e store and bedroom; did not lend oney to my sister before the fire; have id one note of $200 for her since; all e boots that were saved were taken er to Mr. Isaacs; there were some ots burnt on the shelves; could not say w many; am certain that nothing was ved on the back shelves.

To Mr. Moss—There are shelves on e partition; have seen burnt boots and oes on them.

Morris Moss—On the night of the fire as attending the synagogue; left there out 8 o'clock and walked with Mrs. orris as far as Johnson street; had some siness with Mr. Salmon and went to s store; left the store about 8:45; have ade claims upon Mr. Nuttall and he ld me he intended holding an inquiry.

To Mr. Mills—Did make a claim on r. Nuttall as executor; if I had not been ecutor I should not have written the tter signed by Mrs. Morris.

His honor then reviewed the evidence d pointed out to the jury their duties. e thought that the evidence so far adced did not throw any light on the igin of the fire.

Mr. Fullerton, foreman, said he would ke to have a look at the premises. His ish was echoed by the others and the urt was adjourned for half an hour.

After the jury returned from viewing e premises they gave a verdict to the fect that the fire was caused by the upetting of the lamp.

LATE CANADIAN NEWS.

risp Cullings from our Eastern Exchanges—What the Atlantic Papers Have to Say.

ONTARIO.

P. Purcell, M. P., denies that he will ive the government an independent upport.

The Ottawa Local Imperial Federation eague is going to discuss Imperial topics ublicly.

Mr. Kamper, the capitalist, will spend he session at Ottawa promoting his cheme to purchase the Intercolonial and he establishment of smelting works at Nova Scotia,

The Trent Valley commissioners are ngaged in parliamentary work and correspondence, arranging for taking evidence as to the desirability of extending he canal to Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay.

It has taken the Kingston evangelical lliance a long time to wake up, but it has at length put on record its disapproval of gambling at the local fair, and hopes that the scandal and demoralization attending it will never again be experienced in the city.

At the Salvation Army meeting at Ottawa prayers were offered for the distressed and abused friends and co-workers in Quebec and at the conclusion of the religious exercises a liberal contribution was taken up to supply the sinews of war for the struggle in the citadel city. People outside the Salvation Army ranks altogether subscribed liberally, believing that protection and the right of parade belongs to all classes of the community.

QUEBEC.

Chief of Police Paradis, of Montreal, is dying.

Montreal has decided to have no carnival this winter.

The petition against Fiset, member for Rimouski, has been dismissed.

Lassiez, local member for Vercheres, is unseated for bribery by agents.

Premier Mercier has gone to New York in connection with the Quebec loan.

M. Tasse, editor of *La Minerve*, is mentioned as the probable leader of the Quebec Conservatives.

The price of sugar, both granulated and yellow, was raised at Montreal on Monday morning by wholesalers, one quarter of a cent.

One more Rouge has gone the way of corrupt politicians. Mr. Goyette, local member for Laprairie, resigned, admitting bribery by agents.

Judge Caron dismissed the petition against the return of McGreevy, M. P., Quebec, but notice of appeal to the supreme court was given.

A young Sioux Indian girl took the vows of the Grey nuns in the convent at Three Rivers the other day. She has been living there since her infancy.

The Quebec election cases will be appealed to the supreme court to test the question whether the time of the session of parliament counts in election petitions.

Joseph Nugent, of St. Ferdinand de Halifax, Megantic county, charged with killing his mother in 1886, has been arrested and placed in Arthabaska gaol to await his trial.

The gross earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway for the ten months ending Oct. 31, 1887, were $9,468,434; working expenses, $6,839,123, net profits, $2,629,311.

The latest trade combination is that of Montreal local rubber dealers who want to coerce the wholesalers to refuse dealing with any traders who are not members and thus increase retailers' profits.

A leading fur house at Quebec was badly taken in a few days ago by a well dressed stranger who bought $800 worth of their finest furs and paid the bill with an $1,000 cheque, apparently accepted by the British North America bank, receiving back $200 in money. The next day when the cheque was presented it was learned that the maker was unknown and the acceptance a forgery. In the meantime he got safely out of the city with the plunder.

NOVA SCOTIA.

William Wheatley, commission merchant, Halifax, has assigned. His liabilities are $10,000, of which $8,500 are preferred.

MANITOBA.

Fraser was elected mayor of Brandon by acclamation.

There is some talk of an early dissolution of the Manitoba legislature.

Douglas has been re-elected mayor of Emerson, his opponent declining to stand.

A grain blockade on the Canadian Pacific has commenced, and loud complaints are heard in reference to the delay in receiving cars.

A deputation of the Knights of Labor waited upon the Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba in reference to calling a meeting of the legislature. They received the promise that the legislature would be called together on January 12th.

