ublic Works Will Wait

ral Government Decide to tpone Expenditures Until After Next Session.

ions to Civil Service Were ot Provided For in Last Estimates.

mercial Agent Points Out ade Preferences Offered By New Zealand.

ar Own Correspondent.

wa, Feb. 8.—The Yukon hydraulic ssion will hold a meeting here ond week in March.

said that Hon. Mr. Hyman will Hon. Mr. Cartwright after the and people are wondering when Columbia is going to secure a portfolio again.

here is to be another session of ent the government has decided pone the commencement of con- n of many public works for propriations were voted last these include public buildings, s, piers, dredging, etc.

e civil service act of last session erks were transfered from the ry to the permanent list on De- 1st. Since then they have re- ue pay. This business-like ad- tion forgot to ask parliament appropriations.

overnment received today a copy preferential tariff act passed by w Zealand parliament. It was Mr. Lucke, Canadian represen- and in his opinion presents ad- s to Canada if she choose to em- em in the way of trade to the of $1,500,000. There are three s to the act. The first doubles upon cement of foreign origin, British made cement the old duty shillings per barrel is retained. ouil schedule contains a list of e duty on which is retained un- old tariff when of British origin, similar goods of foreign origin is increased one-half. This list baskets and wicker goods, bi- nd tricycles, boots, shoes and candies, carriages, carts and china, porcelain and parian ocks, cordage, and rope, cream , earthenware and stoneware, ods and toys, fish potted and furniture and cabinet ware, d glassware, hardware, hoops, s, pipes and fittings, lamps and pianos, paperhangings, wrap- per, plate and plated ware and nd other separate items for raising The third schedule is composed which hitherto have been ad- ree, but a duty of 20 per cent ied on goods of foreign origin, uce of British dominions still the free list. This schedule fittings for bicycles and tricy- engines and hammers, and oil gum boots, rubbers, manufac- iron and steel, printing paper, railway and tramways, still ducks, surgical and dental in- Mr. Clarke strongly advises s to endeavor to capture this ouce. Certificates of origin are with all shipments of British a copy will appear in an early of the department.

clause two of the tariff an op- is afforded for further extension the preferential list, and Mr. commends negotiations should d into at once with the sister ith a view to securing further s for Canada.

e urges the government to he question of making Noumea, Caledonia, a port of call for the s of the Canadian-Australian letour of only sixty miles would ed and he believes quite a trade built up with this colony, as communication is very infre- present.

ANESE CIVILIZATION.

ouglas Sladen tels us in his on Japan of how once a year who have not enough to eat a couple of hundred miles e irises of Horokini in bloom. religious, simply an aesthetic e. They go as people here go football match—because they t forces upon one the old re- f whether our "civilization" s progress in prosperous uti- not travelling on the wrong not the Japanese pauper, s soul on beauty, nearer the that the British laborer, roar- emously at a referee or a "the other side."

BBED AND SHOT.

Conductor Fatally Injured Bandits in Chicago.

Feb. 6.—Two unidentified ot and fatally wounded Geo. conductor on the Western tric line early today, when their attempts to rob him pted robbery occurred at the f the line. The robbers es-

ve of Eating.

MERICAN BECOM- OURMAND?

gest cen- population. York and dally see on given er man. ch-rooms are filled with men who seem to give all their time to thoughts of properly or eding their stomachs. "It is t to eat slowly, but not too Dr. Pierce, chief consulting the Invalids' Hotel and Sur- e, of Buffalo, N. Y. In this people devote so much time that their brain is fagged and ficient blood left to properly he other organs of the body. must be assisted in its hard er started into action—by the stomach tonic, which should vegetable ingredients and ok. After years of experience actice, Dr. Pierce discovered suited these conditions in a nd tissue-builder. He called Golden Medical Discovery extract that assists in the assimilation of the food in se that the blood gets what d and oxidation, the liver is me started into activity and t elimination of waste mat- blood is pure and rich, all rk without effort, and the perfect machine.

Pierce's Common Sense r is sent *free* on receipt of expense of customs and Send 31 one-cent stamps for per covers, or 50 stamps for volume. Address Dr. R.V. N.Y.

Provincial Legislature

Interim Report From Select Committee on Government House Enquiry.

Long Lake Dam, Okanagan Causes Considerable Animated Discussion.

Large Number of Bills Disposed of—Session Drawing to a Close.

Feb. 8th, 1904.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock p.m.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

Mr. Clifford presented an interim report from the select committee to inquire into all matters relating to the construction of Government House, as follows:

Legislative Committee Rooom,
8th February, 1904.

Mr. Speaker:

Your select committee appointed by resolution of the House on January 21st last to inquire into certain matters pertaining to the construction of Government House beg to make this interim report:

At a session of the committee held on February 6th, Messrs. Maxwell Muir and W. T. Dalton, referred to in the resolution, through their respective counsel, declined to give evidence touching the charges made in the memorandum attached to the award, claiming that the memorandum is an integral part of the award, and, is, therefore, privileged from any review by the Legislature or a committee thereof.

