The Colonist.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER, 12, 1890.

THE REAR GUARD.

The story of Stanley's Rear Guard is most melancholy, most horrible and most humiliating. It shows how educated and professedly Christian men of our own time and our own nation can act, when entrusted with absolute power over men of an inferior race, and freed from the restraints of civilized society.

The guard was under the command of a man, who, if he was not a madman, acted like one. His heartless cruelty excites both wonder and disgust. He treated the native Africans under his command more barbarously than any man of common humanity would beasts of burden. The accounts that are given of his cruelty are almost incredible. In fact, they would not be believed by his countrymen at home, if they were not proved by testimony which it would be folly to discredit. He flogged the miserable creatures mercilessly, for accidents as well as for breaches of discipline and other offences. He seemed to take a fiendish delight in torturing and terrifying unoffending persons. Even the women did not escape. It was for cruelty to a woman that his horrible career was cut short.

The London Weekly Times of the 14th and 21st of last month contain accounts of the doings of the officers of the Rear Guard, which makes one ashamed of being of the same race as the men who committed acts of such cool and wanton barbarity as are there recorded. The affidavit of Assad Farran says that, for stealing a big tortoise which had been given to Mr. Jameson, "four Soudanese were severely flogged until their flesh was torn, and they had also, for one month, to carry ammunition boxes, marching up and down in the sun all day." For stealing some matakos and handkerchiefs from Mr. Jameson, Bartholemew, the interpreter, was flogged and tied up by chains for some months. Here is an incident related by Ben Osman:

"Upon one occasion, while crossing a boggy stream, Major Bartelott mounted the shoulders of Homadi Ben Dowo, but the latter's feet sinking deeply in the mud and being stuck there at each step, he stumbled slightly and the Major got wet. When we arrived at the bank on the opposite side of the river, Major Bartellot flogged the man unmercifully and threatened to have him shot next morning. The threat had been made and carried out in other cases, so that Homadi Ben Dowo, fearing death, escaped in the forest and remained absent until Stanley arrived at Benalya."

A starving Soudanese soldier stole half of a goat that was hanging in Mr. Ward's tent. The theft was discovered aid the man was sentenced to three hundred lashes. When he had received 150 lashes he was insensible, the executioner was then ordered to desist, and the administration of the remainder of the punishment was deferred until he should be strong enough to bear it. The poor creature's flesh was lacerated in a terrible manner, but when he was able to move he was compelled "to march ten hours every day, in the heat of the sun, with his hands tied together and a heavy chain round his waist. This punishment was continued for two months. "By this time" says Farran, "his flesh was stinking from the sores, and the worms came out of the flesh," yet the inhuman commander was not satisfied. He expressed his determination to administer the remaining one hundred and fifty lashes. The soldier finding his life a burden and knowing that the torture in store for him would kill him escaped into the bush. A reward was offered for his capture, and he was brought back to the camp and ordered to be shot. Farran says in his affidavit:

"Besides, the men were flogged every day—either for sleeping on guard or leaving the camp without permission, or neglecting their duties—even for the smallest crime they were severely punished; not one day passed without a dozen or two men were flogged with either 100 or 50 or 25 lashes, even to the very sick persons no mercy was shown."

From the accounts that are published it appears that slavery was something more than countenanced by the officers of the Rear Guard. The story which, when it was first told of Mr. Jameson purchasing a child in order that he might witness an exhibition of cannibalism, is graphically told by Farran. All the circumstances are related with the utmost simplicity. This is what the Times says of the narrative:

"So ghastly and horrible is the story that the natural impulse is to dismiss it as incredible. Yet there is such a vivid directness about the narrative, so much of what we must call dramatic consistency in its evolution and so great a verisimilitude about its details, that if Assad Farran is not speaking the truth, he must not only be a consummate liar, but a great artist. We do not forget that he has already denied what he now asserts, nor can we blame those to whom his affidavit is distasteful if they make the most of the circumstance. No one will believe the assertion because Assad Farran makes it, but neither can we believe the denial on that ground. The denial was made under considerable pressure, and although some equally powerful motive may be assumed for the affirmation, its nature has not been made equally clear. All that can be done is to weigh internal evidence and collate Assad Farran's statements with those of other witnesses. As regards the two officers most seriously implicated, it will be observed there is a disquieting amount of corroboration from other sources.

