Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1887.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

Sixty-eight years ago to-day within the homely brick walls of Kensington palace the good Queen whose name is enshrined in the hearts of all her subjects wherever the Old Flag floats first saw the light of day. She alone of the little group of Royal children born in that year was English by actual birth. English she has ever been, true to the high destinies to which she was at a very early age called. We have a fine picture of her enthusiasm for the land over which she so nobly reigns when the grand news from the Crimea was brought to her at her Scottish home. By her command the great fire was lighted on Craig Gowan to tell to the little world in which she lived that British arms and British courage had triumphed over their foes. And the same deep interest in all that pertains to her loving subjects has been characteristic of her throughout the years. In war, in peace, she has been the devoted sovereign. All her energies pent up in the advancement of her country, all her hopes centered in the land she loves so well. Grief, alas, has not been a stranger to her. When Albert, the Good died all the light seemed for her to have gone out of the world for, the first gentleman of Europe, he always wore that "white flower of a blameless life" which has been immortalized by the laureate. But she bore her widowhood with a sweet resignation, looking forward to that time when the threads of life, an eternal life, shall be taken up again in that fair country where sorrow and parting are no more. Never even in the darkest hour of her distress has she been neglectful of the trying duties cast upon her as Queen of that wide realm upon which the sun never sets. While as wife she was peerless, as mother she has been an example to all her people. Upon her fair fame there rests no stain—the noble Queen, the devoted wife, the affectionate mother, historians will write that she was the grandest Sovereign who ever wore the diadem. In this her jubilee year her subjects will have an opportunity never before accorded them of testifying worthily their loyalty to her throne and person. Nowhere is there a deeper attachment to the Queen than in this Canada of ours—nowhere will her name be received with heartier shouts of acclaim than in this young Dominion, which is proud to boast the gentle Lady as its beloved Queen. That her days may be long in the land will be the prayer of the leal and true everywhere, for all nations have learned to love Britain's Ruler for all her goodness and purity and strength. She has not yet passed the line which separates middle life from old age; but there is every reason to believe that her path will lie far beyond it, and her history present to posterity the venerable picture of an aged Sovereign, as it has already furnished the most charming and characteristic of romance of Royal love and youth. And we are sure there is no one in all her Gracious Majesty's dominions who does not wish her a life as prolonged as human nature permits, and as many blessings as life, impoverished yet rich, can bestow.

Still as the years roll on hail we the day
That marks our Sovereign Lady's happy birth;
And her glad subjects, spread o'er the wide earth
In loyal speech and song their love display
For the good Queen, under whose gentle sway
No slave draws breath, no freeman's honest word
Fears th' oppressor's rod, no patriot mourns the dearth
Of Truth and Justice; who, by steady ray
Shed from her throne o'er all the empire vast,
The influence sweet of Purity imparts;
True daughter, wife and mother—round her name
Auspicious and revered, while time shall last,
The hallowed thoughts will cluster that proclaim,
VICTORIA, Queen and Empress dear in all our hearts.

THE CORKSCREWS BENDING.

The organ of the Corkscrews declines to bandy any more words with THE COLONIST on the subject of water extension. Why began it? The Corkscrew Brigade did a cowardly act in breaking up a sitting of the council by shirking a vote and their organ roared like a bully when it demanded that the majority should be turned out because they refuse to yield to the wishes of the minority. The corkscrews are a rather clever set of men; but in one respect their education has been neglected. They have yet to learn that in all deliberative bodies the majority rules, and should they continue their obstructive tactics till the crack of doom they will be no nearer a solution of the difficulty than they are at present. Let them resolve to act in the future like men; not like children,—who because they cannot have things their own way decline to have them at all—and they will find the majority ready and willing to meet them more than half way in negotiations for a settlement. The majority may yield to argument; but never to brute force.

DISALLOWANCE.

Winnipeg citizens are agitated over the threat of President Stephen, of the C. P. R., who has telegraphed Premier Norquay that if Manitoba people do not submit to the dictates of the C. P. R., the company will operate the road *via* Selkirk (the Mackenzie route), and leave Winnipeg out in the cold. From the tone of the papers and the published interviews of leading men, it would appear that the knightly president has not scared them much by his threat, which is as follows:

(COPY.)

Montreal, May 19th, 1887.

To Hon. John Norquay,

I am informed that negotiations are in progress, if not already completed, between your government and others, and the Northern Pacific railway company, with a view of giving that company an independent connection with Winnipeg. I cannot but regard this as an act of undeserved hostility towards the Canadian Pacific railway, which in the end will do nothing but hurt to Manitoba and the Northwest, and further, I consider it a breach of faith toward the holders of $10,000,000 private capital invested in Canadian Pacific railway securities. If the mischievous agitation in favor of diverting the business of the Northwest into American channels is continued, and the Canadian Pacific railway company is to be treated as a public enemy by the people of Winnipeg, the company will at once take steps to establish their principal western shops at Fort William, which, from an operating point of view, has many advantages, leaving nothing at Winnipeg but the ordinary division shops. Pray do not be mistaken. This is not an idle threat, it is a fixed purpose, taken after full consideration. GEO. STEPHEN,

President C. P. Ry. Co.