Galignani's Messenger says: "Never, probably, in the history of Paris, has the picture market been in so depressed a state as it is at this moment. A few great artists, like Bouguereau, Meissonier, or Benjamin Constant, find ready [illegible] for their works at very high pri[illegible] the rank and file have the grea[illegible]culty in making both ends meet [illegible] import duty on pictures for th[illegible] States were removed, American [illegible] would probably come forward in increased numbers, but until then there seems little hope of any improvement. As an illustration of the existing depression may be mentioned the result of the sale, after death, of the works belonging to M. Jacquinot, the artist-expert, which has just come to an end at the Hotel Drouot. Two thousand pictures put up to auction only produced 21,000f, or £840, being an average of 16s per picture. In some cases two or three canvases together were sold for 5f, and not one single work realized £20."

Steamer Ancon arrived at the outer wharf at 2:30 o'clock p.m. yesterday and left for Port Townsend two hours later.

The Victoria Weekly Colonist.

THIRTIETH YEAR. VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1887. VOLUME XXIX, NO. 51

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Scenes Attending the Opening of Congress—Chamberlain's Appearance.

Should the United States Become its Own Telegraph Company?—Civil Service Reform—The President's Message—Newsy Notes.

[From our Own Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7th.

Washington is happy. The flower of American society is assembled here, and the winter season of gaiety has been fairly inaugurated. From this date the life of a congressman will be a constant round of hard work and social dissipation, and if some do not fall by the way before the end of the session history for once will neglect to repeat itself. Men accustomed to regular work and regular hours soon find that the machinery of nature gets out of gear when worked at high pressure at all seasons without the cooling influence of rest and rational recreation. A state dinner on the top of a regular dinner, and several bottles of something very dry on the top of a sequilation allowance of Kentucky Bourbon is apt to superinduce a gastric derangement such as has cut short many a brilliant political career in this city. New congressmen unaccustomed to the fleshly lusts cultivated in large cities are the greatest sufferers from the debilitating effects of late hours and too much eating and drinking. It is not work that kills our congressmen, it's society.

The news of the opening of Congress has already been flashed to you across the wires. The ceremonies did not differ materially from the ceremonies with which other congresses have been ushered in. Both houses presented an animated scene as the hour for the formal opening approached, though the greatest interest was manifested in the Senate.

MRS. CLEVELAND,

of course, was there, and the observed of all observers. Joe Chamberlain appeared unconscious of the attention he attracted as he viewed the scene with aristocratic *nonchalance* through his single barrelled eyeglass. The spectacle before him was a brilliant one. All the beauty, wealth, and intelligence of the nation seemed to be clustered in that spot. The air was musical with the hum of human voices and fragrant with the perfume of flowers, which wrought into artful and graceful forms hid the desks of popular senators. In the house this scene was in its main features duplicated. Amid the greetings which were general upon the floor, Blount of Georgia, and Breckenbridge of Arkansas, who came to blows on Saturday night over the doorkeepership, shook handscarcos the bloody chasm and became friends. The crank, as it manifests itself in Washington, is an irrepressible creature, and at the opening of the House he succeeded in making his presence felt. The chaplain had not been elected, and the proceedings were about to begin without an invocation of the Divine blessing when a mentally unbalanced revivalist called for the singing of the doxology. But a minority of those present knew what the doxology was. A few Congressmen thought it was a new drink until the crank, suiting the action to his words, reeled off the whole of the hymn to common sense before either he or his voice could be arrested by the sergeant-at-arms. Though Speaker Carlisle said nothing particularly new or startling in the course of his address upon taking the chair he voiced the sentiment of the nation in calling for wise, conservative and prompt action in abolishing all unnecessary taxation. While he directed attention to the fact that the prosperity of the nation hinges in a great measure upon judicious tariff legislation during the present session. By its treatment of the tariff question this session the Democratic party will do much to ensure its success or failure in the coming presidential contest. The balloting for seats in the house is a custom which promises in the future to be more honored in the breach than in the observance, and yesterday the rigid rule was slightly relaxed. Pig Iron Kelly, the father of the house, and Sunset Cox, another time-honored representative, were allowed to take their old seats without making their position in the house to the hazard of the die. There is a growing disposition to abolish the rule of balloting for seats, and to permit leading statesmen to take the places which they are entitled to on account of their long congressional service and pre-eminence in the domain of statesmanship. Under the existing rules veterans in the ranks are often relegated to back seats while raw recruits, fresh from municipal councils, sit right up under the speaker's eye. There is already a good deal of speculation in regard to

