PROSPECTING ON THE RAILWAY BELT.

We have fuller returns of the mining claims on the railway belt recorded since June 1897, when the last regulation was promulgated by the E. & N. company. The figures are official, being those given to the company by the government, to which all claims are sent in, just as in the case of claims located on Crown lands. From these it appears that since the adoption by the railway company of the policy, which was to drive prospectors away, according to Mr. Cotton, five hundred and eighty-six claims have been located on the company's land, that is upwards of one daily for every day, Sundays included, and without making any allowance for the winter season, when snow in the mountains makes prospecting impossible.

Another thing may be mentioned in this connection. Of these 586 recorded mining locations, two hundred and sixty-three are in Alberni. Now one of the great complaints which people of Mr. Cotton's sort have been making is that prospectors were being kept out of Alberni by the policy of the company. Yet here we have the official demonstration that, since the promulgation by the company of the regulation about which there has been so much talk, two hundred and sixty-three locations have been made in Alberni district alone, and this notwithstanding the fact that for years Alberni has been a favorite field for prospectors and hundreds of claims had been filed there before that rtgulation was made.

Under these circumstances, is it not the rankest nonsense for Mr. Cotton to prate to the people of Cowichan concerning the alleged hostility of the railway company to prospectors? How much more does he think prospectors want than the right to go upon the company's land, when and where they choose, and prospect for the precious metals? Does he propose that the company shall give a chromo with every location? The trouble with Mr. Cotton was that he was talking about something that he was densely ignorant of. If he had taken the trouble to ascertain the facts, which are that claims were being located by the hundreds upon the company's land, and that every man, who wished to develop a claim, was being treated by the company with the utmost liberality, the studied effort of the officials being to meet the wishes of bona fide miners, he would not have made such an exhibition of himself.

STILL GROWING.

As a gatherer of unconsidered trifles, John Bull is facile princeps. If any island is found lying around "promiscuous like," John takes it into his custody and never lets it go again. His very latest find consists of an assortment of islands of various sizes in the Pacific Ocean. When we look at the map of Oceanica, we see numerous islands, most of them being labelled as belonging to some European nation, but it is a mistake to suppose that there are no other islands than these. The Pacific Ocean is what the poet called the Atlantic, a "prodigious dampness." It is said that there are thousands of islands in it which are uncharted, the great majority of them never having been visited by Europeans. H.M.S. Mohawk has been cruising around among these, putting tags upon the best of them, in the shape of the Union Jack, as an intimation to the world that henceforth they are to be regarded as British territory. Two of these new possessions are named respectively Vanikoro and Tucopia. They belong to the Santa Cruz group and lie to the northwest of Fiji. Vanikoro is described as a magnificent island, clothed with timber, but it is not favored with a good climate. Tucopia is much smaller, but has a delightful climate and is surrounded with immensely deep water, which enables large vessels to approach quite close to the shore from all sides. Tucopia is chiefly remarkable for its people, who are one of the finest races in the world from a physical point of view. They number less than a thousand, but are magnificent specimens of humanity. One man, who came aboard the Mohawk, stood 6ft. 10in. in his bare feet and was splendidly proportioned. Many of the others, who came on board, were upwards of 6ft. 2in., and women were observed on shore, who must have been 6ft. In all cases they were well built. The Mohawk's officers speak of them as magnificent people, and say that to describe them as savages is to do them a great injustice, for they are kindly and robust, comporting themselves with a dignity, which is enhanced by the remarkable manner in which they wear their abundant hair. They were much gratified when told that Great Britain would hereafter take care of their island.

