ewspapers For Yukon

nited Number Will Be Carried in the Mails During Winter.

eference Will Be Given to Those Addressed to Subscribers.

Under the terms of a circular issued postmasters, dated October 8, it was ended that letters only should be card in the mails to and from the Yukon rritory and the Atlin district of Brit- Columbia during the winter, but the t office inspector has since been aded that this circular has been canled, the post office department having cided to continue the conveyance of wspapers by mail to post offices in the kon Territory and Atlin district for winter season. Arrangements have cordingly been made for the conveyce of a limited quantity of newspapers Dawson, Pelly, Fort Cudahy and other st offices in the Yukon Territory, as ll as to Atlin, Discovery and Spruce eek in British Columbia.

To Dawson and post offices in the Yukon Territory the quantity is limited to 0 pounds per week, and to Atlin it is nited to 300 pounds semi-weekly.

In the event of the quantity tendered r carriage exceeding this limit, priority ll be given to newspapers sent to subribers or to separate addresses. Unr this arrangement all merchandise articles coming under the head of urth class matter will be excluded from e mails, as well as parcels of books and mples. This prohibition does not exnd to White Horse, Lake Bennett, or og Cabin. All class of mail can be sent these places as regular railway comunication is in operation from Skagay.

MOLSONS BANK.

ost Satisfactory Report Submitted at the Annual Meeting in Montreal.

At the annual meeting of the shareolders of the Molsons Bank, held at Montreal on October 8, a most satisfacry report was presented. The net earngs of the bank, after making full proision for bad and doubtful debts, mounted to $308,128.92, equal to about 3½ per cent. of the average capital. This has been distributed into two semnnual dividends of 4 per cent, and a bons of 1 per cent., in all $205,288.72; busiss taxes, $8,252.51; bank premises, $20,-548; and exceptional donations, $13,-50, leaving $61,083.01 to be disposed of, 50,000 of which has been carried to rest ccount. The balance, $11,083.01, has een carried to profit and loss account, which, with the balance carried over rom last year, now amounts to $26,992,-8. The premium obtained on the $500,-00 new stock, authorized at the last eeting, amounting to $375,000, has been laced to rest account, which, with the 50,000 transferred from the past year's rofits, now amounting to $2,050,000, qual to 82 per cent. of the capital.

The bank has now branches in Victo- Vancouver and at other points in the province and is doing a large busiess.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."

Hawtrey's Famous Farce Comedy to Be Presented This Evening.

The Victoria theatre to-night will be evoted to frolicsome comedy, in which he Victoria Dramatic Club will assert itself to the best advantage. Not content with lesser triumphs, the more ambitious lay of "The Private Secretary" has been rehearsed assiduously, and it may safely be prophesied that an acceptable performance will be given. In the past few years little attention has been devoted to the promotion of comedy and the drama in Victoria, and the efforts of the Dramatic Club in this direction should meet with universal support.

Apart from the attraction presented, an opportunity is offered to tender a substantial benefit to Mr. Finch-Smiles, the energetic stage manager of the club, in recognition of his services as a representative of Victoria at the front, to whom the net proceeds of both performances will be given. The play will be performed under the distinguished patronage of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Joly de Lotbiniere, Admiral Beaumont and the officers of the Pacific squadron, His Worship the Mayor, Col. Grant and the officers of the garrison, and Col. Gregory and officers of the Fifth Regiment, C. A. The incidental music will be furnished by the Philharmonic Society, under the direction of F. Victor Austin. The following is the complete caste:

Rev. Robert Spalding, the private secretary ....Mr. J. M. Bradburn
Mr. Cattermole, from India ....Mr. B. H. T. Drake
Douglas Cattermole, his nephew ....Mr. F. Finch-Smiles
Mr. Marsland, a country gentleman ....Mr. Sidney Roberts
Harry Marsland, his nephew ....Mr. P. E. Byrne
Gibson, a tailor .... Mr. E. O. Scholefield
John, Marsland's butler.Mr. C. E. J. Wahl
William, a gardener .... Mr. Ray Worlock
Mrs. Stead, Douglas' landlady ....Miss Mackay
Miss Ashford, a spiritualist ...Miss Keefer
Edith, Marsland's daughter ...Miss Prior
Eva, her friend ....Miss Janion

BUBONIC PLAGUE.

Denial That It Has Shown Itself In London.

London, Oct. 16.—The medical authorities of Stepney, a parish of London, deny that the suspicious cases of sickness reported at that place yesterday is bubonic plague.

New Placer Discoveries

The Amur Brings News of New Finds in the Far North.

Small-Pox Cases at Grand Forks in Klondike District.

The steamer Amur, which arrived yesterday morning from Skagway, brought news of several new placer strikes in the North. Gold has been found in paying quantities on the Chandler river, which enters the Yukon 40 or 50 miles below Circle City; a new discovery has been made west of Lake Le Barge, another has also been made southwest of Atlin, and finds of tellarium on Bonanza creek and asbestos on the Klondike river are reported from the Klondike district.

