping out of his letter, accidentally of course, the basis rate of 12 cents per K. W. hour paid in Seattle for the first 50 hours' consumption monthly on every lamp installed, and quotes instead a straight 8 cent rate, it is pretty hard for an ordinary mortal to get the truth believed. I must say, however, that I really admire Mr. Lubbe for choosing Seattle of all places as the one with which to compare our lighting rates. Perhaps everybody does not know that there is a fierce rate war on in Seattle today between two powerful corporations, and that it is a question now of destruction for one company by amalgamation. Who has the public will pay the cost of war when the fight is over? Mr. Lubbe might have compared our rates with those of a large majority of Canadian cities, with Portland, Spokane, San Francisco, and would have come to the conclusion that we are cheaper than most of them. But that would not have gratified his sense of humor.

As I said before, Mr. Lubbe's letter and his whole attitude to the city of Victoria is simply a joke, perhaps somewhat clumsy, but still one that will be appreciated by those who have had business dealings with the Esquimalt Water Works Company and its genial manager. The only regrettable feature about the incident is the fact of the press taking the joke seriously. That awful "secret" contract, how it shapes itself into a deadly club over our sinful heads in the hands of the papers! Wherever the word "contract" appears it must be preceded by "secret" in capital letters, to be spoken in an awed whisper.

May I be permitted to say all there is to say about the "secret contract" in a few words, with affectation, with misrepresentation, and without mock indignation?

The City Council of last year wished to improve the city's water supply. They cast their eyes on Goldstream. They took legal advice and were told that they might expropriate the works of the Esquimalt Water Works Company or take water from Goldstream for their own water works. They knew that we were using the waters of Goldstream to develop electric power, having the exclusive right to such water for power purposes, under contract with the owners thereof, the Esquimalt Water Works Company, for a term of 33 years. They also knew that we consider the price charged us for water by the water company too high, being equivalent to $40 per horse power per year for the mere water used, to which would be added interest and depreciation on the electrical installation and the cost of operation, making it practically impossible to sell power wholesale to manufacturers, and restricting our operations to a retail lighting business. They also knew that in order to get cheaper power we had taken up a water record on Kokshish river and Shawnigan lake, and were preparing to develop said power and confine the use of water from Goldstream to 4,000,000 gallons per day, as permitted under our contract, instead of utilising the maximum of 15,000,000 gallons daily, which we were rapidly appropriating. Knowing all these facts, and wishing to retain us as a large customer for water which, when used by us, returns absolutely unpolluted and fit for drinking, the council requested Mr. Goward and myself to meet them to discuss the terms of an eventual contract in the event of the city acquiring the Goldstream waters in one way or another. We met the full council, the city solicitor, city engineer, city clerk, commissioner of water and other gentlemen, some three or four times, and the tentative contract now published in extenso was the result of the deliberations. I am not aware that any of the gentlemen present were pledged to secrecy, and I venture to say that whoever desired information about that contract could get it at any time. Our company have observed no secrecy in the matter, as we have had nothing to conceal. If any proof were needed hereof the contract itself will give it. It reduces slightly the price of water to our company, but only on the quantity which it is optional for us to take or leave; on all other points the contract modifies the terms of our present contract in the city's favor. I do not ask anyone to take my word for this; he who reads can judge for himself. The monopoly established, of which Mr. Lubbe dares only speak with bated breath, consists in reducing our sole right to the water for power purposes from 33 years to 25 years.

However, to discuss further this travesty on an injured public spirit will weary the public as it wearies me. I shall only add one word to the press. In editorials on the subject the daily papers broadly hint at the advisability of the city's starting in competition with our company in order to bring us to a proper state of humility. The device is not new. Encourage in all possible ways the introduction of British capital into the country, then when you have got it placed where it cannot easily get out, hammer it. No matter whether the company acts decently to the public and its employees, no matter whether its moderate modicum of success is of financial assistance in England to the credit of the whole province, just hammer it. Call it a monopoly even if it holds no other rights than those anyone else can acquire who has the money, and the pluck to risk it, and having wrongly christened it a monopoly, hold it up to public scorn for what it is not. In Ontario so disastrous was the result of municipalities installing civic plants to compete with existing private companies, that the legislature was impelled to put a stop to such practices by passing an act on the lines of English law making it compulsory for municipalities who desire to trade in light, water and similar commodities, to buy out the existing companies first at a fair price, before going in for trading on their own account.

