# ALPHA WRECKED NINE MEN LOST

## Unlucky Steamer Goes on the Rocks in Baynes Sound in the Storm on Saturday Night.

## Samuel Barber the Owner, His Brother, Captain Yorke and Three Engineers Are Among the Drowned.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 17.—The steamer Alpha is at the bottom of Baynes Sound. She crashed against the rock at the base of the lighthouse on Yellow island, and nine brave fellows went to the bottom with her. She was bound for Japan with a cargo of 700 tons of salt salmon, consigned b yMessrs J. E. Macrae, Johnson & Burnett, Jin and Tamura, and worth $20,000. Nothing remains of the good ship above the surface of the water. It was the intention of the captain of the Alpha to put into Union for coal on Saturday night, but the big blow caused him to change his mind, and the steamer became so unmanageable that she attempted to make Baynes Sound for shelter. On Yellow island, at the head of the strait, is a lighthouse to warn off ships. The unfrequented strait had to be made by passing to the left behind the light. The wind was too strong and the Alpha piled up on the rocks, a hopeless wreck. The terrific gale blew the waves clean over her as she gradually sank out of sight. There were 24 of a crew, including 14 Japanese. Those who desired to save lives and possibly save the ship, exposed themselves to the fury of the gale, and as a consequence nine of them were swept overboard and drowned. One of the first to perish was the owner of the steamer, Mr. Samuel Barber, formerly manager of the Imperial Bank in Calgary. Soon after his brother, Mr. J. H. Barber, the purser, met a watery grave. Several attempts were made to get a life line to the shore, and during these attempts the commander of the ship, Captain Yorke, lost his life. The ship sunk lower and lower and the engineers, giving up all hope of moving the ship off the rocks, rushed on deck to take command of the distracted crew. One after the other they were swept overboard and perished. They were First Engineer Matterson, Second Engineer Dunn and Third Engineer Murray.

An able seaman named Sullivan, who was conspicuous in his brave attempts to save the crew, also perished just before a heroic swimmer, whose name could not be learned, had made the life line secure. A stowaway named Crosby perished in making a similar attempt.

When the life line was stretched the remaining 25 of the crew, including the 14 Japanese, reached the lighthouse in safety.

The steamer Czar heard the news of the wreck at Union Bay from the survivors and brought it to Vancouver.

The unfortunate steamer Alpha sailed from here on Saturday morning at 5:30 a. m. She proceeded northward to the collieries to fill her bunkers with the disastrous result above recorded. Captain F. H. Yorke was in command. He is no relation to Frank Yorke of this city. He is married, his wife, it is believed, being a resident of Vancouver.

He came out from England on the steamer Tartar when that vessel was brought out for the C. P. R. three years ago, and afterwards went to the Klondike gold fields. On his return he spent some time in Vancouver before accepting the command of the Alpha.

With Captain Yorke on the bridge was R. B. Wilkinson, a young man of promise who resigned the position of third officer of R. M. S. Empress of China to become mate of the Alpha. He is unmarried. No mention is made in the telegraphic report whether he has escaped the waves. J. H. Brown, a sealing man of this city, was to have gone on the vessel as mate, but he resigned some hours before she made her first start for Japan from which she returned on the 7th. Samuel Barber, who was managing the trip, was well known in Victoria, as was J. H. Barber, his brother, who acted as purser of the vessel, and there are many personal friends in Victoria who will deeply regret to hear of their sad death. Of the engineers, perhaps the best known is Murray, who left a position as engineer of the Vancouver Electric Light works to join the engine room crew of the Alpha when Mr. Barber was looking for engineers to replace Gordon and Shires, the two deserters. Matterson and Dunn are thought to have hailed from the Sound. Sullivan and the drowned sailor was shipped in Vancouver. Of Crosby, who is mentioned as a stowaway, nothing can be learned at present. The other unfortunate who perished is for the present unknown, and until further despatches are received the name of the brave swimmer who gave his life in the attempt to furnish means of salvation for his comrades cannot be given.

The disaster which has befallen the Alpha writes finis to one of the most extraordinary series of incidents in local marine history. Since the now famous trip of the steamer to Cape Nome, from which port she returned in June last after having landed Canadian cargo, although that place was not made a port of entry, she was charged with smuggling in the United States courts and threatened with seizure when she went into American waters. She could, therefore, not be run to Skagway although there was a demand for such vessels, and she was placed on the northern British Columbia route. When the busy season ended and all the salmon was down, the owners looked for a business into which she could be put, and endeavored to make arrangements to sell the vessel. Failing this the charter was made to carry the cargo of salmon across the Pacific, and it was in the initial stage of this voyage that disaster came.

