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THE MINING ASSOCIATION.

The largest and most representative convention of those interested in the mining industry has been sitting in Victoria during the last few days, and has succeeded in forming an association upon very comprehensive lines, with the object of advancing the mining interests of this province. The constitution of the association appears to be excellently adapted for the purposes the association has in view. At first it was intended to bar out by an article in the constitution, all discussion upon labor problems But the convention itself decided that as disputes between labor and capital constitute the gravest difficulties to which mining is subject in this province, an association which could take no action in reference to them, would be of very doubtful utility. In fact, the convention's being held at the very moment a disastrous strike is threatening the mining industry over a very extensive area, gave hope to many of the delegates that some method of emerging from the immediate difficulty staring them in the face, would be found through its deliberations. It was felt that to take up the conditions affecting the mining industry, and to leave questions of labor and capital untouched would be to stultify the mining association in a most important respect. Consequently, it has been left free to offer its services towards the settlement of labor disputes which may arise in the mining industry. This association may intervene in such matters, and do no good, it is quite true, but if it had turned away from the consideration of such matters, that would have been an evidence of self-confessed failure from the start. The resolutions of the convention upon other matters touching mining legislation and so forth have been moderately expressed, and should have weight. But the criticism which must at once suggest itself, is that these resolutions do not, in any sense of the word, bear out the contention that the mining industry is upon the brink of ruin through the appalling nature of the conditions with which it has to struggle. A government, it appeals to us, could carry out every one of the recommendations of the association made so far, and still leave the conditions of the mining industry pretty much as they are, except in some material, but not essential particulars. It is a matter of most heartfelt congratulation to those interested in the future of the association that the resolution urging the Government and Legislature not to introduce any mining legislation not first submitted for the approval of the association was rejected. It is a most amazing idea that an elective and responsible body should delegate any of its functions to an irresponsible body which is not elective. It is a mighty good thing for the association that the idea of making any such proposal was promptly rejected. It is directly hostile to the continued existence of representative government. Those who proposed it would be the first to view its operation with shuddering dismay if it happened to be applied in directions unsuited to their convenience. We may have difficulties in this province of all kinds which call for vigorous initiative and unconventional treatment in some cases. But whatever we do, let us respect the essential principles of constitutional self-government, and we shall not come out very far wrong in the end. A great deal depends not merely on the excellence of a constitution, and on the excellent tenour of abstract resolutions passed, but also upon the kind of executive chosen to carry out the business of the association. In that respect the association has done well. Mr. John Keen, the president, is widely known as one of the most efficient gold commissioners the Government ever had, a man whose executive ability and knowledge of the practical workings of the mining law is second to that of no one in the province. Mr. Hobson need only be mentioned for everyone to admit his qualifications for office. Mr. Belyea, the secretary, is an active organizer, and an energetic worker capable of putting forward the aims and policy of the association in a forcible and incisive manner. As for Mr. A. B. Fraser, sr., all we need say is that no institution which does not possess him as treasurer, possesses any better man for the position. The executive of the association has been elected by both classes and sections of the province, and forms a representative and purposeful body of men.

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A TIMELY SUGGESTION.

