Talking For Popularity

Members for Rossland and Nanaimo Talking for Political Effect.

Unpardonable Misrepresentation Respecting the Fernie Disaster.

Civil Service Salaries Discussed ---Much Work for King's Printer.

Besides discussing the cost of the civil service in a purely academic way and in advance of information on the subject which the ministry is quite agreeable to produce, and debating at length and from all standpoints the efficiency of existent law and its enforcement for reducing to a minimum the danger to the coal miner's life, the legislature yesterday had a comparatively dull sitting. Several bills were advanced in addition, one or two questions answered, and the House found time to wade through several dreary pages of amendments in committee to the Assessment Act amendment bill, which will be further considered Monday. The Premier has announced that the night's sittings will not begin, as anticipated, next week, incidentally affirming in giving his reasons, the principle of the eight-hour day. The House can get through quite as much business, he contends, working with rational hours, which bring the members to their duties fresh and capable.

Included in the routine of the sitting, the petitions of the Nicola, Kamloops & Similkameen Coal & Railway Co. (Mr. Fulton) and the British American Dredging Co. (Mr. Stables) were presented, read and referred to the Private Bills committee. Reports were received from the committee stating that the standing rules had not been complied with in the cases of the Flathead Valley Railway Co. and the Diocese of Kootenay, but proposing an extension of time in which such might be done as in the public interest. This was acquiesced in by the adoption of the reports. Mr. Houston then moved the introduction of the two bills referred to, and was reminded by Mr. Speaker that the fees had not yet been paid. As to the railway bill, Mr. Houston observed:

"I have the fees in my pocket."

The bill received its introductory reading and went to the Railway committee. The same objection presented itself in respect to the Diocesan bill.

"Oh the Lord will provide the fees," said Mr. Houston.

"I am afraid the fees will have to be paid before the bill can be introduced," said Mr. Speaker.

"Well, I will go security that the Lord will provide the fees," assured Mr. Houston.

Upon this assurance the bill was read a first time and went to the Private Bills committee amid the laughter of the House.

Bills to amend the Wellington Receivership Act, 1901 (Attorney-General), and the Department of Mines Act, 1899 (Minister of Mines), were given their first readings and set for second reading at the next sitting of the Ho

In moving for a return, with of every reserve (of not less than 25,000 acres) of provincial lands now in force, the purpose of which such reserves have been made, and the approximate area and location of each reserve, the member for Rossland explained how widespread is the complaints of the reserves in South East Kootenay and the exclusion therefrom of prospectors for coal and petroleum. He thought in this connection that an explanation was due the people; indeed full information should be afforded of all reserves that have from time to time been made and now exist. The House had been told last year that some of these reserves had been made for railway purposes. If the government proposed to give away these lands for the encouragement of railway building, the public should know what companies were to benefit, with all particulars.

No objection was offered to the passage of the resolution.

CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES.

Mr. Curtis next moved for a return of the name of each salaried employee of the government at Victoria, with salary of each on the 2nd January, 1900, and the 2nd January, 1903, respectively. He explained that the object sought was a basis for intelligent criticism of the government's course with respect to the administration of the departments at Victoria. The suggestion was thrown out that in many increases made in the civil service loyal and valuable work failed to secure recognition, while new men were pitchforked into high salaried offices.

It was the opinion of the Finance Minister that the resolution was too frivolous to receive consideration. All the information asked for could be obtained from the Public Accounts and the estimates, and it would seem that the only object of the member for Rossland in bringing it forward was to obtain a little kudos before the country.

Mr. Oliver did not regard the resolution as frivolous, nor could he see that the information sought was obtainable as the Finance Minister claimed. Last year the House had been asked to sanction an increase in the salary of the chief clerk in the Mines department, on the ground that another clerk could thereby be spared and the country saved expense. There was no suggestion in the 1903 estimates of the appointment of a high salaried deputy minister of mines. How many other officials had been appointed as had this one?

Mr Tatlow also urged the necessity for the return asked for. The Premier had promised in his appeal to West Yale to present a report on civil service salaries, and to make all reductions possible with regard to efficient service. He directed attention to the marked increase in the burden of civil service salaries at Victoria—they had doubled during the past four years under the head of civil government salaries—and the subject had become one deserving of full explanation to the House and country.