In the agreement between the city and the railway company at the time a $200,000 bonus was voted the following clause was inserted:

And whereas, it was in and by the said bylaw further stipulated that the said Canadian Pacific Railway company should immediately after the ratification of the said bylaw, make, execute and deliver to the mayor and council of the city of Winnipeg, a bond and covenant under their corporate seal, that the said company would, with all convenient and reasonable despatch establish and build within the limits of the city of Winnipeg their principal workshops for the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway within the province of Manitoba, and the branches thereof radiating from Winnipeg, within the limits of the said province, and forever continue the same within the said city of Winnipeg; and that by such bond and covenant the said company should bind themselves as soon as they conveniently could to procure direct within the city of Winnipeg large and commodious stock or cattle yards suitable and appropriate for the central business of their main line of railway, and several branches thereof.

The above would seem to nullify Sir George's threat and ensure a continuance of the operation of the road through Winnipeg, and it is very doubtful in any event whether the company would be allowed to divert its line.

THE NANAIMO INCIDENT.

Mr. Jas. Harvey has written another letter to the Nanaimo *Free Press* in reply to the remarks in this paper, again being most misleading in his statements. The occasion referred to, when Mr. Harvey was not present, was at the school-house, where the caretaker was in a frenzied state of intoxication and was acting in a brutal manner. So far as Mr. Harvey's efforts to save the entombed miners are concerned, we have no doubt that, like all Nanaimo's citizens, he was unwearying. The "special" of THE COLONIST *was present* in the school-house at the time, and with others protested against the inhuman actions of the caretaker. At least one citizen of Nanaimo, who was also there at the time, knows the facts to be true, and we believe assisted in securing the man's arrest, he afterwards being dismissed. If necessary, the details of the affair could be given, and evidence submitted to prove their correctness. It is trusted, for the sake of everyone concerned, that we will not be compelled to do this. Appended to the letter in question is an editor's note, which is a tissue of falsehoods. A man possessing ordinary common sense or honesty would not pen such malicious statements. It is not our intention to enter into a war of words with such an irresponsible individual, and we will not continue the discussion. The only thing that remains to be said is that at the first reasonable opportunity afforded, we will prove by sworn evidence the truth of all the assertions that have appeared in regard to the Nanaimo affair and show up the great lack of truthfulness that seems to have taken possession of several of the inhabitants of that city.

SEWERAGE.

It is to be hoped the question of sewerage will again be submitted to the property owners at the earliest moment possible. There is little doubt that had the matter been laid before the people at a more opportune time than last year it would have been carried. Then the necessity for some efficient scheme of sewerage was not so apparent as it is now, when noxious smells can be better detected and their baneful influence felt. The plans are all ready, and all that is required now is to submit the bylaw again to the property owners, who cannot fail in the best interests of the city which is their home to lend it their votes and assistance. It is imperative that immediate action be taken. To delay it is only to hinder the progress of the city.

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION.

Sir Charles Tupper's first budget speech was one of remarkable power and clearness fully bearing out his reputation as one of Canada's greatest statesmen. A complete report of it is before us and presents a very vivid picture of the great benefits which have resulted to the Dominion as a result of its protective policy. During the first seven years of confederation Canada under a comparatively low tariff enjoyed, as the finance minister has pointed out, a very marked degree of prosperity, but it must not be forgotten that during that period the industries of Canada enjoyed a great protection which arose from the dislocation of the labor market in the great republic to the south of us, and which placed us in a very different position to that which at a very early period afterwards we occupied. When that change came, and when the languishing industries of Canada impressed the finance minister of that day, when, instead of large surpluses, large deficits succeeded year after year, the Opposition of that day urged upon the then finance minister, Sir Richard Cartwright, that he should reconsider the position and that he should consider how to give increased protection to our industries which would prevent them from thus languishing and from being destroyed. The attempt did not succeed and the Opposition were unable to change the policy of those who then ruled the destinies of Canada. The memorable election of 1878, when the question became a burning one, and the great battle was fought and won, will be well remembered by our readers. That the people of Canada have faith in that great policy is evidenced by their recording their votes at the last general elections in favor of the party which instituted it. Sir Charles twitted Mr. Blake very neatly with his change of base on the question of free trade. "Since the last session of this parliament," he said, "as is well known, the hon. gentleman who, with such distinguished ability, leads her Majesty's loyal Opposition in this house, has, in the presence of the great electorate of Canada, announced his entire conversion to the principle that we have so long maintained from this side of the house." After expressing his gratification that "the time has come when we are all as one upon this great and important question, and when the only issue can be how best to carry out and how best to make the principle successful that has commended itself so entirely to the satisfaction of the comparatively great body of the people of this country," Sir Charles passed on to a review of the financial condition of Canada. With regard to the receipts and expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1886, it will be found that the late finance minister intimated that the total receipts on account of consolidated fund would amount to $33,550,000. The public accounts shows that the actual amount received was $33,177,040.39, showing that the late finance minister's estimates were almost literally verified. Sir Leonard Tilley estimated the total expenditure at $38,126,287.61. This was increased in the actual amount expended to $39,011,612.26. The difference arose from charges for the suppression of the Northwest rebellion and for the mounted police. These expenditures had to be met and, unfortunately for the Dominion, the deficit of last year was the consequence.

