Survey Held On Steamer Moana

Repairs Necessary Will Cost In the Neighborhood of Ten Thousand Dollars.

Amur Sailed Last Night for Skagway--- Tug Escort Ashore at Crofton.

(From Sunday's Daily.)

The repairs to the R. M. S. Moana, which are to be hurried to completion at the Esquimalt dry dock, will probably cost in the neighborhood of $10,000. Specifications for the work necessary were drawn up yesterday after a survey had been held by a board consisting of James Fowler, Lloyd's surveyor at Vancouver; Capt. J. G. Cox, Lloyd's surveyor at this port; J. MacGowan, chief engineer of the C. P. R., and Jas. Thomson, inspector of steamboats. The injuries to the Moana consist of several plates on the port side being dented, necessitating four or five being taken out to be straightened, and a number of rivets have been started. A portion of the keelson is twisted. The rudder post is broken, and a piece a couple of feet in length has been lost. The rudder is jammed off of position and all the joints of her screw's blades are broken. Her steering gear quadrant was broken in two places, and a wooden model has been made and sent to the Union Iron Works at San Francisco, where the steel casting will probably be made. The other necessary work will in all probability be done in Victoria, although no contract has yet been awarded. The vessel will be in the dry dock for about two weeks at least.

ESCORT ASHORE.

Another Mishap to the Vancouver Tug Which Was in Trouble Last Week.

While entering Crofton yesterday with the barge Georgia in tow, the tug Escort No. 2, owned by Mackenzie Brothers, is reported to have been stranded. This vessel was in trouble the week before, when she was towing the hulk Kerr to Union from Vancouver. The hulk struck the rocks at the Ballinacs and was damaged. She was towed to Union in a leaking condition and was repaired. Although the accident to the Escort is not reported to be serious, it will add to the damage bill of this firm, which has been great within the last few weeks. The Mystery which struck at the Schagg rocks, at Esquimalt, was the first of the company's vessels to go ashore, having been beached just in time to prevent her foundering, and after being repaired she dropped her tail shaft and wheel soon after her arrival at Vancouver.

A MISTAKEN BEACON.

How an Iron Steamer in the Northern Service Had an Escape.

In connection with the stranding of the Flora, an accident to the officer on the bridge mistaking the beacon in Baynes Sound, local steamboatmen are recalling a narrow escape of a local iron steamer some weeks ago from a similar accident. The steamer in question was returning from the North and was passing Sidney spit. There are two buoys there, and the officer in charge at the time, mistook the beacon and took the steamer between the two beacons which marked the edges of the reef there. The captain was called just as the steamer was almost on top of the reef, and nothing could then be done. He stood on the bridge waiting for the crash, but the steamer did not strike. She was in ballast and slid over the reef with little more than two or three inches of wet beneath her hull. All felt happy when they had left that reef behind.

PENELOPE RETURNS.

Delayed Sealing Schooner Back From Kyuquot—Capt. Searle Returns.

The sealing schooner Penelope, Capt. Heater, which has been lying at Kyuquot since her arrival from Behring Sea, and which lost her foremast when leaving that port a month ago, returned to port yesterday morning from the Coast port. The catch of the vessel, 740 in number, were long since shipped to Victoria. A new foremast was taken to the schooner on the steamer Queen City, and after this was stepped at Kyuquot, the schooner sailed for home. Capt Searle and two men who went up to see if anything could be done to save the sunken schooner C. D. Rand, came down on the Penelope. They believe the Rand could be saved if the necessary appliances were taken to Kyuquot, but they were unable to do anything. The vessel still lies fifteen fathoms below the surface in Kyuquot Sound.

MARINE NOTES.

Steamer Senator reached port yesterday morning from San Francisco with a light complement of passengers and an average local freight. Steamer Queen sailed last night for San Francisco.

Steamer Amur of the C. P. R., sailed last night for Skagway. She will call at Port Simpson on her present voyage.

The birth rate among the foreign born in Massachusetts is 52 per 1000; among the native born it is 17.

SMOTHERED IN SAND PIT.

Hamilton, Dec. 4.—Robert Cornell was buried under tons of earth and smothered to death at a gravel pit on the farm of Michael Scanlan, near Lancaster Thursday. The fourteen-year-old son of Robert, working alongside his father, was also covered with sand, but was rescued before life was extinct. He was badly crushed and will not likely recover. Two other men were also injured.

"Priestley's" Cravenette Rain Coats,
For Boys and Men, at $5.50, $7.50, $10.00, $12.00 and $14.00.
B. Williams & Co.,

Campbell's "Semi-Ready" Suits
at $12.00, $15.00, and $18.00. Special Suits to measure. Fit guaranteed.
68-70 Yates St., Victoria, B. C.