The news of the Chandler river strike is given by United States Consul McCook, of Dawson, who had arrived at Skagway en route to Pennsylvania when the Amur left. He says the discovery was made by men who had a number of horses and were packing in supplies to the Koyukuk. The trail was very bad and they determined to wait until winter. Meantime they went prospecting and discovered gold in paying quantities on the Chandler river.

This river empties into the Yukon about 40 to 50 miles below Circle City. It is a large and important stream and the first discovery on it was made about 100 miles from its mouth. Also, at about this point several of the tributaries were prospected and in every case the results obtained were said to be favorable.

Consul McCook believes it is the opening up of another large and rich mineral district in American territory. He said that as he left Dawson there was a lively stampede, for the new diggings, and many miners in scows and small boats, well provisioned for the winter went down the river to winter on Chanlder river.

The news of the find in Ogilvie valley is given by the Yukon Sun, which says that miners have discovered richly paying placers on an obscure creek in the valley to the west of Lake Le Barge. The extent or value of the diggings was not learned. Miners were endeavoring to keep the news of the discovery from leaking out.

Of the find southwest of Atlin there is little news, for, as in the case of the other find, the miners are trying to keep the discovery to themselves. The exact location was still a secret when the Amur sailed.

Most encouraging news was received of the new finds on the Chilkat river, and from the finds recently made in the Stewart river district. Among those who stampeded from Dawson to there were several Victorians, including Mike Conlin, R. McManus and R. Sloan. From the Big Salmon district also good news was received. The Skagway Alaskan of Tuesday last says:

"Ben Cavanaugh, one of the discoverers of gold on Livingstone creek, in the Big Salmon district, arrived yesterday with $10,000 in nuggets, the product of his discovery claim. S. H. Lough, another of the three owners and discoverers, arrived on Thursday. Both confirm all the good reports that have hitherto come from the Big Salmon district. Mr. Lough says every claim worked this season has paid well, and will do much more next year. The country is not all staked yet, nor has it been well prospected.

"'We discovered gold on Livingstone creek,' said Mr. Lough, 'early in August, 1899, and recorded our claims on the 14th of that month. We commenced work on discovery at once, using only pick and shovel and sluice boxes. The three of us took out $3,600 in that short month.

"'This year we have had a very short season and used the same crude process, but we brought out about $10,000. It represents the work of three men from about the middle of June until the 1st of September—not three months—and three miners whom we employed for a portion of the time. We could work only one string of sluice boxes, so could not employ more men.

"'Mr. Cavanaugh and I are now going out and will take machinery in for next year, when we will employ more men and make a better showing.

"'There is certainly a wonderful deposit of gold in the Big Salmon district and it is known to abound on Livingstone, Summit, Lake, Cotteneva and Mendocino creeks.

"'The only claims to be worked much this year were upper and lower discoveries on Livingstone and discovery on Summit. They all paid well. Our claim is lower discovery on Livingstone and it can be made to pay $100 a day to the man, though we did not do so well this year.

"'Next year there will be at least 40 claims worked and more than half of them are sure to be producers.'"

J. K. Mankowski, an American miner who has returned to Skagway from the new finds on the Chilkat, says: "The mineral formation along these creeks is without doubt the finest and most promising of any in the North, and the creeks prospect better on the surface than the Porcupine ever did. So far no one has gone to bedrock, and yet several of the miners show coarse gold, which they got with pick and shovel on or near the surface. I saw a good-sized nugget picked up on rim-rock on Clear creek, and a few ounces of coarse gold out of a hole, not six feet deep, on Bear creek. It will require much less dead work than on the Porcupine, and the creeks are much easier to work, being shallower.

"For the present, the trip from the mouth of Bear creek is a very hard one, as there are no roads or trails. But the country is, by the modus vivendi, in the control of the Britishers, and whatever may be said on other points, they certainly provide good trails and wagon roads in their mining districts, while our government allows the miners to shift for themselves, and cares little how they get to their diggings.

"They have already established a recorder's office at the mouth of Bear creek, with W. H. Vicker in charge, which is a great convenience to miners, as it does away with the tedious trip to Pleasant Camp to record claims. They also have a squad of Mounted Police on the creek, with Dr. Fraser in charge, to insure order in camp.

"There is considerable ground as yet, but miners are floating in from all directions, and soon all the best ground will be gone. The proper way to get in from here is to go to Haines and up the Chilkat river in canoes past the Indian village of Klukwan to the mouth of Bear creek, up the creek for two miles to a camp on the left bank, and then over the hill on a well-blazed trail to discovery on Bear."

Judge George Girton, United States commissioner to Porcupine, says in a letter published at Skagway that he is confident that the new strike on the Chilkat river is a rich one. He further says that there is plenty of ground there, and owing to the small size of the British Columbia claims, there will be room for many locations in the district.

