Tram Co. To Water Streets

City Council Seeks to Enforce Dormant Clause in Street Railway Charter.

Questions of Admitting Press to Committee Meetings Is Discussed.

Spring Ridge Pits Again—Gorge Park Is to Be Greatly Improved.

AT YESTERDAY evening's meeting of the city council a variety of interesting business was transacted, chief amongst which were the questions of the expediency of admitting representatives of the press to the meetings of the board of works, the legal obligation of the tram company to water its tracks during the dusty season, and the opening of the Spring Ridge sand-pits to further excavations by the contractors who have in hand the work of filling the flats around the hotel site. Mayor Barnard presided and all the aldermen were present.

The secretary of the department of public works, re Messrs. Moore & Whittington's application for foreshore rights on Victoria Arm, forwarded copy of their solicitors' reply to objections raised by the city. Referred to the streets committee.

The deputy minister of marine and fisheries notified the board of the application of James Muirhead for a water lot on Victoria harbor. Referred to streets committee.

Andrew Carnegie's private secretary notified the board of the further gift of $2,400 to cover additional cost of the library building. Received and the donor thanked.

C. E. Redfern protested against the proposed change of the name of St. John street. Laid on the table.

Sheriff Richards forwarded $50 to the city, arising out of the settlement of the action of MacFarlane vs. MacFarlane.

George J. Jones complained of the howling of the dogs at the public pound. Referred to the pound committee.

George Hunt applied for position as foreman on cement sidewalk work. Referred to the city engineer.

T. H. Davie applied for water service to his place at Oaklands. Referred to the water committee for report.

Charles W. Hill, on behalf of property owners on Heywood avenue, asked for cement sidewalk improvements. The request will be granted.

The city clerk reported having referred a number of minor communications to the city engineer for report. Received and filed.

The city solicitor reported as follows: To His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Victoria, B. C.:

Gentlemen,—Having been requested by the acting mayor, Ald. Goodacre, to advise you upon the liability of the B. C. Electric Railway Co. to cause its track and the street within 18 inches of either side to be sprinkled, I beg to call attention to the 17th section of the street railway regulations bylaw, and to advise that, having looked into the authorities, I am of opinion that this regulation could be imposed upon the street railway if reasonable and fair, and inasmuch as it exists in the bylaw, it must be taken that the council have adjudged the regulation to be necessary and proper, and I think the courts would uphold the same.

C. DUBOIS MASON.

City clerk to write tramway requesting compliance.

Ald. Fullerton moved that the police be requested to see that the provisions of the by-law in this particular be carried out.

Ald. Fell thought a better way would be to first request the company to observe the terms of the by-law.

Ald. Fullerton agreed to this, and withdrew his motion in favor of Ald. Fell's suggestion, which was adopted.

The city solicitor also reported as follows:

To His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Victoria, B. C.:

Gentlemen,—I have the honor to report that acting upon the instructions conveyed to me in the resolution of the streets, sewers and bridges committee, with reference to the permission to be granted to the B. C. Electric Railway Co. for the extension up North Park street into lot 49, I have considered the matter and have conferred with the city engineer and I, in the first place, thought an agreement could be prepared in which the company and the contractors and the owners of lots 6 and 7, adjoining the westerly boundary of lot 49, would all join, would best meet the instructions and wishes of the committee; but upon submitting this agreement to Mr. Goward and Mr. Haggerty, I found an objection which appeared to me to be reasonably founded. I have, therefore, prepared two agreements; the one with the Tramway Co., and the other between Mr. Haggerty and the owners of lots 6 and 7, which I now enclose for consideration. It would seem to me desirable that the council should merely inform the owners of lots 6 and 7 that for their protection they have obtained Mr. Haggerty's signature to the agreement prepared, leaving them to accept the same or not as they may be advised, at the same time informing them shortly that the circumstances under which the agreement has been suggested are the extension of the tram line for the express purpose of enabling the excavation of sand from lot 49. It would appear to me doubtful whether at law the council are bound to concern themselves in the matter, nor would they, in my opinion, incur any liability inasmuch as the B. C. Electric Co. possess statutory rights to lay their rails up North Park street to the termination thereof at lot 49, and no further consent from the city is required. The occasion which enables the council to make the requirement they do is the application to waive the thirty days' notice by the company to lay the rails.

As my opinion before expressed is that the street railway company have the right by statutory authority to lay their track on North Park street, I do not see that they can be put under obligation to remove such track at any time. The agreement and regulations will govern the repair of the streets and there hardly seems any real occasion for the formal agreement I have prepared. I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obediently,

C. DUBOIS MASON,
Acting Solicitor.

A. W. Bridgman and others complained of the muddy condition of Fort and Government streets. Ald. Goodacre explained that grievance complained of was already remedied.

Residents of Oak Bay avenue asked for a better drainage system. The petitioners will be informed that the work will be done at once.