The opposition leader dilated upon the necessity for a readjustment of the civil service system in order that thoroughly effective organization might be secured. In the other provinces there was such specific legislation, and it was very necessary in British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. Prentice would offer no objection to the resolution, he said, but would prefer that in fairness it cover each year from 1898.

Mr. Curtis' only objection was that this might unduly delay the presentation of the return and make it too long.

In supporting the resolution, Mr. Hawthornthwaite wished to make himself clear as not opposing salary increases, but improper distribution of increases. The increased wages did not go to the working rank and file. It was the too general rule to keep these down, and employ the money in fat salaries for the ornamental department heads—and this while in some public institutions (notably the asylum at New Westminster) mere Chinamen's wages of $30 or $40 a month were paid.

The salaries at the New Westminster asylum, the Provincial Secretary observed, were higher than those at any other institution of the kind, with the exception of that of the state of Washington. If the salaries at New Westminster were inconsistent with the value of the service performed, or the conditions of the country, the leader of the opposition should be held partially responsible, as he had been a member of the government when the schedule was approved.

Mr. McBride replied that the asylum had been in the Provincial Secretary's particular care, and he had had nothing to do with the adjustment of salaries. He believed that in many cases the salaries paid were not sufficient for the recipients to maintain themselves upon.

The reorganization of the asylum, Hon. Mr. Prentice explained, had been undertaken upon the advice of an expert, Dr. Clark, and as a result the cost of operation had been materially reduced, and a good staff had been obtained at reasonable wages. There was now no complaint as to the asylum except from agitators.

The resolution was amended to cover the civil service employees at New Westminster and Victoria, and passed as applying to the years 1898, 1900 and 1903.

It was moved by Mr. Hawthornthwaite that a return be granted of the evidence taken at the coroner's inquest into the disaster at the Fernie mines in May, 1902, and a return also of the evidence given before the special commission inquiring into the causes of accidents in coal mines. The Nanaimo City member contended that the constantly recurring disasters in the coal mines were a disgrace to the government of British Columbia, and more particularly to the Mines department. Last year he had asked for a competent commission to inquire into the causes of these disasters, and a commission had been appointed, but not such a one as would be accepted as satisfactory to the miners whose lives were at stake, or would be expected to show the way to remedial action. He protested particularly against the irrationality of appointing a lawyer, who could not be expected to give a practical or beneficial opinion as to technical coal mining methods. He believed that if honest and capable inquiry had been made, it would have shown that the existent laws for the protection of the coal miner's life are not properly enforced; that the inspectors do not perform their duty; and that they do not do so because they would risk the loss of their positions did they do so. He advocated the appointment of the inspectors by the miners whose lives are actually at stake.

There was no objection to the resolution on the part of Hon. Messrs. Eberts and Prior, both of whose departments were concerned, but it was pointed out that the evidence in each case would be very voluminous, aggregating 2,500 or 3,000 pages in all, which could not possibly be printed this session. They assured the member for Nanaimo that he might have free access to the evidence, but did not see the desirability of printing so lengthy a book.

As to the composition of the commission, the Premier observed that he regarded himself as quite as competent to select good men as the member for Nanaimo himself would be. That member had never worked in a coal mine. He (the Premier) had. He believed the members of the commission were as good men for the special duties devolving upon them as could be found in the United States or Canada today. High compliment was paid to Mr. John Bryden as a careful, scientific and expert mine manager, of very long experience; Mr. Tully Boyce stood in high favor among the working miners of British Columbia, although possibly not in the member for Nanaimo, and was well qualified to perform the duties which the government had entrusted to him; one lawyer being necessary upon the commission to properly bring out the evidence, a gentleman had been selected unfettered by professional association with any corporations and bringing to his duties a keen and an unbiased mind. The manner in which its duties had been performed and the report that had been presented had fully demonstrated the qualifications of the commissioners.

The leader of the opposition congratulated the mover upon the live interest he has manifested in all that concerns the coal mining industry, and the earnestness of his efforts to protect the safety of the miners. During his own occupancy of the ministry of mines, he (Mr. McBride) had done all in his power in this important connection, and he had had the constant and very practical support of the then premier, Mr. Dunsmuir, who had been indefatigible in the promotion of every measure tending to further protect the lives of coal mine workers.