We are glad to see that the position of Canada in respect to the Alaskan Boundary Commission as set forth in our columns has aroused the citizens of Victoria to the necessity of some public action. We hope the suggestion that the Mayor call a public meeting will be acted upon. We never can have an Empire in the modern or British sense at all, unless every citizen of that Empire does his share in developing the public opinion which is the ultimate guide of its policy and the ultimate tribunal before which its statesmanship is tried. If any part of the Empire stands aside from active participation in the things that concern its peace, that part abnegates its responsibility as a portion of the body corporate. In the Nineteenth Century for March there is an exceedingly thoughtful article by Mr. Sidney Low on the development of the British government into a cabinet autocracy. He traces this movement, which is very marked, to the party system, and to the fact that the rank and file party man never dreams of opposing the cabinet upon any question involving want of confidence. As a consequence, the cabinet is able to take up and decide any question, and to pass any legislation exactly as it chooses, whatever may have been in the purview of politics at a general election. This autocracy, however, he is careful to point out is tempered by public opinion in the press and on the platform, and by a sense of responsibility to a party dependent for a further lease of power upon the popular vote. Even the cabinet, now grown to unwieldly proportions, has become little more than the registering instrument of the will of the inner cabinet, consisting of the premier and one or two confidential advisers. The power of parliament has been largely superseded in its influence upon the government by the direct agencies through which public opinion is manifested. A revolt against the government among its supporters in parliament is an almost impossible contingency, as the Education Bill and, more recently the discussion of Army Reform have shown. But a revolt among the people who elect the members of parliament is a very different matter, and most of the debating in the House of Commons is done for the purpose of appealing to the people, and not for the purpose of influencing the divisions. Debates moreover in the House of Commons are decaying because the press and the platform afford more convenient means of reaching and stirring the opinion of the people. This condition has been a natural outcome of modern developments. We need waste on it neither praise nor criticism. The reason why we have adverted to it at the present moment is to show that at any particular juncture, colonial public opinion has very much the same kind of influence upon Imperial policy as British public opinion has. As a matter of fact, we should conjecture that the war of the Imperial government was more delicately attuned to the tone of colonial public opinion than even to the tone of British public opinion. Because with regard to the latter it has party loyalty to fall back upon to exonerate its mistakes. In the colonies it has not, while the integrity of the Empire, the reciprocal loyalty of its different parts, and its development and growth as the most majestic phenomenon of racial development hitherto apparent in the world, are after all, the paramount considerations to every Briton, high or low. Why, then, is colonial opinion so feeble upon questions of Imperial importance? The Empire should not be to us merely a symbol for sentimental and meaningless gush, but a body corporate in whose every action all parts should display a vital interest and enjoy an active participation. This question of the Alaskan boundary is a purely Imperial question. It affects the relations between the Empire as a whole and a foreign power. But at the same time, it is a question in which the interests of Canada are peculiarly concerned, and it is therefore a question in which the public opinion of Canada should be vivid and definite, and vividly and definitely declared, not in any spirit of sectional disloyalty, but with the determination that as the interests of Canada are integral to the interests of the Empire, they must not be wantonly sacrificed in the give and take of international politics.

ROOSTING CHICKENS.

It is a saying as trite as it is true, that chickens always come home to roost. The woes of Ireland have always been a ready subject for the fervid imagination of the sons of Erin. For nearly a century an agitation has been based on the erroneous assumption that these woes have been political in their nature and curable by liberal doses of local self-government. It has at last dawned upon Great Britain and Ireland alike, that these woes are economic, and just as susceptible of cure by the British parliament as by any parliament upon College Green, provided the British parliament will adopt and apply the necessary economic medicines. Just as soon as the British parliament has made up its mind to do so, the Home Rule agitation, the disloyalty of the Irish at home and abroad, bursts like a soap bubble. The initiative in the settlement of the Irish question came not from the politicians, but from the landlords and tenants of Ireland themselves. Some little time ago they held a conference, and when their joint report was signed, one of the Irish Nationalist leaders exclaimed "For the first time in my life I can cry 'God save the King!'" This was a typical exclamation. It set a seal upon the fact that the political revolt in Ireland had its causes in economic and not in dynastic conditions. The policy of Great Britain was, in the early days of the Navigation Laws and the old Colonial policy which made it a felony to make even a horseshoe in an American colony, deliberately designed to destroy any possibility of manufactures and commerce growing up in Ireland. Ireland was compelled to remain a purely agricultural country, trading only with Great Britain, with the buying and selling price set by the selfish interest of the British merchant. Such disabilities as those have long been done away with, but not before a brood of fledglings had been hatched, bound to find their way home to roost some day. When the great wheat fields of the world began to open up to minister to the dense population of Europe, Ireland had no manufactures nor commerce to absorb her surplus population; and, as machinery took the place of hand labor, there was ever need of fewer people on the soil. The consequence was famine, depopulation, and emigration, each emigrant carrying with him an inheritance of hatred towards blundering, but not deliberately unjust, John Bull. Have these chickens not come home to roost? Today the blind hereditary hatred of the Irishman abroad, is one of the most notorious stumbling blocks in the path of the British Empire. Coupled with this cause of the depopulation of Ireland was the system of land tenure in Ireland itself. A modification of the old clan tenure of the Celtic families, it was altogether unsuited for the conditions of modern ownership where land is simply one of the forms of economic capital. No more efficient means for the degradation of a whole people could have been devised by the Prince of the Powers of Darkness himself than the system of land tenure which has prevailed in Ireland. It worked out so that in the exact proportion a tenant made his farm more productive, he was charged an equivalent in rent. So that the harder he worked, the greater the levy upon him, and the greater also the certainty that the first bad year would render him insolvent. This essential vice of the system of land tenure in Ireland has been long recognized by economists, but the efforts made by politicians to remedy it have hitherto been but partial and haphazard. Now a comprehensive scheme has been agreed on between the landlords and the tenants, the gist of which is frankly to remedy the condition of Irish land tenure at the expense of the British taxpayer. Here is another chicken come home to roost, a chicken, too, for whose hatching the British taxpayer is only to a slight extent responsible. In the meantime, a very much better and more hopeful feeling between the Irish parliamentary party and the British parliament has come into being. It is said the scheme of land purchase will require 50,000,000 pounds sterling. Well, it required 250,000,000 pounds sterling to conquer South Africa, and if one-fifth of the money will conquer Ireland, and render its population as law-abiding and contented as they are ingenious and enterprising when given an opportunity, it will be money well spent in the best interests of the Empire.