Your committee would respectfully suggest that the House remind its decision that the charges contained in the memorandum are distinct from the award, and that the action of the committee in pressing the inquiry into the charges contained in the memorandum be endorsed. And, further, your committeee respectfully request that they be empowered to compel witnesses to testify, as without this power, the committee feel that they will be unable to thoroughly perform their duties before the close of the season.

CHAS. W. D. CLIFFORD,
Chairman.

The report was received.

Mr. McNiven presented a petition from A. M. Gregg and others, residents of Victoria, asking amendments to the "Game Act."

Laid on the table.

Mr. Ellison presented the first report from the mining committee, as follows:

Legislative Committee Room,
4th February, 1904.

Mr. Speaker:

Your select standing committee on mining beg leave to report as follows:

That your committee has resolved that it is not deemed advisable to make changes in either the "Mineral Act" or the "Placer Mining Act" at this session of the legislative assembly.

PRICE ELLISON,
Chairman.

The report was received.

NEW BILLS.

The Hon. Mr. Wilson asked leave to introduce a bill intitiled "An Act to amend the Bills of Sale Act."

Mr. Bowser asked leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act respecting the Fraudulent Preference of Creditors by persons in Insolvent Circumstances."

Mr. McInnes asked leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act to amend the Animals Act."

Granted, bills read a first time, second reading next sitting of the House.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Oliver moved the following resolution:

That an order of the House be granted for a return of copies of the forms being used by the assessors under the provisions of the "Assessment Act"; also copies of the instructions issued to assessors in connection with carrying out the provisions of the "Assessment Act."

Mr. Oliver said he had been informed that the assessors had not been sending out the forms to all the taxpayers, apparently discriminating between one taxpayer and another; also the forms sent out were not those prescribed in the act.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow said this was the first information the government had had on the matter. The instructions issued were explicit, and he had no reason to doubt that they were not being carried out, but he should make strict enquiry at once. Moreover, if the return would not cost anything, but the return asked for by Mr. Henderson the other day would cost $5,000 to print.

Mr. Paterson discussed the hardship of a man owning personal property valued at $499 escaping payment of tax, and the man with $500 having to pay on the whole $500.

Mr. Oliver handed his marked copy of the act to the finance minister.

LONG LAKE DAM.

Mr. Oliver moved the following resolution: That an order of the House be granted for a return of copies of all correspondence between Albert Geer and T. R. Williams, of Long Lake, near Vernon, and the department of public works, in reference to damages to the land of the said Albert Geer and T. R. Williams; also copies of all correspondence between the department of lands and works and any other person re the construction of a dam at Long Lake.

Mr. Oliver gave a lengthy description of the dam referred to, and the work done in connection with it; also how the breaking of a log jam doing damage twelve years ago. The government had spent $1,000 for, as he alleged, protection of the town of Vernon. He contended that, under present conditions, owing to the work done by the government, the town was in the same position of danger as it was in 1892. Owing to the construction of the dam by the government, the property of the farmers on Long Lake was damaged. He read affidavits from the complainants, Geer claims to have lost 60 acres of land, and Williams twenty-five acres by the erection of the dam. He had been asked to bring this matter up in the House. One of the sufferers had become disgusted, sold out his land for a merely nominal sum and left the country.

The Premier said the work complained of was erected under the chief commissionership of Mr. Wells (Columbia). The Premier had looked into this matter and ascertained while at Vernon that this work was undertaken in the public interest, and he had not heard a single complaint. On the contrary, he heard the work commended. The government, however, was sensible of responsibility if persons had been damaged through government works. It was not right to blame the present government for all the little legacies which the government had inherited, and so far not been able to attend to, in view of the press of important work done since coming into office. The government was only too willing to have the Long Lake dam matter laid before the House. As for the attempted aspersion of Mr. Price Ellison touching this matter, it was simply absurd to charge a man to whose enterprise and energy Vernon owed so much, with self-interest in the affair. The Premier then scathingly criticized Mr. Oliver's insinuations against the character of the hon. member for Vernon. From the gossip and prattle of the corridors, it would seem as if there was not a member of this House who had a clear title to his seat. The government offered no opposition to this motion; when the facts were made known it would be seen that the government had nothing whatever to be ashamed of in this matter.

Mr. Paterson gave an interesting description of the condition at Long Lake from his personal observation.