THE LEADING MEASURES

which will be brought before congress, and second only to the tariff, is the proposition that the United States should become its own telegraph company. This proposition involves an enormous expenditure on the part of the federal government and an absolute monopoly of the government of the telegraph business of the United States. It would be bad statesmanship for any administration to recommend the establishment of a new telegraphic service merely for the purpose of keeping down rates, and it would be simply playing into the hands of Jay Gould to purchase the Western Union system. There is no doubt that Jay Gould forsaw that a measure of this character would be introduced during the present session, and that he purchased the B. & O. lines for the sole purpose of removing the question from the field of practical politics for the time being. Then again the necessary time for a proper consideration of this important question cannot be secured this session, and after all it is questionable whether a government telegraph system would be more in the public interest. In England the party in opposition have always been seriously handicapped by the government telegraph, and to-day the Home Rule party cannot wire their friends in regard to important national matters because of *espionage* which the government can, and doubtless does, maintain over all messages, and especially those of a political character. Of course, ciphers may be used, but there is no cipher which cannot be deciphered by an expert in the art of resolving ciphers. Here, where party feeling runs very high on certain occasions, the administration with a government telegraph would hold a whip hand over the "outs." At present it is not intended to give the government a monopoly of the telegraph business, but a little reflection will show that the government could not enter into any scheme which would place it at the mercy of a private corporation. These are the sentiments of some leading men with whom I have conversed on the subject, who are not yet prepared to express their views publicly on the question which is as yet only in an embryolic condition.

Notwithstanding all that has been said and done against civil service reform it appears after all to have its uses. The army of office-seekers who used to take possession of the capital about this time is conspicuous by its absence. The rank and file of this army had few or no qualifications for clerical work, and they soon found there was no hope of preferment for them under civil service rules, and if civil service reform has done nothing else it has practically abolished one of the worst features of American political life—the importunate office-seeker. While, however, much can be said in favor of civil service reform much also can be said against it. It seems to be

A GREAT HARDSHIP

to require a candidate for office not only to attain a standard of sixty-five per cent. in his examination, but to be the most efficient of all examined with him. The examinations are practically competitive examinations, and in this way a discrimination is made in favor of the school boy as against the man who, though he may have forgotten much of his academic lore, is still able to pass a standard sixty-five per cent. examination. There is a growing feeling in favor of certifying all candidates who come up to the standard.

Mr. C. R. Taylor, the American minister to Liberia, is thoroughly disgusted with his diplomatic mission. A few days ago it was rumored that he had resigned and his enemies took advantage of the occasion to circulate a report that he had been ignominiously recalled. There, however, seems to be no ground for the base insinuation, and but little reason to doubt that Mr. Taylor is very fond of Liberian society. He reports that owing to the salubrity of the climate clothes play but a very perfunctory part in Liberia. The president is in full regalia when he dons a plug hat and a masher's collar, and according to all accounts the secretary of the interior when Mr. Taylor was introduced to him wore an umbrella and a breech cloth caught up with pieces of string. Modes generally are not subordinate to the idea that nature unadorned is adorned the most, and the belles of society are interesting studies of artistic anatomy. Mr. Taylor would not return to Liberia for all the untold wealth of its natural mineral resources.

The president's message was

A GENUINE SURPRISE

to both democrats and republicans. It is a very flat-footed document. It is an unequivocal free trade deliverance but withal so conservative in tone that it gives force to the statement of Mr. Baker, of Ill., that the message is an argument for protection of American industries. In a sense this is true. What the president virtually says is this: If we are going to protect anything let us protect American industries, and take the tariff off articles not produced in America—a tariff which is all disadvantage to the working man and no benefit. He says moreover: If we are to take the tariff off anything let us take it off the necessaries of life which the poor must have. In his message the president keeps the poor man constantly in view. The justness of the president's conclusions cannot be questioned though their expediency is open to criticism. It cannot be denied that there are a good many Democrats greatly pejected by the message, and if they refuse to be comforted they may succeed in complicating national politics very seriously. The message was largely in the nature of an executive bomb and I understand this evening that the President himself feared that his communication to Congress would be severly criticised. He, however, feels keenly the gravity of the situation and inclines to the belief that a heroic remedy is needed at this conjuncture. All that can be safely predicted in regard to the tariff legislation is that it will engross a large share of the time of Congress. In 1870 when the tariff was revised by the Republicans, the whole or part of some sixty different days was consumed in the consideration of the bill. It is assumed that if there is much filibustering the time consumed this year in the revision of the tariff will be much greater than in 1870.

The fisheries commission is proceeding slowly with its work, and has almost dropped out of the public mind. The fishery commissioners, however, are the high lights of the social world and will never be forgotten. Newspaper men have ceased trying to obtain any intelligence of the negotiations. None of the commissioners will talk fishery matters, and their subordinates are much closer than oysters. I understand that no one except the secretaries of the commission know what is taking place, and that the clerical work is so divided up among a number of clerks that no one clerk can make anything out of the papers he handles.

POTOMAC.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

The Crown Princess of Portugal is seriously ill.

Extensive deposits of gold bearing ore have been discovered near Puesas, Ala.

According to the *Official Military Gazette* Russia neither desires nor fears war.

It only takes 3 days, 21 hours now, to travel by train from San Francisco to Chicago.

Lord and Lady Lansdowne will preside at the opening of the picture exhibition at Montreal.

The Central Pacific Railroad has declared a dividend of one per cent., the first in four years.

The Belmont hotel, Los Angelos, was destroyed by fire yesterday. Loss, $100,000. Insurance unknown.