Residents of Michigan street asked for improved water supply, better electric light service and the grading of the street between Menzies and Oswego. Referred to city engineer and light committee for report.

The park committee recommended an appropriation of $200 towards improving the newly-acquired park at the Gorge; that Mr. J. Austin be engaged as foreman; and that the pole at Beacon Hill park be painted at a cost of $45. The report was adopted.

The finance committee recommended the payment of accounts amounting to $8,737.34. Adopted.

The streets committee reported as follows:

Gentlemen—Your streets, bridges and sewers committee having considered the undermentioned subjects, beg to recommend the following resolutions for adoption by the council, namely:

Re removal of gravel at Spring Ridge: Resolved that Messrs. John Haggarty & Co. be allowed to arrange with the B. C. Electric Railway Company for the extension of the tramway track into lot 49 at the head of North Park street, for the removal of gravel to fill up the James Bay flats under their contract with the C. P. R. Co., upon the said J. Haggarty & Co. and the owner of lot 49 entering into a contract with the city as advised by their solicitor, due provision being made to protect the city from all liability in consequence of this consent, and that upon such contracts being entered into the B. C. Electric be permitted to lay tracks on North Park street without further notice.

Re petition G. E. Wilkerson et al., and communication of R. B. Punnett, respecting street sprinkling: Resolved that the city engineer be instructed to provide, if possible, for the sprinkling of Pandora street as far as the corner of Cook street and Yates street from Cook street to Cadboro Bay road, and Cook street from Pandora to Caledonia avenue.

Resolved that the request of Mrs. E. A. Black for an extension of time within which to make sewer connection to her property on Dallas road, be granted.

Resolved that a box drain be laid down on Oak Bay avenue from Rockland avenue to Hulton avenue, at an estimated cost of $700, and on Montreal street and Dallas road, at estimated cost of $250.

Resolved that the drain on Queen's avenue be cleaned out. Estimated cost $40.

Ald. Fullerton thought the council acted very peculiarly respecting the Spring Ridge pits, first deciding not to have any more tracks to the pits, now reversing that decision. The people of Spring Ridge felt very strongly on the matter, and the council ought not to aid Mr. Haggerty in his injuring of people's property. As to the tram company's right to use the streets, if they laid tracks down they might be made under the charter to operate passenger cars

Ald. Goodacre favored aiding the C. P. R. hotel in getting the flats filled; and really there was no difference as to whether the gravel came out by wagon or tram car.

Ald. Fell said it was highly important that no obstacle be put in the way of a work which was in the interests of the city. The carrying of the earth by tramcars was cleanly, and this could not be said of the hauling by wagons.

Ald. Hall felt that the general feeling was that the Spring Ridge sand-pits are a disgrace; and he could not aid any motion which would perpetuate what is fast becoming a nuisance. As things are at present people are buying lots, not for building purposes, but with the intention of opening up gravel pits.

Ald. Hanna had inspected the property in company with Ald. Fullerton, and in respect to the bargain with Mr. Cambie—

Ald. Fullerton—I object, Mr. Mayor; there was no bargain.

Ald. Hanna—Well, agreement, then.

Ald. Fullerton—No; nor agreement. There was no agreement.

Ald. Hanna—Well, understanding, then.

Continuing, Ald. Hanna explained the conversation had with Mr. Cambie at the Driard hotel when a "modus vivendi" respecting the Spring Ridge pits was arranged. The city engineer was present at the interview.

Ald. Fullerton claimed there was no understanding with Mr. Cambie. The matter was only discussed informally.

The clause in the report over which the discussion occurred finally passed, and the report was adopted.

Ald. Fullerton, seconded by Ald. Douglas, moved that the meetings of the streets, sewers and bridges committee be hereafter open to the representatives of the press.

Ald. Stewart did not think that any such motion was necessary.

Ald. Oddy said as there were many private reporters amongst the aldermen, there was apparently no necessity for such a resolution. (Laughter.)

The mayor thought it would be well to leave the matter to the discretion of the streets, sewers and bridges committee as to whether the press were to be admitted or not. The work of the committee was not always final.

Ald. Fell objected to the practice of certain aldermen giving garbled reports of what occurs at the committee meetings. He had no knowledge, however, of any reporter ever being refused admission to the meetings. He was opposed to the motion, as it would be tantamount to admitting that the council was guilty of "star chamber" proceedings. Such was not the case.

Ald. Fullerton's motion was finally withdrawn.

The council then adjourned.

NEWS NOTES OF THE DOMINION

Three and Half Million for New Montreal Building—McGill Graduates.

Montreal, April 25.—Next year will probably witness the most extensive building operations on St. James street that this thoroughfare of business and financial houses has ever experienced, and when the edifices which will be constructed in 1906 are completed a sum exceeding $3,000,000 will have been expended. Perhaps the most costly of the huge piles of granite or cut stone to adorn St. James street in the future will be the new Canadian Bank of Commerce building, which is to be built where the Temple building now stands, and which, it is said, will prove a good second, if not a close rival, to the Bank of Montreal, facing Place D'Armes.