The late finance minister estimated that the revenue from all sources would be $34,500,000. This amount was underestimated. Canada has emerged from the depression of which Sir Leonard probably took account and, instead of the revenue stated, it is believed that this year's income will aggregate $35,300,000. It is expected that customs will yield $22,500,000. It was estimated that excise would yield $7,000,000, but owing to several causes it is not thought the income from this source will be more than $6,000,000. The miscellaneous items will be about $7,300,000, making the total of $35,300,000 above stated. The whole sum expended up to 30th of April last has been $25,985,548.30, from which as before mentioned it is proposed to deduct and charge to capital $210,085.52, Northwest rebellion expenses. The further charges on the consolidated fund service will probably be: To complete interest payments, $4,500,000; sinking fund, $600,000, and for miscellaneous services of all kinds, $4,760,000. It is probable, then, that the expenditure may be about $35,600,000, leaving an apparent deficit at the end of the year of only $300,000. It is a matter of sincere congratulation to know that we will close this year under existing circumstances with so slight a deficit, one account practically balancing the other, because that is so small an amount the slightest change will effect it one way or the other. As to the probable outcome for the years 1887-8, which are simply a matter of estimate, it is believed that if good trade continues and taking into account the tariff changes the revenue from customs will be about $22,500,000; excise, $6,400,000; tobacco and cigars, $2,310,000; malt and malt liquors, $400,000, the balance being made up of receipts from licenses and miscellaneous sources. Some $7,500,000 will probably be realized from miscellaneous revenues, including postoffice, railways, interest on investments and all other incomes, making in all an estimated revenue during 1887-8 of $36,400,000. It is not probable the supplementary estimates will add largely to the estimate of expenditure, though British Columbia hopes to largely figure in it. In that event the surplus that is shown by the comparison of the amount of revenue, which we have stated at $36,400,000, will give a very fair surplus for 1887-8.

As to the debt of the Dominion and the expenditure since confederation for capital charges, on the first of this month the gross debt of the Dominion was $270,072,855.27, and the net debt $225,105,961.18, being a decrease of net debt in the month of April of $759,870.01. Off the gross and net debt might be taken, for all practical purposes, $10,000,000, since it is represented by a good and available asset in the shape of lands obtained from the Canadian Pacific railway company in payment of $10,000,000 of their debt. At confederation the net debt was $75,728,641.37, which deducted from the present debt shows an increase since 1867 of $149,377,319.71. How has this large sum been expended? In valuable public works that cannot fail to develop the country, to increase its progress and prosperity, and to make an abundant indirect return to the revenue of the country for the expenditure. When it was proposed to construct the most costly of all these works, the great transcontinental railway, our three and a half per cents were selling on the English market at about 99. To-day so highly favored are our securities, so eminently has the position of Canada advanced in the estimation of the capitalists of the world that our three and a half per cent. securities have already changed hands at par. Notwithstanding this fact it is not expected to use that credit, high and great as it is. We have now no floating loan, not a single dollar. There is no expectation of being obliged to raise a new loan for a long time to come, a statement which Sir Charles has been the first minister to have the privilege of announcing for many years.

The fishery question and commercial union were handled in a most vigorous manner and all the steps in connection with those matters treated at great length, the gist of which has already appeared in these columns. After an eloquent plea for the iron industry, the tariff on which has been greatly increased, Sir Charles went on to enumerate the proposed changes, the resolution before the house. It was a great speech extending over five hours and perhaps as lucid and entertaining a dissertation on a very dry subject as has ever been delivered by a finance minister. It cannot fail to fill the country with great hope and to inspire confidence in business men the Dominion over. We may now hope to see an influx of foreign capital which we so much need and an era of the fullest prosperity. And how can this article be more fitly closed than by reproducing the words of the great man who is destined in the future to fill even a greater place in the history of this Dominion than he has in the past:

"I am quite sure, Sir, that the house has listened with very great pleasure to the evidences I have been able to lay before it, of the undoubted condition of progress and prosperity that Canada enjoys. I am quite sure, Sir, that no member of this house can fail to be gratified at the indisputable evidence, furnished by everything that can indicate a condition of progress and prosperity in a country, that Canada is at this moment in an exceedingly prosperous condition, and that the outlook for the future is all that we can desire. But, Sir, I may ask the house for a single moment, to what do we owe that condition of progress and prosperity, upon which we are able to congratulate ourselves at this moment? I am quite certain that the answer will be found in the words—National Policy. It is the National Policy which has lifted Canada out of the position that it occupied a few years ago; it is the National Policy that has enabled it to pass through what otherwise would have been a period of great depression, without seriously feeling it; it is the National Policy that has vivified every industry in this country, that has furnished employment for Canadian hands on Canadian soil, that has kept the money of the country within the country, and that has diffused prosperity from one end of this country to the other."