Mr. Price Ellison said the work we undertaken for the public benefit, and there was no personal consideration in it at all. The dam was essentia for the protection of the surrounding country. The people of the whole interior was as much entitled to protection of thei lands as the people of the Fraser valley. If anyone had suffered damage throug this work he was very sorry. The fac that his part in this matter had met with the approval of the people of Vernon was shown by the handsome majority which they had returned him to the House. The statements made against himself regarding this question were false; the men who signed the affidavits had had to take a back seat at many campaign meetings during the election because they could not substantiate their statements. Their property had not been damaged; it had been under water often before the alleged rise by the building of the dam. He counselled Mr. Oliver to mind his own business and not play the political scavenger for the province, going rooting around where he had no good ground. If Mr. Oliver would go up to Okanagan, Mr. Ellison would be glad to show him around and prove to him where he had been misled.

Mr. Oliver at great length reiterated his assertions regarding the dam, and said the dam had been erected chiefly for irrigation purposes. The resolution carried.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:

1. What is the area of reserved land in the province?

2. What is the area of Crown Lands alienated by the Crown since the Union with Canada?

4. What were the several land reserves.

3. What is the aggregate amount of taxes paid since said union by railway companies and land companies, respectively, on land alienated to them by the Crown? tions made for, respectively?

The Hon. Mr. Green replied as follows:

1. About 10,000,000 acres.

2. It is not possible to answer the question without having a statement prepared from the records, which would be a work involving much labor and time.

3. It will take a very long time to arrive at an answer to this question. The lands referred to are taxable, in some cases as soon as alienated by the companies direct to the parties to whom alienated, and in other cases direct to the companies at the expiration of the period of exemption, if not already alienated by such companies; and as these lands are distributed on the assessment rolls with the other taxable lands of private individuals, without any distinctive mark to show that they were originally subsidy lands, the whole rolls will have to be examined and a list made out of each parcel included in the separate land grants.

4. A Return to the legislature of the principal reserves, giving the information desired, is published in the Sessional Papers for 1903, at folio 22.

Dr. Young asked the Hon. the Minister of Mines the following questions:

1. What correspondence has there been with the Gold Commissioner at Atlin in reference to Boulder Creek?

2. What action, if any, has the Minister taken in the matter?

3. Is it the intention of the department to introduce legislation to bring about such an equitable condition of affairs as shall conserve the interests of the real developers of the country?

The Hon. Mr. McBride replied as follows:

1. 4th September, 1902. Telegram instructing Gold Commissioner that placer miners must not be allowed to put tailings in creek so as to interfere with successful working of Delamare Company's property.

13th November, 1902. Letter to Gold Commissioner, enclosing letter from agent of La Societe Miniere de la Colombie Britannique, complaining of difficulty the company experienced in operating their property, owing to dumping of tailings in Boulder creek, and asking the Gold Commissioner to report thereon.

27th November, 1902. Report of Gold Commissioner.

31st December, 1902. Letter to Gold Commissioner, instructing him to exercise his discretion in doing what he thinks best in the matter of dumping tailings in Boulder creek, with a view of ascertaining the best course to pursue.

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:

1. Has any damage been done to the city of Vernon by reason of floods from Long lake since 1892?

2. If not, what reason had the government for supposing that damage would be done in the future?

The Hon. Mr. Green replied as follows:

1. No.

2. The danger is always imminent when flood impending.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite asked the Attorney-General the following questions:

1. Has the evidence taken at the coroner's inquest at Fernie, relating to the explosion of May, 1902, been printed, as ordered by the House?

2. If not, why not?

The Hon. Mr. Wilson replied as follows:

1. No.

The capacity of the printing department has been so heavily taxed of late that it has not been possible to undertake a work of such magnitude as that in question. It is the intention, however, to put the matter in hand at the earliest possible date.

PUBLIC BILS.

The Attorney-General moved the third reading of the Supreme Court Act. Read and passed.

E. & N. SETTLERS.

The Premier moved on report of the E. & N. Settlers' Bill to amend section 3, by striking out the words, "reserving, however, the gold and silver thereof." Carried. Report adopted and the bill read a third time and passed.

HORTICULTURAL BOARDS.

The report of the bill to amend the Horticultural Boards Act was adopted, the bill read a third time and passed.

CONTRACTS OF INSURANCE.

On report of the contracts of insurance, Mr. Drury asked if the Attorney-General had fully considered the probable effect of this bill.

Hon. Mr. Wilson said that he had, and in a few words again explained the bill for Mr. Drury's benefit.

Mr. Drury proceeded at length to discuss the technicalities of the Act, and the variations of insurances.

The Attorney-General said all that was aimed at was that the contracts made should be governed by the laws of this province. It was so that the persons entering into those contracts should have the benefit of the protection of the provincial laws.

The debate on the report was adjourned for a few days:

MECHANICS' LIEN.

Report of the bill to amend the Mechanics' Lien Act was adopted, the bill read a third time and passed.

ATTACHMENTS OF DEBTS.

Dr. Young took the chair in committee of the whole on the bill relating to attachment of debts. The bill was reported complete without amendments. To be received next sitting of the House.

COMIAKEN MAP.