I am sorry to have taken up so much of your space, but the misrepresentations of our company's actions and intentions have been so numerous that if replied to at all, considerable space must be taken.

For the benefit of those who never read more than the last half dozen lines of a lengthy communication, just this:

If the present City Council think the last council made a mistake by entering into the tentative contract, which is an agreement made at the solicitation of the city, binding upon our company, but not upon the city until approved by the ratepayers, and which was passed unanimously by the council, we are quite agreeable to being released therefrom, and on behalf of our company I shall give the city an opportunity of so doing, and leaving us a free hand, the right to be exercised within 30 days. We do not want to force ourselves upon the city of Victoria, if it prefers to paddle its own canoe.

J. BUNTZEN,
General Manager B.C. Electric Ry. Co., Ltd.

FARMER'S EXCHANGE

ADVERTISEMENTS UNDER THIS HEAD ONE CENT PER WORD EACH ISSUE, NO ADVETISEMENT TAKEN FOR LESS THAN 25 CENTS.

POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK.

FOR SALE—Cow five years old; nearly fresh; price $37.50. Apply James Holms, West Saanich road; six miles from city.

FOR SALE—New calved cow; good milker; quiet; first cross Holstein and Jersey; to be seen at 34 South Turner street. f9

FOR SALE—Two fresh cows with or without calves; good milkers. H. D. Tilly, South Saanich, Keating P. O. ja12

WANTED—To purchase a good working team, not less than 1,100 pounds. Apply Box 43, Colonist Office.

ADARE POULTRY FARM, Wm. Baylis, Ross Bay, Fairfield Road, Victoria, B.C. Choice eggs for setting, from pure bred and vigorous stock. Barred Plymouth Rocks, from first prize birds; S. C. Black Minorcas; S. C. Brown Leghorns; S. C. White Leghorns. All eggs tested before shipping and warranted from choice matings. Orders taken at Brown & Cooper's, Government street, or by post card to P. O. Box 580, Victoria, B. C. ja26

Retail Markets

The retail quotations are as follows:

Corn, whole, per ton	$30
Corn, cracked	$32
Corn, feed meal	$32
Oats, per ton	$28
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs.	40
Rolled oats, B. & K., per lb	4
Rolled oats, B. & K. per 7-lb sack	25
Hungarian, per bbl.	$6.50
Hungarian, per sack	$1.75
Pastry Flour—	
Snow Flake, per sack	$1.55
Snow Flake, per bbl.	$5.60
Three Star, per sack	$1.55
Three Star, per bbl.	$6.00
Drifted Snow, per sack	$1.50
Drifted Snow, per bbl.	$5.60
Feed—	
Hay, Island, per ton	$18.00
Hay, B. C., per ton	$16.00
Straw, per bale	75
Wheat, per ton	$40.00
Middlings, per ton	$25.00
Bran, per ton	$25.00
Ground feed, per ton	$28 to $30
Vegetables—	
Cabbage, per lb.	3½
Cauliflower, per head	10
Tomatoes, per lb.	5
Cucumbers, per doz.	25
Onions, 6 lbs.	25
Carrots, per lb	1½ to 2
Beet root, per lb.	3
New potatoes, per 100 lbs.	$1.00
Eggs—	
Fresh Island, per doz.	50
Manitoba, per dozen	30
Fresh cream, per pint	25
Cheese—	
Best Ontario Cheese, per lb.	20
California cheese, per lb.	25
Canadian, per lb.	20
Butter—	
Manitoba, per lb.	25
Best dairy, per lb.	23
Victoria creamery, per lb.	38
Cowichan creamery, per lb.	35
Delta, per lb.	35
Fresh Island	25
Fruit—	
Apples (Island), per box	$1.00
Pears, per box	$1.00
Prunes (local), per lb.	5
Muskmellons, each	12
Currants, per lb.	10
Cooking figs	10
Figs, per lb	12½, 15, 20, 25
Valencia raisins	15
Lemons, California, per doz.	25
Cocoanuts, each	10
New dates	12½
Beans, per lb	06
New cleaned currants, 3 lbs. for	25
Best Sultanas	20
Table raisins	15, 25, 35, 50
Bananas, per dozen	25 to 50
Oranges, per doz.	15
Poultry—	
Dressed fowls	20 to 25
Fish—	
Smoked salmon, per lb.	15
Spring salmon, per lb.	12½
Cod, per lb.	8
Halibut, per lb.	8
Smoked Halibut, per lb.	12½
Halibut, frozen	8
Flounders	8
Finnan Haddock, per lb.	
Crabs, per doz.	
Salt mackerel, each	15
Salt cod, per lb.	12½
Salt tongues and sounds, per lb.	20
Salt Holland herring, per keg	$1.50
Salt salmon, each	15
Salmon bellies, per lb	12½
Meats—	
Beef	10 to 12
Mutton, per lb.	8 to 15
Hams, American, per lb.	22
Bacon, American, per lb.	22 to 27
Bacon, rolled	16
Pork, per lb.	10 to 15
Coal Oil—	
Pratt's coal oil	$1.50