Montreal, April 25.—Among the graduates of the faculty of applied science of McGill are Theodore Scouler, of New Westminster, B. C., in electrical engineering, and George P. Sharpe, of Agassiz, B. C., in mining engineering.

Winnipeg, April 25.—To date 325 building permits have been issued, covering buildings valued at $2,384,400; $700,000 ahead of last year.

William Southcott, who came to Haynes, Alberta, a year ago, was fatally kicked by a horse at Pastur last week.

NAN PATTERSON'S TRIAL.

Coroner's Physician Gives Evidence as to Young's Death.

New York, April 25.—Perhaps the most interesting developments in the testimony of today in the trial of Nan Patterson for the murder of Caesar Young came when the coroner's physician, Dr. O'Hanlan, took the witness stand for the prosecution, and said in reply to questions that he had changed his opinion that Young had committed suicide.

Dr. O'Hanlon performed the autopsy on Young's body. In his testimony he said: "My present opinion is not the opinion I formerly expressed to Coroner Brown."

He did not know of the relations of Young and the defendant at the time the report was made, he said. In reply to Mr. Levy, however, he admitted that he had expressed the opinion that it was a case of suicide even after he had heard the facts of the relations between Miss Patterson and Young. He said that he was influenced in his first decision that Young committed suicide by black spots on the inside of the dead man's fingers, which he believed to be powder stains.

This testimony came at the close of the day's proceedings in the trial.

Charges Against Constable Heard

Police Commissioners Find That Officer Did Not Merit Punishment.

Was Called to See Peace Was Not Disturbed and Found Trouble.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

A meeting of the police commissioners was held yesterday when the hearing of the charge preferred against Constable A. Wood of exceeding his duty was concluded, and it was decided that the officer was to be exonerated on the majority of charges; however, in not allowing complainant, Capt. Horsfall, to re-enter the premises he was vacating he had technically exceeded his duty, though not acting so that it was necessary to punish him.

The case arose out of the happenings incident to Capt. Horsfall vacating rooms he had rented from Miss McCandlish at 63 Superior street. The constable had been called to see that His Majesty's peace was kept unbroken, and Dr. Carter came because it was thought Miss McCandlish needed protection.

Yesterday Dr. Carter gave evidence. He previously held that the complainant was making false statements, and said that action for libel had been threatened on this account. According to the story told by the doctor there were exciting times at 63 Superior street when Capt. Horsfall was leaving the premises.

Dr. Carter had spoken to Capt. Horsfall about the difficulties between he and Miss McCandlish, and he had said he wouldn't talk to the doctor.

"I didn't think you would," said the doctor, as he repeated the tale yesterday. "Any man who would lock up a dog for two or three weeks and claim he hadn't got it when the owner called—well, you couldn't expect anything better."

"You hear that, officer," said Capt. Horsfall—the constable was standing by.

"Yes, officer," said the doctor, "you hear that."

"Are you going to move out?" asked the doctor.

"I won't talk to you," said the Captain.

"I know what you want me to do," the doctor said. "You want me to hit you, but I wouldn't lower myself by hitting you."

Then, as the doctor told the tale yesterday, he went to get advice from his attorney, and was instructed to keep Capt. Horsfall out if he left the premises. He asked the constable to do this, but the officer replied that he had no authority to do so; he must not interfere. When he returned he found the officer had admitted the Captain. The officer remained until Capt. Horsfall moved out his goods, and then, seeing the trouble was over, witness left.

Mr. Crease, who appeared for the complainant, cross-examined, and asked if Constable Woods had sat in an easy chair and rested, as Capt. Horsfall had stated.

This statement, witness said, was a deliberate falsehood.

Mrs. Morrison, in whose hotel Capt. Horsfall and wife had lived, was called to tell of the dog the Captain was alleged to have detained. She deposed to going five times to 63 Superior street to get her brown dog, which had followed Capt. Horsfall, and was told that the Captain's son was out with the dog.

"When the dog was under the table in the kitchen all the while," interpolated Miss McCandlish.

Finally, witness said she laid information before the police and a constable went with her.

"This was when——" Mr. Crease was proceeding to ask a question.

"It was since Capt. Horsfall ceased being a deckhand," interrupted Miss McCandlish.

"The dog was in the house when you called the last time, Mrs. Morrison?"

"Yes," said witness.

"It was under the table where they were eating when she called before," interjected Miss McCandlish, "I was sorry for this on account of the fleas."