Mr. Curtis insisted that the evidence asked for by the Nanaimo City member should be printed. If it were necessary and politic to expend several thousand dollars in investigating such disasters as that at Fernie, it would be wise expenditure to devote a few hundred dollars more to printing and preserving upon record the evidence taken. He held that there had been grave dereliction in the case of recent disasters; accidents were not investigated by the coroners' juries as they should be, and the government was primarily to blame. The commission, he too held, had been unhappily selected, and he had a word to say as to the qualified fitness of the commissioners, more especially the Premier's son-in-law, who if on that account alone should never have been appointed.

Mr. McInnes replied in a terse, direct and forceful speech that was a scathing criticism of the ignorance displayed by the member for Rossland, when, as for example, he spoke of Mr. Bryden's incapacity as a student of chemistry, for giving an expert opinion in mining matters. The Minister defended the absolute capability of every member of the commission and pointed to the fact that the report of the commission had been before the House ever since its opening, and yet the member for Rossland had had nothing to say as to that report. It was very much to be doubted if he had taken the trouble to read it. If he had found faults in the report, he might possibly have pursued the fault to the commissioners, but he could not accept the report as unexceptionable and attack the commissioners with any fairness. The coal miners whom he, the Provincial Secretary, had interviewed on the subject, were well satisfied with the commission, the report, and the legislation which in consequence the government proposed to incorporate with the law in order to further safeguard the lives of working miners. The Hon. Minister next proceeded to a review of Mr. Hawthornthwaite's course, finding him over ready to make the gravest of charges, even little short of murder, for the purpose of catering to his especial constituents, but unready to substantiate his statements when and before such tribunals as could bring about reforms if evils existed as he charged. Mr. Hawthornthwaite had had much to say in respect to the conditions in coal mines, yet when invited to lay his information before the commission, he had refused to be a witness. He had absolutely failed to make good his wild charges when the opportunity was offered him to do so must effectively. As for the member for Rossland, he was very prone to allege dereliction of duty—even to impute the gravest crimes—in the hope of thereby attracting a cheap notoriety. One would think that that member was himself a blistered-handed son of toil. On the contrary, he was a speculator. He had accused the government of being dominated by coal mining interests. Could he himself disclaim being interested in metalliferous mining to such an extent that it would prejudice him? As far the conditions at the Fernie mine and the thoroughness or otherwise of the inspector's performance of duty there—it was on record that the miners' committee had also examined the workings just before the disaster, and had reported all well. It therefore became apparent that the disaster did not result through imperfect inspection, but as a natural catastrophe in what was necessarily a most hazardous avocation. This being so, was it not criminally wrong for the member for Rossland to prey upon the feelings of the workers by presenting false conditions to them and endeavoring to convince them that criminal carelessness or callousness to the rights of their fellow men on the part of the government or its officials was to be held blameable?

Mr. McPhillips commented upon the changed opinion expressed by Hon. Mr. McInnes as to Mr. Bryden, and Mr Martin's contribution to the debate took the form of a dignified expression of regret that the First Minister should have violated what was an axiomic principle of good government according to the Liberal creed—in appointing a relative to a public position. If a lawyer were required upon the commission, the very circumstance that Mr. Lampman was the son-in-law of the Premier should have excluded him from consideration as eligible.

In closing the debate, Mr. Hawthornthwaite declared the commission a "royal farce." He deprecated the introduction of personalities, but maintained that the Premier should have been ashamed to appoint his own son-in-law as a commissioner. He had not given evidence before the commission because he was not a coal miner, and his information was necessarily second-hand to a large extent; nor had he brought his informants before the commission, because to have done so would have been to sacrifice their employment. He was satisfied that neither the coal companies nor the inspectors are doing their duty in the matter of safeguarding the lives of workers—and that the inspectors dare not do so for fear of losing their official heads.

The resolution carried.

A QUESTION AND ANSWER.

Mr. Neill asked:

1. How many crown grants have been issued or applied for under the provisions of the South African War Land Grant Act, 1900?

2. How many of these were issued to or applied for by persons who had previously served in South Africa, and how many were issued to or applied for by persons to whom the original claimants had transferred their rights?

Hon. Mr. Wells replied:

1. 58 crown grants have been issued; 16 applications are now pending.