A promising strike of asbestos has been made on the north side of Klondike river, between Bear and Dawson. Bear creek is 12 miles from that city. The discovery was made by John Lawrence. Discovery claim is 1,000 feet above the ferry.

Henry J. Dieter tells the Dawson papers that he has discovered tellurium rock within a mile of No. 30 above on Bonanza, where he makes his headquarters. He has been in that vicinity three years, looking for quartz, and expressed himself emphatically that with his discovery of tellurium and the find of free-milling rock in the vicinity a few days ago by others, that the future of the Klondike as a quartz camp is assured.

F. C. Hildage was at Skagway from Birch creek, where this last summer he took in a quantity of hydraulic machinery for the Atlin Lake Mining Co., of which Mostyn Williams is the manager. The company has 60 odd claims on the creek, but Mr. Hildage left before the last clean-up. He is confident, however, that the result of this first season's work will be satisfactory to the stockholders.

There were 12 cases of smallpox at Grand Forks, in the Klondike district, last week, according to telegraphic information received by United States Consul McCook at Dawson. The report said that while there was not a single case at Dawson, there were a number at Grand Forks. The seat of the disease was there, and the district had been put in quarantine. The health officers say they have every facility for dealing with the disease effectually. The Skagway Alaskan of Tuesday last says:

"Nine persons who came in to Dawson from the creeks were arrested Friday and taken to the Dawson pest hospital on the island. None of them had yesterday shown any evidence of the disease and they will probable be discharged today.

"Deputy Collector Andrews thought it wise, however, to take a precautionary measure, and his representations to the railroad in this regard were met with a liberal spirit. The company sent out its medical officer, and he is to examine all the passengers, so that the American customs official at the summit will every day receive a clean bill of health of the passengers on the train. It is not believed this will occasion any inconvenience to passengers coming out or going in, and there is every confidence felt that the Canadian authorities are adequately prepared and undoubtedly will rigidly quarantine every person suspected of carrying germs of disease to the inside."

Dr. McArthur, the health officer at Dawson, has made a report to the Canadian government upon the prevalence of hog cholera among the pork animals shipped in, and in this report he insinuates that the cause is that the pens at the wharf are not kept clean.

Most encouraging news was received of the new finds on the Chilkat river, and from the finds recently made in the Stewart river district. Among those who stampeded from Dawson to there were several Victorians, including Mike Conlin, R. McManus and R. Sloan. From the Big Salmon district also good news was received. The Skagway Alaskan of Tuesday last says:

"Ben Cavanaugh, one of the discoverers of gold on Livingstone creek, in the Big Salmon district, arrived yesterday with $10,000 in nuggets, the product of his discovery claim. S. H. Lough, another of the three owners and discoverers, arrived on Thursday. Both confirm all the good reports that have hitherto come from the Big Salmon district. Mr. Lough says every claim worked this season has paid well, and will do much more next year. The country is not all staked yet, nor has it been well prospected.

"'We discovered gold on Livingstone creek,' said Mr. Lough, 'early in August, 1899, and recorded our claims on the 14th of that month. We commenced work on discovery at once, using only pick and shovel and sluice boxes. The three of us took out $3,600 in that short month.

"'This year we have had a very short season and used the same crude process, but we brought out about $10,000. It represents the work of three men from about the middle of June until the 1st of September—not three months—and three miners whom we employed for a portion of the time. We could work only one string of sluice boxes, so could not employ more men.

"'Mr. Cavanaugh and I are now going out and will take machinery in for next year, when we will employ more men and make a better showing.

"'There is certainly a wonderful deposit of gold in the Big Salmon district and it is known to abound on Livingstone, Summit, Lake, Cotteneva and Mendocino creeks.

"'The only claims to be worked much this year were upper and lower discoveries on Livingstone and discovery on Summit. They all paid well. Our claim is lower discovery on Livingstone and it can be made to pay $100 a day to the man, though we did not do so well this year.

"'Next year there will be at least 40 claims worked and more than half of them are sure to be producers.'"

J. K. Mankowski, an American miner who has returned to Skagway from the new finds on the Chilkat, says: "The mineral formation along these creeks is without doubt the finest and most promising of any in the North, and the creeks prospect better on the surface than the Porcupine ever did. So far no one has gone to bedrock, and yet several of the miners show coarse gold, which they got with pick and shovel on or near the surface. I saw a good-sized nugget picked up on rim-rock on Clear creek, and a few ounces of coarse gold out of a hole, not six feet deep, on Bear creek. It will require much less dead work than on the Porcupine, and the creeks are much easier to work, being shallower.

"For the present, the trip from the mouth of Bear creek is a very hard one, as there are no roads or trails. But the country is, by the modus vivendi, in the control of the Britishers, and whatever may be said on other points, they certainly provide good trails and wagon roads in their mining districts, while our government allows the miners to shift for themselves, and cares little how they get to their diggings.