Capt. Horsfall explained that he had never intended to withhold the dog, but it had followed him. Then Constable Woods told his tale. He said he was sent to Miss McCandlish's house by Sergt. Hawton who told him to see what the trouble was about. When he arrived Miss McCandlish answered the door and pointed to an overturned table in the hall. She said the peoples' time was up. The constable told her he could not interfere. She asked if he would oblige her by speaking to them. He went to the kitchen and rapped on the door. The second time Capt. Horsfall came to a door at the side and asked what the trouble was. Miss McCandlish went to talk to Capt. Horsfall. He said to witness he could not talk to him before her. The constable stepped inside the kitchen and Miss McCandlish stepped in with him. Capt. Horsfall grasped her by the arm and pushed her toward the door, but she sprang away and got behind witness, who said to Capt. Horsfall, "You don't act the part of a gentleman." Capt. Horsfall then became angry. He sprang into the centre of the room in a temper. At that time Miss McCandlish left the room and Dr. Carter came. The doctor took up the conversation, and the constable said nothing more.

"Did you order him out?" asked counsel.

"No, I never once ordered him out; it was none of my business."

Counsel read from a long statement complainant had made. "Capt. Horsfall says you used abusive language to him."

"No, sir, I did not," said the constable.

"He says that 'in an overbearing and peremptory manner you ordered him to open a door,'" said counsel.

"No, sir," replied the officer, "I did nothing of the sort."

Finally after Capt. Horsfall and Mrs. Horsfall had given further evidence relative to the occurrences, they claiming that the constable followed them to the gate as they left, while the officer just as positively averred to the contrary, the counsel summed up, Mr. Crease for complainant and Mr. C. D. Mason for the police.

The commissioners then retired to consider the evidence and on their return His Worship the Mayor, as chairman, said they found the three first charges against the constable unproven and Constable Woods was exonerated; on the fourth, while he did exceed his duty in not allowing Capt. Horsfall to re-enter at the same time that he advised Miss McCandlish to allow him to do so, and the commissioners did not consider the offence sufficient to warrant punishment.

OIL TRUST'S SECRET WIRE.

Over Forty Thousand Miles of Private Telegraph Used.

New York, April 25.—In addition to its unrivalled business system which enables it to maintain absolute secrecy in all its dealings, the Standard Oil Company has in service more than 40,000 miles of private telegraph wires in the United States. Its wires follow the trust's pipe lines, and a man at any pumping station can sit at his table and get his orders direct from Standard Oil headquarters in New York. The message does not pass through the hands of a single Western Union or Postal operator. Every hand that touches it is a Standard Oil hand, every key which clicks off its message is a Standard Oil key, and every wire which carries it is a Standard Oil wire. That is why there are so few leaks in things concerning Standard Oil.

HAPPENINGS IN POLICE CIRCLES.

Case of Chinese Gamblers Heard Yesterday—Theft From Woman.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

In the police court yesterday there was a smell suggestive of Chinatown, for 23 Chinese were in the dock charged with gambling, and the court room was filled with Chinese.

The 23 alleged gamblers were charged jointly with being in a gaming house at 40 Cormorant street, and the evidence of the raid in which they were all gathered in was repeated, as it was given in the previous case in which one of the gamblers then arrested was convicted and fined.

Chief Langley and Detective Palmer told of the raid from their point of view and Constables Palmer and Fry, who entered from the roof, through a skylight, told their side of the incident.

Mr. Langley, appearing for the defence, raised the points that the entry of the police was illegal. He held the Chinese should have been warned. Furthermore, he held there was no evidence to show that gambling was going on.

But the magistrate pointed out the efforts of the Chinese to destroy the impedimenta when the police entered.

An adjournment was taken until Thursday after the prosecution closed, so that Mr. Langley may consult his clients with regard to the defence.

A colored lady who lives in the district where all window blinds are red, called at the police station yesterday with a mournful tale.

"Ah'm suah in trouble, chile, ah suah is. Ah've got sixty good round dollars under mah pillow and some big fellow makes a rush into mah house and grabs that there money."

"Can you describe him," asked the officer.

"Ah suah can," she said. "He had a large diamond in his shirtfront."

What a chance for Sherlock Holmes!

Dakota Leaves For This Coast

Big Hill Liner Sailed Yesterday From Brooklyn — Will Call Here.

Princess Beatrice From Northern Ports — Sealing Schooner Reported.

The Hill liner Dakota sailed from Brooklyn yesterday for Victoria and Seattle; she will call here to ship her crew of Chinese. The steamer is carrying 9,000 tons of freight, mostly steel rails and railroad construction material for use on the Alaska Central railway.

Coal enough to take the Dakota as far as Coronel was taken aboard at Norfolk before she went to Brooklyn for her cargo. The Dakota will make straight for Coronel after leaving Brooklyn, and the next report the Great Northern officials expect to have from her is that she has reached that Pacific port.

A stop will be made at San Francisco by the Dakota, for a small part of her cargo is intended for that port. This is the same sailing programme as was outlined for the Minnesota when she sailed from the Atlantic for Seattle and the Dakota will follow it throughout. Certain improvements that were found advisable after the Minnesota's initial run have been made in the Dakota, and she is not likely to experience any trouble on the run or to be compelled to make any stops other than those scheduled.