THE CHINESE residents of Hongkong have decided to act by themselves, and have formally resolved to celebrate the Queen's jubilee by building a Chinese chamber of commerce and founding a public library and reading room in that city, and by holding rejoicings.

A SOCIETY has recently been formed in Japan by the ladies, for the purpose of elevating the social position of their sex. The wives and daughters of the officers belonging to the Sendai garrison have also formed an association for the purpose of studying the English language. An American missionary, resident there, has been requested to undertake the teachership. In addition to this it is understood that in accordance with suggestions of Her Majesty the Empress of Japan upon the subject of female costume the wives of all the principal officials of the Osaka Mints have adopted clothing of foreign pattern.

A BUSYBODY IN PRINT.

TO THE EDITOR:—I have not the pleasure of an acquaintance with some of the parties to the lamentable controversy that arose through the deplorable indiscretion of Dr. Preeger in telegraphing in ungentlemanly terms a denial of the statements of your Nanaimo reporter. This controversy which all hoped had ended, has been revived by an equally indiscreet, if not equally ungentlemanly letter, signed by a Mr. Harvey and printed in a Nanaimo paper. What object Mr. Harvey could have had in view in digging up a dead and painful issue, I cannot conceive, but the defiance hurled at him and Dr. Preeger in your issue to-day breathes the proper spirit. Not alone that, but a correspondent in last night's *Times* sustains in every essential particular your reporter's statement. He only differs as to the propriety of making the exposé at that time. The proprieties of the case, I should think, may be safely left with the newspaper itself; and not with Dr. Preeger, whose telegram stands out in painful contrast with your calm and gentlemanly rejoinder. The only excuse I can find for the doctor is that he lost his head during the calamity and is scarcely accountable for what he then said or did. No such excuse can be found for Mr. Harvey, who has had three weeks to ponder over the matter and stands before the community as an inexcusable meddler. MEDICO.

IS IT A REIGN OF TERROR?

TO THE EDITOR:—Coming down from Burrard Inlet last night I found on board the steamer a newspaper called the *Mainland Guardian*, and in that journal I read an article based on what seemed to be a trial for criminal assault that took place in your city. Before crossing the continent I had heard a good deal about the "wild west." I have heard of the utter disregard that prevailed throughout the western states for constituted authority; of the "poetic justice" that was meted out to criminals by lynch law, of witnesses and jurymen who were openly bought or bribed, of lawyers who took contingent fees and fees from both sides in a case, and of judges who played poker over night with the boys they were to try the next day, and who threw dice for drinks and squirted tobacco juice at cracks in the wall while a trial was on. But I looked for better things in the Queen's Dominion. I do not say I have not found them; but from the article in the paper I have referred to, what am I to infer? That the prosecuting attorney in the assault case and one of the highest officers of the crown are rascals of a dye so pronounced as to deserve to pass two years in the chaingang at least! The plain question I, as a stranger, asked, is this accusation true? The reply came quick and sharp, "No, its an infernal lie." "Then why," I asked, "is so injurious a falsehood permitted to pass unchallenged for a single moment so as to impress those who come newly into the country with its truth?" The party of whom I enquired went on to tell me that the entire report on which the article was based was a fabrication; that from beginning to end there was not a grain of truth in it; that it first appeared in a Victoria newspaper and that notwithstanding everyone—from the judge who tried the case down to the court crier, knew it to be untrue—neither man nor newspaper has uttered a word in protestation, explanation or apology.

Can such things be pondered without speedily bringing into contempt the whole framework of government, lowering the character of our courts and public men, destroying that confidence in the judiciary which has ever been the proud boast of Britons, and dragging all down to the level of institutions south of the line?

Are your courts and public men and people so terrorized as to not dare to stand forward in their own defence, or rather, in defence of those institutions which were dearly bought and which have been handed down through many generations for safe keeping? "What shall the harvest be?" M. A.

Victoria, May 26th, 1887.

That more snow fell in the eastern states last winter than during any preceding winter for 31 years. Same here.

THE ISLAND MOUNTAIN MINE.

Report of James Champion, M. E., to the Provincial Government.

The following is the report in full of the mining engineer appointed by the government to report upon the Island Mountain quartz ledge, the owners of which had applied to the government for the $20,000 guarantee provided for under the act of last session:

[COPY.]

BARKERVILLE, B. C., May 11th, 1887.