"They have already established a recorder's office at the mouth of Bear creek, with W. H. Vicker in charge, which is a great convenience to miners, as it does away with the tedious trip to Pleasant Camp to record claims. They also have a squad of Mounted Police on the creek, with Dr. Fraser in charge, to insure order in camp.

"There is considerable ground as yet, but miners are floating in from all directions, and soon all the best ground will be gone. The proper way to get in from here is to go to Haines and up the Chilkat river in canoes past the Indian village of Klukwan to the mouth of Bear creek, up the creek for two miles to a camp on the left bank, and then over the hill on a well-blazed trail to discovery on Bear."

Judge George Girton, United States commissioner to Porcupine, says in a letter published at Skagway that he is confident that the new strike on the Chilkat river is a rich one. He further says that there is plenty of ground there, and owing to the small size of the British Columbia claims, there will be room for many locations in the district.

A promising strike of asbestos has been made on the north side of Klondike river, between Bear and Dawson. Bear creek is 12 miles from that city. The discovery was made by John Lawrence. Discovery claim is 1,000 feet above the ferry.

Henry J. Dieter tells the Dawson papers that he has discovered tellurium rock within a mile of No. 30 above on Bonanza, where he makes his headquarters. He has been in that vicinity three years, looking for quartz, and expressed himself emphatically that with his discovery of tellurium and the find of free-milling rock in the vicinity a few days ago by others, that the future of the Klondike as a quartz camp is assured.

F. C. Hildage was at Skagway from Birch creek, where this last summer he took in a quantity of hydraulic machinery for the Atlin Lake Mining Co., of which Mostyn Williams is the manager. The company has 60 odd claims on the creek, but Mr. Hildage left before the last clean-up. He is confident, however, that the result of this first season's work will be satisfactory to the stockholders.

There were 12 cases of smallpox at Grand Forks, in the Klondike district, last week, according to telegraphic information received by United States Consul McCook at Dawson. The report said that while there was not a single case at Dawson, there were a number at Grand Forks. The seat of the disease was there, and the district had been put in quarantine. The health officers say they have every facility for dealing with the disease effectually. The Skagway Alaskan of Tuesday last says:

"Nine persons who came in to Dawson from the creeks were arrested Friday and taken to the Dawson pest hospital on the island. None of them had yesterday shown any evidence of the disease and they will probable be discharged today.

"Deputy Collector Andrews thought it wise, however, to take a precautionary measure, and his representations to the railroad in this regard were met with a liberal spirit. The company sent out its medical officer, and he is to examine all the passengers, so that the American customs official at the summit will every day receive a clean bill of health of the passengers on the train. It is not believed this will occasion any inconvenience to passengers coming out or going in, and there is every confidence felt that the Canadian authorities are adequately prepared and undoubtedly will rigidly quarantine every person suspected of carrying germs of disease to the inside."

Dr. McArthur, the health officer at Dawson, has made a report to the Canadian government upon the prevalence of hog cholera among the pork animals shipped in, and in this report he insinuates that the cause is that the pens at the wharf are not kept clean.

Most encouraging news was received of the new finds on the Chilkat river, and from the finds recently made in the Stewart river district. Among those who stampeded from Dawson to there were several Victorians, including Mike Conlin, R. McManus and R. Sloan. From the Big Salmon district also good news was received. The Skagway Alaskan of Tuesday last says:

"Ben Cavanaugh, one of the discoverers of gold on Livingstone creek, in the Big Salmon district, arrived yesterday with $10,000 in nuggets, the product of his discovery claim. S. H. Lough, another of the three owners and discoverers, arrived on Thursday. Both confirm all the good reports that have hitherto come from the Big Salmon district. Mr. Lough says every claim worked this season has paid well, and will do much more next year. The country is not all staked yet, nor has it been well prospected.

"'We discovered gold on Livingstone creek,' said Mr. Lough, 'early in August, 1899, and recorded our claims on the 14th of that month. We commenced work on discovery at once, using only pick and shovel and sluice boxes. The three of us took out $3,600 in that short month.

"'This year we have had a very short season and used the same crude process, but we brought out about $10,000. It represents the work of three men from about the middle of June until the 1st of September—not three months—and three miners whom we employed for a portion of the time. We could work only one string of sluice boxes, so could not employ more men.

"'Mr. Cavanaugh and I are now going out and will take machinery in for next year, when we will employ more men and make a better showing.

"'There is certainly a wonderful deposit of gold in the Big Salmon district and it is known to abound on Livingstone, Summit, Lake, Cotteneva and Mendocino creeks.

"'The only claims to be worked much this year were upper and lower discoveries on Livingstone and discovery on Summit. They all paid well. Our claim is lower discovery on Livingstone and it can be made to pay $100 a day to the man, though we did not do so well this year.

"'Next year there will be at least 40 claims worked and more than half of them are sure to be producers.'"