The only question with regard to Mr. Jameson, is whether he paid the price asked to purchase the child or to see the exhibition. It is not denied that he stood quietly by while the child, a girl of ten or twelve years old, was led to the slaughter and killed and cut up by the cannibals. It is not denied that he was sufficiently cool and collected on the same day as to make drawings of what he saw, and it is equally certain that he showed those sketches to his friends. In fact, all this is admitted in Mr. Jameson's own account of the affair, addressed to Mr. McKinnon, President of the Emin Relief Committee.

The account given of the way in which the officers of the Rear Guard performed their duties as related by themselves is not pleasant reading, and we are not surprised that Mr. Stanley was, out of regard to the feelings of the survivors and of the relatives of the dead, desirous of saving as little as he possibly could about what was done by those who had command of it during his absence. But the subject has been rashly opened up now, and it must, we suppose, be sifted to the bottom.

NOT THEIR MONOPOLY.

The Liberals are dreadfully indignant that Mr. Paradis, who has been elected for Napierville, should have expressed himself favorable to reciprocity with the United States, and that the Hon. Mr. Chapleau has encroached upon what they claim as their own peculiar preserve. They, and they alone, claim the right to be the advocates of Reciprocity. We are altogether at a loss to see what grounds they have for declaring that they, and they only, are privileged in this Dominion, to speak and write in favor of reciprocity. Owing to the action of the United States Congress the discussion of free trade with the States is at this moment purely academic. The subject has really no bearing upon practical politics. It is as reasonable just now to ask a candidate what his opinions are with respect to the antiquity of man or the theory of development as to question him as to his views on unrestricted reciprocity. As long as the people of the United States prove by their acts that they not only do not want reciprocity with Canada, but are strongly opposed to being more closely related to us in matters of trade than they are now, what object can a Canadian politician have in making reciprocity an issue at the polls? The Americans have kicked that question out of the political arena, and as they must be a consenting party to any arrangement for mutual free trade, we cannot see that Canadians can do anything towards bringing it about by telling each other how much they would be pleased to have it, and what good it would do. In fact, it seems to us that by showing too much disappointment at what the Americans have done in this trade business, and by exhibiting a very strong desire that they should retrace their steps, we are causing our neighbors to believe that reciprocity with them is, to us, a necessity—and that there is nothing that we will not do to secure it. The people of Napierville, it appears, are not of this opinion. They like to hear their candidates talk about reciprocity; and Mr. Paradis being like a great many other Conservatives strongly in favor of reciprocity, if it can be had on reasonable terms, gave free expression to his convictions. Had he not as good a right to do this as Sir Richard Cartwright or Mr. Charlton, or any other Liberal, in any part of the Dominion? He did not promise to give the people reciprocity, for that is out of his power. He knows, as every sensible man knows, that if every Canadian from Victoria to Halifax were in favor of reciprocity, we would not be, in the slightest degree, nearer to obtaining reciprocity than we are now. It takes two countries to make a bargain of that kind and if one of them is ever so willing to make it as long as the other is unwilling, it cannot be even begun.

When the Americans evince any disposition to trade freely with Canada, there is the best reason for believing that they will find the Dominion Government ready to meet them half way. Until then we cannot see that it is at all judicious in either Conservatives or Liberals saying a great deal about reciprocity. But if any member of the Conservative party should think otherwise, he, whether Minister of State or candidate for legislative honors, or one of the rank and file, is just as free to give expression to his views as is the most enthusiastic Liberal free-trader in the land. The advocacy of reciprocity at the proper time and in the right way is not by any means a monopoly of the Liberal party.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

WE are pleased to see that, what is to all appearance an earnest effort, is being made in Seattle to put down gambling. The gambling dens are traps for the unwary and the young, and should not be permitted in any well regulated community. We are decidedly of opinion that the laws against gambling in saloons should be severe, and that they should be rigidly and honestly enforced. Not only should what are usually considered gambling games be prohibited in such places, but all playing for money in them, no matter what the game, should be made unlawful. There is no reason, that we can see, why houses of entertainment should be made schools in which gamblers are taught their first lessons. We trust that the authorities in this city will soon follow the example of those of Seattle. Victoria in any good work should not be behind the "wicked" cities of the Sound.