It is estimated that sixty or sixty-five days' time will be required to make the run from Brooklyn to Seattle. As the arriving time of the big liner has not been figured, and as she might have to lay at Seattle for a short time, the company has not announced a sailing date for her first Oriental trip. The Dakota, though, is apt to get away some time in June.

PRINCESS BEATRICE

Reached Port This Morning From Naas and Way Ports.

Steamer Princess Beatrice arrived early this morning from Naas and way ports on the northern British Columbia coast. She will sail North again on Thursday evening at 11 p. m. The steamer Venture, which is being made ready for service in the upper harbor, will leave on her first trip to northern British Columbia ports on May 1, when she will sail from the wharf secured by her owners at the foot of Johnson street. The Venture is owned by the Boscowitz Steamship Company and replaces the old Boscowitz.

"INDIAN REPORTS."

Story of Disaster of Allie I. Algar Baseless, as Were Other Reports.

For some time past rumors have been circulated by sundry persons that Indians had reported wreckage of the schooner Allie I. Algar to have been found, and on these premises certain correspondents in Victoria telegraphed news abroad that grave alarm was felt for the schooner Allie I. Algar. The sealing community and the schooner's owners, however, have not felt the least alarmed. Yesterday news was received that the schooner Allie I. Algar had been spoken off Clayoquot on the 18th.

Indians' reports have in the past proven to be unreliable. In this connection a well-known insurance broker, now visiting Victoria, said that underwriters had given this locality a bad name on this account. He said that if a circumstantial report was received at any time of wreckage of any vessel being found on Vancouver Island, the information being based on Indian reports, it would not be believed.

A GHOST STORY

Which Concerns a Pig Which Wandered Into Coal Bin of Str. Transfer.

A tale is told from New Westminster of a ghost story which concerns the steamer Transfer. A despatch from the Royal City says: On Sunday, on account of a story in circulation of a ghost in the coal bin of the Transfer, the officers thought it high time to investigate, and a delegation of the stout hearts went below into the black depths of the fuel hold. On a close investigation of an adjoining bin at the back of the fuel box, they found a good-sized pig, and for five minutes the officers sat on the black coal, in spite of their respect for their new Easter suits, and laughed.

How the pig got there was soon explained, but how he lived for three weeks without anything to eat was another matter until a deckhand explained the whole case. About three weeks ago a shipment of pigs was made from this city to Steveston, but at Steveston one pig could not be found, and it was thought it must have fallen overboard. The next morning Gus Huderston, a deckhand on the boat, came across the pig in the coal bin. Taking compassion on the animal, he fed it and made a kind of pet of it. He did not tell the other deckhands that it was the glistening eyes of his peculiar friend that shone through the little bin Gus had made for him behind the coal instead of those of a ghost, as the others thought.

Suei Hong Tells Tale of Trouble

Was Arrested Here When Leaving for Hongkong by Empress of Japan.

Now In Custody of Presbyterian Chinese Mission of Portland.

The case of Suie Hong, the unfortunate Chinese woman, who was arrested here when leaving for Hongkong by the Empress of Japan, is a pitiable one, according to advices from Portland, where she was taken by Sheriff Word, who came to Victoria to arrest her on a charge of embezzlement. She is now with Mrs. W. S. Holt, at the Presbyterian Chinese Mission of Portland, and fears that even there the threat of the Chinese towards their slave girls that if "she goes to heaven she will be dragged back by the feet, and if she goes to hell she will be dragged up by the hair," will be carried out and a return to the old life as a slave will be her fate.

"I feel safe as long as I am with Mrs. Holt," said Suie Hong this morning, through Mrs. Holt, who acted as interpreter. "I shall not leave her side for a moment. I shall never go back to such a horrible life. I had to make money for my master. Often I have tried to break the strong chains which bound me to such a life, but not until this occasion was I successful."

She has been brought back from a trip which would have put her by the side of her mother, through alleged trickery of her own people, who claimed to be her friends, but considers them her worst enemies.

Sheriff Word, who was obliged to place her under arrest and bring her back, will do what he can to gain her release. He has put up $500 bonds at Port Townsend to insure her return, and there is now every indication that he will not lose his money.

Declares Her Innocence

"I am perfectly innocent of the charge of stealing the money which has been laid against me," said the prisoner when questioned.

"Lee Yiu accused me, as he is acting for Lee Chong, the Chinaman who brought me and placed me in a slave house. When they wanted money they knew the way to my house, but now they are against me. I gave Lee $250 so he could open a store on Second street. They want me so I can make money for them.

Although unable to speak but a few words of English, Suie is an intelligent woman. She has determined features and the expression of her face becomes keen when talking about how she has been treated by her own people. She tries to make her statements more emphatic by quick movements of her hands. She is determined to win against the fate that now so seriously confronts her.