Legislative Assembly

Million Dollar Loan Bill Passes Committee of the House.

Railway Property and Several Other Important Measures Advanced a Stage.

Night Sessions are to Begin on Monday Evening Next.

(From Saturday's daily.)

(Seventh Day.)

Mr. Speaker took the chair promptly at 2 o'clock.

Prayers were read by the Ven. Archdeacon Scriven, M. A.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Garden presented a petition from G. W. Hobson and others, for a private bill to incorporate the "Vancouver Insurance Company."

Laid on the table.

The petition from Abram C. Rhinehart and others, for a private bill to incorporate the Alberni and Cowichan Railway Company, was received.

The petition from W. F. Gurd and others, citizens of Cranbrook, asking for appropriations for a court house, government offices and streets and bridges, was ruled out of order.

MOTIONS.

Hon. Mr. Wilson introduced a bill to amend the Trail Incorporation Act, 1901.

Bill read a first time, and second reading next sitting of the House.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Oliver asked the hon. the chief commissioner of lands and works the following questions:

1. What amount of money was expended for public works in Dewdney district during September and October of the present year?

2. How many pieces of work were commenced in September, 1903, in Dewdney district?

3. How many men were employed on the above works?

4. Who hired the men employed on the above works, and what was the rate per day of wages paid?

5. What position did Mr. W. J. Manson, of Mission City, hold in the government employ?

The Hon. Mr. Green replied as follows:

"1. September, $3,210; October, $4,670. Total, $7,880.

"2. 10.

"3. 113.

"4. Road superintendent and road foremen, Foremen, $3 to $4 per day; axemen, $2.25 to $2.50 per day; laborers, $2 to $2.25 per day.

"5. No position."

Mr. Houston asked the Hon. the Premier the following questions:

1. Did the Lieut.-Governor in any way interfere, between June 3rd, 1903, and October 3rd, 1903, in the management and sale of the public lands belonging to the province?

2. If so, in what way?

3. Has the Lieut.-Governor in any way interfered, since October 3rd, 1903, in the management and sale of the public lands belonging to the province?

4. If so, in what way?

The Premier replied: (1) No. (2) Answered by No. 1. (3) No. (4) Answered by No. 3.

Mr. Garden asked the hon. the chief commissioner of lands and works the following question:

How near completion is the provincial reformatory, and at what date is it expected that this urgent work will be ready for its intended use?

The Hon. Mr. Green replied as follows:

"The main building, comprising residence, dormitories, etc., is completed, with the exception of heating apparatus, baths, wash tubs, driers, etc., floor in basement and cementing plinth, etc. The remainder of the further works required to complete the Industrial School fit for occupation are, farm buildings, drainage, water supply and fencing. If the necessary appropriation is provided the whole can be completed by the 30th June, 1904."

THE LOAN BILL.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the hon. finance minister's bill to borrow one million dollars for various purposes set forth as follows:

1. This act may be cited as the "Treasury Debenture Loan Act, 1903."

2. The Lieut.-Governor in council may borrow or raise, at such time as may be deemed expedient, a sum of money not exceeding one million dollars by the sale of debentures.

3. All moneys borrowed or raised pursuant to this act shall bear interest at the rate not exceeding five per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly on the first day of March and the first day of September in each year, at the provincial treasury.

4. There shall be provided annually out of the general revenue of the province, a fixed sum equal to ten per cent. of the whole amount borrowed; said sum to be applied annually toward the repayment at the provincial treasury of an equal sum of the principal on the first day of March in each year, by redemption of debentures following in consecutive numbers, commencing at number one, so that at the expiration of ten years from the date of issue the whole amount of the debentures shall have been repaid.

5. It shall be lawful for the minister of finance, or such other person as the Lieut.-Governor in council may appoint, to be the agent of the government for the purpose of negotiating such loan, and the minister, or any other duly appointed agent, may arrange all details, and do, transact and execute all such deeds, matter or things as may be requisite during the negotiations, or for the purpose of placing the loan.

6. All moneys raised under this act shall, after payment of any expenses incident to the negotiation thereof, be applied as follows:

(a) To the repayment of money advances obtained by way of overdraft from any bank within the province, exclusive of any overdraft specially arranged for on "Dyking Account."

(b) For the completion of the New Westminster bridge and for such other requirements of the government as may be authorized.

7. The debentures may be in the form of schedule "A" to this act.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow moved that the words "commencing with the 1st of March, 1905" be inserted in clause 4 after the words "in each year." Carried.