THE STRIKE AT FERNIE.

We have been anxiously awaiting definite facts as to the actual situation at Fernie, upon which the public would be justified in making up their minds upon the strike now on there. We have received an abstract of the payrolls of the mines, showing the average rate of wages earned by the miners. We give it in full:

MICHEL MINES.

Miners' averages for five months, September, 1902, January, 1903:	
Highest average net earnings per shift	$6 93
Lowest average net earnings per shift	3.42
Average net earnings per shift	4.87
Miners whose average net earnings exceed $6.00 per shift	14 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are $5.00 to $6.00 per shift	26 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are $4.00 to $5.00 per shift	50 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are $3.00 to $4.00 per shift	10 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings exceed $100 per month:	
September	50 p.c.
October	50 p.c.
November—Only two weeks account local strike.	
December	18 p.c.
January	46 p.c.

MORRISSEY MINES.

Miners' average for three months, November, 1902, January, 1903:	
NO. 1. MINE.	
Highest average net earnings per shift	$6.54
Lowest average net earnings per shift	3.14
Average net earnings per shift	4.66
NO. 3 MINE.	
Highest average net earnings per shift	$8 38
Lowest average net earnings per shift	2.77
Average net earnings per shift	4.31
NO. 4 MINE.	
Highest average net earnings per shift	$6.99
Lowest average net earnings per shift	1.81
(This party worked only 4 days.)	
Average net earnings per shift	4 72
ALL MINES.	
Average net earnings per shift	$4.61
Miners whose average net earnings exceed $6.00 per shift	20 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are $5.00 to $6 00 per shift	18 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are $4.00 to $5.00 per shift	28 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are $3.00 to $4.00 per shift	21 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are under $3.00 per shift	13 p.c.
Miners whose net earnings exceed $100 per month:	
November	16 p.c.
December	20 p.c.
January	32 p.c.

Note.—During the months of November, December and January, the Morrissey mines were operated under a schedule of wages proposed by the Coal company. During these months, and while the schedule was under advisement, it was current information that the local union had instructed the men not to over-exert themselves; that is, to hold themselves down to a certain amount of work daily, until the schedule was finally approved.

The schedule as proposed, with several minor amendments, was finally approved of by a committee of eight men from the several mines, who met with General Manager Tonkin and General Superintendent Stockett at Morrissey in January. The schedule was then printed and posted at the mines.

COAL CREEK MINES.

Miners' averages for five months, September, 1902, January, 1903:	
Highest average net earnings per shift	$7.20
Lowest average net earnings per shift	3.19
Average net earnings per shift	4.63
Miners whose average net earnings exceeded $7.00 per shift	1 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are $6.00 to $7.00 per shift	12 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are $5.00 to $6.00 per shift	16 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are $4.00 to $5 00	41 p.c.
Miners whose average net earnings are $3.00 to $4.00 per shift	30 p.c.
Miners whose net earnings exceeded $100 per month:	
September	68 p.c.
October	66 p.c.
November	32 p.c.
December	27 p.c.
January	31 p.c.