Mr. Hall presided in committee on the bill respecting the official map of a portion of Comiakin district. Reported complete without amendments. Report adopted and bill read a third time and passed.

MESSAGE.

The Attorney-General presented a message from His Honor, conveying a bill to amend the Trail Incorporation Act, 1901.

Committed forthwith, Mr. Clifford in the chair.

Committee reported the bill to the House Received and the bill read a first time.

The Premier explained that the bill dealt with the conveyance of certain lands at Trail, and urged the second reading.

Bill read a second time and committed, Mr. Cameron in the chair. The substance of the bill is as follows:

Section 22, added to chapter 57 of the Statutes of 1901, being the "Trail Incorporation Act, 1901," by section 2 of the "Trail Incorporation Act Amendment Act, 1903," is hereby amended by adding the following words thereto:

"Provided, however, that notwithstanding anything in the said Crown grant contained, the said corporation shall not be required to re-convey any portion of the sub-divided lands to the Crown."

Reported complete without amendments Report to be considered next sitting.

SUPPLY.

Mr. Clifford took the chair in committe of the whole on the bill to grant certain sums for the public service of the province.

The bill was reported complete without amendments. To be considered today.

RETURN PRESENTED.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow presented a return of correspondence between the government and the C. P. R., or any other railway in the province.

COAL MINES REGULATIONS.

The Premier, in moving the second reading of the bill further to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act, said the bill has been brought in upon the representations made by Messrs. Bryden, Lampman and Boyce, the commission appointed to enquire into the coal mining industry in the province, as a result of the disastrous explosions which had occurred. The Premier had personally visited the Fernie mines, and conferred with the manager and provincial officials. As a result a great many improvements were made in the working of the mines. While the working miner was continually in jeopardy from gassy mines, the management should also be sensible that disasters resulted in the closing of the mines and consequent loss of life. The Fernie and Cumberland explosions proved the need for greater care and foresight. The amendments were purely technical, and the only purpose sought to be served was to protect still further the life and limb of the coal miner. Any suggestions of a practical kind would receive careful consideration.

Read a second time.

Mr. McInnes said the Americans always required that mine managers applying there should be American citizens. He would like to move in amendment that mine managers applying for positions here to be British subjects.

The Premier said the supply of mine managers was not always up to the demand and pointed out a number of cases in recent provincial history, relating to natural station of managers. He asked Mr. McInnes to hold the amendment until report.

Mr. McInnes in agreeing to do so, said he could not agree with the Premier's contention about scarcity of mine managers. The supply on this side exceeded the demand, and he knew of many competent mine managers who had to accept much inferior positions because of American managers getting the highest positions.

Mr. Parker Williams moved in amendment that coal mines inspectors be appointed by the miners themselves. This was relieving the government of all responsibility in this matter. The man had to have a certificate, and if chosen by the men he would be broadminded enough to do his duty if he got an appointment, which he would not sometimes get under present conditions.

Mr. Cotton could not see anything in Mr. Williams' argument to induce the House to accept such a view. Instead of lessening the government's responsibility it would be increased. Popularity has a good deal to do with selections of such a kind as appointed by the miners would be. By decreasing the government's responsibility in this matter the security of the miner would be endangered proportionately.

Mr. Williams continued his argument in favor of the appointment of coal mine inspectors by the miners.

Mr. Paterson argued the contrary. In fairness to both parties, the owners and the miners, the selection and appointmen of inspectors should be left to the government.

The Premier knew of no case in this country, the United States or the United Kingdom where the appointment of coal mines inspectors was left with the miners. The government must finally be held accountable for all these things. Neglec leading to loss of life must come back on the government. He quoted from the rules to show that no miners were amply empowered to inspect the mines themselves. If such an innovation were adopted it might lead to the appointment of all sorts of officials. It was a somewhat drastic departure, which he could not see his way to accepting, although he complimented Mr. Williams upon his technical knowledge. Later on, when he had had time to think over the matter, he might see his way to adopting it.

Mr. Parker Williams moved in amendment that an accurate map of the mine in active operation shall be placed in some conspicuous place in the mine, explaining that deplorable accidents have taken place owing to miners not having in their minds a general sketch of the workings. In the Fernie case the men could have been saving lives had they only known the passages better; the men obtained in the Extension mine, where the men came within four feet of fresh air but did not know their bearings.

The amendment was adopted and incorporated in the bill.

The bill was reported complete with amendments. Report to be considered next sitting.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock until 8:30 p. m.

Appalling Scene Of Desolation And Ruin

(Continued Page Two.)

At 12:30 o'clock the northern limits of the fire had traveled from Fayette street to Easter avenue. At this point half a dozen fire companies were fighting from the rear, while other companies were flanking the fire on the Jones' Falls and the Liberty street bombers. The President street station of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore railway was used as a barracks for the militia. The buildings caught fire a number of times, and whenever the doors were opened a shower of sparks was carried inside. In front the lumber piles furnished tinder for the flames, which were creeping forward, yet the men, who had been pacing the streets all night, lay asleep, completely worn out.