Father Sold Her

In telling of her life she said her parents were poor and there was a large family. In order to get a few dollars her father sold her. After a short time she was sold to Lee Chong, and brought to America when she was 10 years old, since which time she has been in slavery.

Suie is a good-looking Chinese woman, and for that reason she was sold the second time into slavery for $1600, with an understanding that she was to do only housework, but she was placed in a slave house.

Jealousy Caused Flight

The alleged facts are that it was partly jealousy that caused her to flee from Lee. A short time ago he sailed for China and was married to a pretty woman. Suie wants no more to do with him. Lee, with his bride, will soon return, and the local Chinese hope Suie can be retained until he comes. In speaking of this yesterday Suie said:

"He doesn't love me any longer and I want to get away from him. He will bring his pretty wife here."

Victorians Heirs To Many Millions

Whittaker Family Entitled to Share Fortune of Two Hundred Millions of Dollars.

Rich Estate Has Been in Litigation in England for Half a Century.

There is in Victoria a family heir to an immense fortune—a property in litigation for many years valued at $200,000,000. The family of Victorians heir to millions is that headed by William Whittaker, barber, and is made up of Sam. Whittaker, barber; W. H. Whittaker, barrister; Adalbert Whittaker, assayer; Albert Whittaker, Arthur Whittaker, of Weller Bros.; Mrs. John Irvine of Cedar Hill; Mrs. George S. Russell, of this city; Mrs. John M. Moore, of Nicola, and Miss Florence Whittaker. There is another branch of the family in Seattle, headed by Graham Whittaker, formerly of St. Louis street, in this city, also interested in the great fortune. Before her death, last September, Mrs. William Whittaker went to England to make a search into the conditions under which the estate is held. She was however, taken ill and obliged to return. She died soon after her arrival. Since then enquiries have been made regarding the heirs entitled to share in the Thomas Whittaker estate, which has been the subject of litigation in the English courts for half a century.

The Whittaker estate is one famous in the annals of English law. It was nearly fifty years ago that Thomas Whittaker dropped dead, leaving the vast property which ever since has been the bone of contention among claimants from all parts of England and America. Whittaker was a bachelor. At the time of his death he was 55 years of age. He owned most of the townsite of New London, and, all told, his property footed up a total of about $165,000,000. Mayhap the estate was too big for them to diminish, but at any rate it grew instead of lessened in their hands until now the Thomas Whittaker property is valued at the stupendous total of $200,000,000.

Recently a telegram from Idaho was published which chronicled the fact that E. West, Mrs. R. A. McDowell and Miss Gaines, of Latah, Idaho, had just established their claim to a portion of the estate and that their shares would amount to about $4,000,000 each. A few weeks later a Mrs. Durr, of Tacoma, appeared, claiming that she, too, was an heir. Mrs. Durr had seen the item and immediately set about to establish her own claim.

The Seattle Times in a recent issue says: "Mr. West, the Idaho heir mentioned, was a grandson of Josh Whittaker, a brother of Joseph Whittaker. This Joseph Whittaker, the Seattle man, believes to have been an uncle of his own.

"Mr. Whittaker's knowledge of his family tree is rather hazy, which is, however, no more than natural, as his branch of the family has been out of communication with the others for nearly thirty years. His father left England 45 years ago, just about the time Thomas Whittaker died. His father, now an old, feeble man, lives at Bellingham. The latter himself is confident that he is a grandson of the dead Thomas Whittaker. Being the eldest son of his branch of the family, his share of the estate, can he but establish his rights, will be much larger than that of the other heirs, of which there said to be fifty or sixty scattered about in various parts of the West.

"Abraham Whittaker, sen., left England about 45 years ago. For 28 years, until recently, he had received no word from any of his relatives. The reason he had severed communication with them was that he was not nearly so well off in the world's goods as other members of the family and his pride kept them apart. He has lost the addresses of the few with whom he had corresponded. He has placed his claim, with what information he possesses, in the hands of a prominent Bellingham attorney, and in the last few days has gained information which strengthens him in his belief that he is one of the missing heirs.

"The similarity in the names of known relatives, those of known heirs to the immense fortune, is one of the chief reasons Mr. Whittaker has for presuming that he is entitled to a share in the estate. There is another reason, however, which he thinks is a very strong one.

"It was about ten years ago that representatives of the estate came to the Northwest in search of heirs. They spent some time in Victoria and other cities on the coast making enquiries for a man by the name of Abraham Whittaker. In Victoria they found another branch of the family. This branch knew where Abraham Whittaker could be found but they kept that knowledge to themselves. All the heirs in the West, it is said, have pursued the same policy, for the fewer the number of heirs among whom the estate was to be divided, the greater would be the share of each.'

The statement that information regarding Abraham Whittaker's whereabouts was withheld, is denied by local heirs.

