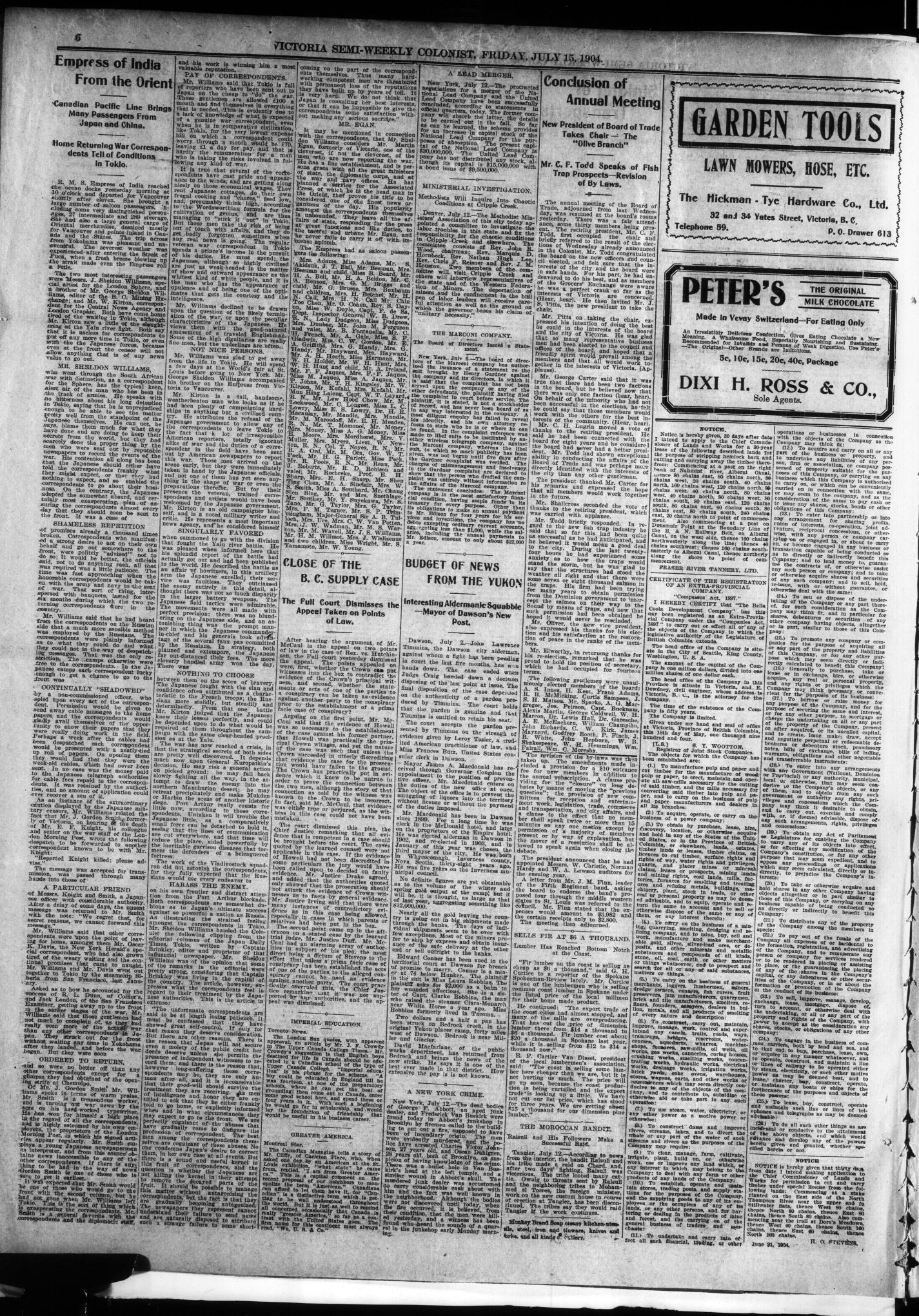
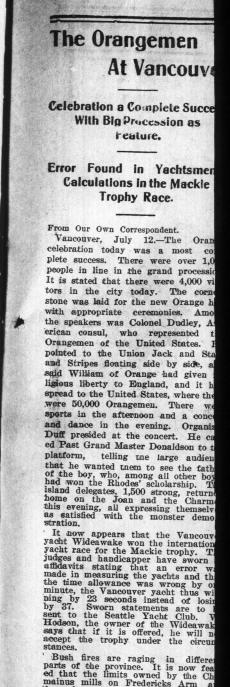
Empress of India