With her cargo of 600 tons of salted fish, some of which was in boxes and some, about half, thrown into the hold in bulk, the Alpha sailed from here on Wednesday, December 5th for Yokahama. She had gone but 200 miles when water was discovered in her hold, increasing in depth with alarming rapidity. The engineer, William Gordon, who is in jail here serving a sentence of ten weeks for desertion, reported the fact to First Officer Wilkinson, who at once ordered the men to the pumps. Owing to a breakage in the feed pipe the steam pumps could not be used, and the water seemed to gain on the pumps. When the steamer came in to the outer wharf at noon on Friday, December 7th, there were 18 inches of water in her hold and the firemen were standing in the water. There were also water in the engine room and elsewhere.

The water was coming into the hold as fast as the pumps could put it out for the greater part of the day after she tied up at the outer wharf, and then it suddenly ceased to come in. Here was something mysterious, and investigations were made by the ship's company, which ultimately resulted in a charge being made against an engineer of having opened one of the sea connections, as has been told in detail in these columns.

The Alpha was an old steamer. She was built by Barclay & Co. at Glasgow in 1863, and was, therefore, 37 years of age when she was lost near Yellow island, which is about 15 miles below Comox. The Alpha was an iron screw steamer of 653 tons gross, and 514 tons net tonnage. She was 221.8 feet long, 27.6 feet beam, and 14.9 feet deep. Her engines, which were built by J. & G. Thomson, of Glasgow, were of 99 R. H. P. Before coming to this Coast in the summer of 1897 to join the fleet of steamers carrying freight and passengers to Skagway and St. Michael, she ran from Halifax to the West Indies, for Messrs. Pickford & Black. It was on their account that she came out here in the first instance. After being engaged in the Klondike trade for some time, she was sold to Capt. J. D. Warren and others, and operated by them in the northern business, and was owned by this company when the initial preparations were made for the first and last Nome trip. Samuel Barber, one of the victims of the present disaster, then came into the company and purchased many of the shares. Capt. Warren afterwards sold out his shares to Mr. Barber, and then Mr. Genelle, of Vancouver, came into the company, and for the steamer was practically owned by Messrs. Barber and Genelle when she made her trip to Nome, which, although unfortunate in that it hampered the after business of the steamer, was a money-making trip.

The cargo was insured. As to the steamer, though, there was no insurance on her, she will, therefore, be a total loss.

Murray, third engineer, is remembered as the sole survivor of the wreck of the tug Standard, which was lost off Cape Mudge seven or eight years ago. Murray, who was engineer of the tug, managed to keep himself afloat until rescued on the engine-room door, which had broken adrift when the vessel was wrecked. He spent all night on the door, and was almost dead from exhaustion when found next morning.

This disaster is the only one reported as a result of the great storm of Saturday night, although several narrow escapes were reported, and vessels were all more or less delayed. The collier Occidental and the United States revenue cutter Bear had a narrow escape from a serious accident in Seattle harbor on Sunday morning. The Occidental was at anchor in the lower part of the bay, but the wind caught her and she began to drag her anchors. For several hundred yards she drifted slowly at the mercy of the gale, bearing down upon the Bear, which lay anchored to a buoy off the wharf. For a few minutes a collision seemed inevitable, but the Occidental was gotten under control when but a few yards from the Bear, and was towed back to her former anchorage.

The gales are believed to have been part of the series of storms which have been sweeping the Pacific Coast for several days. The storms were widespread. The Amur and all the Lynn Canal steamers are overdue, the City of Topeka being reported lost on Lynn Canal, as told in another column. The Queen City, from the West Coast, is also late. It is thought that she is anchored in Barclay Sound for shelter.

Yellow rock or Yellow island, on which or near which the Alpha was lost, is a small island on which a lighthouse has been established for the past nine years, off the southeast point of this end of Denman island and at the entrance to Baynes Sound. The island is a small bare isle about 80 feet high, rising sheer from deep water. There is a depth of from 25 to 30 fathoms all around the island, which is conspicuous and may be seen for many miles. The British Columbia pilot-book says it is a good object to steer for when coming from the eastward, as it forms the eastward entrance to the Sound. This sound forms the separating body between Denman island and Vancouver island. It is a narrow sheet of water, 18 miles long, and a steamer en route to Union passes through this sound. It averages a navigable width of half a mile. It has a depth of from 20 to 26 fathoms, and vessels can find anchorage there.