Continuing, the Seattle Times says: "It was not until two years later that Abraham Whittaker, sen., learned that a search had been made for him. It was then too late to ascertain the names of the persons who had been making the search and for what purpose they had made it. The incident was never forgotten, however, and he and his family have always been on the lookout for further tidings.

"It was still later, after Abraham Whittaker had learned that he was being searched for, that Mrs. William Whittaker, of Victoria, called on Mrs. Abraham Whittaker. She asked many questions concerning the Whittaker family. She said that she had just returned from England and she, too, told of the men who had been searching for Abraham Whittaker. When Mrs. Abraham Whittaker spoke of returning to her native land, the visitor attempted to dissuade her from her purpose. Last summer Mrs. Abraham Whittaker and her daughter visited Victoria and called at William Whittaker's place of business. The latter's wife was called up by telephone and promised to meet the visitors, but she did not keep her appointment. It was learned that Mrs. William Whittaker had just returned from another visit to England. All these little incidents make Abraham Whittaker all the more anxious to sift the matter to the bottom.

"It is but lately that the Whittaker estate has again come to figure prominently in the public eye. The announcement that it was to be distributed has brought forth heirs of whose existence nothing was previously known, and they have proved their claims. It again directed the attention of Abraham Whittaker and his son to the matter and gave them something definite upon which to work.

"They have at last succeeded in locating some, at least, of their missing relatives. A communication was recently received by Abraham Whittaker, sen., from Fergus Whittaker, a younger brother, who is a lumber agent at Sheffield, England, in which he seeks to establish his brother's identity. Fergus had learned of Abraham Whittaker and of the effort that had been made to locate him ten years ago. His communication was answered and a reply is expected in a few weeks."

PISTOLS END ARGUMENT.

General Fusilade Closes Prohibition Discussion in Texas.

Hemstead, Texas, April 25.—Congressman J. M. Pinckney, his brother and J. N. Brown, a leading anti-prohibitionist, were shot to death tonight at a mass meeting called to petition the governor to consider a local option on the question.

In a heated discussion Brown began shooting and was followed by many others. One man was fatally and two seriously injured.

Dr. Tompkins, private secretary to Congressman Pinckney, and Rolling Brown, son of J. N. Brown, are severely wounded. There has been bitter feeling here for several years over the prohibition question and recent elections when the "antis" failed to gain the victory they expected added to this. The whole country has been divided into factions as a result.

TO SEARCH FOR GOLD.

Investigation of Placer and Quartz Ledges in the North.

There is at present fitting out in Vancouver an expedition which is destined to penetrate into the little known districts lying at the head of Gardiner Inlet in search of gold, which is said to be plentiful there.

Mr. George F. Weeks of Boston, who is the promoter of the scheme for exploring this district, arrived in Vancouver some days ago, and on Saturday of last week was over in New Westminster where he interviewed Chief of Police McIntosh, who was one of the first white men to enter that part of the country. The chief, who was one of an expedition sent by the government to survey the route of the wagon road from the head of Gardiner Inlet to the Bulkley valley district in the summer of 1902, describes the country through which he passed as a veritable land of promise.

At the head of the inlet are high mountains, which are crossed by means of the Tahtsa pass. This pass is high and rocky, and along its precipitous sides are said to be ledges of gold-bearing quartz. The chief took particular note of one of these ledges, and it is to prospect it that Mr. George F. Weeks is sending his expedition into the country. Mr. McIntosh describes the ledge as being situated up on the mountain side, and as being about forty feet in width. "The foot of the mountain," said the chief, "was strewn with bits of quartz which had weathered off the main ledge, and some of these were rich in gold. A little Indian boy picked up one piece about as big as the end of one's thumb and it contained a piece of gold the size of a pea." The chief brought several chunks of the quartz away with him, and these were noticed with interest by Mr. Weeks on his visit to this city.

In the rivers of the Francis lake district is found a good deal of placer gold also, and altogether the country seems to have as great a prospect before it as a gold mining country as the Bulkley valley has before it as a cattle-grazing district.

The road, the route of which Mr. McIntosh and his expedition surveyed, was never built, and the only way to get at the country is by means of the trails running either from Bella Coola or the Skeena river. It is probable that Mr. Weeks' expedition will make Bella Coola its base. It will consist of three white men, together with a number of Indian guides, and will not be accompanied by Mr. Weeks himself.

Constitution For Transvaal

All Burghers of the Late South African Republic Given Votes.

Home Government Deem Time Not Ripe for Full Self Government.

The Orange River Colony Is Not to Be Included in the Scheme.