This is the most amazing schedule of earnings we have ever seen or heard of in a coal, or any other kind of mine. It shows that coal miners in Fernie are making higher average wages than those engaged in almost any trade or calling in British Columbia. Are these figures authentic? We believe they are. They have been sworn to by Mr. Tonkin, the manager, and Mr. Stockett, the superintendent. Not only so, but the whole payrolls of the company and the receipts of the miners were turned over to Mr. Dougherty, the president of the Western Federation of Miners in the Boundary district, in order that he might verify the abstract for himself. One chief complaint urged by the miners is the scale of wages paid at No. 1 mine, Morrissey. Here it seems the management offer only 40 cents per ton for coal delivered out of the mines; whereas, at the Coal Creek collieries and elsewhere the scale is 60 cents. A glance at the wage statement will show that at this mine the net earnings of the men for three months averaged $4.66 per shift. If the higher scale of wages had been paid this average would have been $7 per shift, which amount must be admitted as out of all proportion. Mr. Tonkin informs us that the No. 1 seam is very thick, and very easily picked; consequently the miner can increase his tonnage output over the miners' tonnage at the other seams in inverse proportion to the two wages, and that without undue exertion. This being the condition—and the figures show it as such—we can really see no reason for a display of discontent on this score. Again, we see that the average net earnings per miner, per shift, at all the mines, is $4.64. If there is any mine in British Columbia, coal or metalliferous, where men are receiving a better average remuneration for their labor, we should like to know where it is? We do not believe there is such a mine in British Columbia or out of it. No man, not even the most biased critic, can dispute that such a wage scale is ample. The sympathies of all go out to the worker. He should be safeguarded to the greatest extent possible in the dangers attending his employment. Any attempt to beat him down to the lowest possible margin of pay will be resented not only by himself, but by the people of the country of which he is the backbone and stay. But when men who, for eight hours' labor per day, are able to earn the wages detailed above, go out on strike, there must be some mysterious reason for their conduct no connected with the price they are receiving for their labor. What is that reason? We have a right to know it, and the country has a right to know it. No official intimation has yet been given that there is a strike nor have the causes of the discontent of the miners been given either to the company or the public. A report has been circulated that General Manager Tonkin refused audience with a committee of miners who had come to confer with him upon the present condition. Mr. Tonkin declares that this is absolutely false. Moreover, he states that he offered the president of the district union—and this in the presence of Mr. Dougherty, who is president of the Western Federation of the Boundary district—to meet with a committee of the men from each mine, and, if necessary, a committee of the district union afterwards. On the facts and figures we have given, the case looks black as thunder against the men. The company has supplied us and, through us, the public, with information about the mines upon which a rational opinion can be based. The greatest doubt on the contrary exists in the public mind as to the exact stand, and the grounds of it, taken by the miners. The attitude of the company is conciliatory, and is apparently taken in good faith. Will the men not meet the company? Will they not agree upon a wage schedule for a year or a term of years? This should not be difficult to arrange where prices are fixed by law and are invariable. Can other grievances not either be modified or borne with, if inevitable? In a word, cannot common sense and reason be brought to bear to settle this dispute and the wheels of industry be again set revolving throughout Kootenay and Yale? If not, disastrous consequences must ensue. The mining and smelting industries of British Columbia will be hampered and retarded. Such strikes work embarrassment and ruin to many who have staked their all on the future of the country. They cause untold harm, and the people of the country should strain every nerve to see equal justice done to both labor and capital, towards which the first step is to know the rights and wrongs of the opposing interests, and to have them supported or remedied.

THE FERNIE STRIKE.

The following document has been issued by the press committee of the Fernie Miners' union:

The grievances which have culminated in the strike by means of which the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company properties are closed down, and which will directly affect the whole of the Kootenays, and commenced at the close of the last strike in Fernie. On August 4, 1902, an agreement was made between the Gladstone Miners' union, Fernie, and Mr. J. H. Tonkin, general manager of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company of which the following is a correct copy.

1.—In the interpretation of this agreement, the expression "miner" shall mean all men working by contract for the above named camp, in digging and mining coal. The expression "workman" shall mean all other employees of the company employed inside in the general operation of the company's mines and on the payroll of the company.

2.—A day's work shall consist of eight and one-half hours, which shall commence at 7 o'clock a.m., and shall expire at 3:30 p.m.

Miners and workmen shall be considered as gonig on shift by being at the present fire-station in No. 1 and 2 mines and at the fire-bosses' station in No. 3 mine at the hour of 7 a.m., and shall complete the day's work by being at the same point at the hour of 3:30 p.m., except that this reguiation as to the hour of completion of the day's work shall not apply to miners who shall be at liberty to complete their day's work as best suits them.

3.—During the said shift there shall be a period of one-half hour, commencing at noon during which all work shall be suspended both inside and outside of the various mines, but the workmen shall remain in their respective mines and shall be ready immediately on the expiration of the said half-hour period to resume work suspended by them at noon.

4.—If, at the expiration of two months from the date of this agreement, the union shall signify by writing to the company, after a vote by ballot amongst the employees employed by the company underground, that they are dissatisfied with the extra half hour at noon, stipulated for by paragraph three hereof, the company hereby agrees that this agreement will be at an end and they will forthwith voluntarily return to the system of working of the mines, as set forth in this agreement with the exception of the said half-hour at noon, which will be discontinued and thereafter a days' work shall consist of one eight-hour shift, which shall commence at the fire-stations and fire-bosses' room, aforesaid, at 7 a. m. and shall end at same points at the hour of 3 p.m.

5.—There shall be no discrimination by the company against any of the miners or workmen employed by them previous to the inauguration of the strike now existing at Fernie and Michel, and the company agrees that they will forthwith reinstate in their employment, as rapidly as the conditions of various mines will warrant, all workmen and miners who ceased work by reason of the said strikes and that the position of the said workmen and said miners shall not in any way be prejudiced by reason of their having either directly or indirectly participated in the said strikes.