Hon. Jno. Robson, Minister of Mines, B. C.:

SIR—In accordance with your instructions I have carefully inspected the Island Mountain Mine and its extension, viz.: Lake Mine, owned by R. C. Dunlevy, in accordance with Bill No. 50, entitled "An act to aid the development of quartz mines," and beg to report as follows:

The Island Mountain mines are situated about five and one-half (5½) miles in a northwesterly direction from the town of Barkerville.

In the general formation slate predominates, with belts of porphyry, granite and syenite interspersed. The general course of the stratifications of these mines is north 35° east and south 35° west.

Although these mines have not the general course, or trend, of the main mineral belt of this district, I have known mines in California, on the celebrated Eureka lode, in Nevada, which have a similar course to that of the Island Mountain mines, which have produced about $13,000,000.

I will now give a report of the Island Mountain mines as per instructions of bill, beginning at section 6.

(1.) In absence of the company's books I find from the most reliable information obtainable that not less than $20,000 have been expended on the mine and machinery, to-wit: $60,000 on machinery and $20,000 in developing the mine.

(2.) The present value of machinery delivered here is about $30,000; present value of developments is worth not less than $80,000, the mine being fully enhanced that much in value through the expenditure of the $20,000.

(3.) After a careful examination of the mine, I find that there is not less than 10,000 tons of ore in sight available for milling purposes.

(4.) The assay value of fourteen samples taken from different tunnels of the mine average $45.83 per ton, and three special samples taken from choice rock average $212.16 per ton, making the general average per ton $77.56.

(5.) The proper method of working the ore would be by the ordinary stamp mill process, the pulp being concentrated on the most approved concentrators, and the concentrates reduced by the chlorination process. The cost of mining and milling I estimate at $4.50 per ton. Cost of chlorinating concentrates will be about $15 per ton. The rock averaging about 3oz. of sulphurets will make the cost of reducing the ore to bullion about $9.45 per ton.

(6.) Capacity and character of company's machinery consists of one 60 horse power engine with three boilers and all the necessary machinery for operating the same amply sufficient for running 20 stamps, rock-breaker, concentrators and pump to supply the mill with the necessary water for milling purposes. The crushing machinery consists of two batteries of five stamps each, all complete and in good condition. The mill will crush about 30 tons per diem, and 10 tons of ore per day (24 hours) through a 30 mesh screen, which I think is fine enough for this ore.

(7.) Estimated sum necessary to make the mine bullion producing:

Cost of removing mill and machinery from its present position and erecting it at the mine, $3,000. Cost of chlorination works with a capacity of 10 tons per day, about $20,000. Cost of steeling drills, picks, shovels, hammers, blacksmith's tools, etc., $4,000. Cost of proposed tramway with cars and rope, $3,000. Making a total of $30,000.

(8.) With regard to the amount of liabilities of the company, and incumbrances upon the mine, Mr. Dunlevy not being here, and not having access to the books, I have no means of ascertaining the result.

In conclusion, I have no hesitation in stating that after expending $30,000 have been expended on the mine for the erection of machinery, chlorination works, etc., and the mine is managed intelligently, it will yield handsome dividends to its owners, and give a great impetus to the quartz mining industry of this province.

I would also state that I gave Mr. O'Grady, government assayer at this place, nine (9) duplicate samples of the above mentioned mines, and they agree with the assays already mentioned in my report.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Sd.) JAMES CHAMPION, M. E.

MINING LAWS.

Those of British Columbia and Washington Territory Compared.

The Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* in a recent article says: We give in another column a brief outline of the mining laws now in force in Great Britain and British Columbia. These laws are the result of years of experience and of much experimental legislation, and they are doubtless as nearly complete as it is possible to make them. Their main purpose is to secure to the men who work in the mines as great a degree of safety as the character of the work admits of, and to compel the owners and managers of mines to adopt every precaution against accidents. The recent terrible disaster at Nanaimo shows, however, that even the most stringent laws are not sufficient to prevent occasional accidents and loss of life. Some risk will always attach to an occupation so perilous in its nature as coal mining, where the danger arises from so subtle a cause as noxious and explosive gases. This danger, however, can and should be reduced to a minimum. Because all human precaution may prove unavailing in certain cases is no sufficient reason why no precaution at all, or very loose precaution, should be taken. On the contrary, each disaster like the one referred to should convey a lesson and teach wherein existing laws are weak, and, if possible, be made to expose new and unthought of dangers to be guarded against. The mining laws of our territory when compared with those of Great Britain and British Columbia are lamentably insufficient. When the first law was passed in 1883 the coal mines of the territory were practically undeveloped and the necessity did not perhaps exist for a complete code upon the subject. The amendment that was passed in the session of 1886 is really added little of importance. The law as it now stands, is deficient in several particulars. In the first place it makes the inspector of mines dependent upon the mine owners for his salary, since he is paid out of the tax levied upon the output of coal, and in case this proves insufficient he simply has to do without it. This is radically wrong. An office of this importance should be strictly a territorial office and the inspector should not be even remotely dependent upon the mine owners for his compensation. In the next place the present laws leave too much to the discretion of the inspector. To be sure, he is in a general way required to see that due precautions are taken against accidents, but this necessarily amounts to little. What is needed is a general and complete set of regulations that must be adhered to. With such a set of regulations the duties of inspectors could be more satisfactorily performed, and all possibility of official favoritism or laxness would be averted since the miners, who would be interested in the due enforcement of such regulations, would soon make known any failure to comply with them. The mine-owners, too, would be better satisfied, no doubt, if they knew precisely what was expected of them, and had some well-considered regulations to guide them.