THE LABOR QUESTION.

Lord Salisbury's Views on the Eight Hours Law.

At the Guildhall banquet, the Lord Mayor, in proposing the health of the Premier, among other things said:

"My Lord Salisbury, on the last occasion on which you addressed us in the city you stated that foreign affairs were eminently and thoroughly pacific. We rejoice to believe that, thanks to your able guidance, our relations with foreign countries still continue in this happy state. (Cheers.) Would that the same peaceful attitude prevailed in the internal affairs of this realm! But to the thoughtful mind the present relations of capital to labor, of employers to employes, cannot but be regarded with grave anxiety. (Hear, hear.) My lord, you once said that the prosperity and greatness of every Christian Empire must consist in the profound accord of classes. If a kingdom be divided against itself, how shall it stand? With what fatal oblivion many seem to forget that the nation should be the union of all. The present Government has done much for the pacification of the world; it is doing much most successfully to promote peace and prosperity in Ireland. I think we may safely leave those other difficult questions in its hands." (Cheers.)

Lord Salisbury's response contains the following passage:

"You observed, my lord, at the close of your speech that, however free we might be from the fear of conflict abroad, we had no such justification within our own borders, and that contests were growing up between capitel and labor which might well fill us with alarm. I think your lordship seemed to intimate that it would lie in some degree with the Executive Government to conjure this danger and to avert its effects. I do not know that that can be the case. I doubt whether in our own community the Executive Government ever could exercise functions of that kind, and I am sure that, generally speaking, whenever some great delusion threatens to spread over a community, any attempt on the part of the powers that exist, whatever their origin may be, to stem that delusion, and to prevent the matter from being properly examined and discussed, would only end in aggravating the evil which they fear. The delusion may be a long one, and many interests may be sacrificed by it, or it may disappear after having remained a short time upon the earth; but, whether it remains or whether it disappears, the only remedy that will affect it is the reasoning and discussion of the various members of the community and classes in the community who are affected among each other until by the conflict of interests the truth dawns out clear to each mind. I fear that at present the delusion is strong and that it will produce a great and evil effect. It consists in this—it consists in the belief that by extending the action of the criminal law, by punishing men for exercising their own natural freedom, and for doing that which they have a right to do, you can promote the general prosperity of the community. The answer to that, of course, is very easy. Such laws would be irritating and exasperating to the last degree. (Hear, hear.) They must be made stricter and stricter in order to meet the constant efforts at evasion that will be made; and then what will happen? Why is it that you have such masses of capital in this county ready to give employment in the numerous industries and to sustain in this little island a population so largely in excess of that which could be supported by its natural resources? (Hear, hear.) It is because your institutions, through which the vital air of freedom breathes, attract capital as no other institutions can. (Cheers.) But if we are to have an Eight Hours Bill, if we are to have measures which forbid a man, no matter in what necessity he may be, to exercise his strength and ability for another hour or two beyond the eight hours prescribed by law, if all the hindrances and embarrassments which the state of the law put on capital are to be endured, you must be prepared for the natural result. There are other countries close by which labor under no such delusion and are in no danger of coming under it. (Cheers). Those countries are at no great distance, and they have this advantage—that all markets that are open to them are open to the English, and their own markets are open to them besides. (Hear, hear). They have also the opportunity of importing to any extent they please English capital, English machinery, and English skilled superintendence. (Hear, hear.) They have not one disadvantage except that now the spirit of their people is less free. They will not strip us of that one advantage, but they will as far outdo us in capital and prosperity as it is now our glory to boast that we do them (cheers), and the first men to suffer by that state of things, when employment languishes and industries pine away, will be these very workmen on whose behalf unwise purists and timid politicians—or, perhaps I should say, interested politicians (cheers)—are now preaching arrangements which the modern world has never heard of before, and which savor of the darkest superstition by which industry ever was oppressed. (Cheers.)