J. K. Mankowski, an American miner who has returned to Skagway from the new finds on the Chilkat, says: "The mineral formation along these creeks is without doubt the finest and most promising of any in the North, and the creeks prospect better on the surface than the Porcupine ever did. So far no one has gone to bedrock, and yet several of the miners show coarse gold, which they got with pick and shovel on or near the surface. I saw a good-sized nugget picked up on rim-rock on Clear creek, and a few ounces of coarse gold out of a hole, not six feet deep, on Bear creek. It will require much less dead work than on the Porcupine, and the creeks are much easier to work, being shallower.

"For the present, the trip from the mouth of Bear creek is a very hard one, as there are no roads or trails. But the country is, by the modus vivendi, in the control of the Britishers, and whatever may be said on other points, they certainly provide good trails and wagon roads in their mining districts, while our government allows the miners to shift for themselves, and cares little how they get to their diggings.

"They have already established a recorder's office at the mouth of Bear creek, with W. H. Vicker in charge, which is a great convenience to miners, as it does away with the tedious trip to Pleasant Camp to record claims. They also have a squad of Mounted Police on the creek, with Dr. Fraser in charge, to insure order in camp.

"There is considerable ground as yet, but miners are floating in from all directions, and soon all the best ground will be gone. The proper way to get in from here is to go to Haines and up the Chilkat river in canoes past the Indian village of Klukwan to the mouth of Bear creek, up the creek for two miles to a camp on the left bank, and then over the

question as to when these and other ships should fight and when they should not would have to be seriously considered. There is an idea prevalent with many officers, and one cannot help feeling great sympathy with them, that every ship of Her Majesty's navy should fight, even against superior odds. There will be occasions when this theory may be successfully carried into practice, as it often was in the olden times, but the day for this sort of thing has to a great extent passed away, and if very strict orders are not laid down in war time on the subject, we shall probably have to deplore the useless loss of many valuable lives and vessels.

Many Notable Passengers

Baroness Von Ketteler Arrives by the Empress of Japan.

The Attack on Peitang—The Looting of Pekin—Typhoon's Ravages.

There were among the passengers of the R. M. S. Empress of Japan, which arrived yesterday from the Orient, many who have had trying experiences during the siege of the Pekin legations, who had followed the march of the allies and the stirring events in North China.

Of all the trying experiences undergone, the worst was undoubtedly that which the Baroness von Ketteler, nee Ledyard, a daughter of the president of the Michigan Central railway, underwent at Pekin. She arrived, accompanied by her brother and his bride, whose honeymoon had been spent in the voyage to Japan, to bring home the bereaved baroness. Her nerves had been all but shattered by the terrible experiences, and although she is now beginning to regain her health, she was too weak to allow of being interviewed. She, with the other ladies of Pekin, had been beleaguered in the British legation after the tragic death of her husband, who was shot as he was proceeding to the Tsung Li Yamen. The story of the murder and the subsequent arrest of the murderer, whose confession shows that the Chinese authorities were guilty of planning the murder of the German minister, has already been told.

The baroness had been confined to her room for the greater part of the voyage. She is now bound home to the residence of her father, Henry B. Ledyard, of Detroit.

J. C. Hemment, a New York photographer and correspondent, says that the murder of the German minister has turned the German troops into fighters almost as brutal as the Cossacks. Every time they get a chance to drive a bayonet home into a Chinese they do it, and are often heard to exclaim: "There is one for von Ketteler." Their campaign is one of revenge.

Mr. Hemment has a photographic record of eight hundred pictures of the fighting. He was present at the attack on Pekin forts, details of which have not yet reached this side.

"We arrived from Tien Tsin on September 19 and noticed that the German troops were moving. On inquiry we found that they were about to attack the forts at Pietang. The German troops embarked by train for the scene of the attack, their land accompanying them. Some French artillery also came down, but I do not know if it took part in the attack. We entered the train with the troops. On arrival at Chunliangcheng the greater part of the troops disembarked. They were to form the centre of the attacking party, and the Russians were to have the left position. Two companies went on to Tong-ku and after disembarking assembled there and waited till 11 p. m. When we got to the station we waited there and heard that an attack was to be made in an hour's time. The Germans were joined by the Russians encamped there, supplemented by some Russians from the men-of-war. About midnight the German colonel and staff officers had a consultation with the Russian colonel and his staff, and a train was immediately put together, all the officers taking command of their companies. Knowing that two correspondents had been seen and sent back, we hid in a flat car at the rear of the train and managed to accompany the troops unobserved. The train proceeded about four miles and then the troops disembarked. We branched off to the right and got into a terrible plight, having to wade through salt ponds. Finally we extricated ourselves, and hearing firing thought it wise to be with the troops, so we joined the Germans.