But it is not only in Polynesia that the Empire is growing. Major Macdonald has been enlarging British East Africa. Details of his expedition are yet lacking, but a general idea can be formed of what he has accomplished. The despatches say that he has established a chain of posts from Lake Nyanza to Lake Rudolf. As Nyanza means lake, this information is not very definite, but an inspection of the map shows that the Victoria Nyanza is probably meant. In a direct line it is about 400 miles from the coast of the Indian ocean to the shore of this vast lake, which is a veritable inland sea, having an area of about 30,000 square miles. The Equator crosses the nothern end of it. About one half the shore, that is the northern half is claimed to be in the British sphere of influence, the other half being in that of Germany. Lake Rudolf is a large body of water lying to the northeast of the Victoria Nyanza. Until the visit of Major Macdonald not much was known of this lake by Europeans. It lies midway between the coast of British East Africa and Fashoda on the Nile, and it will be interesting to note that the distance in the shortest possible line between Mombassa, which was Macdonald's starting point, and Fashoda, his objective point, is upwards of a thousand miles. The distance is not quite as great as that traversed by Major Marchand in his journey from the Congo coast to Fashoda, but it was through a more difficult country. The occupation of the region around Lake Rudolf is important because it means the control of the Galla country to the north, which is alleged to be the most wonderful region in the world. There is a vast area here, that has not yet been visited by Europeans, although a British expedition has gone to visit it. One traveller obtained a view of a portion of it from an elevation on its eastern border, and his observations, taken in connection with the descriptions received from the natives, convey the idea that in point of natural beauty, in luxuriance of vegetable growth and the profusion of animal life, there is nothing like it anywhere else in the world. It is probable that the results of Major Macdonald's expedition will be the formal annexation of all Somaliland.

A FIN DE SIECLE QUESTION.

The Columbian discusses when the end of the century will be, and it reaches the conclusion that it will be on December 31st, 1899. To this we take exception. Ninety-nine years never yet made a century. A full hundred years are necessary. To settle the point, we must go back to a date that did not really exist, in so far as historical records go, and that is to the beginning of the Christian era. This era was not established until some years after Christ's death. Theoretically the era began with His birth. As a matter of fact, it is generally understood that what would have been the year 1, if our present chronology had been then in force, was four years after His birth. But this is immaterial. Our chronology contemplates a year 1; consequently the first 100 years were requisite to make the first century, which therefore did not end until December 31st, 100. This is purely a theoretical date, but if this is 1898, we must contemplate the evidence of such a date. Now if the Columbian's view is correct, and December 31st, 1899, is the end of the nineteenth century, it must follow that December 31st, 99, was the end of the first century. But to make this possible it would be necessary to contemplate that the era began with the year 0, which is of course an absurdity.

Our contemporary's illustration from the clock will not stand examination. True, we say it is 9 o'clock when we wish to denote that nine complete hours have passed, but when we say that the twentieth century has begun, we mean that nineteen complete centuries have passed. Thus we find ourselves back where we started and have to determine what constitutes a complete century. It takes 1000 years to make 19 centuries, and the 1900 years will not expire until December 31, 1900; and as the first century theoretically began on January 1st, A.D. 1, so the twentieth century will begin on January 1st, A.D. 1901.

The News-Advertiser says that the Colonist misstates Mr. Sword's position when it refers to him as the rejected of Dewdney, and that the Colonist knows it. It was because the Colonist knows that Mr. Sword was not defeated at the polls, but rejected by his former friends, that it referred to him as "the rejected of Dewdney." If he had run an election and been defeated, it would have referred to him as the defeated of Dewdney. The strong point against Mr. Sword is that his own friends would not have him. Any man may run for a constituency and be defeated. The events of election day are as uncertain as the finding of a petit jury, which a British judge once said was the only thing which Omnipotence could not foretell. The men who rejected Mr. Sword were those who had been his political friends for eight years and who knew him from Alpha to Omega. It was not the body of the electorate which told Mr. Sword that they did not want him, but the people with whom he had worked politically for a decade. They knew the majority of the people did not want him. He was not simply defeated. He was rejected. His own political friends had had enough of him. This makes his candidature in Cowichan the more extraordinary. If he had been the standard bearer of his party in his constituency and been defeated, it could be pleaded on his behalf that this was simply due to the chances of war. But his own friends did not want him. Cowichan is not going to accept the political cast-off of the Dewdney-Semlinites.

Hon. David Mills is reported to have expressed the opinion that the British Columbia statute, fixing the qualification of judges of the Supreme court is beyond the power of the legislature. Mr. Mills may be right, but he also may not be. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council can alone settle that matter, and at present there is no likelihood of the question being taken before that body. Mr. Mills does not settle the law in any case. He simply expresses his opinion, that the courts may or may not follow. With all deference to so able an authority, we should like some one to point out in the British North America Act any provision applying to the appointment of judges in British Columbia, except the general provision vesting the appointment in the Governor-General. There is nothing in the Terms of Union applying to British Columbia the section relied upon by Mr. Mills. The Colonist does not express any opinion on the point, but it does say that Mr. Mills does not settle the question.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