Funeral of Joe Coburn.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The funeral of Joe Coburn, the pugilist, took place this morning from the Church of Holy Innocents. It was attended by a large gathering of sporting men. The services, consisting of a requiem low mass, was celebrated by Rev. Father Kean. The interment was in Calvary cemetery. Among the floral devices was one from John L. Sullivan, but he was not present in person.

F. W. Parker, traveling freight and passenger agent of the Great Burlington route, is in town.

CITY COUNCIL.

A Lively Session—The Temperance and Moral Reform Association Discussed—Chinese Exhumations Vigorously Condemned.

The ordinary weekly meeting of the City Council was held last night, His Worship the Mayor in the chair. There were present Aldermen Goodacre, McKillican, Harrison, Kelly, Vigelius, Wilson, Smith and Holland.

After the reading and adoption of minutes the Mayor referred in the most feeling terms to the funeral which had just taken place and had been so largely attended of a gentleman who had presided over this Council Board and who had also sat as an ordinary member. It was in order for some one he thought to propose a motion of condolence with his family, and of appreciation of his public service. He had in the past and up to the time of his death, been not only a most worthy citizen but one of the greatest friends to the poor of Victoria. It would also be proper that the city clerk forward the resolution to the family.

Ald. Vigelius said that the decease of Mr. Fell was a misfortune to the city. He was sure all the members coincided in this view.

Ald. Kelly moved, seconded by Ald. Harrison, and it was resolved, that the sympathy of this Council be conveyed to the family of ex-Mayor Fell in their bereavement, in the loss of the head of their family by death, and that this municipality, through the Municipal Council, recognizes the misfortune to the community in the demise of one of its most useful members, and that the clerk be instructed to transmit to the family this resolution.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS.

James Prevost—drawing attention to the condition of the lower part of Menzies street, near the Athletic Club house.

Ald. Vigelius complained that at this point, and several others, the Water committee had not properly repaired streets where they had made excavations.

After some discussion, the communication was referred to the Street committee.

A. Blythe—complaining of an accident on Fort street, which he had received, by which his shoulder had been injured, and asking compensation therefor, and also employment for himself and son.

Ald. McKillican denied that the condition of the street was such as to have caused an accident under ordinary circumstances, and spoke of the claim as ridiculous.

The Mayor explained that the place where Mr. Blythe had fallen was near the Assembly Rooms, where there was no fence. He could not see how a man who was walking straight could fall off the sidewalk like this.

Ald. Kelly said that such claims as this ought not to be entertained. Many demands like this were received, and it would appear better for the parties to ask for money help rather than make claims for damages.

The petition was left to the Street committee.

Drake, Jackson & Helmcken—on account of High Grant, asking for damages for injuries to a scow because of the non-removal of piles at Rock Bay bridge. Referred to the Street committee.

Baldwin, Vashburn, Calcott & Co.—asking for assistance, by way of purchase of books, towards publishing an illustrated work on Vancouver Island, the work to be printed in Victoria provided there were proper facilities here for doing so. The communication stated that the Board of Trade and the Government had been communicated with.

Ald. Holland moved that the communication be referred to the Mayor and Printing Committee to report.

Ald. Vigelius moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. Kelly, that the matter be left over to the incoming council with a strong recommendation.

Ald. Harrison thought there was too much slowness about advertising Victoria. He would like to know what the Board of Trade and Provincial Government proposed to do.

Ald. Wilson concurred with Ald. Harrison.

The Mayor expected that proposals from our own people would be made for such a publication as this. Other cities expended large sums in advertising themselves and something should be done here.

Ald. Vigelius said there was no mess on his back or his feet either, but he thought it would not be right at such a late stage of the year, to take up a proposition like this, which should be relegated to the incoming council.