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VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST, FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1904.







stances. Bush fires are raging in differe parts of the province. It is now fee ed that the limits owned by the Cl mainus mills on Fredericks Arm a doomed, as last reports were not couraging. The limits include 7,5 acres, and if rain does not come t worst is expected. On Valdez isla and across the inlet there are al dangerous fires raging, imperilling ti dangerous fires raging, imp ber limits of great extent.

RIVAL ROADS IN THE SIMILKAMEEN

Reports As to Intention of Mi Hill and Also of the C. P. R.

F. W. Peters, general freight and pa senger agent of the C. P. R., and Har E. McDonald, general freight ager nad with them R. H. Hedley, super closely the Hall mines about the questioned into the S reported to have favorites, and it i one railway to ge

and to build a road on present informa-tion would mean a lengthy detour of en-pensive railway building. "But the C. P. R. can reach the Simi-kameen in another way. The Daly com pany at Hedley is always in a position t give the railway a big tonnage. Their mines can be quickly placed on a shippin basis and the Similkameen and Nicola ar today the most attractive fields in Britis Columbia for a new railway. By the tim Hill could reach there the C. P. R. could be installed and would have the cream o the trade in a district which is bound to become the banner camp in British Colum bia. The C. P. R. is no quitter, and it officers enjoy a battle just as much as an railway men. It is not supposed the big Canadian railway company is going to si didy by and allow that awful man Hill to gobble up all the good things in the way of freight in Southern British Columbia. In a description of the proposed opening of the Westminster bridge, the Seattle Times of Sunday last makes the state ment that surveyors have started in from droville, Washington state, to try and find a pass through to the rich Similka meen country and that J. J. Hill is only waiting for the discovery of an easy grade to the valley to build the road. H. W. Findlay, who has just returned from a trip through the Kootenays, says that all the task. In the interior in railorad circles is Hill's schemes to get into Nicola Yalley and talk in the interior in railroad circles is Hill's schemes to get into Nicola Valley and the Similkameen. Most of those who pre-tend to have given the matter much con-sideration say that Hill, who has now one thousand men rushing to completion the branch between Grand Forks and Phoenix, is starting on a branch line from Gurley to Midway and will go from Mid-ing at Midway for a railway and the C. P. R. has also built to this point. It is bolleved that Hill has acquired large in-terests in the valleys, and he will soon have his connections from Vancouver to Similkameen. All contracts for construc-tions are signed by the Vancouver, Vie-toria & Eastern Railway Company.

WILLIAM'S COURTLY MESSAGE.

Sends Greeting to Finnish Regimen About to Leave for Far East.

About to Leave for Far East. Berlin, July 12.—The semi-official newspapers deny that any political character attaches to the telegram sent by Emperor William to the colonel of the Wilborg (Finland) regiment, of which His Majesty is honorary colonel-in-chief, in which he congratulates the regiment on the prospect of meeting the Japanese, adding that he was proud it would have the honor of fighting for its Emperor and fatherland and the fame of the Russian army, concluding with the expression of his sincere wishes for the regiment and with a prayer that God might bless its standards. The papers recall a similar message sent by the Emperor to a regiment of Brit-ish dragoons, of which he was honor-ary colonel, before its departure for South Africa during the Boer war, and points out the fact that His Majesty, at the spring parade at Potsdam, expoints out the fact that His Majesty, at the spring parade at Potsdam, ex-pressed to the Japanese military at-tache his admiration for the bravery of the Japanese troops. They say that the message was purely a courdly and military one from a soldier's point of view, that the greatest honor a regi-ment can have is to be sent to the front. The deduction that the Emperor's tele-gram presages a German alliance can not be shared by the Russian govern-ment, which well knows that a breach of neutrality on the part of Germany would give the signal for a "miversal war. would war.

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