The French ministry promises to restore the financial equilibrium by the retrenchment of expenditures.

Henry S. Swalm, charged at San Francisco, pleaded not guilty. Clara Bell McDonald also pleaded not guilty.

Fred White says the charges of citizens of Battleford, N.W.T., against Commissioner Herchmer are unfounded.

Senator Stanford has introduced a bill in the senate for the establishment of a quarantine station at San Francisco.

The *National Zeitung* says that Professor Bergmann has suddenly declared his intention of not returning to San Remo.

The Imperial government is to be asked to take action against the publishers of anarchist and revolutionary periodicals issued in London.

The St. Petersburg *Invalide Russien*, government organ, declares it is not Russia, but Germany and Austria who are acting aggressively.

General Thomas Kirby Smith, a distinguished soldier of the war of the American rebellion, died in Philadelphia last Wednesday, aged 67.

It is believed there is a good deal of truth in the report that La Riviere and Harrison want the Dominion Government to buy out the Canadian Pacific monopoly.

An improvement in the breech mechanism of the Martini-Henri rifle, invented by Captain Greville Harstone, of the Grenadiers, Toronto, has been adopted by the British war department.

Lord Churchill spoke at Stockport, Eng., last night and said that the prospects of the Unionists were very bright and that their position had become better defined since the failure of the round-table conference.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Sir Charles Tupper Believes a Satisfactory Settlement of the Fisheries' Question Possible.

He Speaks Highly of Chamberlain—Rumored that the Government Will Take Over the C. P. R.—Poultry for New York—A Malicious Fabrication Nailed.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—The Minister of Justice was interviewed to-day. He said he thought it feasible to arrive at a final settlement of the fisheries' question. He speaks highly of Chamberlain and says he co-operated heartily with Sir Charles Tupper.

The report wired here of two clerks of the fisheries department giving private government information to the Washington authorities is a malicious fabrication.

It is rumored in England that the government are going to take over the Canadian Pacific, but nothing is known of the matter here.

Twenty-two carloads of Christmas poultry were sent from Ottawa district to New York to-day.

OUR CABLE LETTER.

LONDON, Dec. 17th.

It has been amusing to hear the indignant reproaches hurled at Howard Vincent's head by the more cautious members of the Tory party. Fair trade they have said is all very well for the general election, but why on earth trot it out when there are no votes to be gained and many Unionist allies to be frightened off, and those who have so expressed themselves have not had a long wait for a justification of their beliefs. Lord Hartington, John Bright, and finally Hon. Geo. J. Goschen, have declared in favor of their old creed of free trade, nothwithstanding the declarations of the Liberal-Unionist leaders that they will not vote a duty on corn even to save the government. The Fair Traders intend introducing such a measure early in the next session of Parliament and will give the government a great deal of trouble in bringing the question promptly to the front. This threat and the recent developments of the agitators are regarded with grave anxiety by the Conservative leaders. Lord Salisbury and some of his colleagues have done their best to run with the hare while hunting with the hounds on this question, but the reactionaries at Newton the following make no secret of the fact that they had enough of this vacillation. They already have a grievance against the government arising out of their belief that Mr. Smith, the Conservative leader of the house, wilfully threw obstacles, during the whole of last session, in the way of the ventilation of their theories in parliament. The formal adoption by the Tory caucus of a protectionist policy is by no means the only difficulty which threatens the unionist alliance.

The adoption of woman suffrage as part of the Conservative platform is likely to prove troublesome to certain of the liberal unionists. Sir Henry James first made his mark in the house of commons by an elaborate and impassioned attack on the advocates of woman suffrage, and ever since that time has been an active, bitter and persistent opponent of the changes. Bright notoriously thinks that the less women concern themselves with public affairs, the better, even with reference to social and moral questions. Chamberlain is probably the most thorough-going advocate of what Mr. Mill called "the subjection of women," alike in its political, economical and domestic aspects, who have ever filled conspicuous places in English public life. If Chamberlain is as frankly loyal to his old opinions on this question as Bright is to his opinions about protection, a vigorous letter may be expected from America on the female suffrage question, and those who remember bygone debates in the commons on woman suffrage and the contributions made to them by so remote from the throne as the Duke of Cambridge will recognize that this subject affords unequalled scope for homely language.

The advanced wing of the Tory party find allusions to the forthcoming local government bill unsatisfactory and about the promised land purchase bill there is absolutely no enthusiasm, either among the old Tories or the new. The old electioneering hands of the party make no secret of the belief that the land purchase bill will be unpopular with the Conservatives in this country and may put the government in serious danger, but the explanation is to be heard on all hands, "it is Goschen's fad." In the same way that Goschen is blamed by the followers of Lord Churchill for having emasculated the local government bill, and by fair traders for making himself the stumbling block in the way of Salisbury's leadership of the protectionists. All this marks a line of clearage in the Unionist camp. Despite all the hard work Goschen has done recently for the Unionist cause he is not popular with the great bulk of the Conservative party and it is safe to predict that for any misfortunes which may overtake the government the Chancellor of the Exchequer will inevitably be made the scapegoat. His high-handed, dry, economical theories are proving more intolerable to Conservatives than they were ever to their opponents.