6.—This agreement shall be observed and be in force for a period of two months from the date hereof, in any event.

7.—Miners and company men will go to work forthwith on the conditions contained herein, and the strikes existing both at Fernie and Michel shall forthwith cease.

This agreement was signed by J. H. Tonkin and T. Stockett, Jr., on behalf of the company and by a committee of seven on behalf of the employees and the men resumed work.

Now, the day after the work was started, Mr. Tonkin brought forward a schedule of wages which made a reduction of from 15 to 20 per cent, and the men, considering that for the honor of their union they were pledged to work two months in any event, protested against it, but kept on working. Then, at the expiration of two months the ballot was taken, but instead of all the employees working underground and being allowed to vote as per agreement, clause 4, and men actually employed in digging coal were the only ones who were allowed to vote. The result was 129 for 8 hours and 33 for 8½ hours, resulting in a large majority in favor of 8 hours, which would certainly have been much larger if the company men employed underground had been allowed to vote.

Here is the first grievance. The manager claimed that he was allowed to count all those who did not vote on his side of the dispute, and claimed by that he had a majority vote. Wonderful mathematician, to make 129 less than 33.

The men have also been working under the protested wage scale since last August, and have tried time and again to have that redress but without any result.

Another grievance at Fernie is the timber question. The law says that for the safety of the miner a sufficient quantity of timber shall be kept at the working face or at the nearest place practically. Instead of this, the men have to go and bring the timbers from the landing, which is often a considerable distance away, thereby losing a lot of time, and in many instances running considerable risks, as some of the places are positively dangerous to work in without timbers being kept there at hand all the time. Several men have been discharged for going home when there was no timber, and all efforts to get them reinstated were in vain. It is a murderous policy to place men's lives in needless danger to save the paltry sum that would pay the wages of a man to look after the timber.

At Morrissey the state of affairs is worse than at Fernie. They get 40 cents per ton for digging coal there, and have to shovel that coal from two to four times before it is in the car. This is less than is paid for digging coal in any other mine in Canada. Then they have to move the "McGinty," or, to explain that term, a gig-wheel, and not until the car is 38 feet from the place is the "McGinty" moved at all, then it takes two men a day to move it and set it up again, for which they receive the munificent sum of nothing.

Formerly the timbers at Morrissey were dressed ready for the men to set them, now the men have to dress the timbers themselves, for which they receive nothing, but, after carrying and hauling the heavy timbers up 300 or 400 feet and getting the men in the next place to come and help set them, they receive $1.00 per set.

We are also cursed with a company store, and anyone who has worked under that system knows that when the store bill is deducted from the due bill that there is not much of a surplus left, in fact there are several men who have had absolutely nothing.

At Michel it is the same as regards the company's store, there the men have been working under a protested wage scale, they receive 55 cents per ton and 50 to 75 cents per set of timber.

There is also at Michel the buttying system by which one man may take an indefinite number of places and employ helpers or back hands and take a "rake-off" from each of the men's earnings.

Each of the three camps have tried to get their grievances redressed, but failed to do so. The management would grant an audience individually, but would never give any satisfaction or redress.

Then the three locals formed a district board, and after the district board had sat in session 13 or 14 days, and sifted each grievance and withdrawn or cut down any demands that was not in accordance with fairness and honesty, they were refused an audience, they have applied for one many times and have not got it. Their letters were ignored and the messenger received with abuse and curses.

It has been stated in the press that the manager was ignorant of the cause of strike and did not know of any grievances and that the men have not presented any to him. We would like to know how they could when he refused to see their representatives. It is not for public to judge if any fair-minded man who wished to work in harmony with his employees would repeatedly flout them in the manner that he has done. It is also open for the public to judge the business ability of the man who wishes to play the autocrat, and by his misjudgment, errors or tyranny, force his employees into a strike of such dimensions that its effect are almost limitless.

PRESS COMMITTEE.

The above document recites an agreement entered into between the union and the company on the 4th of August of last year. Let us take the grievances complained of in order:

1.—A reduction of 15 to 20 per cent in wages. If the average wages were $4.64 per shift after that reduction what were they before it?

2.—A difference of opinion between the management and the men as to whether it is better to work a shift of 8½ hours with an intermission of half an hour or 8 hours without an intermission. As a reason for ruining Kootenay and Yale this seems indeed trivial. Can the management not afford to give way on this point?