2. 30 crown grants have been issued to volunteers (or their heirs or executors) who personally served in South Africa; 2 applications are pending.

3. 28 crown grants have been issued to substitutes; 14 applications are pending.

The remainder of the sitting was spent in committee upon the Assessment bill, upon which progress was reported. Before the rising of the House, Mr. Martin introduced the petition and bill of the Independent Telephone Co., the bill going direct to the Private Bills committee. This committee will meet on Monday morning at 10, for the consideration of the petitions of the Kootenay Development & Tramway Syndicate, the British American Dredging Co., and the Nicola, Kamloops & Similkameen Coal & Railway Co.

Bold Policy Of Progress

Conservative Leader In Forceful Logical Speech Outlines Party Platform.

Canada for the Canadians and Adequate Protection for All Classes.

Tergiversations of Liberals on Tariff Questions Roundly Condemned.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, April 17.—A bold and progressive policy for Canada was enunciated by Mr. Borden, the leader of the opposition, in his logical speech in parliament today. He summed it up as follows:

"To so arrange our tariff that all legitimate industries at present established in this country should be so protected so as to ensure as far as possible permanency under conditions of depression as well as in times of commercial expansion.

"To invite capital and attract labor, to secure the establishment of other industries which the resources and raw material of our country amply justify.

"To preserve by means of an adequately protective tariff our own home market for our own people, and to have the policy of government so declared and understood.

"In framing our tariff to have regard solely to the interests of Canada which have been committed to our charge, although recognizing that in consulting our own interests we must not be unmindful of the tariffs raised against us by other countries.

"To so frame our fiscal policy that labor in Canada shall also be paid a fair living wage remembering always that our laboring classes and therefore our producers and manufacturers cannot be expected to compete on even terms with countries in which the condition of life among the laboring classes is altogether different. We do not desire to reduce our laboring population to the low standard of living to that hard fierce struggle for existence which prevails in many countries. We do not want the laboring classes to compete without protection against the pauper labor of any country.

"To utilize the labor of our people in the conversion of our own raw material into finished products required for use in our own country. It is surely bad policy to export our raw material, to send our laboring classes abroad to find work in its manufactories and to send after both our money to pay for the finished product."

The opposition leader took up the question of relations with the Motherland and with foreign countries. He showed how completely British preference had failed to effect its purpose and improvement had swallowed itself in a dispute with Germany, having refused last year to accept an opposition motion for retaliation, and this year had adopted it. Proceeding, he pointed out the danger this country ran of being made a slaughter market by the United States. The tergiversations of the Liberals on the tariff question were shown up, and then he moved an amendment declaring in favor of protection to all classes of Canadian industries. The debate was adjourned on Hon. Mr. Cartwright's motion.

EUROPEAN COLD WAVE.

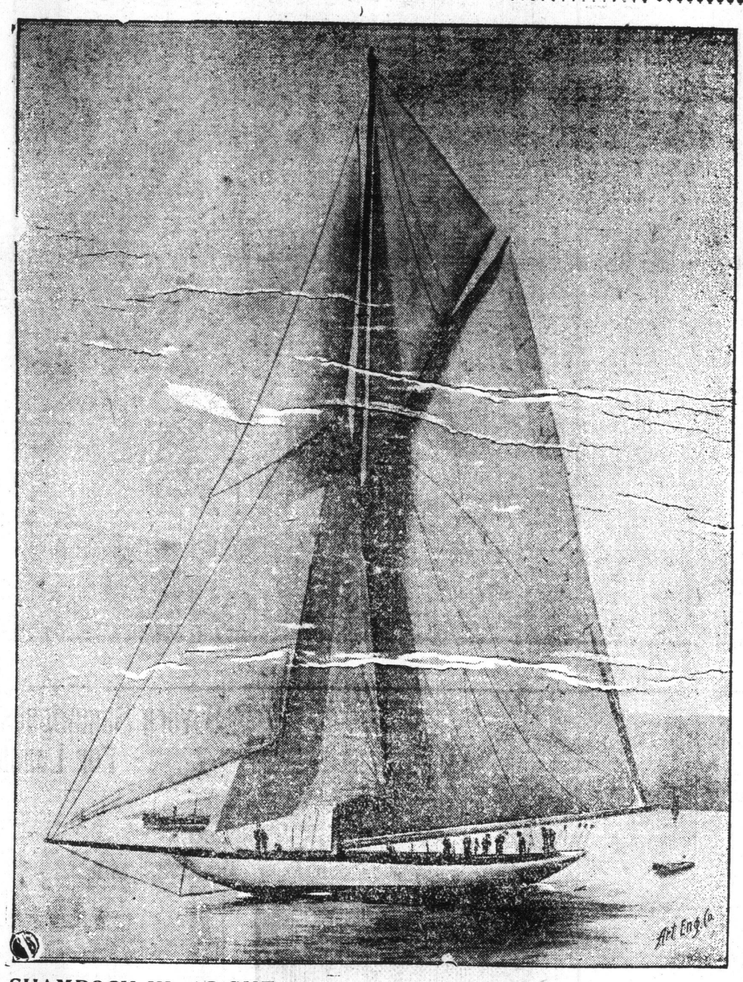
Snowfall Throughout Great Britain and Heavy Storm in Paris.