Ald. Kelly believed that in Victoria and British Columbia there were people who could do this work as well as any one in Chicago or San Francisco.

Ald. Holland considered that if such a work were published here it would be a fine thing for the city.

Finally the matter was referred to the Mayor and Printing committee.

From A Workingman—suggesting that, instead of advertising Victoria, it would be well to find work for people who were here, &c., &c.

The letter being anonymous, was thrown out.

J. T. Higgins—calling attention to the state of the sidewalk on Vancouver street. Referred to Street committee.

Hooper & Goddard—asking permission for Mr. R. T. Willirms to extend his basement ten feet under the sidewalk. Referred to Street committee, City Surveyor and Building Inspector.

Elford & Smith—asking for use of a portion of Broad street for building purposes; also similar applications for other points from James McClarty and H. G. Levey. Granted.

Thomas Roberts—asking that a street line be defined on Young and Toronto streets. Granted.

John Teague, on behalf of the British Columbia Land and Investment Co.—for permission to excavate under the sidewalk. Referred to the Building Inspector, City Surveyor and Street committee.

John Andean—drawing attention to the condition of the box drain on Bay street, near the Finley estate, also with respect to Orchard street. Referred to the Street committee, with power to act.

D. Urquhart—complaining that he had been compelled to pay 50 cents more water rate per month than his neighbors. This latter was accompanied by a communication from Mr. Summerfield condemning the system of levying water rates. Referred to the Water committee and Water commissioner to report.

Fred. J. Claxton—asking for a drain connection on Fernwood street. Street committee to report.

The Park commission protesting against the further removal of rock and gravel from a certain street in the park.

Ald. Harrison characterized the Commission as an unmitigated lump of cheek. The street committee had paid for the street and the Park commission had nothing to complain of.

The communication was referred to the Street and Park committees.

Stephen Jones—asking for a sixteen-foot sidewalk in front of the Dominion Hotel, Yates street.

The Mayor remarked that before Mr. Jones put up his building, the sidewalk was in good condition. Street committee.

Eberts & Taylor—announcing that the Carey arbitration had been closed and the commission adjourned for a week. Received and filed.

Eberts & Taylor—announcing that the DeCosmos case would come up in the court on the 11th instant, and asking that certain communications be submitted to the plaintiff's solicitors.

The Mayor spoke very strongly against Mr. DeCosmos, whose can ankerous sa, day after day, caused the Council and citizens so much trouble and expense. It would, he said, be better for the community were Mr. DeCosmos outside of it. He was tired of such men as he, who continually kept the Council in the courts. Mr. DeCosmos was a peculiarly objectionable man, and ought to be ostracized. He ought to have the least possible consideration.

Ald. Wilson believed that were Mr. De Cosmos a member of the council, what would satisfy him best would be a large mirror in which to admire himself.

Ald. Smith understood that he was at present getting up a bank on De Cosmographicallism.

Ald. Kelly deprecated so many attempts to goudge the city. He was completely sick of De Cosmos, who was the worst man with whom the city had to do.

The communication was received and the request granted.

The Mayor, further severely reflecting upon Mr. Decosmos, and his methods.

Eberts & Taylor — asking for a cheque for $20 costs allowed in the Madigan case. Request granted.

H. Pillar—asking if the Council would receive a deputation from the Council of the Temperance and Moral Reform Association, on the 17th inst.

The Mayor said that such communications were always calculated to cast aspersions on the Council and should be hurled back on their authors. He defied Rev. Watson, Fraser and McLeod, who had preached in denunciation of the city, to find any town of similar size more moral or well ordered than this. He was ashamed of such men. Indeed it seemed as if they had no means of maintaining themselves in their positions but keeping on their black coats than by breaking out in such denunciations. They could not, it would appear, earn their living at preaching if they did not act in this way. He referred to the public celebrations, among them recent Queen's birthdays, after which there were no prisoners in the Police Station. He was well aware that the social evil existed, but no man with a family would seek to stamp it out as some of these people desired to do. It had existed in the earliest times, and would continue to exist, or worse. It was for the authorities to make people obey the law. If they broke it, they should be taken up and punished and made to behave. He wished to see every possible moral reform carried out. This the council were trying to effect; but they were severely reflected upon by the Reform Council—forsooth! It was only the other day that something had been brought to light in connection with an officer of the Y. M. C. A., and were the whole system sifted down to the dregs, perhaps, something more of the same would be discovered.