Colonel Supples, a competent authority on factory statistics, estimated the number of persons thrown out of work will reach 50,000.

Inspector of Buildings Peaston, after making a careful study of the burned district, placed the building loss at $150,000,000.

Tonight it is feared that aid must come from adjacent cities or a partial famine will be an added phase of the situation. Restaurants are entirely without food and the destruction of the commission houses along the wharves has shut off the supply.

Hotels are but little better. Preparations here being made to rush supplies from New York in order to avert suffering.

Tonight it became necessary to locate the spot where the march of the flames were stopped. After the burning of the Maryland and American Ice Companies' plants, near the Union docks, few buildings were destroyed. The ice houses held the flames for three hours, though in the meantime Norfolk wharf was consumed.

The fire boat Cataract and the New York engine companies held this dangerous neighborhood, and when the fire entered the American Ice Company's coal yards they put up a fight which brought it under control.

Local fire officials extend unstinted praise to the fire companies from New York and **the brave stand they** made at the eastern end of the fire belt and in the face of the conflagration. Time and time again they were driven from their position by fierce bursts of flame, but at the coal yard they made a last stand and won a contest which finally ended the terrible spread of the fire.

The water supply of Baltimore is causing some concern among officials.

When darkness fell tonight the people of this stricken city knew the worst was over. The firemen, working unwearingly, and aided by a muddy stream, finally conquered a fire that will rank among the world's great conflagrations. Worn out by the night and day of terror, the great crowds that watched the ruin of their city turned homeward, and at midnight the streets were deserted save for the police and soldiers who guard the city. A red glow rises and falls over the ruined property that yesterday morning represented values to the extent of from $75,000,000 to $125,000,000. One factor that will figure largely in the final estimates consists of securities in the banks and trust companies whose homes were destroyed. Their safes and vaults are tonight in the ruins, covered with tons of debris. Experts who have given them as close an inspection as possible, express their belief, however, that the contents are safe. On the correctness or falsity of this belief depends many millions of dollars greater or less of the final total.

Starting in the wholesale department of John E. Hurst & Company, at the corner of Liberty and German streets, the fire burned out every wholesale house of note in the city, swept along through the Baltimore and Fayette streets, through prominent office buildings, leveling banks and brokers' offices as well as the Chamber of Commerce and Stock Exchange in the financial section; then went on through the wholesale and export trade sections, centering about Exchange place. It finally brought up at the docks, where it invaded the lumber districts. This morning the fire was burning fiercely along Pratts, from Light street, to a point not yet determined. It swept away the bridges over Jones' Falls and burned into the great freight terminals of the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio railway on President street.

Millions of feet of lumber have gone up in smoke already, and the fire is still burning with the fierceness which characterized it since the start, threatening the vast manufacturing district, following the harbor lines toward Canton.

To describe and detail the fire, which will go down in the history of the world as one of its greatest disasters, is an impossible task, impossible at this time to give an adequate idea of the total loss.

In the face of the fire fiend's fury man has been helpless. Reinforcements by the fire pumps, four companies from Washington and a number of men from Chester, Pa., it was still unable to check in any way the progress of the flames. This morning half a dozen of New York city's powerful engines went by special train, and their arrival gave an impetus to the efforts to check the flames by putting fresh men into the fight.

The Baltimore firemen, as well as the out-of-town men who arrived earlier, have been exhausted. All electrical power has been destroyed and no street cars are running. About midnight the wind, which had been blowing strongly from the southwest with a tendency to sweep to the westward, began to come in from the northwest. At this hour the flames had reached Market street, and were heading directly for the tenement district across the Falls, where the pitiful foreigners were working like demons to save their household effects. Temporarily, the change in the wind saved them from the flames, which were driven toward the water front, and all the buildings, from Baltimore street down to Pratt, at noon were afire. From then on Pratt street became the centre of the fire, which burned blocks of business structures. On the thoroughfare, from Charles street eastward to the Falls, roughly speaking, the fire in its course described a half circle on its northern and western edge from Lombard and Duty streets to Fayette and St. Paul streets. Jacob Tighlittz, of the Laurie fire company, of York, Pa., was killed early today at Baltimore and Frederick streets. He came to Baltimore last night with his company, and was at work at the southeast corner of Frederick and Baltimore streets when the wall of the building fell. He was caught under the wall and was dead when found. He was 25 years of age and is said to have been married.

At 10.30 a.m. Deputy Marshal Manning announced the fire under control. At 11.45 a.m. the fire was sweeping along the harbor and river fronts, and vessels are being taken out into the stream. There are 75 or 100 of them. Details of the Standard Seal Oil Company and the Buckman Fruit Company are in flames. The fire departments are throwing streams into these doomed buildings. At 1 p.m. the burning area stretches for blocks along the waterfront to the suburbs region to the old part of the city. The firemen are working bravely, but at fearful odds. The area is enveloped in a huge mass of black smoke in volumes and rolls away over the rest of the city. Stretching back along Jones' Falls is a host of buildings gutted by the insatiate flames.