### JUSTICE WALKEM ILL.

His Doctor Advises Him to Take a Rest From His Duties.

Rossland, Dec. 17.—(Special)—On Saturday evening Mr. Justice Walkem, who has been holding court here continuously since November 12, was taken seriously ill, and, though in the middle of an important jury trial, was compelled to adjourn court until Tuesday. Yesterday his physician stated that Judge Walkem was suffering from a severe attack of heart failure, and while he would not compel him to abandon the urgent court work, is said to have advised him to take immediate rest. The present case is the last on the docket.

### SMALLPOX AT VANCOUVER

Two Mild Cases Discovered and Quarantined—Burglaries.

Vancouver, Dec. 17.—(Special)—Two brothers named Saint arrived from Skagway via Seattle some days ago, and put up at the house of their brother-in-law, Mr. Madison. They complained of being unwell and called in Dr. Pearson, who pronounced them suffering from smallpox. They were removes to the pest-house and the house quarantined. For three months Vancouver has ceaselessly worked, with the aid of the Dominion government in keeping out the disease, in vain. The affected men got in by way of Huntingdon. The cases are mild.

Rev. Robert Jaffray, head of the Chinese missionary association in South China, says he learned while in Hongkong, en route to Canada, that Thibet had made overtures to Great Britain and Russia to open up Thibet to the commerce of the world. Thibet, being tired of being a vassal of China, asks for aid when China is crippled.

Robberies continue here almost nightly. Last night Mathews' furnishing store, corner of Cordova and Cambie streets, was robbed.

The residence of L. Thornber, Westminster, was entered and $100 in jewelry secured while the family were out.

Mr. Joseph Martin is ill. He had an operation performed for a diseased bone at St. Paul's hospital yesterday. The operation, it is said, will be successful.

Will be found an excellent remedy for sick headache. Carter's Little Liver Pills. Thousands of letters from people who have used them prove this fact. Try them.

### WHOLESALE PROTESTS.

Many Filed All Over Canada by Both Sides.

Toronto, Dec. 17.—(Special)—Five more election petitions were entered in Osgoode Hall to-day, and no more can now be entered, for the Ontario provincial law requires entry within 40 days after election. The constituencies concerned in to-day's petitions are North Wellington, North Bruce, West Durham, Cornwall-Stormont and Ottawa.

All the seats are protested in Prince Edward Island; in New Brunswick against Blair, Tucker, Emmerson, Lewis, Reid, Gibson, all Liberals; and Hale, Wilmot, Fowler and Ganong, all Conservatives. In Quebec protests have been entered against the return of Loye (Lib.) in Beauharnois, Basine (Lib.) in Joliet, and Dugas (Lib.) in Montcalm. In Nova Scotia ten protests have been entered in all, including Roche (Lib.), Borden (Con.), and Sir. C. H. Tupper and Bell, Pictou.

Among the protests filed already are J. Mathieson (Lib.), Richmond, N. S.; F. B. Wade (Lib.), Annapolis, N. S.; H. J. Logan (Lib.), Cumberland, N. S.; Hon. W. S. Fielding (Lib.), Queens, N. S.; C. E. Kaulback (Con.), Lunenberg, N. S.; Gourley (Con.), Colchester, N. S.; Prefontaine (Lib.) Terrebonne, Que.; Ethier (Lib.), Two Mountains, Que.; N. Walter Scott (Lib.), West Assiniboia.

# WRECK OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA

## She Went Ashore on Sullivan Island on the Way From Skagway.

Special to the Colonist.

Seattle, Dec. 17.—The Pacific Coast steamer City of Topeka, Captain Olesen, was wrecked on December 8th while on her way down from Skagway. She was lightly loaded and a terrible gale was running. She struck on the southeast end of Sullivan island on what seemed to be a table rock. All the passengers were taken safely ashore, and 22 of them with the purser and freight clerk, came down on the Dolphin. She has two large holes stove in her through which the sea washed in and out of her. Her chances of being saved depend entirely on the weather. If the calm weather lasted through the week she could have been safely got off and taken to Juneau. No lives were lost.

The City of Topeka, reported lost in Lynn canal, was built at Chester, Penn., in 1884, for some Boston people, but was sold a few years afterwards to the Atcheson, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad and sent to the coast about 1886. Later she was secured by the Pacific Coast Steamship Company. She is 198 feet long, 35 feet beam and 12 feet depth of hold. She has been on the Alaskan route for a number of years, having replaced the Corona in 1888. She ran north regularly during the Klondike rush, and in August, 1898, was ashore, and it was thought for a time that she would prove a total wreck. She was, however, saved, and after being repaired, resumed service. She was several days overdue when the news arrived of her loss.