"About 2 a. m. the German artillery opened fire and had fired six shots before there was any reply from the forts. Then the forts opened fire on the left (south) and soon the firing continued all along the line from four different positions towards the right. They were firing shrapnel, which continually burst over and around us. The firing was very lively, and the Chinese gunners made very good practice. We advanced with the infantry, leaving the artillery in the rear to cover us. The advance continued about two miles, and then at daybreak the attack began in earnest. The Chinese had got splendid range, but I could not make out what damage they were doing. Shells were pouring on our section from the south. It must have been 200 yards in length and caught the Russians and Germans like an earthquake. Two mounted officers and their ponies were blown into the air, and what was left of them dropped within about twenty yards of where we were standing. The Russians ran pell-mell and so did we, for no one knew where the next mine might explode. The explosion was followed by more firing, and our troops began to collect and get in their wounded. Up to this time the infantry had not fired a shot. For a time all was confusion, and we could see nothing; but at 7 o'clock we noticed that the shells were going right into the forts. Soon we saw volumes of smoke, and this was followed by flames. The forts were on fire. Two of the Chinese guns on the right (north) of the forts had now been put out of action, as had also one of our guns in the centre. Only one gun was now firing from the forts, and this kept on regularly, firing a shot about every three minutes. The Chinese were using smokeless powder, and we could only see the flashes when they fired. Our gunners were using black powder. The firing gradually became less, and about 8 o'clock a heavy rain commenced, and we had to move away to preserve our cameras and apparatus from the rain. As we returned we met the trains and ambulances coming up. We also learned that an advance was to be made at once and the forts were to be occupied. The artillery were proceeding as we left. That evening two British guns came up by the train. They had lyddite ammunition and were ready to be of use wherever they were required. Two or three miles out, however, the road was completely blocked, and the Germans said that it was impossible to clear the way for them, so they never came into action. I was unable to obtain the names of the officers in command."

Other passengers who arrived by the Empress were A. Henry Savage Landor, who had such a trying experience while endeavoring to explore Thibet some time ago. He has been acting as correspondent for the New York Herald with the allies. Of those who were penned up in the legations there was Rev. Dr. Reid and wife, Dr. W. A. P. Martin, Dr. Edna Terry, Rev. and Mrs. Hartwell, and several others. Although they had much to say of their experiences there was little that has not been already told. Dr. Reid's diary was some time ago published in these columns in part.

According to news given by the arrivals from Pekin by the Empress, when the city was occupied there was a carnival of loot and many of the soldiers and orrespondents of several papers acquired jade, silver ingots and valuable silks worth thousands of dollars. Even the missionaries were reported to have taken part in the looting. The Boxers had looted during their occupation, the Chinese soldiers had taken what they wanted, and when the allies entered the dwellings and houses were again looted. Private looting was recognized in a casual sort of way for three days. Many women were reported to have hanged themselves during the first three days of looting from sheer terror when the dwellings were entered. In one place a number of young women were found suspended to one beam. The camp followers reaped a rich harvest. When the imperial palace was entered the richest hauls were made. Here there was box after box of almost priceless jade and Chinese precious wares were ruthlessly looted. The imperial bank was entered, the soldiers being guided to this, it is said, by missionaries, and there the silver was found in ingots piled up in boxes like those used for ammunition. The looters filled sacks with the ingots. It was a campaign of loot from the time the city was entered.

W. Fagan, of Vancouver, who went out with the stormy petrels as they foregathered in China, is said to have accumulated some thousands of dollars in loot. Other correspondents are said to have also "commandeered" enough to greatly augment their bank accounts.

The Empress brings news that severe typhoons have devastated the Japanese coast and many lives are reported lost, as well as much property destroyed. The storms had a wide range. The whole group feeling their influence. Tokio suffered severely from both storm and flood. Three deaths were reported there. At Numadzu some two hundred fishermen were blown to sea and it is reported that they were all drowned. The Empress had a trying experience, but suffered no damage, while the mail steamer China had boats smashed and her rails swept. The passengers have drafter a memorial to Captain Seabury thanking him "for the preservation of their lives by his good management and control during the night of terrible memory." A Japanese schooner was wrecked at Yokohama and several other wrecks of Japanese craft were reported. Hundreds of houses were destroyed and hundreds flooded in villages up and down the coast. A 920-ton sealing vessel was wrecked near Shimizu bay and the crew all drowned. The steamer Urato Maru stranded off the Mikokujima coast and the schooner Shintoka Maru was lost near Nigata. The damage to property ashore had not been estimated.

HEATHEN VIEW OF CARD PLAYING.

Native Account of the Rites Observed by a Siamese in Paris.

From the Paris Gaulois.

A very curious and interesting letter has been written by a patriot by a Siamese visitor to Paris, in which the observant Asiatic records his impressions of card playing in the upper circles of the French capital. He says:

"The French declare that they worship one God only, but I do not believe it. For beyond the living God to which one sees them pray daily, they have several other inanimate deities to which they sacrifice, as I have remarked in one of their assemblies where I chanced to be present. There was to be seen a large round altar, decorated with a green cloth, lighted from above, and surrounded by seven persons who were seated as are in our domestic rites. When I entered, one of them, who appeared to be the priest, spread upon the altar several leaves which he detached from a little book which he held in his hand. Upon the leaves were depicted several figures, very badly painted, which, however, seemed to be representations of several gods, for, according as they were distributed around the circle, each of the devotees placed thereon an offering according to his devotion. I observed that the offerings were much larger than those which are made in their public temples.