The firemen are dynamiting buildings and walls in the burning area, and the detonations of explosions and the shrill whistles of the fire engines add to the indescribable horror of the scene.

While two companies of the Wilmington, Delaware, fire department were on Golden's wharf, their retreat was cut off by the explosion of the Standard Oil Company's warehouse. They yelled for assistance and several tugs came to their rescue. In fifteen minutes a change of wind opened a passage long enough to enable the firemen to rush in and rescue their engines. A few minutes later the entire wharf was a mass of flames.

Among the principal buildings which were razed to the ground in this neighborhood were the Standard Oil Co., the U. S. Fruit Co., the Baltimore Fruit Co., J. J. Unherhill, W. C. Robinson, Baugh & Son and N. Frank & Son. Even with the assistance of the outer-town fire fighters there appeared to be no prospect of stopping the fire until it had burned its way out.

It steadily ate itself to the water's edge, and this was thought to be Baltimore's salvation. Dynamite was proven almost useless last night, when building after building in the neighborhood of Baltimore street were blown up in order to stay the flames, but the flames simply jumped these vacant spaces and licked up the buildings on the far side.

New York, Feb. 8.—Mayor McClellan today sent the following message to Robert McLane, mayor of Baltimore: "Nine fire engines and one hook and ladder company shipped to you this morning in charge of battalion chief. The city of New York extends sincerest sympathy and puts itself at your service. I shall be grateful if you will call on me for any assistance necessary. (Signed) Geo. B. McLellan, Mayor."

The following is a partial list of individual losses in the great conflagration which is still burning in this city. The estimates here given may not be actually accurate in every case, but they are approximately correct. The estimates cover buildings and contents:

John E. Hurst, dry goods, $1,500,000, over $1,000,000 insurance; Wm. Kock Importing Company, $1,200,000; Sam D. Goldberg and F. & Chas. Burger & Co., clothing; $100,000; the Daniel Co., dry goods, $500,000; Dixon, Bartlett Co., shoes, $175,000; Joiner Wilson & Co., hats and caps, $100,000; Sprangins, Buckes & Co., shoes, $125,000; Coher, Adler Shoe Co., $250,000; L. S. Fiteman (ladies' wrappers), Josac R. Sieman (paper), and Natan Rosen (ladies' furnisher), $100,000; Morton, Samuels & Co. (boots and shoes), Strasse Bros. (storage), $100,000; Baltimore Rubber Co., $155,000; Guggenheimer, Wells & Co. (lightographers and printers), $125,000; M. Friedman & Sons (clothing, etc.), S. S. Scenes (clothing), $150,000; Sewartshopt Toy Co., $100,000; A. Fedreicht & Sons (clothing), $75,000; Whitaker's saloon, $150,000; S. J. Stewart & Sons (hardware), $25,000; O'Connell & Brannan (saloon), $25,000; National Exchange Bank (building) $100,000, (contents), $500,000; Sloan & Co. (clothing), $125,000; John E. Hurst & Co. (storage), $15,000; Findlay Roberts, $75,000; Lawrence & Gould Shoe Co., $125,000; S. Ginsberg & Co. (clothing), $125,000; Winkelman & Brown Drug Co., $225,000; Sutton & Co. (dry goods), $150,000; Chesapeake Shoe Co., $100,000; S. F. & A. F. Miller, $150,000; S. Hall & Sons (boots), $10,000; Strats Bros. (dry goods), $25,000; A. C. May Co., (patent medicines), $150,000; Mathews Bros. Paper Box Mfg. Co., $75,000; Strauss, Elsmann & Co. (shirt manufacturers), $152,000. North Bros. & Strausse have been moving to a new building formerly occupied by Heywood Bros. and Wakefield Company, on the northeast corner of Prates and Breen streets; building $75,000, stock about $75,000; Standard Suspender Co. and Daniel E. Boon & Co., $75,000.

At 12 o'clock Chief of the Fire Department McPhee said the fire was still beyond control.

Washington, Feb. 8.—A bill was introduced today by Representative Emrich, Illinois, appropriating $1,000,000 for the relief of the sufferers from the Baltimore fire.

BABY'S DANGER.