This time last year, it is instructive to remember, politicians were in prospect of the meeting of parliament on the 13th of January, and there was a disposition to negotiate, on the part of dissentient Liberals, which has now been entirely withdrawn. Then, as now, Gladstone was standing firmly on his principles of a subordinate parliament for the local affairs of Ireland, and an executive government arising out of that parliament. Of all the distinguished dissentient Bright was there alone in his attitude of "*Laissez faire.*" Those who were then apparently desirous of a compromise have fallen back into the current with Bright, and it may be said now with even greater emphasis than twelve months ago, that Gladstone's policy still "holds the field." Scarcely any one supposed a year ago that it would at this time have stood alone with no competition of any sort for a solution of the problem of Irish government and it is the absence of any policy but that of coercion which gives rise to doubts as to the longevity of this parliament.

Statesmen may as well try to run away from their shadows as to avoid the topic of a central European alliance and all that it includes, implies and pre-supposes. Optimistic politicians are seeking in vain for the pointed warning contained in the German Emperor's recent speech to the Reichstag. A war of revenge cannot be waged. At all events it is hardly likely that France will force it whilst affairs south of the Rhine are in a state of confusion, giving no sign of an early adjustment. Then again, say the critics of this easy-minded class, Russia has no immediate attention of crossing the Austrian frontier, and therefore it is not probable that the aid of Germany will be invoked for many months to come. Pessimists, on the other hand, perceive the possibility of French statesmen rushing, out of sheer desperation, into war in order to distract the attention of the people from the wretched state of affairs at home and to give the Republic, which has fallen into sad disrepute, a chance of achieving a splendid victory for France. If the soldiers of the Republic returned from the field triumphant monarchy would have received its death-blow.

Once more the statesmen at St. Petersburg take no pains to conceal their restiveness under the policy which prevents their resenting Austria's attitude towards Prince Ferdinand. How soon their patience may give out, and the Emperor William does not appear to believe in its long endurance, and how soon their imperial master may be thrust into hostile protest, it is difficult to forecast. Meanwhile Italy is beginning to ask what would be the result of an Austrian defeat by Russia? The latter would in such an event offer Austria an alliance which she could not refuse. Then there would be Russia, France and Austria in combination—a condition of affairs which would constitute the Czar master of the east and would endanger Italian unity, to preserve which Signor Crispi entered into the central alliance. These are a few of the problematical complications, the anticipation of which is occupying the minds of European statesmen. The part which England would play, in the event of hostilities between Russia and Austria, has been almost determined upon. Her fleet would support the action of the allied powers, and her interference would have for its main object the preservation of the integrity of Turkey. As the situation at present reveals itself it would be impossible to predict its next development. Only this is certain there is a general cry for "Peace" on the lips of European statesmen, whilst the word "War" goes resounding through their hearts.

Rumors of the reappearance of alarming symptoms in the disease of the Crown Prince are now received in a manner which leaves no doubt of the serious condition of the royal patient. Sir Morell Mackenzie, who a short time ago declined to express any save qualified opinions as to the progress of the malady now makes a statement of so unfavorable a character as to fill the minds of the German people with grave apprehension. Sympathy with the patient, which the bad news aroused, has not been confined to the Fatherland, but has been felt throughout Europe. There are ties which endear him to Englishmen among whom but a little while ago he took up his residence and from whose midst he departed believing that he had received great benefit. As husband of the favorite daughter of Queen Victoria, the Crown Prince has always been regarded in England as one of the royal family of Great Britain and has shared the national feeling of respect and admiration. The report that Queen Victoria has written to the Emperor of Germany with regard to making provision for the family of the Crown Prince is semi-officially denied to-day. Her Majesty has enough to think of in the future of her royal family at home. When the Prince of Wales was stricken down with serious illness the position of his family was very much like that of the family of the Crown Prince of Germany. The £40,000 a year which the Prince of Wales has from parliament is for life only and the £60,000 a year which is his probable income from the Duchy of Cornwall would, upon his death, pass at once to his eldest son. The estate of Sandringham, which cost in all about £400,000, represents by far the greater part of the property over which the Prince of Wales has the power of bequest. Since the Queen's accession Parliament has voted thirteen life annuities to members of the royal family, exclusive of the Prince Consort, amounting in all to £150,000 a year, which is the sum to be paid in the current year. It is not in the least likely that any member of the royal family, other than the Duke of Cambridge will receive in the younger generation an annuity of £12,000 a year from parliament. The scale of the royal annuities is diminishing and it is expected the government will in the next session propose the appointment of a select committee, which Gladstone suggested, to consider what, if any, provisions should be made for the younger generation of the royal family, practically limiting the enquiry to the children of the Prince of Wales.