The names of several gentlemen are mentioned in connection with the mayoralty, but as yet nothing like an equal number proportionately are spoken of in connection with the aldermanic seats. It is highly important that the city should have an efficient mayor, but it is scarcely less so that it should have efficient aldermen. The Colonist wishes it to be specially understood that, in the remarks which it shall make upon the municipal elections now or hereafter, it has no personal animus, nor does it wish any gentleman who has filled a position at the city council to suppose that any reflection direct or indirect is cast upon him. It is only voicing public sentiment when it says that the people generally feel that a very great change is necessary in the personnel of the council, if we are to have the affairs of Victoria managed progressively and so as to command the confidence of the taxpayers. It is not necessary to discuss whether or not there is any substantial foundation for this view. The out-going council has done many things very well. We wish to put that expression of opinion on record. Nevertheless it is a fact that the people at large are not satisfied. They believe better things could be accomplished, if there were a large infusion of new blood into the council. This being the case, it is highly desirable that candidates for the office of alderman should be brought forward at an early day.

Quite a number of gentlemen are named, who would not be averse to accepting from their fellow-citizens the office of mayer. It is an honorable and responsible office, with a not uncomfortable stipend attaching to it. No very great self-sacrifice is required in the acceptance of the position, and the direct and indirect advantages of the office compensate for its slight drawbacks. To be mayor of a city like Victoria is an honor to which any man might aspire. We suggest to some of those, who look forward to filling this honorable post, that they would not lessen their chances in the future, if they would serve as aldermen for a term or two, and thereby familiarize themselves with civic affairs and demonstrate their capacity for dealing with them. We do not believe in restricting the choice of the citizens as to whom they shall select for the mayoralty otherwise we should be prepared to advocate an amendment to the municipal act requiring a person, before being elected mayor, to serve at least one term at the aldermanic board, but as we hold the doctrine that the discretion of voters should be restricted as little as possible, we will not go this far. It is proper to add, so as to avoid being misunderstood, that these remarks do not apply to the adoption of an amendment requiring mayors to be elected from the city council, because in this case the citizens know, in electing aldermen, they are electing their mayor, and they make their choice then. The Colonist hopes to be able soon to mention the names of some new candidates for the honorable office of alderman.

GUILELESS MR. COTTON.

Mr. Cotton's Cobble Hill speech contained one

"Gem of purest ray serene."

He expressed himself as quite satisfied that there would be no difficulty in the government coming to an arrangement with "an able business man and man of the world" like Mr. James Dunsmuir, but he gave Mr. Dunsmuir to understand that, if his company does not accept the method of dealing with its lands which commends itself to Mr. Cotton, the government will use all the resources of the province, if need be, to compel him to do so by legislation and litigation. In other words, he strokes the E. & N. Railway with one hand while he holds a club over its head with the other. To be sure Mr. Cotton knows that the club is only stuffed with wind, and he also knows that Mr. Dunsmuir knows it is only stuffed with wind. He hopes, however, that the make-believe weapon will deceive the electors of Cowichan for the time being.

If Mr. Cotton were not intoxicated with admiration for his own cuteness, he would see, as every sensible man saw, that to approach "an able business man and man of the world," first with the suggestion that he did not know how to manage his own business, next with the declaration that he would hail with delight a policy made up for him by a stranger, and thirdly with a threat that if he did not accept that policy, he would be clubbed into doing it by litigation, is about the last way to accomplish his avowed purpose. Most able business men and men of the world would say in reply that they regarded themselves capable of managing their own affairs; they would ask their self-constituted adviser for some proof that he had shown himself competent to advise in large business matters, and give him to understand that a threat of compulsion through litigation is an insult. But Mr. Cotton cannot see beyond the fog of his impenetrable self-conceit. In his smug self-complacency, he believes himself able to either cajole or coerce every one into accepting his views. There is no subject of business or politics upon which Mr. Cotton does not think he has reached the very acme of wisdom.

To many people it will seem a little strange that Mr. Cotton has waited until now to suggest a policy to the E. & N. Railway Company. He has not usually been backward with his suggestions to people. In the News-Advertiser and elsewhere he has frequently suggested how other people should manage their private affairs. There was a time when he believed himself capable of directing the policy both of the government and opposition. Even now, so strong is the old habit on him, he divides his labors between defending the government, of which he is temporarily a member, and advising the opposition how they can get into power. He has ejected wisdom in assorted chunks in the legislature time and time again. Why did he keep back his E. & N. policy—the policy which he says he knows Mr. Dunsmuir will accept or, if he does not, will be clubbed into accepting, until there occurred a vacancy in Cowichan?