Ald. Smith said that for his part he would like to see the gentlemen and hear what they had to say. He was not afraid, and should therefore move that the council meet them as they desired.

The Mayor would be ready to meet and confer with them as citizens, but not as a Moral Reform association. He repelled their insinuation.

Ald. McKillican thought the Mayor had taken a wrong meaning of the communication. The association had been organized to protect the public morals. He should throw no obstacles in their way, and if they could do anything for the elevation of the community, he should be happy to help them. He did not find in their communication anything filthy, obnoxious or beneath the dignity of the Council.

Ald. Kelly looked on the formation of the Council as an insult. He would not receive the communications or endorse them as an organization. If they came before the Council as individuals he would be ready to meet them.

Ald. Harrison could not discover any insult. The association was formed of respectable men. Let them be met.

The Mayor—Who are they?

Ald. McKillican — The different churches appointed certain men to act in this capacity. They wanted to remedy certain evils, and it was only right to meet them and ascertain what they wanted.

The Mayor asked why they had chosen the present time to send their letter. It was, he was convinced, a municipal political dodge. If they addressed the council in the proper manner, no citizens were ever received without proper consideration. He wished most emphatically to repel the insinuations. He was well posted as to all the outs and ins. They had sufficiently declared themselves. On Sunday night Rev. Mr. Watson had advised his congregation not to support men who would not take up certain things.

Ald. Wilson said he wished to have the opportunity of meeting the gentlemen and repelling their insinuations.

After some further remarks, it was resolved to meet the gentlemen on Wednesday evening at seven o'clock, sharp.

From residents—drawing attention to the disgraceful condition of the crossing at the corner of Johnson and Government street. Referred to the Street Committee to report.

From Langley & Co. and others—calling attention to the crowds gathering at the corner of Government and Yates streets. Referred to the Police Committee and Chief of Police, with instructions to carry out the law.

BY-LAWS.

The by-law to grant $5,000 towards the erection of a militia building was read a first time.

It was stipulated that the building to be put up be worth at least $20,000.

The by-law to amend the Sewerage Commission by-law was read a first time.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Several reports were read from the street committee relating to minor matters.

The reports were received and adopted.

Ald. Wilson referred to the matter of Chinese exhumations saying, that he had to-day visited the cemetery and had seen something of the horrible practice of exhuming bodies, some of which had not been buried more than seven months. He had inquired by what authority this was done and had been shown an order signed by Mr. Reddy of the Provincial Secretary's office. The corporation ought to communicate with the government on the subject. No one knew of what diseases these people had died. He understood that the Provincial government got $10 for each body exhumed and this corporation $5. He moved that the city clerk be instructed to communicate with the government, asking them to refuse permission to remove bodies unless they had been buried for ten years. There were 19 bodies to be taken out of the Ross Bay cemetery and two out of the old cemetery, according to the order which had been shown to him. He thought the city health officer should visit the cemetery to-morrow.

Ald. Vigelius seconded the motion, suggesting that the communication to the Government be supplemented with a certificate on the subject from the city medical health officer.

The motion was adopted.

Ald. McKillican said if the practice of exhumation was against the public health it could be put a stop to.

The Council adjourned at 10:15.

NOTES FROM KOOTENAY.

Miscellaneous Mining News—Contract Awarded for Wharves, Depot and Hotel—Lumber in Demand—Big Contract.

(From the Nelson Miner.)

Steps are being taken to organize a telephone company at Nelson, and if possible a line will be erected this fall between Nelson and Ainsworth. If the wire and instruments cannot be got in this fall, the poles will be put up, so as to be ready for the wires in the spring.