London, April 17.—Such a cold snap and snowfall as experienced in the United Kingdom during the past week are unprecedented in twenty years. The same conditions prevail on the Continent. Snow fell today in Paris. At Marseilles there was a great storm, resulting in considerable damage. A number of small craft were sunk and work was suspended on the quays.

BARR COLONY IN COOD SHAPE

Originator Denies Rumors of Mismanagement and Will be no Trouble.

Winnipeg, April 17.—Rev. I. M. Barr, originator of the all-British colony, passed through here today from Ottawa, where he had been delayed owing to necessary business to be transacted with the Department of the Interior. When shown a copy of a Battleford paper, making some grave charges against the executive management of the party, he remarked that no doubt the town out West would like to see the stores syndicate broken up, so that the people would have to purchase from them, but he could not be bothered with their affairs, and they must look out for themselves. It was all nonsense, he reiterated, about the management of the party being in bad shape; they were quite capable of carrying everything through satisfactorily. "I am satisfied we have the best tract of unoccupied land in the country; I know it all; I have been all over it, and dug on every section to examine the soil, and it is first-class. We had to go a long way from the railway to get a block of land as good as that, and you will find it is excellent land and the best to be had. This party is but the herald of the colony."



SHAMROCK III. AS SHE APPEARED WHEN UNDER FULL SAIL.

Weymouth, April 17.—Sir Thomas Lipton's new challenger for the America cup, Shamrock III., was dismasted in a squall today shortly after leaving this harbor preparatory to another trial spin with Shamrock I. Her mast, as it fell overboard, carried several of the crew and all the gear and canvas overboard. One man was drowned, and several persons, including Sir Thomas, who was knocked down a hatchway, were bruised or otherwise injured.

The yatchts were manoeuvring under mainsails, jibs, foresails and gaff topsails prior to the start. Shamrock III. was leading on tack out, apparently with the intention of testing the strength of the wind outside. The breeze has just weight enough to keep her lee rail tipping. Shamrock III. then made a short board on the port tack, dragging through a heavy squall with her lee decks awash.

At about 10:30 a. m., when nearly a mile off shore, she went about on starboard tack to stand up to cross the line, when a sudden gust of wind, sweeping out of Weymouth bay, struck the yacht and completely dismantled her. The weather rigging screws of her main shrouds gave way, and her mast carried away close to the deck. With it went sails and gearing in a confused mass of wreckage.

Deprived of its shrouds the immense tubular steel mast swayed for a fraction of a second, crumpled up like a tube of paper and went overboard, creating general havoc as it fell.

So sudden was the calamity that the yacht lay, wrecked and helpless, before anyone on board realized what had happened. Fortunately most of the tremendous weight of the gear fell clear of the deck, otherwise the disaster must have been multiplied tenfold. As it was, only one life was lost, a member of the crew named Collier, a brother-in-law of Capt. Wringe. Collier at the moment of the accident, was handing a binnocular glass to Sir Thomas Lipton, and still had the glass in his hands when he was struck by some of the tumbling gear and knocked overboard.

Sir Thomas was knocked down a hatchway and one of his hands was injured, but not seriously. Clearing away the wreckage was quite a difficult task, owing to the nature of the spars and gear. The Erie passed a line to the wrecked yacht and stood by her to give all the aid necessary.