We have never yet had an accident of any magnitude in our mines. This is possibly due in a great measure to the fact that the mines that have been most extensively worked contain only pure lignite coal, which does not generate fire-damp. At Carbonado, however, and at some of the mines east of the mountains, the coal is of a semi-bituminous character, and the danger is therefore greater. It would be folly to wait until some disaster had occurred before adopting suitable laws to prevent the terrible loss of life that always accompanies such disasters. The proper and the only course for the legislature to pursue is to pass a suitable act, which shall be complete and comprehensive, at the very earliest opportunity. We shall urge upon the next legislature, when it convenes, the necessity for such action, and in order that the very best legislation may be obtained, we shall be glad in the meantime to open our columns to a discussion of the subject from all standpoints.

News from the North.

The C. P. N. Co.'s steamer Maude arrived last evening from Fort Simpson, having made the trip in eight days. Wet weather is reported on Skeena river, although great activity prevails among the fishermen who predict a good run of salmon this season. The Balmoral British American Packing Co., Windsor Canning Co., and the Skeena River Packing Co., commenced operations on Monday. A party of miners bound for Lorne creek were landed and favorable reports came from that district. The Albert Bay Cannery will begin work about June 15th, and a busy season is probable. The Maude landed the Tuck party at Simpson; also the government Indian survey party. The U. S. coast survey steamer Patterson was met at Port Simpson bound north, and the Boscowitz was passed abreast of Comox. Alex. Rankin, Wm. Stretton and Mrs. Vipond were passengers for Victoria.

That the Bombay *Gazette* employs sixteen Anglo-Indian girls as compositors and a woman as proof-reader.

From the Daily Colonist, May 21, 1887.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Ottawa Aid.

The mayor of Ottawa is receiving aid for the sufferers in the Nanaimo horror in response to a telegraphic message for assistance.

Correction.

In the report yesterday of the cruise of the Oliver Wolcott, it was Capt. Munroe, of this city, who was secured as pilot, and not Munie, as stated.

Elected to the Commons.

George Moffat, conservative, has been elected to the Commons for Restigouche County, N. B., in the room of his brother Robert, who died recently.

B. C. Fruit.

An enterprising retail merchant of Brandon, says the Winnipeg *Call*, has ordered a supply of tea direct from Japan. Another merchant of the same burg has gone to British Columbia to purchase fruit, which he will ship to all the principal cities and towns in Manitoba and the Northwest.

Capt. Torrens.

The death of Capt. Torrens, who was clerk of the legislative assembly when Vancouver Island was a colony, is announced in London, at the age of 60. After leaving Victoria Capt. Torrens was chief of police of Salford, Eng. His father was Major-General Torrens of the British army.

The Jubilee Committee.

The jubilee committee held a meeting in the council chamber last evening, and after a short discussion adjourned until 8.30 Tuesday evening next, without transacting any business. The sum of $700 was reported to have been collected yesterday for the celebration.

Six-in-Hand.

Mr. L. C. McAdams, the enterprising proprietor of the Eureka livery stables, Pandora street, is importing a six-horse, canopy top, excursion wagon, calculated to comfortably carry forty people. This new acquisition will be just the thing for picnic and evening parties and evening drives, and no doubt will be extensively patronized by our pleasure-loving citizens.

In the Commons.

In the commons Mr. Shakespeare will enquire of the ministry:—Is it the intention of the government to commence this year the establishment of an experimental farm in the province of British Columbia? He will also enquire:—Is it the intention of the government to bring down this session the report of the expedition sent out last year to examine the black cod banks in the waters of British Columbia?

The Harris Murder.

Officer Miller returned from Ladner's Landing last evening, where he has been searching for further evidence in the Harris murder case. It is understood that he has secured additional evidence against Crawford, who is remanded until Tuesday next. The bloody clothes which Officer Miller discovered in Crawford's sleeping room were brought down for medical analysis. They have been sealed since their discovery.

They Must Call.

In the Senate in answer to Senator Macdonald's inquiry as to whether it will be stipulated in the agreement that the transpacific steamers shall call at Victoria or Esquimalt, Hon. Mr. Abbott said:—In answer to the question of my honorbriend I have to say that the terms of the agreement which will be submitted have not yet been determined upon, but the government will give their most careful consideration to them with a view to afford the greatest possible facilities to each point that can be reached by the mail service.

Kootenay Mounted Police.