Mr. Drury desired explanations on clause 4, arguing that the debentures would have a varying value year after year, and that the province might make a better bargain than suggested in this bill. He would like the finance minister to take the opposition fully into his confidence in this matter.

The chairman ruled Mr. Drury out of order, as there was no amendment before the House.

Mr. Drury contended that he was only seeking information. On this point a lively argument took place, several members of the opposition taking part.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow said the government had in no manner tied its hands in disposing of those debentures, and would be willing to consider any amendment submitted.

Mr. Cotton pointed out that while it might seem to be a disadvantage to meet the whole loan in ten years, it was an advantage to be able to retire those debentures at shorter dates.

Mr. Oliver argued that the province could still issue debentures at 5 per cent. for three years, notwithstanding what had been pointed out by the government.

Mr. Drury moved in amendment alternatives to clause 5 to make the finance minister solely responsible for negotiating the loan, so that the government should not be under the necessity of employing an agent in the matter.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow was sorry he could not accept the amendment. He believed he could negotiate the loan, but he wished to leave himself quite free in the matter. He asked the House to give the government a free hand in this important matter. The fact was this loan had been placed before large insurance companies, etc., outside the province, and though he had no expectation of better terms than those already under offer, this was just possible, and if by the employment of an agent and the payment of a commission, a loan at a lower rate could be secured, this would be worth the cost.

Mr. Cotton pointed out that if the finance minister were taken ill or died during the negotiations, it would be absolutely necessary to have an agent.

Mr. Drury, later, declared that there was no provision in the bill for the redemption of the debentures, and that unless this were adjusted now the province might have to pay a premium to redeem the bonds. Moreover, as they would be a first charge on revenue, they might, unless bought in, bar other possibly necessary provincial loans.

Mr. Cotton said Mr. Drury could not be aware of the conditions which had obtained in this province for years, all those loans were based on the consolidated fund of the province. The total amount of the indebtedness of the province was the gauge of the moneylender. He referred Mr. Drury to section 4 of the Inscribed Stock Act, which answered perfectly the objections of Mr. Drury.

Mr. Drury repeated that the present loan was to be a special charge, that is a first charge on the revenues of the province.

Mr. Cotton quoted from the Inscribed Stock Act for Mr. Drury's information, showing that the latter gentleman was mistaken in his apprehension of the matter.

The committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments. The report will be considered at next sitting of the House.

The House then went in committee on the bill to assess the property of railways, Mr. Clifford in the chair.

Mr. Oliver could not see why the property of railway companies within municipalities should not be assessed by them in all cases, and instanced Vancouver as one example, and did not think it fair on the part of the government, seeing that the government had saddled municipalities with various heavy payments, such as for education, etc. He moved to strike out section 2 of the bill.

The attorney-general said it was not intended to accept the amendment, and then explained at considerable length the true position of the question, showing that there was no good reason why the government should make a present of this portion of the revenues. New municipalities had accepted the responsibilities they now carried, and should not expect to take from the province at a time when its finances were in a straitened condition such a portion of the revenues.

The amendment was lost, 21 to 15.

Mr. Macdonald (Rossland) criticized section 5, regarding the taxing powers of municipalities, new and old, and said the section had a double-barrelled application, which he challenged the government to explain.

Hon. Mr. Wilson and Hon. Mr. Fulton replied, and the section was duly carried.

Mr. Paterson spoke on the taxing of lumber railways, pointing out that the owners of lumber railways labored under heavy disadvantages, and that they should be exempt from the proposed taxation.

The attorney-general agreed with this view, and said that he could conceive that in such cases there might be some hardship, and that there might be an exemption in this case. He felt sure the hon. finance minister would consider such a suggestion.

Mr. Paterson said the rate proposed to be levied by this bill was absurdly high. Previous to the present time no one could have any objection to the rate. The proposed rate would work a serious injustice.

Mr. Oliver asserted that the new tax would increase the burden on railways five-fold.

Mr. Parker Williams (Newcastle) said the Chemainus logging railway was assessed at $3,000 a mile as personal property, not as railway property.

The attorney-general said it was never the intention to tax logging railways.

The finance minister moved to insert as clause 11 to the effect that railways used exclusively for the carriage of logs, ore or coal should be exempt from this tax.

On motion of the finance minister, section 2 was amended to read, "shall assess any railway company." It formerly read "shall assess any railway."

The committee rose and reported the bill complete, with amendments. To be considered at the next sitting of the House.