The hull of Shamrock III. was not damaged. The mast, when it went overboard, went solid. There was at that time only one break, which was about seven feet above the deck. As the big spar, with its weight of canvass, became heavier owing to the water in it, the mast again buckled its head, going down until it rested on the bottom. It will be comparatively easy to repair the masts, but the whole suit of sails are irretrievably ruined.

Sir Thomas, who was extremely distressed by the fatality and the injury to the yacht, said in an interview that the accident occurred absolutely without warning, and much quicker than when Shamrock II. was similarly dismasted in the Solent.

Just as a race between Shamrock II., Shamrock I. and Sybarita was being started in the Solent, off Southampton, Eng., May 22nd, 1901, a sudden squall struck the yachts broadside on. No one was injured on board either yachts, but King Edward, who was on Shamrock II., had a miraculous escape.

SURTAX COMMENDED.

London, April 17.—The London press comments favorably on the surtax imposed on German imports by the Canadian government. The Globe says: "Never has retaliation in kind been more richly deserved; it will prove a lesson to Continental statesmen to keep their hands off British colonial commerce. It will suddenly dawn on the Teutonic statesmen that it was a mistaken policy to attempt to bully British colonists."

CARRIERS STRIKE OFF.

Buffalo, April 17.—After two conferences between the members of the Lake Carriers Executive committee and the members of the Marine Firemen, Oilers and Water Tenders Association, the strike of the marine firemen, which has been on since the opening of navigation is now off, and the men will resume work tomorrow. The firemen demanded $52.50 a month for the midsummer, and $60 a month after October 1. The association had offered the men $45 a month until October 1, and $65 after October 1. and 25 cents per hour for overtime when off watch. At the second meeting both sides made concessions. The Lake Carriers agreed to pay men $47.50 a month in midsummer, and $65.00 a month after October 1. The firemen waived the offer of the association to give them 25 cents an hour for overtime when called upon to work when off watch.

Mainland News In Brief

Witness Says McGregor Admitted Shooting Unknown Man on Vancouver Wharf.

Open Verdict Returned by Jury In Inquest Into Death of Rogers.

Shingle Manufacturers Looking for Additional Shipping Facilities.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, B. C., April 17.—The preliminary hearing in the Rogers murder case took place today in the Police Court. Armstrong, who was assaulted 20 minutes before Rogers was shot, swore that after the shooting a man came towards them from the direction where the shooting took place. When the man was near he recognized the prisoner, James McGregor, a car checker, who had been working for the C. P. R. since the strike. They were standing between where Rogers was shot and where the shots came from, but to one side. When McGregor came up he said: "I know I shot one of the men, I saw him drop on one knee." In substance he then remarked: "I sighted my shot along the side of the building." This evidence caused some sensation in court, which was packed to hear the trial. The trial has been adjourned, and the charge withdrawn against Allan as the calibre of Allan's revolver differed from the bullet found.

CAR SHORTAGE.

A committee from the Shingle Manufacturers' Association will meet the council of the Board of Trade today for the purpose of discussing the shortage of cars matter with them. A prominent shingle manufacturer said last night that he had been short every week for a number of weeks, and he supposed other mills were in the same condition. Each week every mill reported to the secretary of the association the shortage of cars, and in this way each data could be secured. The C. P. R. were doing their best to supply cars for the Canadian Northwest trade, but were not disposed to furnish them for points further East than Winnipeg. While mill men on this side of the line are suffering from car shortage, they may congratulate themselves that they are not as badly off in this respect as the Puget Sound mills.

OPEN VERDICT.

An open verdict was returned in the Rogers shooting case, namely that Rogers came to his death by a shot from a revolver fired from Stimson's wharf up Abbott street, by some one unknown.

SEWER EXTENSION.

The Board of Works discussed sewer extensions yesterday. As none of the tenders were satisfactory, the board decided to have the work done by day labor.

BANK CLEARINGS.

The bank clearings through the Vancouver clearing house for the Mainland of B. C., for the week were $999,547. Good Friday made the week one day short.

YOUNG ATHLETE DEAD.

The 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Johnson died yesterday. He was a promising young athlete.