LONDON, April 25.—The draft of the new Transvaal constitution was issued today. It provides for a progressive assembly consisting of a lieutenant-governor, six to nine official members and 20 to 35 elected members. Every burgher of the late South African republic is entitled to a vote for members of the first Volksraad, as well as all white males of British birth occupying premises at an annual rental of not less than $50, or having capital to the value of $500 unless convicted of treason since May 31, 1902, or of murder, unless they have obtained a free pardon. A commission will divide the Transvaal into electoral districts. The debates in the assembly will be carried on in English, but the president of the Volksraad may permit a member to use the Dutch language. Finance measures must be recommended to the assembly by the governor and no part of the revenue may be appropriated without his authority.

In a communication to Lieut.-Governor Tawley accompanying the letters patent providing for the changes, Colonial Secretary Lyttleton says the time is not yet ripe to grant full self government. The matter involves party government, and this in the Transvaal will become more practicable when the two races have acted longer together under equal rights and when bitter memories have become softened by time. In regard to the colored population not being directly represented in the Volksraad, any bill subjecting them to special disability or restriction must have the sanction of the home government before it becomes operative. Secretary Lyttleton explains that similar constitutional changes cannot be extended to the Orange River colony immediately because the industrial and economical conditions there do not so urgently demand them.

WILL BACK WESTERN PACIFIC.

Wall Street Men Agree to Buy $50,000,000 Worth of Bonds.

New York, April 25.—Plans have been completed in Wall street, according to the Herald, by which funds for the construction of the Western Pacific railroad are absolutely assured. A syndicate of Wall street banking houses is stated to have agreed to buy $50,000,000 worth of bonds from the company, the proceeds of the sale of which will complete a line from Salt Lake, Utah, to Oakland, Cal. Three banking houses, it is understood, will participate in the issue.

On its completion, the Western Pacific will become an integral part of the Gould system from the Atlantic to the Pacific and will complete the first line across the United States under one management. At present the Gould system terminus is at Salt Lake on the west. The eastern line to the seaboard at Baltimore is now being completed through connections at Pittsburg between the Wabash, West Virginia Central and Western Maryland.

CONVENTION OF TEACHERS.

Eighth Annual Gathering of Provincial Pedagogues at Revelstoke.

Revelstoke, April 25.—The eighth annual convention of the provincial teachers' institute of British Columbia opened at the drill hall this morning with an attendance of 60, and will continue in session until Thursday. The retiring president, David Wilson, B. A., addressed the meeting, and after the enrolment of members, the election of officers took place and resulted as follows: F. H. Eaton, M. A., Victoria, president; J. D. Gillis, Victoria, first vice; Miss E. G. Landon, Victoria, second vice; Alexander Gilchrist, Vancouver, third vice; E. H. Murphy, Vancouver, treasurer; Jeanette Cann, Victoria, secretary. Members of the executive: Miss Burrie, B. A., Nanaimo; R. J. Watson, Mount Tolmie; B. S. McDonald, Ladysmith; Miss E. Rogers, New Westminster; and Miss Marchant, Victoria.

In the afternoon Dr. G. U. Hay, St. John, N. B., editor of the Education Review, addressed the convention on "Nature Study."

In the evening Mayor H. A. Brown welcomed the teachers on behalf of the city.

NAB 300 CHINAMEN.

New York Police Make Special Particular Haul of Yellow Gamblers.

New York, April 25.—"Chinatown," that shadowy part of New York, whose narrow streets are lined with Joss houses, Chinese restaurants, unique Chinese theatres and odd little shops, where dark doorways lead to darker and more mysterious precincts within, was tonight the scene of a spectacular raid by the police. Scores of policemen, gathered from among the reserves of a dozen precincts, descended upon the unsuspecting Chinese while they were intent upon their Sunday night indulgence in the mystic games of chance brought from their native land.

Fourteen coaches, filled with policemen and headed by personal representatives of Police Commissioner McAdoo, swept unannounced into "Chinatown" from the Bowery. When their night's work was done nine places in Mott street, two in Pell and one in Doyers street had been raided and upward of 300 Chinamen had been hurried away in patrol wagons, busses and on foot to the downtown station houses. The work of obtaining their right names, together with addresses and a fragment of pedigree extended until late into the night.

NEWTON'S CHURCH SOLD.

New Structure Will Now Be Called All Souls.

New York, April 25.—All Souls' church, Madison avenue and Sixty-sixth street, made famous by the Rev. R. Heber Newton, has passed into history as a place of worship. A great throng was present at the closing services and many old members of the congregation were moved to tears during the services.

Today the Church of the Archangel, St. Nicholas avenue and One Hundred and Fifteenth street, will be informally rechristened All Souls' church. The pews and fine organ used in the latter will be transferred to the new house.

The church and the parish of All Souls' were founded in 1859. During the last years of his ministry, which terminated here years ago, Dr. Newton was in poor health and the congregation fell away. Of late the congregation increased materially, but the vestrymen and the church wardens concluded to sell the property, which brought $330,000.

The house to which the congregation has moved is said to have had its actual foundation in a fund started by a street car conductor, who contributed $2.00.