That clever little scheme whereby "Peg-Leg" Brown, the murderer, was induced to leave Seattle, without waiting for the formality of extradition, all of which was told to Colonist readers when it happened a few weeks ago, is likely to come to naught, for the United States authorities having been asked to interfere are reported to have done so, and to have requested that he be handed over to them until regular extradition proceedings have been taken. Of course this is strictly regular, and doubtless the Canadian government would take a precisely similar course, if a Canadian was illegally arrested in this country and taken across the border for trial.

The Los Angeles Herald claims to have information to the effect that the Great Northern has absorbed the Pacific Coast Steamship Co. If this proves correct, we may look for some new developments in steamboat business. This company's steamers have hitherto carried a good deal of freight to Vancouver for the Canadian Pacific. It is not likely that they will do so much of that sort of business hereafter, and it is also unlikely that the Canadian Pacific will be content to allow its competitors to get away with the San Francisco traffic.

The Vancouver World is agitating for a trunk road into that city to enable the farmers to drive in with their produce. While this is purely a local matter, the Colonist will be excused for interfering in it for the purpose of saying that the principle, upon which its contemporary advocates the work, is one of general application and deserves recognition at the hands of any government which British Columbia may have. The farmers ought to have good roads, so as to be independent of transportation concerns as far as possible.

Emil Ritter kissed Anna Schmitz, and has gone to prison for six months for his offence. At this rate Hobson would have to live to the age of Methusaleh to serve out the sentences that would fit his crimes in that line. The peculiar fact in Ritter's case was that he did not ask the young lady's permission, but took advantage of the darkness of a tunnel. Thus is shattered another fond illusion. It has been alleged, with much plausibility, that it is the inalienable right of all free-born men to kiss pretty girls in a tunnel. One by one the rights of mankind are being ruthlessly swept away.

The reports from Atlin confirm the most hopeful anticipations of the future of that district as far as we recall, not a single unfavorable account has been received. Everyone seems to be agreed that the pay gravel is widely distributed, and that some of it is very rich. It is probable that when we have a mail out from the district there will be some very interesting news to tell.

The Nelson Miner asks for a reform in the mining law so as to prevent prospectors from locating claims and then holding them for a year without doing a stroke of work on them and then relocating them in the name of a friend, and in this way keeping them for several years. It is a bad practice and ought to be stopped.

The Province expresses the hope that in the event of Mr. Sword's defeat in Cowichan he will stay resigned. The sentiment is commendable. We have a suspicion, approaching a conviction, that the Province would not shed many tears if in the order of events Mr. Sword returns like Cincinnatus to his farm and oxen.

An impression is gaining ground in Manitoba and Ontario that the minister of railways has in mind the establishment of a railway under government control from the head of Lake Superior to Winnipeg. There seems to be good reasons to suppose that extensive railway projects are in contemplation.

It is amusing to read in United States papers articles discussing whether that country has any right to acquire colonies beyond seas. The idea suggests itself that some people think the court can step in and grant an injunction to prevent the annexation of the Philippines. If they do not mean this, what is the sense of talking about annexation being unconstitutional?

If it were not for the fear of being charged with plagarism, one might be tempted to write a British Columbia drama with the title "Too Much Martin." This ancient name is in remarkable prominence nowadays.

The guillotine is being worked overtime nowadays, but only minor officials are its victims. They are being decapitated in batches, and the government does not even take the trouble to name the unfortunates. As near as can be made out from the Gazette, a round dozen of heads have been struck off this week.

The population of London, that is, of the 693 square miles embraced in the bills of mortality, is 6,291,667. We have some pretty fair sized cities in America, but they will have to grow to keep up with the British metropolis.

Mr. Dagid Hoggan, of Nanaimo, has a long letter in the Times regarding the E. & N. belt, which is timely, because it shows that the Dominion government, and not the Provincial government, had jurisdiction over the land under the agreement.

LOST FOR FOUR DAYS.

Edward Rickard, the Young Man Missing From the Leander Found by Indians.

Laudable Work Done by the Leander's Crew and the Indians and Lumbermen.