"After the ceremony of which I have spoken, the priest raised his trembling hand to the rest of the book and appeared several times seized with fear and incapable of action. All the others, awaiting what he was about to do, remained motionless and expectant. As each leaf was inspected the spectators appeared variously agitated according to the different emotions which influenced them. One, with joined hands, raised his eyes to heaven, another ground his teeth, a third bit his fingers and beat his feet on the floor, and at last all of them adopted such attitudes and were seized with such singular contortions that they scarcely appeared to be human beings. But scarcely had the priest turned over certain leaves than he became himself enraged, tore the book, upset the altar, and cursed the ceremony. One heard now only lamentations, cries and imprecations. On seeing them thus furious and possessed, I judged that the god, they worshipped was a jealous god, who, to punish them for sacrificing to other deities, had caused each of them to be possessed of a bad spirit."

Made Absolute.—In Supreme court chambers yesterday, Mr. Justice Martin presiding, the decree granting Charles Smith a divorce from his wife, Bertha G. Smith, was made absolute.

Death's Hand.—A. Borgeson, a respected and popular member of the Scandinavian colony of this city, died on Sunday. He had been an employee of the Albion Iron Works. The funeral takes place this afternoon.

Drawing Classes.—Instruction in drawing was yesterday inaugurated in the public schools, the pupils of the Girls' Central receiving their first lesson from Mr. D. Blair. This afternoon the Boys' school will receive their instruction, on Wednesday the Victoria West school, on Thursday the North Ward school, and on Friday South Park. The entire afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30 o'clock will be occupied.

Address of Welcome.—At a meeting of the Local Council of Women held yesterday, a deputation was appointed to wait on Lady Joly and present her with an address of welcome on behalf of the members. Committees were also appointed to arrange for the annual meeting early in December. The preliminary agenda was discussed, and resolutions were referred to the affiliated societies for amendment or approval.

BRITISH NAVAL MANOEUVRES.

Some Valuable Lessons to Be learned From Them.

From a Letter in the London Times.

Among the lessons to be learned from the naval manoeuvres of 1900 may be mentioned:

1. The uselessness of placing old vessels in the first line with modern ones until the latter have been reduced by action, etc. to the level of efficiency of the former.

2. The futility of expecting any decisive result when two fleets are engaged with no well-marked superiority on either side.

3. The necessity of increasing the number of our scouting vessels and of affording greater opportunities for acquiring the art of efficient scouting.

4. The importance of making arrangements for the proper co-operation of the naval and military forces in war time.

5. The immense amount of coal which will probably be required during the preliminary manoeuvring before any decisive action takes place.

6. The neecessity for making efficient arrangements in peace time for a proper provision of auxiliary vessels for the supply of ammunition, coal, water, etc.

I presumse that all who have considered the matter will, in the main, agree on these points, and therefore I do not propose to enlarge on them; but on the subject of the type of vessel required for scouting purposes there are probably various opinions.

No doubt, if money were no object, if officers, men, guns, armor, etc., were to be had for the asking, the fast well-armed, well-armored cruiser would be the most desirable type; but, as the reverse of this holds good, I submit that a number of vessels in which the main consideration should be speed, seaworthiness, and coal endurance would be invaluable to act as the eyes of a fleet, to watch the enemy's ports, etc., leaving to the cruisers the duties of protecting commerce, driving off other cruisers, etc. They should only have sufficient armament to prevent their being chased off by a torpedo boat of torpedo boat destroyer—anything more than this would be to the detriment of the qualities just mentioned. In peace time these vessels would be most useful in providing instruction to officers, not only in scouting but also in tactics at high speed, the opportunity for which is extremely limited owing to the excessive cost when employing battleships for this purpose.

If such a type of vessel were adopted, the

Political Crisis In Japan

Changes in the Cabinet Resulting From The Premier's Retirement.

Wreck of the Norwegian Steamer Celadon in Collision—Other Oriental News.

Correspondence of Associated Press.

Yokohama, Oct. 5.—The cabinet crisis in Japan still continues, Marquis Ito remaining obdurate and declining to take up the task of forming a new ministry. As he is the one man to whom the whole country is looking for guidance at an extremely critical juncture, it is quite generally conceded that his reluctance will soon be overcome. The latter arises solely from the fact that the new party organized by him, and upon which he must depend to carry out his measures, is composed of chaotic elements, entirely undisciplined as yet, this task in taking upon himself cabinet responsibility will be unprecedentedly difficult. All this is acknowledged, but at the same time there is such unbounded faith in his ability and so firm a conviction that he is the only man competent to cope with the present international situation, that party exigencies must yield to those of the country at large, and it is confidently expected that in a day or two the new ministry will be announced. Speculation is, of course, rife as to the personnel of the new cabinet. Admiral Yamamoto, of the navy department, is the only one of the old ministry who will remain. Count Enouye will doubtless be at the head of the foreign office. Baron Kaneko, who is well known in New England, is by the native papers generally, conceded a place among Marquis Ito's official advisers.