Mr. McInnes continued the adjourned debate on the second reading of the bill to amend the Coal Mines Act, and poked some fun at the Socialists, and said he detected in this bill an attempt to smuggle objectionable legislation through the House. He then discussed the coal and oil lands of Kootenay, and alleged that the government was not dealing fairly in the matter. He objected to the power of signing these leases being taken from the Lieut.-Governor in council and given to the chief commissioner of lands and works, was that the head of the department might just as well sign them as make it an executive act. It would save the Lieut.-Governor a good deal of trouble; but the government did not care anything about this matter. No such occult idea was in mind as the hon. member from Alberni had suggested.

Mr. Oliver asked the chief commissioner, if the act was passed, would it apply to applications for coal lands now pending. Would those applicants have to restake or would they be allowed to go on with the original application. Also, was it the government's intention to issue licenses to all who applied, or to see that only bona fide prospectors applied.

The chief commissioner answered that the bill was brought in to augment the revenue, and had nothing to do with the Kootenay coal lands specifically.

Mr. Oliver thought that it would be a better check on such matters if the Lieut.-Governor were still allowed to deal finally with the matter, as at present. Mr. Oliver continued at some length upon what he called the gross inconsistency of charging $100 for license and 15 cents an acre for lease of coal lands when found.

Mr. Macdonald (Rossland) discussed the effects of the bill. He pointed out the probability of men with money coming into the province, and under the law, staking out enormous numbers of claims for people dwelling outside the limits of the province. He cited the case of Snokane city, where hundreds of people lived who had grown rich exploiting British Columbia lands. He objected strongly to foreigners getting the opportunity of exploiting the resources of British Columbia.

The bill will be committed at the next sitting of the House.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow, in introducing the bill to tax property, briefly outlined the financial situation of the province, as had been done at greater length the previous day. It was necessary that a greater amount of revenue should be raised, about $400,000 being the sum required, and this bill had been brought in to assist in this important matter. It was considered advisable to bring in an entirely new act, and not attempt to amend and consolidate the existing act. The principles of the bill were founded mainly upon the Farmers' Assessment Act, and the example of Ontario had been followed to a certain degree. He then proceeded to outline the details. Wild land was to be taxed at 5 per cent. instead of 3 per cent., as formerly. Regarding the income tax, considerable increases had been determined on, but justly and equitably. He did not propose that the act should go through in its entirety as it stood now; as he intended to include some amendments to deal with special cases. One of the principal amendments will be regarding personal property, touching the book debts of the merchant. He dealt with several other minor changes that would be introduced. It was proposed to tax corporations upon their gross income. Banks were taxed in the same manner as a private individual. In this bill it would be seen that the government did not consider it necessary to offer special inducements in the shape of reductions in the amount of taxes if paid before a certain date, in order to induce people to pay their taxes. He intended to eliminate clause 105, which called for the assessment of a person residing in his own house at the rate of 5 per cent. of the assessed value as income. He had found on looking over the bill that this clause would be found objectionable, and had so decided to withdraw it. He called attention to the retroactive clauses to enable the new assessment to take effect with the coming year, and the clauses dealing with the tax on mining, upon which he hoped to receive the views and suggestions of the members from Kootenay. He assured the opposition that it never was the intention of the Conservative party to prove unfaithful to its promises to devise some more satisfactory method of taxation of mining properties.

The bill will be committed at the next sitting of the House.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow moved the second reading of the bill to amend the "Coal Tax Act, 1900," and explained the details of the bill.

The bill will be committed at the next sitting of the House.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Revenue Tax Act, 1901. The aim of the bill was to increase the poll tax from $3 to $5.

The bill was read a second time, and the House went into committee of the whole, Mr. R. Hall in the chair. The bill was reported, and will be considered at the next sitting of the House.

Mr. Garden introduced a petition regarding the corporation of Vancouver.

The Premier said that two more names were to be added to the municipal committee. He proposed the names of Mr. Fraser (Grand Forks), and Mr. Macdonald proposed Mr. McInnes (Alberni).

Mr. Gifford presented a petition regarding timber limits.

The Premier said it was the intention of the government to commence night sessions on Monday evening next.

The House adjourned at 5.35 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Monday.

QUESTIONS.

To be asked Monday next.

By Mr. McInnes of the Premier:

1. Has the government received any communications from the federal authorities relating to the acts passed by this legislature last session? If so, what is their purport?

2. Has the government any reason to believe that chapter 8 of the British Columbia statutes, 1903, being an act affecting the cancellation of certain Columbia and Western railway land grants, will be disallowed by the federal authorities? If so, what is it?