# CUTS HIS OWN THROAT

## Desperate and Wounded Notorious Train Robber Kills Himself.

New Orleans, Dec. 18.—Since the holdup of the Chicago limited mail on the Illinois Central in the suburbs of this city Thursday night, officers had searched in vain for two men who had escaped from them after a running fight near the scene of the hold-up. It was known that one was badly wounded and that he was compelled to drop a mail bag in his flight. In a swamp near by all traces of the men were lost, however. Notwithstanding the officers felt sure the wounded man had not gone far and today in the midst of a swamp they found his body. It bore two bullet wounds, one in the back, the other in the left wrist. With a hunting knife the robber, knowing his wounds were fatal and that escape from the swamp was impossible, had cut his own throat. In the pockets were found the watch of the conductor of the mail train, many registered letters and a quantity of dynamite. The body was brought to police headquarters and identified as that of Chauning B. Barnes, with many aliases, and who was wanted for participation in the daring hold-up of an Illinos Central train at Wickliffe, Kentucky, last July, and who, when attempts were made to arrest him in St. Louis soon after, shot Chief Special Agent Murray of the Illinois Central railway and escaped over the housetops. His brother and a pal were later captured and confessed.

Up-to-Date Styles at

WEILER BROS.

Our first consignment of Fall Goods in the Upholstering, Drapery and Curtain line are now on sale, and we can only say that for coloring, artistic effect and value we have surpassed ourselves in these last purchasings.

Latest Novelties From

Paris, Berin, London.

WEILER BROS.'

# Dewet Has Again Escaped

## Though Twice Repulsed He Breaks Through the British Lines.

## Report of Boer Force Surrounded at Orange River and Badly Beaten.

London, Dec. 17.—The report of another severe battle, resulting in a British victory, is current here.

According to the story, the fighting began at daybreak and lasted several hours.

The Boers, who numbered 1,500 to 2,000 men, were surrounded at the Orange river and totally defeated, with very heavy losses in killed and wounded.

A number of Boers were captured.

Maseru, Dec. 17.—It appears that Dewet's force was twice repulsed before it broke through the British lines in the neighborhood of Thaba Nchu.

In the third attack Dewet led in person. With a few determined followers he charged and broke the British lines, the rest of the command following. He was forced, however, to leave the hands of the British a 15-pounder and 15 wagons with ammunition and stores.

Commandant Haasbroek, with a commando of two guns, tried to get through Springkrat's Nek, but was driven back with a loss of 40 men.

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—The executive of the Canadian Patriotic Fund Association announces that a general scheme of relief, adapted, as far as possible, to varying needs of dependents, including provision for orphans, has been adopted for temporary action, and that arrangements are also made for the relief of all classes of invalided soldiers for which applications are received.

### DOWIE AGAIN.

Clergyman Takes Out Libel Suit Against the Zionite.

London, Dec. 17.—The Rev. William Deronden Pos is taking legal action against John Alexander Dowie, the Zionite of Chicago, claiming that he was libelled in the issue of "Leaves of Healing" in the issue of October 16, in which the Rev. Mr. Pos is accused of fraud and immorality. Counsel for the plaintiff describes Mr. Dowie as a British subject, said he was now in Paris on his way to Switzerland, and asked for the court's permission to serve a writ out for its jurisdiction. Leave was granted, subject to Mr. Dowie having liberty to appeal against the order.

### HAY-PAUNCEFOTE TREATY.

United States Senate Has Decided to Vote Upon It Next Thursday.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The senate has reached an agreement to vote on the Hay-Pauncefote treaty next Thursday, beginning with votes on the amendments at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

### HOLD-UPS.

Bill to Endeavor to Suppress Train Robberies in the United States.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Representative Ray, of New York, to-day introduced a bill for the suppression of train robbery in the territories of the United States and elsewhere. It provides the death penalty for those guilty of a "hold-up" in case the death of any person on the train results. In case no one is killed, the penalty is hard labor from 20 to 30 years.

# NANAIMO WATERWORKS

## By-Law Carries By a Large Majority—Drowned at Nanoose Bay.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nanaimo, Dec. 17.—The Waterworks Purchase Loan By-law, to borrow $125,000, was carried to-day by 152 majority. The vote was 279 for, 127 against.