Leaning against a tree exhausted, with his garments almost torn from his body and the shoes worn completely off his feet, such was the pitiful condition of Clerk Rickard, who disappeared from H.M.S. Leander at Drew Harbor, when found by two Indians on Monday evening last. The full experiences of Rickard from the time he left the Leander in company with Lieut. Longdon and Engineer W. S. Hill on a deer hunting expedition just a week ago this morning would make a story of the most thrilling description. Drew Harbor is only a short distance from Comox, the point where Her Majesty's ship go periodically for target practice. It is surrounded by a thick forest that stretches for miles and miles over rough, mountainous country in all directions from the waterfront. Game is very plentiful in the neighborhood, and it is the delight of the ship's officers to bring down a big buck or smaller animal, and not infrequently a black bruin. Rickard, with his companions, took bearings by their compasses on entering the wood and agreed to meet at the point of separation between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Time soon flew by, and at the appointed hour Lieut. Longdon and Engineer Hill met where they first entered the wood. Four o'clock came, however, and there was still no sign of Rickard. Then the anxious moments came. The men, reasoned between themselves, made every allowance for the absentee's delay, signalled, but all in vain. Darkness came on; the weather was cold and stormy, and with reluctance the two shipmates returned to the ship to report the matter. In turn the rear-admiral on the flagship was advised, and next morning a torpedo boat, a steam pinnance and a steam cutter, together with every available boat on the Leander was manned and provisioned for a seven days' search. Every man was determined to find the missing clerk. The Indians to the number of twenty and the lumbermen in the district, who had just knocked off work for the season, took up the hunt, and it might here be mentioned that the men of the navy feel most gratified for their invaluable services. Haggarty, an old settler, who is thoroughly acquainted with the country in the immediate locality, prophesied that Rickard was not a mile away from where he entered the bush, and the men went much on what he said, finding his advice to be useful and very reliable, as the discovery proved.

All Saturday and Sunday was spent in an abortive endeavor to find any trace of Rickard other than the tracks which he first made. Night and day, in heavy wind and rain, the searchers labored, many of the men going without sleep.

On Monday morning a fresh start was made. Two Indians, with the instinct of a blood-hound, darted off from all the others, as though by intuition they knew where Rickard lay. It was a call they said they heard and could not be persuaded to the contrary. And so it was that Rickard was found. He fell back against a tree as the two natives approached him, and knew no more until he awakened within the private quarters of Captain Frederick Fogarty Fegan, the commander of the Leander, where he still remains, feeble and weak from his long and trying exposure. His clothes were in rags, and he had wandered around so much that nothing of his shoes remained.

In returning to their camp one night lumbermen fancied they heard a human voice at a distance and listened, but could not hear is again. Once a ship's boat hove in sight, and Richard seeing it climbed a tree and called out for all his might. His voice attracted the attention of those on board, and the boat was stopped. A second call was waited for, but Rickard being weak could not make himself heard, and the boat's crew, thinking they had made a mistake, passed on. Two of the nights he was absent from the ship he slept in a tree.

The Leander arrived back in Esquimalt yesterday afternoon with Rickard. He is a clerk in the paymaster's department.

ELECTRIC CARS COLLIDE.

Two Passengers Killed and everal Dangerously Injured.

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 21.—Two cars came together head on on the Worcester and suburban electric road this afternoon, both moving at high speed. Two passengers were killed outright and five or six others dangerously hurt.

TRAMP HELD FOR MURDER.

Brantford, Dec. 22.—Dan Stevens, a tramp who killed a man on Tuesday at Paris, was lodged in gaol to-day. The dead man is supposed to be James Kelly, a sailor, of Sarnia.

LIBERAL METHODS.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—There was an unexpected development in the West York election case to-day when Justices Falconridge and Street announced that they could not agree as to the effect of the evidence on a certain charge. Judge Falconridge considered that evidence of corrupt action had been established by the promise of a poll constableship to a voter, while Judge Street considered the evidence was altogether unreliable. The charge will probably be referred to a court of appeals.