THE BOUNDARY ORE SHIPMENTS

Total Tonnage for the Week Again Assumes Respectable Proportions.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Phoenix, April 17.—Once again the weekly ore shipments from the Boundary mines are creeping up to a more respectable showing, although only the Granby smelter is yet operating; but the Mother Lode will soon blow in, and the Granby works will have the full battery of four furnaces in blast, which will allow several mines to be added to the shipping list. For the last week the shipments were as follows: Granby mines, 5,423 tons; Mother Lode, 1,410 tons; total for week, 6,833 tons; total for 1903, 142,297 tons. Granby smelter treated 6,751 tons this last week, making a total of 91,907 tons for the year to date.

SHOOTING CONTEST.

Kansas City, Mo., April 17.—D. A. Quick, of Eldorado Springs, Mo., today won the consolation handicap at 100 targets, the last event on the programme of the fourth grand American handicap by breaking 95, the highest score of the tournament in the hundred target contest: Quick shot from the 15 yard line. Among those who made high scores was T. D. Fulford, Utica, N. Y., 19 yard, 91.

THE DAY IN POLICE COURT

James McBride A Striker Pays Fine For Assaulting Non-Union Man.

These be busy days in the Police Court. Many spectators lounge at the railing, and the air is so thick that one might cut it—for the ventilation of the magistrate's justice foundry is far from satisfactory. Yesterday there came before the Cadi one of the striking firemen, James McBride, who attended by the officials of the B. C. S. S. and defended by Mr. Higgins, came to answer two charges of assault—for striking Proctor and Walter Snyder.

The Snyders and Liddle, who was with them, told of how McBride stopped them and asked if "they didn't know there was a strike on the Danube." They "didn't give a —— if there was.' Then McBride did some lunching. They did not strike him.

McBride claimed he was the injured party. He corroborated their evidence regarding the conversation. Then one dropped his bag, and made a move to strike him—so he hit him with his open hand on the chin. Then one of the Proctors grabbed him, and saying: "I'll show you who you're hitting," hauled off and soaked him on the face. Then there was a mix-up—and he ran. His nose and chin was scratched, and he got a bang under the nose.

His story was not good enough. He was fined $15 or a month on each charge. He paid the $30.

A. E. Stevens, a stevedore from Vancouver came to Victoria to discharge the Glenalvon. Then things happened. He was summoned to appear before the Police Magistrate by Tax Collector Winsby, who said he had asked Stevens to pay the stevedore's license of $50. Mr. Stevens had refused. Capt. Chamberlain, master of the Glenalvon, said Stevens had been engaged to discharge the vessel by the owners as stevedore, and was doing so.

Stevens said he had contracted to discharge the vessel at Vancouver—not at Victoria. He came here to help the captain, having been told to do so by the agents at Vancouver. He was just assisting the master—that was all. He was unloading the vessel—looking after the men for the captain.

In answer to Mr. Bradburn—for the prosecution—he said the owners paid him. His foremen engaged the men, discharging the vessel. They were in his employ. He was the stevedore. He engaged a derrick from T. P. West. He came here to assist the captain, but that was not in his contract. He would be out of pocket $300 by coming to Victoria. The last time he discharged a vessel here was four years ago.

The magistrate adjourned the case until Monday for decision.

A well known school principal appeared before the magistrate, for being like the foolish virgins of history—in that his lamp did not burn. He was seen riding his bike without the necessary light—which the bylaw says must be carried after night fall—by the Chief of Police—and the city is three dollars richer as a result.

A. Anderson and S. P. Sutton, the two young men who were with Stewart when he kicked the Chinaman, Low Fong, for which offence he was fined $200; were remanded until Wednesday. The defence wishes to show authorities to prove that they are not equally liable with Stewart for the assault under the section which deals with anyone having common intent to commit an unlawful act—which is the view the magistrate took.

There are four cases set for this morning in the Police Court. Susan, a West Coast Indian, who was in possession of firewater, is to be tried for that offence; Wah Yong Yick is accused of supplying liquor to one Joe, a Kuper island Indian, who was yesterday fined $5 and $1 costs, for being drunk, and a result of the offence of the chink; John Baralioux is accused of theft from the nickle-in-the-slot gas machine in the Alcazar dance hall, and William Harper, a milkman of Gorge road is to appear again in connection with the charge of shooting at a dog inside the city limits.

NEW THEATRE ATTRACTS.

Crowds Hear Fine Programme at Afternoon and Evening Performances.