A young Vancouver man known as Gus was drowned off Mistaken island, Nanoose Bay, on Saturday afternoon. He tried to go out in a flimsy cedar skiff, cod-fishing, and was seen at the height of the gale bailing out his boat. When next seen he was standing up in the boat, and then jumped. The skiff and man were never seen again. Fishermen put off to the rescue, but in vain. The drowned man was only 22 years old, and came here from Vancouver with a companion, who has gone north. Search is being made for the body.

### PARLIAMENT PROROGUED.

Mr. Bryan-Roberts Repeats Slanders on the British Army.

London, Dec. 15.—Parliament was dismissed to-day until the middle of February with the reading of the shortest of the Queen's speeches. It was as follows:

My Lords and Gentlemen,—I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the expenses incurred by the operations of my armies in South Africa and China.

The proceedings to-day in the House of Commons were a repetition in miniature of the debates of the brief session. The ministers were heckled. The war funds were finally voted, after the secretary of state for war, Mr. William St. John Broderick, had given an assurance that the government during recess would cordially co-operate with Gen. Kitchener in an endeavor to end the war.

Particularly stinging were the remarks of Mr. John Bryan-Roberts, Liberal. He declared that the British treatment of women in South Africa was an outrage on civilization and that it was blasphemy to hold Christian services in St. Paul's in connection with the return of Lord Roberts, while there were such proceedings in South Africa.

Mr. Broderick hotly denounced Mr. Bryan-Roberts' charges, asserting that it was criminal to make allegations which could not be proved, but which, however, would be telegraphed to South Africa to increase the discontent existing there. He held up Mr. Bryan-Roberts to the censure and reprobation of nearly every member of the House of Commons. These remarks were greeted with cheers.

Mr. Broderick then repeated that the government did not desire to pursue a policy which would make it more difficult for the Boers to cease fighting, and that the government abided by the declaration of Mr. Chamberlain.

The session was suspended until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when both houses met and were prorogued.

### ANOTHER COAL STRIKE.

Twelve Hundred Miners Cease Work in Pennsylvania.

Shamokin, Pa., Dec. 17.—Twelve hundred men and boys of the Natalie colliery, operated by the Shamokin Coal Company, struck to-day because 15 blacksmiths and carpenters had not been given the 10 per cent. increase in wages.

# Clements' Loses Heavily

## Over Five Hundred Fusiliers Reported Missing by Gen. Kitchener.

## General Knox Has Some Success in His Fighting With Dewet.

London, Dec. 15.—Lord Kitchener wires the war office as follows:

"Pretoria, Dec. 14.—Clements brought in his force to Commanda Kek unopposed.

"The casualties were, I regret to say, heavy: Killed, five officers and nine of other ranks; missing, eighteen officers and five hundred and fifty-five of other ranks.

"These latter were four companies of the Northumberland Fusiliers, who were stationed on the hill, and some yeomanry and other details sent up to support them. The names and nature of wounds are being telegraphed from Capetown.

"Broadwood's Brigade took no part in the engagement.

"The Boers suffered severely.

"Knox drove Dewet north to the Thaba Nchu-Ladybrand line, which was held by our troops. Dewet's forces, about 3,000 strong, made several attempts to get through during the day, assisted by a force of Boers operating from the north. These attacks were driven back, though some of the Boers of the south were able to get through the line."

Wiring later on December 14, Lord Kitchener reports that while passing the lines in the neighborhood of Thaba Nchu, Dewet's force lost considerably.

The South African Light Horse and Thornycroft's Mounted Infantry captured a fifteen-pounder taken at Dewetsdorp, a pom-pom, several wagons with ammunition, twenty-two prisoners, and some horses and mules.

A portion of the enemy has not been able to pass north.

Gen. Kitchener's supplementary despatch referring to the disaster at the Magaliesburg confirms yesterday's most pessimistic fears, and demonstrates that the catastrophe is among the worst of the war.

The matter was brought up in the House of Commons to-day by the secretary for war, Mr. Wm. St. John Broderick. He had no information to add, except that the wounded numbered 6 officers and 45 men.

### NANAIMO WATERWORKS.

Ratepayers Will Vote To-morrow on the By-law—End of a Ballroom Row.