HARD EARNED LIBERTY.

A Sailor Leaps From a British Man-of-War and Swims Four Miles.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 15.—James Briggs, a seaman from the British man-of-war Triumph, was brought into the receiving hospital last night in a half drowned condition. He explained that while the Triumph was in Esquimalt he made an application for twenty four hours' leave of absence, which was refused, and he insisting upon what he claimed as his right, he was ordered to go to work, which he declined to do. Briggs was thereupon made a prisoner, and on being tried on board the Triumph he was sentenced to eighteen months' in Portland prison, in the south of England. Last night he succeeded in freeing himself of his chains and gaining the deck unobserved. He dropped unseen into the water, and after a hard battle of four miles with the waves, he managed to reach a wharf, upon which he clambered and where he was found by Officer Fensier. He is a native of London, and says he enlisted in the English navy ten years ago. Briggs is about 28 years old.

"I jumped off the Triumph to gain my liberty," said the young sailor as he sank back on his cot in the hospital. "I've heard that a man is free in America, but in England he never is."

MAINLAND NEWS.

(Columbian.)

One of W. H. Vianen's fishing boats on Burrard Inlet caught what is supposed to be a conger eel. As this member of the eel family has hitherto been almost unknown to the coast, Mr. Mowat, inspector of fisheries, has some doubt as to its being the conger eel. He will have it preserved and sent to Prof. T. Brown Good, of the Smithsonian Institute for classification.

We understand that the case of Messrs. Woods, Turner & Gamble vs. Mr. James Kennedy, for libel growing out of a letter published some time ago in the *Columbian*, will be tried before a special jury on the 23rd inst.

A dead bear, weighing 515 pounds dressed, was brought down from Chilliwhack this afternoon. It is a monster.

Bark Ferris S. Thompson, in Esquimalt harbor, has coal for the Sandwich Islands from Wellington.

QUAMLET "NOT GUILTY."

The Jury Return a Verdict of "Not Guilty" in the Dring Murder Case.

The Judge Retain the Prisoner in Custody, Desiring that He be Tried for Murdering Miller—The Prisoner Remanded at the Pleasure of the Crown.

(Special to THE COLONIST.)

NANAIMO, Dec. 16.—Thirty-eight witnesses were examined in the Quamlet case, which has lasted eight days, the counsel having closed the argument this evening. At 1 p. m. the judge addressed the jury for more than one hour, charging against the prisoner. The jury, after an absence of twenty-five minutes, returned a verdict of "not guilty." The prisoner's counsel moved for the discharge of the prisoner, but the crown objected, as the prisoner having been tried only for the murder of Dring, it was still competent to try him for the murder of Miller. The counsel for the defence, whilst recognizing authority for the right of the crown to a second trial, urged that a decision should be speedily arrived at, as the presence of so many witnesses on both sides affords a better opportunity of investigation than can be expected again. The court sincerely in hold that the prisoner must be remanded during the pleasure of the crown.

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

The Hearing in the Above Case Resumed—Adjourned Again Until Wednesday.

In the police court yesterday, the case of Campbell and Kennedy, charged with conspiracy, was resumed. Mr. S. Perry Mills appeared for the prosecution. Mr. Pooley, Q.C., for Campbell, and Mr. Drake, Q.C., for Kennedy.

W. P. Sayward, re-called for cross-examination by Mr. Drake—Joined Mr. Gabriel in the Tumbo Island company about a year ago; it was about the time the Japanese went up to make an examination; received a verbal report from Mr. Gabriel that the property was good; the report was so favorable that I went to see the property; when I saw it I was not favorably impressed; was a party to spending some money before Mr. Campbell went up; saw Mr. Campbell's report in March last; the report made by Mr. Campbell is a geological report; this report says there are indications of coal; did not go so much on the report as I did on the conversation I had with Mr. Campbell; Mr. Prior went to the island with me, and his opinion coincided with mine; would have placed some reliance on Mr. Prior's report, only he had no opportunity to form a report; Mr. Prior is a mining expert; his opinion would have been better in my estimation than that of Mr. Campbell; know Mr. Wilkes; he took a contract to sink a shaft; Mr. Wilkes thought the measures good for coal; Mr. Wilkes' contract was to sink 400 feet at $10 per foot; for the $300 paid to Tatten we expected to get the mineral right; only saw Mr. Wilkes a few days ago; he made no statement to me regarding Tatten's lines and the place where the shaft was sunk; am under the impression that Mr. Wilkes was at Tumbo island before I paid Tatten $500; the reason why I think too much was paid Campbell and Kennedy was that he had been humbugged through reports and statements; Mr. Kennedy made no statements; Mr. Campbell always reported the mine in a favorable light; don't know that the reasons were correct; have no reasons for taking proceedings against Kennedy, only that he was a party to the conspiracy to get money out of the company; do not know whether Mr. Kennedy had something to sell; bought something from Mr. Kennedy; know nothing about the value of the property; it remains to be proved whether we paid too much; if we found a valuable coal field we would not have paid too much; we cannot tell the value of the mine unless we sink a shaft; had no knowledge of Kennedy's being a party to the conspiracy until these proceedings were taken (did not give instructions for these proceedings.