A man may dress as well as his own good judgment and the assistance of an artistic tailor may elect. He may take his "tuns," but if his digestive organs are out of order he will have an unwholesome appearance. His complexion and the white of his eyes will have a yellowish cast. His tongue will be coated, appetite poor, his teeth rusty, his breath abominable. He is one big, unmistakable sign of constipation. The quickest, surest, easiest way to cure this trouble is to take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They are made of refined, concentrated vegetable extracts. Nothing in the least harmful enters into their composition. They hunt down all impurities, and "make them move on." They are the product of many years' study and practice. Dr. Pierce cannot afford to put forth a worthless article.

Address with 21 cents in 1-cent stamps, to cover cost of mailing only, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y., and get a free copy of the "Medical Adviser."

Messrs. Langley & Martin have given notice that on the 29th instant in default of a better offer being received they will sell the steamer Horsa for $20,000 by virtue of the power of mortgage bearing date of August 27, 1898.

GRAND FORKS AFFAIRS.

Transfer of Copper Property—Threatened to Shoot—The Mayor Sued.

Grand Forks, Dec. 19.—(Special)—Patrick O'Connor has started a $10,000 damage suit against Mayor Jeff Davis of this city. During the spring of 1897 O'Connor, while in the employ of Mr. Davis assisting Geo. Cooper in building a chimney, fell from the roof some twenty feet and broke both legs.

Mr. Austin Hammer, one of the owners of the Big Copper mine in Copper Camp, is authority for the statement that a deal is in progress whereby an Eastern syndicate will become the owners of this property. The Big Copper is one of the best known mines in this lower portion of British Columbia, it being well developed and now on a shipping basis.

G. Stobile, an Italian banker doing business at Niagara, B.C., was nearly killed yesterday by an infuriated Italian who pointed a loaded Winchester rifle at the banker. Fortunately two powerful Italians grabbed the would-be murderer and wrested the gun from him.

A. M. Williams from Helena, Mont., arrived in this city yesterday and has decided to start a steam laundry here. He has secured a building site on the banks of the Kettle river. Mr. Williams has followed this business for many years and feels confident that Grand Forks offers a good opening.

The Dominion customs authorities have by wire made Cascade City a sub-port of entry instead of a preventive station as in the past. H. S. Sinclair, of Rossland, has gone to Cascade City to assist Officer Rose in the customs office there.

The city licensing commissioners met last Friday when, ten licenses to sell liquor by retail in this city were granted. There were nine hotel licenses and one saloon license.

WHIPPING-POST IS USED.

How Convicts are Punished in Oregon Penitentiary—Hard-Luck Story of Life There.

A Geary, an 18-year-old boy, whose two-year term in the penitentiary was shortened six months by a pardon from Governor Lord, tells a hard luck story of life in the Oregon prison, which possesses more than picturesqueness of misery and gloom.

Geary says that during the 16 months he spent in the penitentiary 20 men were flogged at the post, one offender receiving 125 lashes. He says the food is bad, and that the clothing furnished the convicts is not sufficient for their actual needs. He concludes by the statement that when the convicts are discharged they receive only a suit of clothes, although they are entitled besides to $5 in cash and their railroad fare to the place where they were convicted.

Despite the blighting effects of two years at penal servitude Geary is a bright, intelligent boy. He was sent to the penitentiary June 7, 1896, from Union, where, when 15 years old, he was implicated in a burglary. He was 16 years and 7 days old when he began to serve his sentence. Geary came to Portland from Eugene, where he has been cutting wood since his discharge, October 17. To an Oregonian man last night he told the following story:

"During my stay in the penitentiary food was so bad that my blood became sluggish, and in a short time my face and body were covered with boils and pimples, which have not yet disappeared. The medicine prescribed for biliousness is also given for any disorder that may be contracted.

"The punishment is the most severe I ever heard of outside of that employed by barbarians. The whipping-post is used, and the punishment is 100 time worse that it is in Delaware, which is supposed to be the only state in the union where this mode of correction is used. If a convict should fight with another convict or run away or take his knife out and grind it, he is immediately taken before the warden, who orders him whipped. Then the unfortunate man is stripped from the waist up and made to stand on a stool. His hands are handcuffed to a ring around a post. Straps are put around his hips and knees, and then the stool is drawn from under him. When he slips to his toes the straps are tightened and the warden orders his deputy to proceed with the punishment.

"A large whip with four lashes is used and applied with great force. No matter how much the poor convict may beg, he is not taken down until from 10 to 150 stripes are administered. A man's back is all cut, and many times the whip reaches around to his breast. In the case of young Delmane his back was raw, and the poor fellow died shortly afterward in the insane asylum, where he was subsequently taken.