Nanaimo, Dec. 15.—On Monday the ratepayers of Nanaimo will be called upon to vote again on the waterworks purchase loan by-law. The defect discovered in the original by-law has been remedied, and the new enactment is guaranteed of blameless character, and free from spots. There is little doubt it will be carried by a substantial majority, and as the purchasers of the debentures stand ready to advance the money, the way is clear for the Diamond City drinking its own water before the new century has time to age to any considerable extent. The total levy to be made under the by-law, $6,125 a year, means 4.17¼ mills on the dollar on Nanaimo's present assessment, which takes the place of the former proposed levies for waterworks purposes. After deducting the rates which it is proposed to drop after this year (3 13-20 mills, would leave only an additional tax of 78 cents on Cowndley kicked Hardy, causing him to taxation for the present year. The failure of the citizens to carry the by-law will mean a considerable, indeed, a serious loss to the city, in costs.

The fracas which occurred after the ball at the opera house on Wednesday evening, has developed into rather a serious affair, at least for one of the principals. Magistrate E. M. Yarwood hesitated long before he would allow bail to be given on behalf of the accused man, Emmanuel Cowndley, and then fixed the sum of $1,500. Cowndley, it is alleged, tormented Hardy during the progress of the ball by striking him in the face with his outstretched hand or arm, while waltzing. Hardy met Cowndley outside, and asked him what he meant, and from that the steps to the fight were short and swift. It is alleged that Cowndley kicked Hardy, causing him to double up with pain, and that while he was in that posture, Cowndley struck him with so much force as to fracture Hardy's jaw in two places. Others say that Cowndley deliberately stamped with his heel on Hardy's face while he lay helpless on the sidewalk. Whichever way it went, the magistrate considered it a very serious matter, and as Hardy's condition is causing some uneasiness, to his friends, there is a possibility that the accused may find himself charged with a grave offence.

### ALASKA SCANDALS.

Mr. Carter of Montana Will Move For an Investigation.

Washington, Dec. 17.—In view of the wide publicity of the charges against the administration of the United States district court of Alaska, Mr. Carter, of Montana, to-day introduced a resolution in the senate directing the committee on judiciary to investigate the conduct of the judge of the division of the district court of Alaska located at St. Michael, and to report to the senate the names of all persons connected with the litigation before that court convicting which any improper influence or illegal conduct has been or may be charged.

### ST. JOHN'S WELCOME.

Preparations Made For the Reception of the First Contingent.

St. John, Dec. 17.—A large number of prominent citizens met to-day at the call of Mayor Daniel, to consider the reception of Col. Otter and the men of the first contingent from South Africa. From information received from Ottawa, it seems that the Western men will be here for only a few hours. It was decided that the officers and men while here be entertained by the city. Citizens were requested to decorate the buildings. The city will present an address of welcome to the soldiers. Salutes will be fired as the ship comes up the harbor, and a guard of honor from the militia will receive the troops. The returned heroes will be tendered a banquet if time permits.

# Boers in Cape Colony

## General Macdonald Is Engaging Them Twenty Miles From Burghersdorp

## Enemy Being Forced to Orange River Where Warm Reception Awaits.

London, Dec. 19.—"The Boers have raided Cape Colony at two separate points, one hundred miles distant," says the Capetown correspondent of the Daily Mail. "One commando advanced upon Philipstown, between Colesberg and Kimberley. The other, supposed to be Herzog's commando, crossed the Orange river between Odendaalstroom and Bethulie, northwest of Burghersdorp, its objective apparently being Cradock.

"Gen. Macdonald is engaging the invaders, who have no guns, 20 miles west of Burghersdorp. The latest news is that they are being slowly forced back to the Orange river, where a warm reception is being prepared for them."

Lord Salisbury's gloomy reference to South Africa at the conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations causes much heart-burning. The Conservative press is reluctant to admit that the situation is worse, and complains of the Premier's "needless pessimism."

The Daily News asks whether Lord Salisbury's utterances foreshadow the news of another reverse, and suggests that the government has received despatches from Lord Kitchener asking for more troops, on the ground that the war, instead of being finished, is entering upon a new and difficult phase. All the papers are urging the government to do everything possible to support Lord Kitchener. The Queen's message to the volunteers was evidently designed to soothe the general disappointment over their retention in the field. There are rumors current that the government is not able to respond to appeals from South Africa to send out more regulars.

The contemplated thanksgiving service in St. Paul's cathedral in connection with the return of Lord Roberts from South Africa, has been abandoned, owing, as the government announces, "to its being considered desirable to defer a general thanksgiving until the close of the operations in South Africa."

The programme now is for Lord Roberts to debark in the Solent to visit the Queen at Osborne House on January 2, to re-embark and land finally at Southampton, coming from that point to London.