3.—Miners being obliged to go to the landing for timbers. As a reason for ruining Kootenay and Yale this seems grossly inadequate. The union says a paltry sum of money would cure it and we can well believe that, as it does not interfere with the miners earning $4.64 a day on an average. At the same time, in a miner's anxiety to cut coal he may be tempted to neglect safety. This timber grievance should be seen to. It is surely not beyond accommodation.

4.—The 40-cent coal at Morrissey. This is no grievance at all. Mining 40-cent coal at Morrissey is easier than mining 60-cent coal at Fernie to the tune of 3 cents a day.

5.—Timbers at Morrissey. The men's struggles with timber do not interfere with their earning $4.66 a day. But their eagerness to earn money may interfere with safety under such a system.

6.—Company stores. Abolished by the company.

7.—Buttying system. This does not look right to us, but we do not know enough about it to give definite opinion.

8.—Refusal of audience with manager. This is denied in toto by the manager. It is easy for the men to prove this statement by trying to get an audience with the manager now. We do not wish anyone to judge of the Fernie strike by our comment upon this statement of the men. For that reason we have published the statement itself in full, just as we gave the fullest publicity of the wage schedule the company has published. Our opinion is that if there is nothing else, the strike should never have been entered into, and that, if there is nothing else, the strike should not last a week. Here are eight grievances. We think we have stated them fairly. All put together they do not justify a strike. If there is any common sense left among miners and mine managers this strike should be settled within ten days, and an agreement come to upon the different points raised. In common with many other people in British Columbia we were afraid that issues vitally affecting the fabric of society and the relation between capital and labor, were being raised at Fernie. As a matter of fact, there is nothing of the kind. The whole thing, upon the men's own statement, is a tissue of childish misunderstandings. Settle it up, and settle it quick, or give British Columbia some better excuse for not doing so than is apparent now.

IN A NUTSHELL.

The following editorial paragraph from the Toronto Globe puts the matter of the Alaska Boundary commission in a nutshell:

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's announcement that Edward Blake would be asked to act as counsel for Canada before the Alaska Boundary Commission will be a welcome piece of intelligence. We do not think that we are influenced by national partiality when we say that Mr. Blake is one of the most powerful advocates in the English-speaking world today. It would not be possible to entrust Canada's case to more competent hands.

But if, as is announced, the American members of the commission are to be such men as Judge Turner of Spokane, Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts and Elihu Root, it makes very little difference how ably our case is presented. There could be no hope of convincing a gentleman like Judge Turner, whose whole political associations have conspired to instill into him the importance of having the American contention maintained at any cost; or like Mr. Lodge, whose Chauvinism is notorious. These gentlemen might be convinced, but they could be depended on carefully to conceal the fact. It is not uncharitable to take that for granted. Mr. Root is a distinguished lawyer, but he is a politician and a member of the Cabinet, and it would be singular if he could be trusted to be judicial towards the question in hand.

It may be said that if the United States is going to send a solid delegation of partisans to the commission, Britain should do likewise. This, of course, would turn what should be a dignified international body into a farcical assemblage of gentlemen with their minds made up before hearing a word of the evidence or arguments, and Mr. Blake and Mr. Foster would be throwing their facts and their logic against a stone wall.

TENDENCY OF THE TIMES.

The tendency of medical science is toward preventive measures. The best thought of the world is being given to the subject. It is easier and better to prevent than cure. It has been fully demonstrated that pneumonia, one of the most dangerous diseases that medical men have to contend with, can be prevented by the use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Pneumonia always results from a cold or from an attack of influenza (grip), and it has been observed that this remedy counteracts any tendency of these diseases toward pneumonia. This has been fully proven in many thousands of cases in which this remedy has been used during the great prevalence of colds and grip in recent years, and can be relied upon with implicit confidence. Pneumonia often results from a slight cold when no danger is apprehended until it is suddenly discovered that there is fever and difficulty in breathing and pains in the chest, then it is announced that the patient has pneumonia. Be on the safe side and take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as soon as the cold is contracted. It always cures. For sale by all druggists and dealers.

100 boys' 3 piece "Fauntleroy" suits half price for cash until stocktaking. B. Williams & Co. *

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

Firemen Called Out Eight Times During February.

Victoria is proverbially fortunate in its immunity from disastrous fires, and the past month showed no exception to the rule. During February the fire brigade had eight runs. In six cases no damage was done, and the loss in the others aggregated only $23.