The bankruptcy of one of the leading American firms in Yokohama, that of Middleton & Smith, announced yesterday, is attracting much attention, although it has been known in private circles to have been for some time pending. The debts of the firm aggregate some 230,000 yen, namely, to the principal banks of the city.

There is no doubt that business generally is in a very precarious condition, the troubles in China having produced all sorts of untoward complications and stopped the wheels of trade, fortunately than could any great calamity happening to Japan itself. The prevalent disposition of the Japanese to refuse to take delivery of goods ordered, if the market happens to be against them, has come to be a standing menace to foreign trade. Fully two millions yen worth of imported goods have recently accumulated in the customs warehouses in Yokohama, and the authorities are greatly perplexed to know how to deal with them, while the go-downs of the foreign firms are filled to their utmost capacity. If relief does not speedily come, through some possibility at least of the settlement in China, further disaster must follow.

It is now stated that the government has decided to leave the whole of the fifth division in North China during the winter, it having been noticed that the other powers, not even Russia excepted, are actually increasing their forces. It is also remarked that there is an increasing tendency toward independent action by the different allied contingents. A British squadron is guarding Chinwang Bay, and Russian troops are marching on Shan-hai-kwan, and Germans making their base of operations in Shantung. The Japanese are in force in Pekin, while of the movements of the Americans little is known, the prevalent rumor being that they have nearly all been ordered to Manila. The whole American policy is causing great perplexity here, the American residents finding difficulty to answer the growing foreign criticisms as to the causes of its seeming vacillation.

At a meeting of a Japan-American association in Tokio last week, a speech by the United States minister, Col. Buck, had a very excellent effect in allaying the sensitiveness recently caused by the London Spectator's article on the "Yellow Peril." The minister dwelt on the necessity of excepting Japan from the broad line of demarkation hitherto drawn by Occidentals between Christian and non-Christian countries. He well expressed the growing sentiment here that, all specific mission work aside, the Japanese have recently shown themselves on a par with, if not in advance of, the boasted civilizations and moral standing of the nominally Christian nations.

The typhoon which visited this vicinity on Friday last, though brief, was of unusual severity throughout the central portions of the empire. Not many casualties are reported, but the minor damage to roofs and houses will aggregate a large sum. Fears are felt for the safety of 200 fishermen of Numadzu, who were caught out in the gale. The steamer China of the Pacific Mail Line had a fearful experience on her voyage from this port to Kobe, shipping several very heavy seas, carrying away her rails and boats. The passengers experienced a very severe fright, but were all brought uninjured to port.

A collision between the Norwegian steamer Calanda and the Ese Maru of the N. Y. K. line, in Nagasaki harbor, on Tuesday last, resulted in the sinking of the former in less than ten minutes. Seventeen foreigners, including five Americans, were drowned. Among the latter the names of Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Davidson and Mr. Richardson have been ascertained. Mrs. Davidson was the wife of the manager of Clarkson & Co., of Port Arthur, while Mr. Richardson was connected with the firm of Middleton & Smith, of this port.

Watching Sound Steamers.—Chief Langley is taking extra precautions to prevent the landing in Victoria of undesirable characters who are taking advantage of the cheap rates now prevailing on the Sound steamers. Suspicious characters are shadowed and in many cases are warned that it would be wise for them to make their visit a short one. They generally take the hint.

Fine Lithographic Work.—That Victoria has facilities for producing as fine lithographic work as anywhere in Canada will be acknowledged by anyone who cares to inspect the labels on the boxes in which are sold the product of Behnsen & Co.'s cigar factory. The work was done by the Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, and is in every sense excellent. The "Our Bulldog" brand is adorned with a label which shows an English bulldog in the centre foreground, on either side being British flags. In the lower corners are shown a warship and a field gun. The design is a very striking one. "Behnsen's Own" is the second brand now on the market, and in this the design is a maple leaf, with ornamental scrolls.

Our Mail Order Department.

This is a special feature of our business. All orders are executed with care and promptness thus avoiding any mistakes.

All goods invoiced at the lowest possible price on day of shipment.

Be sure to send enough money as it is an easy matter to return any sum that is over.

Our Terms—Cash With Order.
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
Write for Prices.

DIXI H. ROSS& CO.

COFFEE | DISCRIMINATING BUYERS will find it profitable to Handle only the best in... | SPICES

COFFEES PURE SPICES and PURE BAKING POWDER
HIGHEST STANDARD GUARANTEED

STEMLER & EARLE, IMPORTERS AN MANUFACTURERS VICTORIA
HEAD OFFICE—Thomas Earle, 92, 94 and 97 Wharf St, Victoria, B.C.

FOR SALE.

Three