EVERY MOVEMENT HURTS

When you have rheumatism. Muscles feel stiff and sore and joints are painful. It does not pay to suffer long from this disease when it may be cured so promptly and perfectly by Hood's Sarsaparilla. This medicine goes right to the spot, neutralizes the acidity of the blood, which causes rheumatism, and puts an end to the pain and stiffness.

Biliousness is cured by Hood's Pills. 25c.

# Confirms Capture

## General Kitchener Reports a Hundred Brabant's Horse Prisoners of Boers.

## Administrator Resides at Johannesburg But Capital Question Still Unsettled.

## Four Men of "D" Battery Sentenced For Looting Military Stores.

London, Dec. 17.—General Kitchener, in a despatch received by the war office, confirms the Associated Press despatch from Aliwal North, Cape Colony, announcing the capture of a detachment of Brabant's Horse on December 13th, near Sastron, Orange River Colony, and says 107 men were made prisoners on that occasion.

The colonial office in announcing that Sir Alfred Milner succeeds Lord Roberts as administrator of the conquered territory in South Africa, says his taking up his residence at Johannesburg on account of his health must not be regarded as a settlement of the capital question.

Capetown, Dec. 17.—Seven hundred Boers have crossed from Orange River Colony into Cape Colony, near Aliwal North, and have reached Kaapdaal.

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—(Special.—A batch of South African reports was received at the militia department today. Colonel Evans gives an interesting account of the engagement on November 2nd near Belfast, in which Lieut. Chalmers was killed and Major Sanders wounded. He pays a high tribute to the gallantry of Chalmers, who was formerly inspector of mounted police.

Major Hardman, reporting doings of "D" Battery, mentions four non-coms and men, all from Ottawa, were degraded and sentenced to 84 days imprisonment for breaking into and stealing military stores.

### THE GNEISENAU WRECK.

A Heavy Loss of Life in the Disaster to German Training Ship.

Malaga, Dec. 17. The German training ship Gneisenau foundered on Sunday at the entrance to this port. Of the crew of 450 persons, 314 were saved.

Of the 314 survivors, 39 who were injured were transported to the local hospital, 125 sheltered in the barracks, and 150 lodged in the town hall. The municipality is providing food for all. Members of the Germany colony and many Spanish ladies have offered to nurse the injured. The flags over all the consulates are at half-mast.

### HELP THE SOLDIERS.

Employers Requested to Keep Places Open for Them—The Queen's Thanks.

London, Dec. 18.—The government publicly requests employers who have kept open situations for Yeomanry, colonials and volunteers to continue their patriotic efforts to minimize the sacrifices of these men in the services of their country. The war office has issued the Queen's thanks to the Yeomanry, colonials and volunteers, expressing her reliance that those abroad will continue to aid her regulars.

A GOOD STOMACH

Is essential to health and happiness, but don't blame the stomach for biliousness. It is the liver that is deranged, and causes poisonous bile to remain in the blood causing indigestion, headache and irregular action of the bowels. Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills regulate the liver, kidneys and bowels, and by their direct action on these organs effect prompt and lasting cures of kidney ailments. One pill a dose, 25 cents a biliousness, dyspepsia, headache and all box, at all dealers.

# TERMS OF EVACUATION

## Great Britain Wants Pechili Occupied Till the Chinese Fulfil Demands.

London, Dec. 18.—"Great Britain has instructed Sir Ernest Satow, I understand," says the Pekin correspondent of the Daily Mail, wiring Sunday, "to urge the retention in the joint note of the word "irrevocable," and the inclusion in the preamble of a declaration that until the Chinese government has fulfilled the demands of the powers, Pekin and the province of Chihli will not be evacuated by the allied troops. It is rumored that Germany is warmly supporting the British proposal, and I believe a majority of the powers and possibly all of them, will eventually accept the proposal which is hailed here with delight."

Pekin, Dec. 17.—While a number of German officers were dining today they narrowly escaped death by asphyxiation in the fumes of a Chinese stove. Four out of seven were partly insensible for more than half an hour. Fortunately all recovered. The stoves in this country are a constant source of danger.

Berlin, Dec. 17.—A despatch received here from Pekin dated December 16th, says Li Hung Chang is suffering from influenza. A despatch also adds that the Dowager Empress is going to Cheg Tu Province of Sze Chuen.