By Mr. McInnes of the chief commissioner:

1. Were any lands granted by the Crown during the period commencing on the 7th day of April, A.D., 1887, and ending on the 28th day of April, A.D., 1887?

2. If so, what lands, and to whom?

By Mr. Oliver of the Premier:

1. How many temporary assistants (and the names of each) were engaged by the government since June, 1903.

2. How many permanent civil servants were engaged by the government since June 1st, 1903, and the names of such civil servants?

By Mr. Oliver of the minister of finance:

For what particular journeys did the Hon. R. McBride, the Hon. C. Wilson, the Hon. R. F. Green and the Hon. A. E. McPhillips receive traveling expenses, and what amount did each of those gentlemen receive on each particular journey since June 1st, 1903?

By Mr Evans of the provincial secretary:

Is it the intention of the government to provide in the estimates this session for a school house at Crofton?

By Mr. Evans:

That an order of the House be granted for a return showing what lands in Cowichan district were assessed as wild land for the years 1902 and 1903, by whom such taxes were paid and the amounts so paid.

Mr. McInnes to move, in committee of the whole on bill (No. 3) intituled "An Act to Assess, Levy and Collect Taxes on Property and Income," that the following be added as a sub-section to section 4:

"All permanent improvements up to the value of twenty-five hundred dollars ($2,500) made on land used for agricultural purposes."

Mr. J. A. Macdonald to move, upon consideration of the report on bill (No. 5) intituled "An Act to Assess, Levy and Collect Taxes on the Property of Railway Companies," the following amendment:

To strike out the words of section 5, after the word "track," in the seventh line, and insert the following, "including sidings of railway company situate within the province and within the limits of any municipalty incorporated since the 21st February, 1895."

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Oliver to move on the report of bill No. 5 (railway tax) to add as subsection (a) to section 5, the following words: "The provisions of this section shall not apply to the property of railway companies situate within the limits of an incorporated municipality, shall have the right to assess the property of the railway company situate within the municipality at the rate of $10,000 per mile of track, including sidings."

Mr. W. G. Cameron on Monday next to ask leave to introduce a bill intituled an act to amend the "Municipal Clauses Act."

Mr. J. H. King on Monday next, that an order of the House be granted for return of copies of instructions given to Bullock Webster re investigation of "East Kootenay Hotel license." Also copies of all correspondence in respect to this matter; also copies of Mr. Webster's reports.

A PLEA FOR THE BIRDS.

Sir,—All lovers of the feathered songsters of the grove, will be glad to see the government propose to further protect the insectivorous and other birds by the bill to be introduced by the Hon. Mr. Tatlow. The Natural History Society, at a large expense, and after much trouble, has imported a number of British song birds of different kinds, a part remaining here and a part going to Vancouver. At a recent meeting that society appointed a committee to wait on the government and the S. P. C. A. has also appointed a committee with the same object to ask for amendment to the present law so as to cover the new birds by name, as well as further protect those already mentioned in the Act. There is good reason for this, particularly as the new birds are unfamiliar to many British Columbians, or, on the other hand, advantage might be taken of their names not being included to destroy them. For instance, the "robin," a species of insects a bird entirely different to the English robin, some of which are now here. Of course there will be difference of opinion as to the necessity of further or any protection. The farmer and fruit-grower will complain that the insect and fruit will suffer, but will fail to give credit for the work the birds do in clearing field and orchard of grub and insect, thus rendering the yield possible; a service out of all proportion to any toll they may take.

I do not claim that much maligned bird, the crow was a song bird, but he is of great use as a scavenger. He is the subject of rhyme by one of the minor poets:

Oho, said the bluejay to the crow,
If you're not a thief then I don't know,
For ever since old Adam was born,
You've had the name of stealing corn.

Bt we are assured by an eminent authority that the crow "is not as black as he is painted."

Longfellow's lines on the crow apply to all the other birds and can be read with benefit by those who might form a hasty opinion on the subject:

You call them thieves and pillagers but know,
They are the winged wardens of your farms,
Who from the cornfield drive the insidious foe,
And from your harvest keep a hundred harms.
Even the blackest of them all, the crow,
Renders good service as your man-at-arms,
Crushing the beetle in his coat of mail
And crying havoc on the slug and snail.

The birds were doomed; and as the record shows,
A bounty offered for the heads of crows.

Devoured by worms, like Herod, was the town
Because, like Herod, it had ruthlessly
Slaughtered the innocents. From the trees spun down
The canker worms upon the passers-by,
Upon each woman's bonnet, shawl and gown,
Who shook them off with just a little cry.
They were the terror of each favorite walk,
The endless theme of all the village talk.