To Mr. Pooley—I think I introduced Mr. Wilkes to Mr. Gabriel and said he was an experienced miner and we could depend on his report; Mr. Wilkes went to the island with Messrs. Muirhead and Campbell; when Mr. Wilkes returned he said he was favorably impressed; after Mr. Wilkes return I let the contract to sink a shaft; if Wilkes had been unfavorable, I don't know what I would have done; was not present when an agreement was made to pay Mr. Kennedy $3,750; was in favor of paying him $2,500 and the balance when we struck bed-rock; was not in favor of paying him $3,000; we did not meet when the agreement was made to pay Kennedy $3,750; objected to the agreement before it was made; find no fault with Mr. Campbell's report on the coal mine; Mr. Campbell went up with Mr. Wilkes and made surveys; Campbell said Tatten would allow no one on his land unless he was paid; the result was that I sent Campbell to Tumbo Island for Tatten, and paid him $500 for permission to sink the shaft; Tatten agreed to allow us to open the mine and roads and to allow us to use timber for general mining purposes; I do not know how much work was done by the Japanese; if a witness states that there is only enough work done for a man to cover with his hand he is drawing on his imagination.

To Mr. Mills—Before proceedings were taken I heard Olsen's statement and Tatten's statement regarding the $500; I agreed to these proceedings before action was taken; Campbell valued the mine at $25,000, and thought if we got it for $10,000 we would get a good bargain; I did not place much reliance on the Japanese report, but I did place much reliance on Mr. Campbell's report; I inferred that Campbell and Kennedy were not friendly, and I did not know that they were holding meetings; I spoke to Mr. Wilkes before any arrangement was made and asked what he would charge for sinking in sandstone; Campbell went up with Wilkes and gave up the contract because it did not pay him.

Mr. Lang was called for cross-examination but did not appear.

Mr. Mills said the witness was here for examination at the last hearing. He had a one-twelfth interest in the mine and was a most reluctant witness at the examination.

B. E. Olsen went to Tumbo Island last spring; was on the Rosenfeld which was wrecked in the locality; Kennedy was in charge of the wreck and we took the coal out of her; in October I discovered the seam of coal; Kennedy did not discover the coal and show it to me; we found it together; went to Mr. Gabriel and told him about the mine; he said we need not go to Mr. Dunsmuir; he (Gabriel) would open the mine and would take a half interest; no agreement was then made in writing on these terms; twelve or fourteen days after I saw Mr. Gabriel; went back to Tumbo Island with Mr. Kennedy and two Japanese; they stayed two days and two nights; the first night they went halfway round the island in a boat; it was very dark; they did not have a light; about nine o'clock the next day one laid down and shoved his head in a hole; one of the Japs held a watch; they talked, and came to me and said I was rich, as there was lots of coal there; you bet I was pleased; Kennedy and I brought them to Victoria. We went up again about a year ago, and stayed up there about two weeks; saw Mr. Gabriel when I came down; he did not have much tossy. Saw Mr. Campbell the first time in October, 1886. A little man named Dick, a diver, introduced us at the Grand Pacific Hotel; I did not ask Mr. Campbell to make an analysis of the coal; he offered to do it; the analysis was made about the end of November; this was after the Japs were up there. I handed the analysis to Mr. Gabriel to look at a day or two after I got it.

I introduced Mr. Campbell to Mr. Gabriel the same day that I met him myself; did not hear all they said; did not ask Mr. Campbell to go up and see the mine; Campbell never told me my interest was worth anything; he said later that we might get $10,000 for it; for my part I said I would take it as I had no money to go on with the work, and the company had backed out of their agreement to go on with the work; I did not speak to Mr. Gabriel; I was thrown right clean overboard; the whole of them threw me overboard as they listened to Mr. Campbell; I may have received $1,200 from Mr. Gabriel in small sums; I can't say what the money was paid for; I suppose it was for the coal mine; I never asked Mr. Gabriel to pay me $5000; told Mr. Gabriel that I thought I was entitled to as much as Kennedy; Campbell and Kennedy told me in Mr. Gabriel's store that I had no right to the mine as the license was taken out in Kennedy's name; Gabriel told me the same; this was before I received any money from Mr. Gabriel; after the Japs Gabriel paid me money; after this they came to the conclusion that I was entitled to half; Mr. Kennedy came up to my house and said the company had paid him; he showed me a bank cheque; Campbell said in his house if I stuck out I would get my money; when I was shown the cheque I had received $20 from Mr. Gabriel; at one time I told Mr. Gabriel that I was entitled to as much as Kennedy; Campbell always wanted half of what he could get for me; I had reason to disbelieve Mr. Campbell when Kennedy showed me the bank cheque; they talked very loud in my house; I did not tell Mr. Campbell that if I had another share Gabriel would buy it; Lang was often in my house on other business.