"The work is pretty hard and the food entirely insufficient. For breakfast beans, bread and something that resembles coffee in color only is served. At dinner a small pan of stew, bread and something that looks like soup composes the meal, and supper consists of more black water and bread.

"The building is very poorly heated with steam, and in winter the convicts are often very cold, as they receive no underwear or socks and very poor outer clothing.

"The statutes of the state of Oregon provide that a convict when he is released shall receive $5, transportation to the point from which he was sent, and a new suit of clothes, but I got nothing but the last, and had no alternative but begging or stealing. I chose the former until I found work."

It is safe to say that Geary's story will not increase desire to commit crime on the part of any Oregon youth. The complaint as to the clothing given discharged convicts has been explained several times by Superintendent Gilbert. — Portland Oregonian.

Committed for Trial.—Lee Gee, the Chinaman arrested on the charge of attempting to grab a watch and chain from a boy named Keeler, was yesterday committed for trial by Magistrate Hall. Keeler and his brother in their evidence said that they were walking along Hillside avenue, when he grabbed the chain, breaking it. In the scuffle that followed the Chinaman dropped the chain. After the arrest, Detective Palmer, several boys and the Chinaman searched the vicinity for the chain, but could not find it. Later young Keeler, according to his story, went down with a lantern and located the chain partly buried in the mud. He did not pick it up, but went and got Guard Thomas, of the provincial gaol, to do so. The sidewalk where the alleged attempt at highway robbery took place is narrow, and the boys said in their evidence that one had to drop behind the other to allow the Chinaman to pass.

A Farewell Opportunity.—Victorians are to be favored with yet two more opportunities to hear the delightful tenor, Mr. Sydney H. Morse, prior to the inauguration of his American tour. He is to give a recital at Institute hall next Tuesday evening, and to sing at the same place on the following Thursday.

DOMINION DESPATCHES

First Steamer of Canadian Short Line Ashore Near Charlottetown.

Promise of Poll Constableship May Void Election—Two Girls Drowned.

Special to the Colonist.

KILLED ON THE TRACK.

Fort William, Dec. 22.—Hugh Clark, a pumpman, while carrying a tank spout across the track at English river in the face of an approaching train, was struck and killed this morning. The body was brought to Fort William.

STRANGLED ON THE STAIRS.

Campbellford, Ont., Dec. 22.—Mrs. Doxsee, widow of the late C. H. Doxsee, strangled herself with a small cord in a fit of temporary insanity. She fastened one end of the cord round the railing of the stairs on the landing, tied the other end round her neck, and strangled herself by descending two or three steps and seating herself. She was found dead in a sitting posture.

TWO GIRLS DROWNED.

Halifax, Dec. 22.—News comes from Grand River, C.B., of the drowning of two daughters of Archibald Cameron, Maggie and Bell. The girls were coasting off a hill sloping into Grand River. Their sleigh ran on to the ice, which was too thin to support them and they broke through.

NEW RAILWAY SCHEME.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—The latest railway project mooted is a line connecting Pembroke with Bancroft on the Irondale, Bancroft & Ottawa line, which will bring Toronto into direct communication with Pembroke, and it is hoped will bring the trade of the Ottawa valley, north of Pembroke, here, besides aiding in developing the district. The new line would be seventy miles in length, and would cross the Ottawa, Arnprior & Parry Sound railway at Golden lake. Toronto will be asked to bonus the project.

NEW STEAMER ASHORE.

Halifax, Dec. 22.—The steamer Gaspesia, of the New Canadian line, is ashore at Rice Point, off St. Peter's island, about ten miles from Charlottetown, where it was going to call on its way out. The Gaspesia may get off at high tide, but it is not unlikely that cargo may be sacrificed.

LIST OF PRESENTS.

Received by Mr. and Mrs. Angus Galbraith on the Occasion of Their Marriage.