The fact that so-called soothing medicines put children to sleep is no sign that they are helpful. On the contrary they are dangerous and distinctly harmful—the little one has been merely drugged into temporary insensibility, the seat of the trouble has not been reached. Never give a child an opiate except under the watchful eye of a competent physician, and remember that all "soothing" medicines contain opiates. When your little one is not well, when it has any little stomach or bowel trouble, or any of the minor ailments of little ones give it Baby's Own Tablets, and it will be safe. This medicine is sold under a guarantee that it contains no opiate or harmful drug. Ask any mother who has used this medicine and she will tell you how her little one has thrived and grown well and strong after taking the Tablets. Mr. T. B. Mitchell, the well-known druggists, Oshawa, Ont., says: "I can safely recommend Baby's Own Tablets from the splendid results they have given my customers and from having used them in our own home." You can get the Tablets from any druggist or by mail from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., at 25 cents a box.

The Question Of Strategy

War Has Been Going on Between Japan and Russia.

It Was a Struggle For the Strategic Position in Korea.

From Glasgow Evening News

From the strategical standpoint the war between Russia and Japan has been in progress for some years. The fact is not clearly understood. Yet to realize this fact is of the utmost importance; now that the forces, which have been slowly marshalled, are at the point of contact. Hitherto, and especially on the part of Russia, the manoeuvres have been directed towards gaining a superior strategical position in the Far East. These manoeuvres, in their early phases, were not recognized. All that Russia seemed to desire was to develop a trading connection with China, and her own eastern provinces, by means of a railway. That was quite natural, and no objection was raised.

When the present Czar, in 1891, turned the first sod of the railway line between Kharbarovka and Vladivostock no one, outside of Russia, realized the military importance of the event. Nor were the far-reaching designs of Russia disclosed, in their full significance, until she, in 1897, occupied Port Arthur. The strategical importance of this step became at once apparent to all the Powers interested in the Far East; and Great Britain, as a counter-movement, hurriedly occupied Wei-hai-wei. Having established herself in Port Arthur, disguising her designs under the pretence of a lease of the port from China, Russia now linked-up her Siberian railway with a railway through Manchuria to the Lai-o-tung peninsula. Her object, she still declared, was the development of trade. That was in some degree true, for she built the trading city of Dalny.

But Russian policy, although it may include trading enterprise, is always directed towards military ends, and a strategical objective. Dalny has been spacious and adapted, and all the energy of Russia concentrated upon making Port Arthur an impregnable fortress to seawards. The Russians have realized, however, that although Port Arthur, as a tactical unit, can be made exceedingly strong, from the point of view of the strategist it has some very weak points. If you look at a good map you will see at a glance wherein the weakness lies. The Lai-o-tung peninsula, with Port Arthur at its extreme point, is partly enveloped, and almost wholly dominated by the much larger peninsula of Korea. From the strategical standpoint, the power that holds Korea holds a superior, and almost a dominating position in respect of Port Arthur and the Lai-o-tung peninsula.

The Russians have always recognized this fact, and hence their ceaseless efforts to gain a firm foothold in Korea. The Japanese have, also, kept this strategical fact in view in remembering that the Russians turned them out of Port Arthur. You will now understand what I mean in saying that the war has been in progress for some years. On the surface, the dispute has the appearance of being mere politics; at its core it is a struggle for the superior strategical position. And this fundamental fact has been disclosed anew in the negotiations between St. Petersburg and Tokio. Two demands have been put forward by Russia. (1.) She has put forward a claim to hold two ports, Mokpo and Masanpho, at the extreme south of the Korean peninsula. (2.) She has put forward a demand that a neutral zone should be established in the extreme north of the neck of land on which Port Lazcreff is situated.

What is the meaning of these two claims? The meaning is that Russia desires, as she has always desired, to retain in her own hands the strategical value of Korea. As regards the political value of Korea, that is comparatively unimportant; the other value is vital to her if she is ambitious, to become the dominant power in the Far East. For these two claims have two important naval and military aspects. In this way. By creating two strong naval bases at Mokpo and Masanpho the Russians would achieve, in respect of strategy, two important ends. They would always, in the first place, be better able to keep open a passage through the strait that lies between Korea and Japan; and, in the second place, they would thus make an important connecting link between the present naval basis at Port Arthur and Vladivostock, which are too far apart to support each other adequately.

This refers to the south of Korea. In the north the claim put forward for a neutral zone is even more important from the point of view of strategy. For if you look at the map you will see in a moment that a military force firmly established in Northern Korea would flank the line of communications between Port Arthur and its landward base. When the war begins (if it should begin) it will be the object of the Japanese to seize, at the earliest moment, this flanking position on the Yalu, and then press forward upon the line of communications definitely represented by the Manchuria railway. If the Japanese succeed in this movement, after a series of battles, the fall of Port Arthur would only be a matter of time—the time that it would be able to feed itself from its own resources. There you have, in briefest statement, the strategical value of Northern Korea, and you can now understand why Russia desires it made a neutral zone. You will also be able to understand more clearly why Japan and Russia find it so difficult to arrive at an agreement. They both recognize, with the utmost clearness, that Korea is the key to the strategical position.

The way to regain your health after sickness is to take Hood's Sarsaparilla—it tones the whole system.