A somewhat serious accident happened on Toad Mountain on Monday. It appears that J. M. Fox, one of the owners of the Dandy, saw some runaway pack animals stampeding down the trail past him and endeavored to head them off. In doing so he was kicked on the head by one of the mules; the animal's shoe tearing Mr. Fox's right ear almost entirely in halves and cutting open his head.

Until Tuesday night no serious accident had happened on the grade of the Columbia and Kootenay railway, although the rock work required heavy blasting. On Tuesday last a blast was fired which resulted in the death of one of Selous and Lewis's men, Frederick Lewis, a piece of rock weighing 30 pounds flying a distance of 300 yards, and hitting him in the back as he was trying to get out of the way. Medical aid was called, but the man died ten minutes after its arrival.

A Johnson of the Kootenay house returned this week from Trail Creek. He reports the people in that camp sanguine of its future and putting in good work toward developing it. Quite a number of cabins have been built at the mines near Red mountain, and large stocks of supplies laid in for the winter. The fact that they will have the benefit of a weekly mail service after December 8th, also gives them encouragement.

The Davies-Sayward mill company has let a contract for 5,000,000 feet of logs to be delivered at the company's saw-mill at Pilot bay. McLean & Plager will undertake the work, backed by a Nelson merchant. The parties are now on the ground putting in the plant, and the merchant is on the outside hustling up supplies. Ten teams and about 25 men will be employed. There will be no scarcity of lumber in the lake country next year.

DEMAND FOR LUMBER.

The Nelson Sawmill Company has either delivered or received all the long pieces of stuff (except two pieces 54 feet long) for the new Mara boat, now building at the 1-mile point. The company expect no further trouble in filling the order, as everything about the mill is working in good shape. The only trouble now experienced is keeping a supply of lumber on hand, the demand being almost equal to the capacity of the mill.

MINING NEWS.

Reports come from Ainsworth that Sprague's Teuderfoot is equally as rich as the United. The report is that ore carrying native silver has been struck, and in bodies large enough to make the property one of the most valuable in Hot Springs district. J. M. Fox was down from the Dandy this week, and says the shaft is 32 feet in depth, with the ore improving. It is changing from galena to gray copper, which gives assays up in the hundred. The pay streak is also widening, and Mr. Fox believes the Dandy will yet be one of the big mines on Toad Mountain. It is rumored that the Neosho, a much-advertised Hot Springs prospect, has been sold to Spokane parties for $15,000—about $500 apiece for its owners. Assessment work is being done on the Fairview, a gold claim four miles south of Nelson. The ledge is eight feet in width, but enough work has not yet been done on it to prove its value. "Rorey" McLeod was offered $4,000 spot cash for a half interest in one of his Hot Springs claims, but the offer was declined. William Springer and R. S. Topping, two of Trail Creek's sturdiest upholders, were in Nelson this week on mining business, both having made deals out at Spokane that promise good to the camp.

WHARVES, DEPOT AND HOTEL.

Dan McGillivray has been awarded the contract of building all wharves, ore docks, warehouses, depots, and platforms needed by the Canadian Pacific at Nelson. The wharves and ore docks will, it is said, be at the mouth of Cottonwood Smith Creek, and the depots and warehouses on the flat at the West end of Baker street. He has also been awarded a contract for a $12,000 hotel, the company stipulating that it be ready for the finishing lumber and touches by April 15. The men at work cutting the right-of-way are within a mile of Nelson, and expect to be at No. 1 station in two weeks. Contractor Keefer expects to have the grade completed to the 2½-mile point by January 1, and will put in the remainder of the winter on rock work, leaving the earth work until spring. They do not expect to be through much before June 1. The end of the track will be at the crossing of Kootenay river within 10 days, it now being distant about 2 miles. When completed to the crossing, freight can easily be brought up to Nelson by way of the portage at Davenport's landing, then by bateaux. E. S. Wilson has taken out all the squared timber for the bridge cribs, and also all the timber for the trestle work between the bridge and 2½-mile point, and is now rafting it down the river.

AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE DISTRICT.