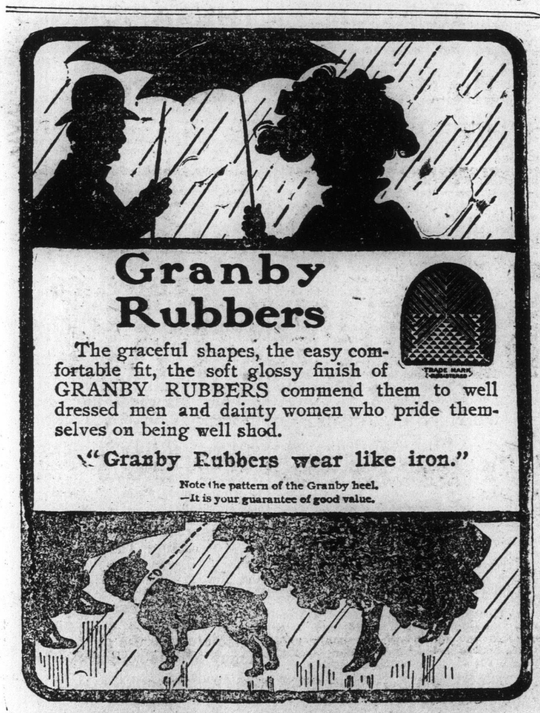
The farmers grew impatient, but a few
Confessed their error and would not complain,
For after all, the best thing one can do
When it is raining is to let it rain.
Then they repealed the law although they knew
It would not call the dead to life again;
As school-boys, finding their mistake too late
Draw a wet sponge 'cross the accusing slate.

Let us hope the senseless cry of "Kill, kill" will never prevail in connection with our birds.

LOUIS J. SEYMOUR.

Douglas Street Extension.—The corporation has commenced filling in at the Belleville street end for the extension of Douglas street, but before the work can be carried on from the northern end a settlement must be reached with Mr. Bertucci, the owner of the two lots and houses between Weiler Bros.' and Pendray's factories, through which the new thoroughfare will have to pass. The property stands assessed for $5,000, but the owner has demanded $27,666.70. The corporation will not take the offer, but will make one on their part. If it is not accepted by Mr. Bertucci the matter will be adjusted by arbitration.

Rev. Dr. C. H. Beale of Boston, has accepted a call extended to him to assume the pastorate of the Grand Avenue Congregational church, Milwaukee, made vacant some months ago by the death of Rev. George H. Ide.



Guarantee Is In Sight

Reported That the Grand Trunk Five Millions Have Been Deposited.

Many Typesetting Machines Put to Work on Dominion Lists.

Solicitor General Carroll May Make Way For Mr. Lemieu.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Dec. 4.—The announcement was made from Montreal today that the Grand Trunk Pacific promoters have deposited the necessary five million dollars as a guarantee of good faith. In official circles, however, this is denied. It is stated that before any deposit is made certain modifications in the contract will have to be made. Such modifications can only be effected by parliament.

The Rev. Mr. MacDonald, editor of the Toronto Globe, is here today getting government pointers about the election campaign.

Twenty additional linotype machines were started today at work on the voters' lists.

All the sufferers by the Ottawa University fire are now doing well.

Mr. Madore, M. P., has got a judgeship.

Several judicial appointments are expected to be made at tomorrow's cabinet meeting. It is likely that Solicitor General Carroll will retire and Mr. Lemieu, M. P. for Gaspe, will be appointed in his place.

Zachariah Wilson, 88 years of age, at one time collector of customs in this city, and a pioneer of Ottawa, being in business in Bytown, died suddenly today of paralysis.

An order-in-council has been passed confirming the provisional regulation concerning the German surtax, and adding a new clause thereto, defining the provisions of the surtax regarding goods partly manufactured in Germany and sent to other countries to be finished.