To Mr. Pooley—I received my first payment about 31st March; that was $20; the next payment of $100 I received next day; I might have received $1,200 as my share; my wife received some of the money; the license was taken out by Mr. Kennedy unknown to me; never told Campbell in the presence of Mr. Muirhead that he should get my money from Gabriel; by right I should be a partner and Kennedy threw me; Campbell and Kennedy told me in my house to get my money from Gabriel.

To Mr. Mills—They wanted me to get my money and give half to Campbell; I picked up some coal and so did Kennedy; I was told by Kennedy that he was all right; he told me it was all right and I had a share in the license; in Mr. Gabriel's store Kennedy said he held the license and I had nothing to do with it; they thought I was stupid; threatened to go to law; Kennedy kept the coal he picked up; I did not give Kennedy my coal; they said to the company that Kennedy was entitled to the money.

The bail was extended and the case postponed until Wednesday next at 10 o'clock. Campbell's bail is $2,500 and Kennedy's $1,500.

THE LAST SPIKE.

Of the California and Oregon Railway Driven Yesterday.

(Special to THE COLONIST.)

ASHLAND, Or., Dec. 17.—It is now 4 p. m. and there are no signs of the San Francisco excursion train. The crowd is getting impatient. It is feared now that the darkness will interfere with the ceremonies.

4:30 P. M.—The first section of the San Francisco train is now approaching.

4:42 P. M.—The second section is in sight.

4:45 P. M.—Both trains are safely at the end of the track.

5:14 P. M.—The spike has just been driven, four strokes having been given.

SUPREME COURT.

(Before Sir M. B. Begbie, C. J.)

FRIDAY, Dec. 16th.

Mr. Drake, Q. C., on behalf of the Albion Iron Works, applied for a rule absolute by a writ of *mandamus* to allow the seal of the corporation to be attached to a contract with the Albion Iron Works for the construction of a steel conduit.

Mr. Thornton Fell appeared for the Mayor.

Affidavits stating the contract and the resolution by the council directing the contract to be sealed and the refusal of the Mayor to allow the seal to be attached were read.

Mr. Fell read the affidavits of Mr. Robinson, city clerk, and Mr. Russell, city treasurer, discussing the amount of money available for water work's purposes and the presumed cost of Mr. Summerfield's scheme.

Mr. Fell urged that the by-law for raising the $75,000 was only applicable to the scheme (Hendry's) that was then before the rate-payers.

The Chief Justice, after examining the by-law, said that the council were not confined to any special scheme under it. They were at liberty to adopt any they saw proper.

Mr. Fell then urged that there was no duty cast on the Mayor to attach the seal, and unless the duty could be shown the court could not compel him by *mandamus*. He also urged that the contract was *ultra vires* because it involved the expenditure of a larger sum of money than the corporation had at their disposal for the purpose. He then discussed some of the terms of the contract and argued that the majority of the corporation did not care what sort of contract it was so long as they could get it executed.

Mr. Drake replied that the municipal council were elected by the people. This was one of the duties cast upon them and they were the proper judges of what was best for the city. If the contract was *ultra vires* the Albion Iron Works would be the only sufferers. The majority of the council were entitled to have the control of the seal for the purpose of use in contracts and no personal responsibility attached to the mayor. That under the authority of the Queen *vs.* Kendall a *mandamus* issued to compel the person who had locked up a seal to attach it to a document approved of by a majority of the corporators.

The chief justice said that the matter was of considerable importance and he would have it further argued if he thought necessary on Monday next.

CAPITAL NOTES.

The Dominion Parliament Will Meet on January 31st.

Alex. Morris, Leader of the Crofter Movement, to Come to British Columbia to Report to Imperial Authorities.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

OTTAWA, Dec. 16.—The Imperial government has asked Alex. Morrison, leader of the land reform movement in the Highlands, to proceed to British Columbia to report whether that province is adapted for settlement by the crofters. This move has no connection whatever with the Imperial government's proposal to the British Columbia government regarding assisted immigration to points in the province. Everything now awaits the decision of the Provincial government.

At a meeting of cabinet ministers today it was decided to call parliament together for the despatch of business on January 31st.

Minister Justice returned to Washinton to-day. He does not despair of a satisfactory settlement of the fisheries question being arrived at.

Chamberlain is expected here on Wednesday next.

LATE CANADIAN NEWS.

ONTARIO.

Mrs. Short was struck by a railway train near Guelph and killed.

W. J. Spicer has concluded to decline the management of the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic railway.

Byrnie, the American forger in custody at Brantford, has been handed over to the United States authorities.

A. P. Macdonald has a claim for $300,000 for extras and losses in building the Tay canal. Arbitrators will hear the case.

Rachel Littelton, of Toronto, probably murdered her husband David this morning while in a fit of jealousy. She was arrested.

Two criminal informations have been sworn out against