BORN.

HENDERSON—At the residence, Menzies street, on the 8th instant, the wife of S. G. Henderson, of a son.

KINSMAN—On Monday, February 6, 1905, the wife of Mr. J. E. Kinsman, 72 Princess avenue, of a son.

MARRIED.

COLE-GOWARD—On the 7th inst., at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, British Columbia, by the Rev. Canon Beanlands, assisted by the Rev. S. Anderson, R. N., Eng. Lieut. Edwin Cole, of H. M. S. Bonaventure, second son of Richard Cole, Esq., of Bere Ferrers, Devonshire, to Lucy Muriel, youngest daughter of Henry Goward, M.A., LL.B., of Rockwood, Victoria, B. C.

DIED.

SAYWARD—At San Francisco, Cal., on February 1, 1905, W. P. Sayward, of Victoria, a native of Thomastown, Maine; aged 87 years.

KELLY—At St. Joseph's hospital, on the 5th instant, Hendrick W., beloved wife of William J. Kelly, a native of Victoria, B. C., aged 21 years.

CLARK—At the family residence, 92 Niagara street, on the 4th instant, Walter E. Clark, a native of Inverness, Scotland, aged 75 years.

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SMALL JARS, each	15c.
1 LB. JARS, each	25c.
1 LB. JARS, WITH COMB, each	30c.
3 LB. JARS, WITH COMB, each	65c.
½ GALLON TINS, each	75c.
1 GALLON TINS, each	$1.50
COMB, each	25c.

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Loc

(From Tuesday's Dai

May Rival 'Frisco—Comm the C. P. R.-E. & N. railwa Nelson Tribune says: "Esqu of the finest harbors of the Pa is on the road and there is n able land for factories, dock minal facilities for both shi railways. Victoria may yet its old-timers say it must be, chief city north of San Fran

Formal Dedication.—The fo cation of improvements which made in St. Luke's church, took place last Sunday mor service was performed by Bish who was assisted by the incum R. Connell. The interior of has been lined and wainsco cedar, and the large east win colored, the pattern and sub Good Shepherd," being worf cial praise. Other improvemen furnishings for the holy table, munion rail, lectern and pulpi

An Awkward Fix.—Assista States Attorney Edward Cus placed in an awkward p while traveling from Seattl Townsend on the steamer P for when he started to dress that he was minus a most portion of his attire, to wit, hi Mr. Cushman secured a stat the night, leaving Seattle at When he retired he pulled the and thought he had locked it. yer was about to proceed on borrowed pair, when his o garments were found in a co deck. The pockets had been everything taken, including so ant papers.

The Hotel Contract.—A C porter yesterday interviewed Rattenbury, C. P. R. hotel ar the western division, and ask information was at hand as y ing the awarding of the co the big superstructure. Mr. had nothing new to impart, in making a definite announ doubt being due to the illn Thomas Shaughnessy, who past few days had been forwa further information asked for points. In the interim the w ting in the foundations is apace, the splendid weather contributing materially to th ment of the work in hand.

The Salmon Fisheries.—Ric M. P. P., returned from Ottaw day. He went East to rep case of the salmon canner couver Island. He interviewed Prefontaine, minister of marin eries, and presented to him th the Vancouver Island salmo He says that while the mi impressed with the views of men, he thought it was an time to come to an agreemen canners of Puget Sound in r closed season. If the Washi nerymen do not carry out the the agreement, however, the government will at once disc restrictions. The minister sta commission would be appoin quire into the whole questio tion to the salmon fisheries Columbia. During this year t ment proposed to have a cl of about 36 hours each week.

To Discuss Fall Fair.—As by the Colonist