Among the many handsome presents received by Mr. and Mrs. Angus Galbraith, who were married at Calvary Baptist church on Wednesday were the following:

Miss Jane Strachan, Osborne Place, Aberdeen, Scotland, Cairngorum brooch.
Mr. James Stewart, grandfather of the bride, a gold watch and chain.
Bride's mother, house linen and silver butter dish and knife.
Mrs. Morrison, of Osborne Place, Aberdeen, Scotland, cheque.
Teachers of North Ward School, Parlor lamp and basket chair.
Pupils of 8th Division, set brass fire irons.
Pupils of 3rd Division, oak hall chair.
Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Watson, toilet set.
Mr. and Mrs. Angus Galbraith, silver fruit basket.
Miss Galbraith, silver pickle jar.
Mr. and Mrs. Arch. Galbraith, Roman cushion.
Miss Mary Galbraith, Paisley, oil painting.
Mr. Jas. Galbraith, Paisley, carving set.
Miss Liz. Strachan, brass crumb pan and brush.
Miss Olive Strachan, Japanese drape.
Miss Douglas, Edinburgh, Scotland, tortoise shell paper knife.
Mrs. J. Lang, silver sugar spoon.
Miss Eleanor McCandless, flower vase.
Miss Lenore Black, cup and saucer.
Mrs. and Miss Underhill, books.
Mr. and Mrs. Greig, silver butter dish.
Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson, Scotland, cut glass ornaments.
Master Geo. Walker, drawn work handkerchief.
Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hale, silk mantel drape.
Mr. and Mrs. Geo. R. Jackson, fancy ornament.
Mrs. Roland and Miss Squires, salad set.
Messrs. McNeill, fancy slippers.
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Clyde, set flat irons.
Mr. and Mrs. Sommerville, set enamelled sauce pans, bread plate, knife, and tea strainer.
Miss Gertrude Trotter, colored etching.
Miss Nesbitt, silver mounted salt and pepper cellars.
Mrs. McDonald, table napkins.
Mrs. Kate Galbraith, silk cushion.
Mr. Wm. Galbraith, Japanese tea set and tray.
Mrs. J. Freeman, silver butter knife.
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, hand painted plaque.
Mr., Mrs. and Miss Netherby, water set and tray.
Mr. James Maynard, fancy afternoon slippers.
Mr. and Miss Clark, silver berry spoon.
Mr. A. L. Curtis, silver bread plate.
Mrs. Mould and family, Japanese plate.
Mrs. Andrews, berry plate.
Misses Andrews, berry spoon.
Misses Laing, handsome salt cellar and butter knife.
Mr. Wm. Brydson, handsome napkin rings.
E. Hall, handsomely bound volume.
Mrs. Greenwood and Mrs. John, table linen.
Mrs. Pon (Gelsonburg, Ont.), silver butter knife.
Mrs. Sara Smith, carpet sweeper, dust pan and brush.
Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, flower stand.
The Misses Bishop, silk drape.
Mr. and Mrs. Huggett, silver mounted biscuit jar.
Mr., Mrs. and Miss Stewart, silver and gold egg cruet with spoons.
Capt. and Mrs. Barry, cut glass water set, tray and fancy ornament.
Mrs. and Miss O'Keefe, Japanese tea set.
Mr. and Miss King, pair flower stands.
Miss Cravatte, pair cups and saucers.
Miss A. D. Cameron, two paintings.
Mr. and Miss Dewar, silver tea spoons.
Mr. and Mrs. D. Dewar, silver pickle jar.
Mrs. Martha Fletcher, linen and handsome tidy.
Mrs. Saunders, silver pickle jar.
Mr. H. and Miss Arthur, silver breakfast cruet.
Mr. and Mrs. James Donaldson, silver cake basket.
Mrs. Fluker, cake plates.
Miss A. Clyde, hand painted handkerchief case.
Mr. and Mrs. D. Stephen, five o'clock tea kettle with lamp and stand.
Misses Stephen, porcelain ornament.
Mr. and Miss McDiarmid, silver butter dish.
Mr. Curry, silver shoe horn and button hook.
Miss Warner, silver salad fork.
Capt. and Mrs. Grant, set of fruit dishes.
Miss Smith, vases.
Messrs. McNeill (Vancouver), handsome photograph album.
Mr. and Mrs. Rose, silver butter knife and sugar spoon.
Mrs. and Miss McNeil, water set.
Mr. James Maynard, slippers.
Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Cleveland, oak chair.
Mr., Mrs. and Miss Beaty, handsome fruit dish.

The bride and groom were presented with a very handsome cherry wood secretary, with brass trimmings, by five young men of the Calvary Baptist church—James Strachan (brother of the bride), Hector Galbraith, William Russell, Walter Wrigglesworth, Charlie McNeil.