BATTLE SHIPS GUN POWER

The question has been discussed at brief intervals for many years as to whether bow fire or broadside fire would be most effective under modern conditions of warfare. The battleship action fought recently between the fleets of Admiral Wilson and Admiral Noel seem to have shown that it is important to have as great an end-on fire as is possible, without forfeiting to any considerable extent the amount of metal which may be delivered broadside-on; and simultaneously it is interesting to note that in the Dominion, which was launched recently at the Naval Construction Works, at Barrow-in-Furness, of Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim, Limited, this idea of a heavy bow fire has been carried further than in any preceding class of British battleship, while in the new class, of which six are to be laid down within the next eight months, this idea will be carried another step in advance. Admiral Noel, it may be recalled, attacked Admiral Wilson's fleet almost at right angles, so as to deliver a full broadside, while himself only receiving the attack of bow fire; but as the targets his ships presented were immensely greater than those offered by the bow-on ships, the disadvantage in the volume of fire of the latter which in this case was considerable was largely nullified. In the Dominion there are for end-on fire, at both bow and stern, two 12-in., two 9.2-in., and two 6-in. guns, while in previous ships there were only two 12-in. and four 6-in. guns; and in the vessels to be built in the immediate future, we are promised two 12-in., four 9.2-in., and two 6-in. guns, which will make an end-on fire equalling a higher proportion of the broadside fire than in any existing ship. The Dominion, which was launched by Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, in compliment to Canada, where her husband was for five years Governor-General, is in an advanced state, her launching weight being 9,030 tons.—Engineering.

THE PARSONS STEAM TURBINE.

In an interesting description of the Parsons works and manufactures, Traction and Transmission states that one of the most important, and certainly the most original, departure in steam engineering practice since the compound engine was introduced, has resulted from the work done by the Hon. Charles A. Parsons in developing the steam turbine known by his name. Like most great inventions it has been the outcome of considerable study and research, and, it is hardly necessary to say, has not been brought to a successful commercial use without much hard work and enterprise upon the part not only of its inventor but of those who have been associated with him in its development.

Although almost from the first the steam turbine possessed qualities which gave it an advantage in some conditions over the ordinary reciprocating engine, advances have been made almost continuously, there having been a diminution of steam consumption, especially in the case of large condensing turbines.

The Parsons steam turbine is, of course, purely rotary in its action; indeed, its inventor has, in a practical way solved a problem that has baffled many engineering inventors since the day the steam engine became a factor in industrial progress. The advantages of the rotary engine, as compared to the reciprocating piston type, are obvious. There are no moving parts to be brought to rest, nor the direction of their motion to be changed twice in every revolution of the shaft. There are no side-guiding surfaces by which the single line movement of the cross-head is made to give motion to the connecting rod at constantly varying angles. With the turbine, whether actuated by steam or water, the turning movement is equal and constant, so that the more or less irregular curve of thecrank effort diagram of the ordinary engine would be replaced by a straight line. The absence of reciprocating parts in the mechanism enables a very high speed of turning to be reached without vibration; in fact, it is often not easy to tell whether the turbine is at work or at rest, so steady is its movement.

In France trees are felled for lumber by means of a platinum wire heated by electricity and used as a saw.

Hetty Green is probably the wealthiest woman in the United States. Her wealth is estimated at about $30,000,000.

"For Auld Lang Syne"

Pioneers and Their Friends Gather Round Festive Board at Victoria Hotel.

A Charming Re-union of Old-Timers---An Evening of Fun and Pleasure.

(From Sunday's Daily.)

By far the most successful banquet held in recent years under the auspices of the British Columbia Pioneer Society was that yesterday evening at the Victoria hotel. Upwards of seventy-five guests greeted President R. Hall, M. P. P., when seats were taken, and an evening of thorough enjoyment resulted. Visitors were present from Cariboo, from the Fraser and surrounding adjacent districts.

The menu was an excellent one, nothing but praise being heard for Host Leason's culinary efforts. The speeches were interesting and witty and the evening was altogether made an occasion of joy and merriment. The major portion of the speeches were necessarily given over to reminiscences of the days of yore and many a laugh was caused when old memories were revived of incidents which many of those present recalled with a personal interest. It was not until the wee sma' 'oors that the happy gathering dispersed, all present voting the banquet one of the most successful on record. The menu was as follows:

Olympia Oysters.
Celery. Olives.
SOUP.
Royal Consomme.
FISH.
Boiled Fraser River Salmon, Anchovy Sauce
Layonnaise Potatoes.
ENTREES.
Tenderloin of Beef and Mushrooms.
French Peas.
Bacon and Beans (the Pioneer Dish)
SALADS.
Crab Salad, Mayonnaise. Potato Salad.
ROASTS.
Island Chicken, Sage Dressing, Cranberry Sauce.
Prime Ribs of Beef, Au Jus. Veal.
VEGETABLES.
Mashed Potatoes. Stewed Turnips in Cream
DESSERT.
English Plum Pudding, Hard and Brandy Sauce.
Vanila Ice Cream. Chocolate Layers.
Fruit. Coffee.
Strawberry Jelly. Lemon Jelly.
WINE LIST.
Saturnes. Claret. Beer. Cigars.