### BOUNDARY SHIPMENTS.

Grand Forks, Dec. 15.—The shipments for the past week of the Boundary district mines are:

| | Tons. |
|---|---|
| B. C. Mine, Summit Camp | 1,400 |
| Humming Bird, Brown's Camp | 500 |
| Jewel, Long Lake | 60 |
| Knob Hill and Ironsides | 4,200 |
| Mother Lode, Deadwood Camp | 500 |
| Total | 6,110 |

This makes the total shipments to date from this district amount to 106,705 tons.

### ROSSLAND ORE OUTPUT.

Rossland, Dec. 15.—The ore shipments for the week are 6,495 tons, and for the year to date 214,836 tons.

The shippers this week were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Le Roi | 4,173 |
| Centre Star | 2,112 |
| Le Roi No. 2 | 31 |
| Iron Mask | 135 |
| Giant | 22 |
| I. X. L. | 552 |
| Spitzee | 22 |
| Total | 6,495 |

# Farmers In Session

## Central Farmers Institute Meets to Discuss Many Vital Questions.

## Yesterday's Proceedings Formal—Members Advocate a Model Farm.

Monday was First Day at the meeting of the Central Farmers Institute, held across the bay in the rooms of the Department of Agriculture. There was an excellent attendance, the many aspects of this most important industry varied as it is throughout the province, being all well represented. As generally happens, however, this day was largely devoted to tinkering with the acts and rules, and so but small progress was made with the more useful part of the long programme that had been prepared.

The chair was taken by the president, Mr. Donald Grahame, of Spallumcheen, while around the long table were noticed Deputy Minister of Agriculture Anderson, together with Messrs E. Hutcheson, Delta; Geo. W. Beebe, Kent; D. Johnson, Surrey; E. D. Folwell, Alberni; J. Shopland, Victoria; J. C. Metcalfe, Maple Ridge and Coquitlam; Percy Purvis, Ganges Harbor; T. C. Oldershaw, Metchosin; L. R. Authier, Mattsqui; J. J. McMillan, Comox; A. J. Palmer, Salmon Arm; F. J. Deane, Kamloops; Alex. Philip, Richmond; R. Balfour, Langley; H. W. Rayner, Osoyoos, and J. Dougan of Cobble Hill.

Deputy Minister Anderson, who is also superintendent of the Institute, opened the meeting with a long but exceptionally interesting address, in which many of the subjects coming before such a gathering were most ably treated. Amongst these the question of representation on the board of sundry other organizations all dealing with the agricultural industry, was taken up, and subsequently made the subject of a good deal of discussion. Mr. Thrift of Hazelmere, as president of the Settlers' Association, had been extremely desirous of affiliation with the Institute, and agreat deal of correspondence had arisen over the question, but it was found that such partial amalgamation could only be completed by having certain amendments made to the Institutes' Act. Reference was also made to the increase of the bounty money paid for the killing of coyotes, to the Good Roads Association, whose meeting is to be held this week.

Turning to the Institutes themselves, the superintendent called the attention of the meeting to the falling off in the total membership throughout the province. This unfortunate circumstance might be turned to various uses, but amongst these the fact that some of the officials were inefficient, could not be overlooked. Regarding the meetings of the Institute throughout the country, Mr. Anderson thought that they should be held in the day time and that more attention might well be paid to the discussions of the subjects treated of in the papers which were read at them. He favored too the sending out of printed instructions to the secretaries of the Institutes quarterly.

Referring to the importation of song birds and the fostering of those kinds which were of special service to the farmer by their destruction of insects, etc., he thought that joint action might be arranged to be taken with the Natural History Society, which was also interested in this matter. That society held a meeting that evening to which all the visitors would be gladly welcomed.

The circumstances of the past session of the Legislature had been such as to prevent the previous recommendation of the board being taken up and enacted, but it was understood that these matters would receive a good deal of attention in the coming session of the House. The government had, however, recognized the importance of the industry by appointing a standing committee on agriculture, and also in various other ways. One matter upon which their attention might be pressed was an amendment of the Contagious Diseases Act so as to permit of the publication of the names of all dairymen whose premises and stock has not passed the official inspection. Such a course might have a marked effect in reducing the possibility of disease resulting from the sale of impure milk.

Mr. Anderson closed his address with a plea for more assistance in his department.

Routine work was then taken up and lasted until the adjournment for lunch, it being also arranged that all should attend the Good Roads Association meeting which was fixed for 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Before adjourning Mayor Haward offered to entertain the convention to a drive around the city being the plan suggested, was accepted with thanks, and the mayor and council were in return invited to attend the meetings of the Institute.

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