GREAT CONFLAGRATION SWEEPS BALTIMORE

Fire Starts in Wholesale District and Aided By High Wind Gets Beyond Control of Fire Department.

Appalling Sight Presented By Huge Structures in Flames and Urgent Calls for Help Answered By Nearby Cities.

Washinaton, D.C., Feb. 8.—A despatch received from Baltimore at 2 o'clock a.m. says the fire is still raging fiercely. The postoffice building is burning, also the court house. The Holliday street theatre has been blown up with dynamite and the united express offices and central offices of Baltimore & Ohio railway are burned. The loss impossible to estimate, will probably exceed $50,000,000

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 7.—The most destructive conflagration in the history of Baltimore occurred here today, raging practically unchecked during many hours, completely destroyed scores of the largest business houses in the wholesale district involving a loss which cannot be estimated as the fire is still raging. Owing to the extent of the calamity, it will be tomorrow before even an approximate can be made, though it is certain that it has already exceeded $25,000,000. The fire broke out shortly before 11 o'clock this morning in the wholesale dry goods store of John E. Hurst & Co., on Hopkins place, in the heart of the business district, with a series of loud explosions which were heard in remote parts of the city, and spread with fearful rapidity. In a half hour there were a dozen big wholesale houses in the wholesale dry goods and notions' district burning fiercely. The entire city fire department was called out, but was utterly powerless to check the spread of the flames, which, even aided by the high winds, and by noon there was a severe fire in at least thirty big warehouses, and the conflagration was steadily tearing into business blocks east, west and south. Building after building fell a prey to the flames, and apparently there was no check to the forward sweep of destruction. On Baltimore street the block between Liberty and Sharp was soon ablaze; then came the next block east to Hanover, and later into the block on the south side to Charles street broke out into flames, the Consolidated Gas Company's building and Oehms' Acme hall burning heavily.

Meanwhile there were stores north of Baltimore street being similarly consumed. Mullen's hotel caught, and buildings near it west of Liberty, on the south side of Baltimore; the block was doomed and the big Baltimore barrel factory caught in the conflagration, where the conflagration started, Hurst's building and the other wholesale houses on both sides of the street crumbled and fell. The big dry goods houses of Daniel Miller & Son and P. M. Sutton & Co. were soon afame, and along German, east and west from the Hurst building, there were a dozen buildings burning and scores more threatened. The spectacle of ruin and destruction from any point in these burned blocks was something appalling. Mass & Kemper's big wholesale store on Baltimore street, quickly succumbed to the flames, and the walls fell with a crash that was heard for many blocks. The Hurst building was utterly destroyed, not even a wall ten feet high being left standing, and apparently the centre of the conflagration, whence the flames radiated over the doomed neighborhood. On Hopkins place the Hopkins Saving Bank and the National Exchange Bank were gutted by flames, the stream of water that the firemen were able to turn on them proving utterly ineffective, even to halt the destruction across the street, where the ruins of John E. Hurst & Co., and next to it Frecht, Jun., & Sons, were in flames; adjoining was a large building owned by the William Kosh Importing Company, which was also quickly destroyed. Across the street the Stanley & Brown Drug Co., building was quickly in ruins, while fronting on the Baltimore street side of this block was the Roxbury Rye Distilling Co., the building occupied by Silberman & Todes, the house of Allensons', which had hardly been completed, while next to it was Moses & Co. On the corner was the building occupied by Messrs. Sugar & Sleet, and several other smaller concerns. All of these were swallowed in flames, and, in fact, the whole block was nothing but a cauldron of fire. At 1.30 o'clock Mollin's hotel, a seven-story structure on the corner of Liberty and Baltimore streets, was in flames, and the great height and narrowness acted as a flue, converting the doomed building into a roaring furnace. All the guests had been ordered out of the hotel shortly after the fire broke out in Hurst's place. There was no confusion and no one was hurt.

Though every bit of fire-fighting apparatus in the city was called into requisition, the flames continued to spread, and the firemen realized that they had a task before them which was too great for them to combat. Telegrams for fire engines were sent to Washington and Philadelphia, and about 1 o'clock six engines arrived from Washington and four from Philadelphia and had joined in the battle with the flames. Engines from stations in Baltimore, Howard, Anne, Arundel and Hartford counties arrived soon after, some of the apparatus traveling a distance of thirty miles and more.

Water plugs in every station within a radius of half a mile from the fire were in use, and it is roughly estimated that there were 350 hose all playing at once at different parts of the conflagration.

Baltimore, Feb. 7.—(9:20 p.m.)—The fire is still raging, with the fire department helpless and with the flames steadily traveling eastward on Baltimore and Fayette streets. The Union Trust building has fallen in; the Carrollton hotel is on fire; the Herald and News buildings are apparently doomed and the occupants have moved out. The Sun is preparing to move also. Clouds of burning cinders cover the whole of the city.