Following is the record for the month:

February 5, box 61, 9:40 p.m., fire at 18 Cormorant street; rubbish and ashes in tub; no loss. February 8, still, 8 a.m.; overheated stovepipe in Clarence hotel; no loss. February 11, box 17, 12:40 a.m.; fire in old barn, Kingston street; no loss. February 15, box 16, 8 p.m.; chimney fire, Sparrows, Park road; no loss. February 16, No. 56, 12:40 a.m.; fire at premises, Cedar hill road, occupied by Capt. Lavender; loss, $1,800. February 26, still, 9 p.m.; chimney fire, 139 Government street; no loss. February 27, box 27, 2 p.m.; fire on roof of Bishop Cridge's residence, sparks from chimney; loss, $5.00. February 21, box 27, 4:30 p.m.; overheated stovepipe at J. S. Harvey's, Boyd street; no loss.

SAFETY FOR LITTLE ONES.

Mothers Should Exercise Great Care in Choosing Medicine for Children.

Every little one needs a medicine at some time, and mothers cannot be too careful in making a selection. The so-called "soothing" preparations, invariably contain opiates and other harmful drugs, which stupify the little one, and pave the way to a constant necessity for the use of narcotic drugs. Undoubtedly the very best, and the very safest medicine for little ones is Baby's Own Tablets. They are mildly laxative and gentle in their action, and cure all stomach and bowel troubles, relieve simple fevers, break up colds, prevent croup, and allay the irritation accompanying the cutting of teeth. Where these Tablets are used, little ones sleep naturally, because the causes of irritation and sleeplessness are removed in a natural way. Experienced mothers all praise this medicine. Mrs. H. H. Fox, Orange Ridge, Man., says: "Baby's Own Tablets are the best medicine I have ever used for children of all ages. They are truly a blessing to baby and mother's friend."

These Tablets are guaranteed to contain no opiate, and can be given to a new-born babe. Sold by all druggists, or sent post paid, at 25c. a box, by writing direct to the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Driving ulsters and waterproof overcoats half price for cash during stocktaking sale. B. Williams & Co. *

PLEASANT SOCIAL EVENT.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan Welcomed to Victoria by Their Many Friends.

A very pleasant evening was spent last night at the home of Mr. Vaughan. Mr. Vaughan has recently arrived from "The Soo," and being greatly pleased with the situation of Victoria, has purchased the beautiful former residence of Mr. Margison on Quadra street, in tending to make this his future home. He and his family were surprised by a gathering of over sixty of their friends, who dropped in to welcome them to Victoria in the old-fashioned "back East" style. Music, games and feasting were indulged in until a late hour, and all agreed the evening had been as merry as any could wish.

FOR STOMACH TROUBLES.

"I have taken a great many different medicines for stomach trouble and constipation," says Mrs. S. Geiger, of Dunkerton, Iowa, "but never had as good results from any as from Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets." For sale by all druggists and dealers.

Boys' and youths' overcoat prices cut in two for cash until after stock-taking. B. Williams & Co. & *

THE COURTS.

Quiet Day in Legal Circles—Cases to Be Heard Tuesday.

The law courts were practically deserted yesterday, and the quietness which prevailed was in marked contrast to the very strenuous efforts of counsel in the earlier part of the week. There were no applications requiring attention in Chambers and in consequence judges, lawyers and registrars had a short and quiet day.

The March sittings of the Supreme Court for the trial of civil causes will begin on Tuesday next, the following cases having been set down for trial at this sitting: Wilson vs. Pacific Steel Company; Fell & Gregory for plaintiffs; Peters & Wilson for defendants. Macaulay Brothers vs. the Victoria Yukon Trading Company, Limited; Robert Cassity, for plaintiffs; J. H. Lawson, jr., for defendants.

You hardly realize that it is medicine, when taking Carter's Little Liver Pills; they are very small; no bad effects; all troubles from torpid liver are relieved by their use.

Boys' reefers 90c. each, worth $1.75 and $2.00, until after stock-taking. B. Williams & Co. *

Presentation.—At a mass meeting of citizens of Nanaimo, held on Tuesday evening, it was unanimously decided that on Saturday afternoon next on the Green that an illuminated address, coupled with a piece of plate in the form of a salver, be presented to Mr. S. M. Robins by the citizens of Nanaimo, comprising the miners, the members of the Artisans Club, the Athletic Club, the clergymen of the different churches and the merchants, representatives of each body having their signature placed on the address

The scratch of a pin may cause the loss of a limb or even death when blood poisoning results from the injury. All danger of this may be avoided, however, by promptly applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is an antiseptic and unequalled as a quick healing liniment for cuts, bruises and burns. For sale by all druggists and dealers.

Retail Grocers.—The Retail Grocers' Association will hold a meeting tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock in Sir William Wallace Hall, Broad street. All retail grocers are requested to attend.

Not one in twenty are free from some little ailment caused by inaction of the liver. Use Carter's Little Liver Pills. The result will be a pleasant surprise. They give positive relief.