The Miner says: There is a tendency in certain quarters to prevail on Mr. Kellie, West Kootenay's representative-elect to the Legislative Assembly, to ask for large appropriations for a dozen different sections of his district. Mr. Kellie will be wise if he carefully considers the question before taking action. It is understood that thousands of dollars are wanted for a road into the Lardeax country, and thousands more for roads and trails in the northern end of the district. Mr. Kellie need not go further than Albert Canyon to see an actual result of the folly of building expensive wagon roads to unworked mining claims owned by single individuals. It is time enough to build wagon roads into camps when the worth of the camps is proved by actual work, the vaporings of over-sanguine tender-foot prospectors not being very good evidence as to a camp's worth. If Mr. Kellie will get a liberal appropriation for West Kootenay, leaving its expenditure to the good judgment of the government agent for the district, the chances are no road will be built that is not needed, and no money expended on trails that will be useless after they are built. Wagon roads are needed in districts like those of Hot Springs and Toad Mountain, because the worth of those districts is already established. By spring something definite will be known as to the worth of the claims at Trail Creek and at Goat River; but it would be unwise to secure large appropriations for either of these camps at the coming session of the assembly. In the northern half of the district there is not a single camp to which an expensive wagon road should be built at present. A large appropriation is due the district, but it should not be so apportioned as to be expended uselessly. Wagon roads are a necessity, and should be built to every camp in the district—but not until other work than staking off claims is done in the camp.

OVER TWO MILLIONS.

Victoria's Building Progress for the Year Unequalled in the City's History.

When, one year ago, THE COLONIST prophesied that by the end of 1890 the building operations in this city would total a million and a half of dollars, very many were inclined to regard the prophecy skeptically. They said a million was an outside figure, and if the building for the year reached that figure they would be abundantly satisfied. THE COLONIST's prediction has been more than verified. This year's building operations represent the investment of more than two million dollars, and architects and contractors confidently assert that 1891 will see nearly double as much building as 1890. Never in the history of Victoria has the erection of fine buildings for commercial or residential purposes approached to anything like the magnitude of this. Not only is the rapid rise of new homes, new stores and new warerooms remarkable on account of the number erected, but also on account of the constantly improving quality of the buildings. Architectural beauty is aimed at, both inside and out, with abundant success, as anyone may see who cares to take a stroll past the many new mansions which abound in all quarters of the city. In business premises the plain two-story brick, which a few years ago was thought quite good enough for Victoria, is giving place to magnificent three and four story stone and brick blocks, of which the Lenz & Leiser building, the Turner Block, Henry Saunders, R. T. Williams', Allsop & Mason's, Colbert & Warners and many others might be mentioned. In all more than 400 frame residences have been constructed this year—ornamental lumber continuing to be the favorite building material in the public taste. Forty brick blocks may be added as the samples of more substantial achitecture. During the year the suburbs have developed wonderfully. Victoria West is now a very good sized little town in itself, with its own churches, lecture halls, and even theatre. Esquimalt road is booming; so is the Gorge road. Macaulay Point is expected to be the scene of extensive building operations very shortly, and in fact in whatever direction one may look, building materials meet the eye. The alterations and improvements to existing buildings during the year is roughly estimated at $150,000; and THE COLONIST's detailed list of all buildings constructed during 1890, which may be looked for in the New Year's number, show the value of the building this year at considerably above two millions.

IN CHAMBERS.

(Before Mr. Justice Walkem.)

Scott v. Scott—Summons for the examination of the petitioner. Adjourned to a day to be fixed. Mr. Mills, for the petitioner, Mr. Eberts for the respondent.

Scott v. Scott—Summons for security of the costs. Adjourned until a day to be fixed. Mr. Mills for petitioner, Mr. Eberts for respondent.

McDougall v. Robson—Application to strike out paragraph 3 of amended statement of defence. Order refused. Costs to be defendants in the cause. Mr. Belyea for plaintiff, Mr. Bodwell for defendant.

Turner v. Haggerty—Defendant's application for trial by special jury. Trial ordered for the 22nd inst. Mr. Walkem for plaintiff, Mr. Wilson for defendant.

Arthur Williams, of Nanaimo, is in town.