The newly-elected president, R. Hall, M. P. P., presided. On his left sat United States Consul Hon. Abraham B. Smith, Charles Hayward and J. W. Carey; on his right Mayor McCandless, C. E. Redfern, Aldermen Goodacre, Barnard and Grahame. A complete list of those present is as follows: Ald. Goodacre, Ald. Barnard, Ald. Grahame, W. S. Young, H. R. Young, Capt. J. Christensen, W. D. Carter, James W. Bland, Harry Jones, M. P. P., James Murphy, M. P. P., Dr. Geo. J. Potts, Jos. W. Carey, Chas. Hayward, Hon. Senator Macdonald, R. Hall, M. P. P., His Worship Mayor McCandless, C. E. Redfern, Edward Pearson, J. P., Robt. Dunn, Jr., J. F. Renfree, E. Bray, Charles W. D. Clifford, M. P. P., H. D. Helmcken, K. C., E. E. Wootton, B. S. Heisterman, Thomas Watson, W. H. Demster, W. A. Robertson, James Orr, R. F. John, Andrew Tolmie, James Bell, Allan Graham, W. Thompson, John James Downey, Wm. Harrison, F. C. Gamble, W. H. Ladner, T. S. Burns.

Letters of regret at inability to be present were read from Bishop Cridge, who was detained by a regrettable illness; Hon. Edgar Dewdney, Lieut.-Col. Holmes, D. O. C., Thomas Earle, M. P., Hon. Senator Templeman, Hon. Richard McBride.

The toasts of the King, Queen, Prince of Wales and royal family having been duly honored, the president proposed the health of the President of the United States. United States Consul Abraham E. Smith responded in a very neat and interesting speech. He recalled that His Worship Mayor McCandless had only a few weeks ago had the opportunity of meeting face to face the ruler of the great republic, and no doubt had recognized him to be a very able man (Applause.) That he was one of the ablest rulers of the world was a fact which few would dispute. The speaker touched upon the large questions which had come up in international politics and spoke of the expansion of the United States, which he characterized as a growth which went for the betterment of the world, as it meant a spread of Anglo-Saxon civilization. Alluding to the Alaskan boundary settlement he believed he voiced the sentiments of all when he said it was a matter for congratulation that such a question was removed from the domain of contentious questions and settled once and for all. He concluded by paying a tribute to the beauties and attractions of Victoria.

Mr. C. E. Redfern in response to loud calls then sang in excellent voice, "The Old Pack Mule." He was loudly applauded.

The toasts of the Governor-General and the Lieut.-Governor were proposed by Mr. Charles Hayward, who took occasion to refer in a complimentary fashion to the popularity of both officials. The toasts were drunk most heartily.

As a diversion E. E. Wootton then sang in fine voice the old favorite, "The Midshipmite."

J. W. Carey delivered a very interesting speech in proposing the "Dominion Senate, Commons and Provincial Legislative Assembly." He was glad that there were signs that British Columbia was now to have political peace. Now he was sure that the country under wise management would advance by leaps and bounds. The toast was most heartily drunk, and in reply entertaining chats were given by Hon. Senator Macdonald, C. W. D. Clifford, M. P. P., Richard Hall, M. P. P., Harry Jones, M. P. P., and George Murphy, M. P. P.

The toast of "the Mayor and Council," proposed by H. D. Helmcken, K. C., afforded an opportunity for interesting expressions from Mayor McCandless, the aldermanic representatives and Messrs. Redfern and Hayward.

"Sister Societies" was proposed by Allan Graham, the secretary, and well handled in an interesting reminiscent address. Other toasts were the Bench and Bar, the Press and the Ladies, and they were duly honored.

The University of Wisconsin will celebrate next June the fiftieth anniversary of its commencement, during which time the newly elected president, Charles R. Van Hise, will be inaugurated.

A Narrow Escape.—Two workmen of the Victoria Gas Company's staff were nearly suffcated yesterday afternoon at the corner of Fort and Cook streets. Had it not been for the prompt assistance rendered by the grocer who occupies the corner store the men would undoubtedly have succumbed. As it was one of them, Richard James by name, was so far gone when found that he had to be sent to the Jubilee hospital. Phoned by the Colonist last evening the nurse said he was getting along very nicely.

Sudden Death.—Third Mate Haskins, of the Athenian, who was well known in Victoria, died very suddenly in Vancouver yesterday morning of heart failure. The body was found in bed, the dread summons having apparently come very suddenly.

Intellectual superiority has no more right to get the better of an inferior in its kind of power than physical superiority in its kind.—Dr. E. B. Foote.