Heavy Gales In Britain

Damage Reported From Many Parts of the Old Country.

Passenger Train Blown Over In Lancashire--Wind Swept Ireland.

London, Feb. 27.—A gale of almost unprecedented violence swept Great Britain throughout the night, and did considerable damage. Telegraphic communication Northward of Leeds was entirely interrupted; the Continental service was interfered with, and large numbers of ships were forced to seek shelter in the harbors. Many minor wrecks occurred, and the lifeboats and rocket apparatus were busy all along the coasts.

At Ulverton, Lancashire, a passenger train was blown over, a number of passengers injured and ten cars wrecked. The gale swept over Ireland from North to South. At Cork a three-storey building collapsed, burying 15 people, one of them being killed and one fatally injured. Various coast points report vessels ashore. The rivers in the interior are flooded.

DUNCAN AND CLEAR CREEKS.

Investigation Ordered Into Alleged Official Irregularities.

Dawson, Feb. 26.—The new camp opening on Duncan and Clear creeks promises to be one of the biggest in the Yukon. There is an enrmous body of gravel over a large area, and reports coming in are most favorable. Pans running as high as $1.78 have been secured.

Assistant Gold Commissioner Gosselin is going out tomorrow to make an investigation of the charges of irregularities which have been made by miners on these creeks against Tom Hinton and Weldon Young, who were suspended on the order of Hon. Clifford Sifton. A thorough inquiry will be made regarding the official actions of the two men.

The End of An Adventurer

Captain Felix Frederick Carozzi Is Reported Dead at Shanghai

He Had a Romantic History and Went Through Many Adventures.

Capt. Felix Frederick Carozzi—one of that adventurous colony of raiders who made many hauls of skins from the rookeries of Behring Sea and Robben and the Commanderofski islands, and who is well known to Victoria sealing men—is dead at Shanghai, according to advices received by the steamer Kaga Maru. The North China Daily News of Shanghai says: By many, even his most intimates, he has been mistaken for Cutliffe Hynes' study of Capt. Kettle, and every characteristic tallies most accurately with that author's sketch of the "plain master mariner." Carozzi went out to join the indoor staff of the Imperial Maritime customs in 1877, but failing in his final examination, took up the sea calling for choice. He was second mate in the service of the China Navigation Company, on board of the Pekin, and lost command through a firm assumption of authority and independence of spirit. In '78 he commanded the Wha-on, and left Jardine's to pilot the fortunes of the privately owned Pingon, which cleared from Singapore with a cargo of arms and ammunition, bound for one of the many disaffected islands of the Dutch Archipelago. Carozzi—fatalist that he was—took everything that came in a philosophical way, and amongst the favors was a life sentence for this offence in consequence of the vigilance of a Dutch man-of-war. Capt. Danielson, who was associated with him in the venture, died in jail at Sourabaya, and Carozzi escaped, after suffering several months' incarceration, to tempt fate once more in another blockade runner. In April, 1885, during the Franco-China war, with 600 Chinese troops, he was captured by a French cruiser. The ship was taken as a prize to Saigon and sold, and Carozzi was sent to the Pescadores, where he was liberated in a short time by the French authorities on parole. There seems to have been collusion to the surrender in this case, as the terms were exceptionally light, and the ubiquitous captain was in possession once more of his liberty. During a sealing trip to the Behring Sea in 1888, for an act of insubordination in complicity with his mate, he shot one of his Chinese crew, and in consequence stood his trial on the capital offence before the Consular court in Yokohama. After short deliberation the jury acquitted the accused, but as he afterwards remarked to his friends, it was a mauvais quart d'heure, and one, with all his stolidity and indifference, that was exceptionally trying to his nerves.

There are few who knew him intimately that will not miss him, for his wealth of anecdote, for the careless way he looked on the serious side of life. Brave to the verge of suicide, generous to a fault, proud to a degree that often led his best friends to mistake his motive, he has dropped out of the running, and there is not a man who enjoyed his friendship who does not know that he has sustained a personal loss by Captain Carozzi's death.

Nearly a Thousand Dollars of Registered Mail Stolen.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—The provincial police here have a robbery case in hand of rather important dimensions. The registered letter bag from Van Anda camp en route to the Vancouver post office on February 11, has disappeared. The theft was only discovered yesterday. The registered letter sack was put inside a sack of papers, the large sack was opened with a key, and the registered letter sack taken out and the large sack locked up again. There were between $900 and $1,000 in cash in the registered letter bag.

Ladies of the Maccabees.—The installation of officers of the newly organized hive of the Ladies of the Maccabees at Victoria West will not be postponed as intimated, but will take