The development of the Kootenay district is progressing favorably. It already contains a number of settlers who will be protected by the N. W. M. police who are now going into the country by way of McLeod and Crows' Nest Pass. It is hardly necessary that this action would have been taken had it not been for the action of the Indian chief Isadore, who rescued a prisoner from the British Columbia authorities recently. The British Columbia government will spend considerable money in opening up the country for settlement, as it will prove a valuable feeder to the Calgary district. Owing to recent troubles it is thought probable that the United States government will station about 150 men over the boundary to act with the police to intercept bands of Indians and whites who are continually crossing the line for the purpose of plundering and committing other depredations. Major Steele will have command of 75 men, mounted, and it is believed will be able to preserve law and order.

In the Senate.

A discussion arose on Senator McInnes asking leave to add the following to his motion for a full return of all Chinese landing and leaving Canadian ports, the number entering and leaving each port, and for each month since the passage of the Chinese Immigration Act in July, 1885, up to the 1st January, 1887: "Also the amount of revenue derived from the Chinese immigration, and the cost of enforcing the act between the aforesaid dates be included."

The discussion was participated in by Senator Macdonald who asked leave to add the following clause: "Also all documentary evidence of fraud by Chinamen passing their certificates of entry to others who have not entered." Senator McInnes had no objection to this addition. Senator Miller said it could not be done without the unanimous consent of the house. The motion was allowed to stand over one week.

Subsequently the mover expressed his willingness to drop the last clause, leaving it optional with the government. If they could bring down the information asked for without trouble they could do so.

In reply to Senator McInnes' inquiry with reference to the Port Moody wharf Hon. Mr. Abbott replied:

"In answer to the first portion of the question I may say that it was found from the change of circumstances that the section of the wharf now renewed would be ample for the business of Port Moody. In answer to the second question I would say that it is not yet determined what disposition the government will make of the remaining piles, but that they will be placed where they will be most serviceable for the traffic. As to the third question, these piles were purchased, delivered at Port Moody, and the total price was $28,666."

Senator McInnes then made one of his customary attacks on the government and the C. P. R., and on being called to order said: "I intend to move for correspondence when the hon. members in this house will have the opportunity of expressing their views on it when they hear the full particulars of the righteous cause I advocate."

Senator Macdonald has made the following inquiry: Has the Imperial government promised to furnish guns or to assist in any way towards the defences of the western coast of the Dominion, and is it the intention of the government to commence operation this year on the said defences? Also as follows: Whether in the event of an agreement of a temporary character, based on some of the provisions of the Treaty of Washington, being arrived at with the government of the United States of America on the question of fisheries, will the government of the Dominion see that the province of British Columbia is included in such an agreement, so that its products of fish and oil may be admitted into the United States on the same condition as the like products of the other provinces of the Dominion?

Senator McInnes has inquired: Has the government granted to the Canadian Pacific railway company the foreshore or any portion of the foreshore of the harbors of Vancouver or English Bay, or the exclusive right to build wharves thereon? If so, when was the grant made, and what is the extent of the foreshore given away to the Canadian Pacific railway company?

THE NANAIMO DISASTER.

THE INQUEST.

(Specially Reported for THE COLONIST.)

The inquest in regard to the late deplorable accident in V. C. Co.'s shaft, Nanaimo, was resumed in that city on Wednesday afternoon at 1 p. m. before Dr. Walkem, coroner. At the hour of opening the court house was well filled by interested spectators.

Mr. Eberts, of Eberts & Taylor, appeared for the minister of mines, Hon. J. Robson, who was present. Mr. Drake, Q. C., appeared for the company and Mr. Jas. Young requested and was granted permission to interrogate witnesses on the part of the society called the Knights of Labor.

After the usual proclamation by the constable and the calling of the names of the jurors, the coroner stated that he intended to afford the greatest license compatible with the proper decorum of the court as to the interrogation of witnesses and that he would allow any person who had an interest in the enquiry to ask questions of the different witnesses, so as to permit of the strictest and closest investigation.

Mr. Hayland was then sworn; he said: —I am mine surveyor for the Vancouver Coal Company; I have made a survey of No. 1 shaft and have a tracing of the survey with me, and which I now produce; I remember the 3rd of May, the day of the explosion; the tracing is as nearly as possible a tracing of the survey of the mine as it stood on the 3rd of May; the red arrows show the air currents; the note at the foot explain the different markings on the plan.

To a juryman:—The plan is from the April work; the last survey was made on the 18th of April.

Mr. McWight, foreman of the jury. Before calling another witness, Mr. Coroner, I wish on the part of the jury, and I should have done so before the last witness was called, to express our great disapproval of the remarks and editorials which have appeared in the Victoria press in regard to the late explosion. These remarks are not only prejudicial but are erroneous and absurd in their character.