Edison theatre, the home of high class vaudeville and moving pictures, continues to play to crowded houses both afternoon and evening. The giving away of all paintings which Mr. Jas. Grant, the lightning artist paints, has caused the ladies to turn out at all performances and try to capture the winning numbers. The continued applause convinces the management that Leonard and Drake, in their animal imitations, are making a great hit, and have become so popular that it has been decided to have them remain another week in a skit entitled a New York Chappie. Robt. Nome, the peerless, still continues to amuse to such an extent that encores after encores are received. Jacques Lyons in his rendition of the popular song "Just Set a Light" is one of the chief attractions. "The Life of a Brave Fireman" as represented by the fine moving pictures has met with such success that it could stand another week's run, but new pictures, equally meritorious, are to be given next week.

A complete change of programme is announced for next Monday afternoon and evening. Matinees 2.30 to 5; evening, 7 to 11.

TWO DESERTERS CAPTURED.

After Long Trek and Canal Journey, Arrested by Provincial Police.

The efficiency of the information bureau of the provincial police was strikingly demonstrated yesterday by the speedy manner in which two alleged deserters were gathered in upon reaching the city, after a long tramp from Bamfield Creek. These alleged deserters, named respectively William Baird and James Morrison, informally left the sealing schooner Vera whilst lying at Bamfield Creek. The provincial police were duly apprised of the event, and the known avenues of escape were carefully watched with a view to their apprehension. The two deserters for a time eluded capture by following the telegraph line to San Juan, walking the entire distance. At San Juan they procured a canoe, in which they proceeded to make the venturesome water journey to this city. Sergt. Frank Murray and Constable Campbell, however, were on the watch, and promptly arrested them yesterday afternoon. They will be given a hearing at 2 o'clock this afternoon in the Provincial Police Court, before two justices of the peace.

SUPERB CANADIAN PIANOS.

Piano Selected to Represent Dominion Manufacturers at Osaka Exhibition.

Canadian pianos by virtue of superior merit, have succeeded in capturing the home market against all foreign competition. Another large shipment of Gerhard Heintzman pianos was received by Fletcher Bros, the pavement in front of their store being lined with the familiar large piano cases, and the firm being busy yesterday in unpacking and installing them on the show-room floor. A recent issue of the Toronto News states that the experts appointed by the Dominion government to select the most perfect made among Canadian pianos to represent Canadian manufacturers at the National Exhibition being held this year at Osaka, Japan, have directed that a Gerhard Heintzman piano be forwarded to the progressive Eastern Kingdom. Canadian instruments have been developed to a high degree of excellence in beauty and refinement of tone, perfection of touch and mechanism and solidity and durability of construction.

RIGGING RELIANCE.

Defender Has Main Mast Stepped and Rapidly Being Completed.

Bristol, R. I., April 15.—With the main mast and most of the rigging in place, and the bowsprit attached, the bow of the cup defender Reliance has settled and she floats now with the bow much lower than the after part. Even when the main boom is on board, and the boat attains her designed balance, it is thought that she will still be distinguishable from the other 90-footers at a distance by a dip forward. It seems certain that she has a lower freeboard than the Constitution by at least six inches.

The riggers are at work rigging up a double bobstay, which is somewhat of an innovation in cup defenders.

An extra set of spars, including the gaff, boom and mast, exact duplicates of the ones now aboard, are being made for the yacht.

FOR NINE HOUR DAY.

New York, April 16.—The elevated railroad employees voted unanimously tonight to sustain the executive committee in standing out for a nine hour work day. President Pepper said that this does not necessarily mean a strike, as President Mahon of the International Association has succeeded in reopening negotiations with General Manager Bryan of the company. Mr. Pepper also says that he had received a proposition from Bryan which he could not make public. He added that there will be no strike tomorrow. President Mahon, who under the union rules now has jurisdiction, said that he would not sanction a strike of the men. "A strike would be foolish," he said. "The men are too hasty in their actions."

"Tell me what people read and I will tell you what they are," said the self-confessed philosopher. "Well, there's my wife," retorted the dyspeptic party. "She's forever reading cook books. Now, what is she?" "Why a cook of course," replied the philosophy dispenser. "That's where the smokes rattle in your wheels," said the other. "She only thinks she is.'—Chicago Daily News.