Coroner Walkem:—I quite agree with you, Mr. Foreman; some of the articles which have appeared are not only unbecoming and out of place, but they also show lamentable ignorance on the part of the writers; one editorial copied in a Victoria paper from the Toronto *Globe* and to which I understand you more particularly allude I, say objectionable since, a few enquiries on the part of the proprietors of that journal from those acquainted with the system of mining in this country would have shown them the absurdity of reproducing comments of such a kind. No doubt they were written with the best of motives, but still a better judgment should have pointed out to them the propriety of refraining from comments pending an official inquiry.

Emil Arnold Praeger, sworn—I am physician and surgeon to the Vancouver Coal Company; I saw the body of John Linn, but made no special examination of it; the body of Linn was recovered on the night of the explosion; that would be the 3rd of May; am of the opinion that he died of choke damp; the result of its inhalation is the effect of a rapid form from oxygen starvation; some men were brought up some twenty minutes after the explosion; the body of Linn was brought up about 10 o'clock of that night.

Jule Michael, sworn—Am sinker in the No. 2 shaft; remember the evening of the 3rd of May, and about the time the explosion took place; was then having supper below ground off No. 2 shaft; as far as I can say the explosion sounded like like a heavy fall of rock, and felt like wind coming from it up the shaft; I remember when the volume of air struck me; I exclaimed, "My God! boys, what is coming on us now!" I had no memory of the explosion after that; I work principally about the shaft; was once down the slope; John Linn worked with me; at the time of the explosion Linn, Davis, Craven and Mattison were sitting with me in the cabin having supper; I was then in the employ of V. C. company two months, and all that time I was working in the neighborhood of No. 2 shaft; my shift was from 2 p. m. to 10 p. m.; there was good air then; sometimes we could not keep our lights burning on account of the current of air in the up cast; there was always plenty of air in the place in which I was working; about twice a week I was on top in the vicinity of the fan, which was working; it slowed down occasionally when we were firing shots in the bottom of the shaft; the slowing down would last about ten or fifteen minutes; we had fired no shots that day; the morning shift had fired shots before we went down.

To Mr. Drake—The cabin is about fifteen yards from the foot of the shaft; we were cribbing below the level of the workings; the names of those I have mentioned as with me are the names of some of those killed, and they were working with me at the sinking; I saw no fire about of any kind; I was knocked senseless when I got outside; I did not come to my senses until 6 o'clock p. m., when I found myself in the old school-room; the mine had been working that day as usual.

To Mr. Young—I am not acquainted with the drift running from the engine room to the No. 2 shaft; the direction of the blast appears to me as from the return airway behind the cabin.

James Malcolm, sworn—Am a miner working in No. 3, south, off the new slope; remember 3rd of May; was on morning shift from 6 a. m. to 2 p. m.; there were two men working near me, inside or further in the level; had then been working in the pit three months; have worked as a miner about five years; there was plenty of air in the place where I was working that day; never saw any gas down there nor did I experience any; have heard of the presence of gas in the roof once in a while; the slope is dry and very dry where I am working; have never been down to the face of the slope; there was a good deal of coal dust where I was working; the coal dust was principally on the floor; I noticed when a shot was fired coal dust would rise in great quantities; there was a strong current of air there but it could not raise the coal dust; it was always wet beforehand for tamping purposes; have seen a "blowing out" shot; that flame would extend two feet or so; never saw the flame go fifteen or twenty feet; we use some of our tea cut of our buckets to wet the tamping; some of the holes that would require tamping would be four or five feet; this hole would take a shovel full of dust; I was working in coal on 3rd May.

To Mr. Drake—The mine the day I worked was in the same condition as on previous days; I do not know whether the mine or this portion of the mine had been watered; heard no complaint of gas that day; do not know whether it was George Churchett or Jas. Price who was fireman in my shift; I know Muir; he was fireman on the afternoon shift; have worked on his shift; he was a careful man and always attentive to his duties.

To a juryman—The roof attended to by me as having been reported as containing gas, was the roof of the slope.

To Coroner Walkem—The height of the roof where I was working was 14 feet; scaffolds were used for the purpose of getting up to put the caps on the props when I went up to put the caps on the props I did not leave my light on the ground. There was a strong current of air in the roof.

James Malpass, sworn: Work in the new slope; have been working in No. 2 shaft 12 months, and most of that time in the diagonal slope; was down on the morning shift of 3rd May; the ventilation was very good and I did not hear of any complaint on that day; the height of the roof varies from 16 to 18 feet; it was very dry down there and a large accumulation of coal dust; have heard of gas in the slope; once I had to quit work on account of gas; that was early in April, and I was then working in the same stall as I was on 3rd May; I was ordered to quit work by the foreman; I quit for half a shift as I went up on top at 6 p. m.; the gas was not then in my stall, but in the one behind me; I have seen and encountered "blowing out" shots; sometimes they cause a good deal of dust to arise; they sometimes extend 10 feet in flame; I use wet dross as tamping; it is never used dry; no miner would ever use dry dross for tamping; clay is not used for tamping in this mine to my knowledge; the height of the roof varies very much along the slope; all the way from 6 feet to 20 feet; I have encountered gas in these workings, but have never, except in the inst