Advises Purchase

Report of Committee on Panama Canal Transmitted to U. S. Congress.

Favorable to Buying Out the Company For Forty Million Dollars.

Cost of the Route as Compared With That By Nicaragua.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 20.—The President today sent to Congress a message transmitting the supplemental report of the Isthmian canal commission in which it is unanimously recommended that the offer of the new Panama Canal Co., to sell all of its rights, property and unfinished work to the United States for $40,000,000 be accepted. The Senate ordered the report printed in the congressional record and also as a document.

After quoting the correspondence which passed between the commission and the officers of the Panama Canal company in Paris, the report says: The "Totality, without exception, of its property and rights on the Isthmus" mentioned in the cablegram of January 9, includes the following classes of property:

First—Lands not built on. There are 56 parcels of land to which the title rests in the canal company amounting to about 30,000 acres which with the lands belonging to the railroad company cover nearly all of the ground required for the actual construction of the canal.

Second—Buildings. There are scheduled 2,341 buildings, divided among 47 sub-classifications, used for offices, quarters, storehouses, hospitals, shops, stables and miscellaneous purposes. Among them are two large permanent buildings in Panama, one used as a headquarters' residence and the other as the general office, large general hospitals at Colon, and Panama, and several important buildings at Colon. The buildings are furnished.

Third—Plant. There is an immense amount of machinery consisting of floating plant, tugs, launches, dredges.

Fourth—Work done. The excavation already accomplished, upon the main canal line, which will be of value in the plan recommended by the commission was carefully computed and was found to be 36,689,965 cubic yards. A temporary diversion of the Panama railway has been at Culbra Cut, which also must be considered. Using the same classification of materials and the same unit prices as in the other estimates with the 20 per cent. added for contingencies, the value of the work done is found to aggregate $27,474,033.

Fifth—Panama Railway. Of the existing 70,000,000 shares of the Panama railway, the canal company will transfer to the United States all but about 1,100 shares. These latter are held by a few individuals residing in various parts of the United States and in Europe. At the par value the 68,863 shares to be transferred to the United States by the canal company amount to $6,886,300. It owns three passenger and freight steamers on United States registry of approximately 2,000 tons net each. For the past year it has operated a line of chartered steamers of United States registry between San Francisco and Panama. These steamers on the Atlantic and Pacific constitute the Panama railroad steamship line. The railway company owns an undivided half interest in the Island of Naos, Culebra, Perico and Flamenco in the Bay of Panama, the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. being the joint owners. Besides its right of way, the terminals, wharves and considerable areas of land it owns nearly the whole town of Colon, the houses being constructed under leases. The work of construction of the canal will largely increase business of the railway and will enable it to pay off its liabilities in a few years.

Sixth—Maps, drawings and records. The estimated annual cost of maintenance and operation is $1,300,000 greater at Nicaragua than at Panama. The Panama route would be 134.6 miles shorter than the Nicaraguan route from sea to sea with fewer locks and less curvature, both in degree and miles. The estimated time for a deep draft vessel to pass through the Nicaragua canal was placed at 33 hours as against 12 hours for Panama, these estimates being the time of actual navigation and not including delays for winds, currents and darkness.

If the passage were made without interruption, about a day could be saved by the Nicaragua over the Panama route by ordinary steamers handling commerce between our Pacific ports and all Atlantic ports, and about two days by steamers of the same class trading between gulf ports and North Pacific ports. The time advantage of the Nicaragua route would be less in the case of fast high powered steamers, the use of which is increasing. Between Atlantic ports and the west coast of South America, the Panama route has the advantage of about two days and between gulf ports and the west coast of South America the Panama route has the advantage of about one day. The trade of the western coast of South America is a very important one which has hitherto been in European hands.

The value of maps, drawings and records in Paris on the Isthmus or elsewhere, all of which are to be transferred to the United States, is placed at $2,000,000. Summing everything up the total value of the Panama property is found to be: Excavation done $27,474,033. Panama railroad stock at par $6,886,300. Maps, drawings and records $2,000,000 total $36,360,333. To which add 10 per cent. to cover over commissions $3,639,667. Total, $40,000,000.

The estimated cost of constructing the Nicaragua canal is $45,630,706 more than the cost of completing the Panama canal. The offer received from the new Panama Canal company to convey all its property including all its interests in the Panama railway to the United States will make the estimated cost of the two canals as follows: Nicaragua, $189,864,062; Panama, $184,233,358.

HOCKEY IN WINNIPEG.

Wellingtons of Toronto Arrive to Play for Stanley Cup.

Winnipeg, Jan. 20.—The Wellington hockey team of Toronto arrived here today for their series of games with the Winnipeg Victorias for the Stanley cup. All the players are in good condition. The first game will be played tomorrow night. The Victorias are the favorites 2 to 1.

BIG CANADIAN MAIL STEAMERS.

Harland & Wolff, the Belfast shipbuilders, have been asked to make a tender for constructing three steamers for the new Canadian mail service. The specifications require that the vessels shall be 625 feet long. The longest vessel now afloat is the Oceanic, which is 685 feet over all.

The representatives of the promoters of the new company, who asked for the tender, are going to make a tour of the English and Scotch shipyards. It is understood that no order has yet been placed.

FRAUDULENT CANNING.

Bad Beef and Dishonest Jam Sent to South Africa.

Ottawa, Jan. 20.—(Special)—The embalmed beef investigation will be concluded tomorrow. Four Canadian firms supplied corned beef for South Africa and one firm put in a poor lot. The result is that the reputation of Canada has been injured by the carelessness or worse of this one firm. It is probable that an inquiry will be made into a shipment of Canadian jams, which were certainly not what they should have been. One Canadian officer says a lot which he opened at Johannesburg consisted only of turnip pulp with a little fruit flavoring.

NOT THIS WEEK.

Referendum Bill For Manitoba Liquor Act Not Yet Introduced.

Winnipeg, Jan. 20—(Special.)—The bill providing for a referendum on the Liquor act will probably not be introduced in the legislature this week.

The Conservatives meet at Morden on January 30 to select a candidate for the Lisgar vacancy at Ottawa. J. M. Toombs of Carman will probably receive the nomination.

Position of Chief Justice

Meeting of the Bar Association at Vancouver Favors Mr. E. P. Davis.

Says He Will Accept It If the Place Is Offered to Him.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Jan. 20.—Mr. J. H. Senkler has canvassed the Vancouver bar in connection with the appointment of E. P. Davis, K. C., to the chief justiceship of British Columbia, and they have individually declared themselves as in accord with Mr. Davis' appointment. Mr. Joseph Martin was mentioned as a possible candidate. In fact, until today his name was widely spoken of as the probable choice of the government. Mr. Martin, however, declared that he did not desire the chief justiceship and most heartily approved of the appointment of Mr. Davis, and would do what he could to bring that appointment about. Mr. Davis has consented to accept the chief justiceship if it is tendered to him.

At a meeting of the Bar association tonight a resolution was unanimously passed favoring Mr. Davis for the chief justiceship.

The provincial government has sent instructions to clear 22 more acres of land in connection with the new reformatory.

M. M. Baxter is striving to arrange for a British Columbia lacrosse team tour of the Australian colonies. He goes to Australia by next boat and will canvass the Australian association for a sufficient guarantee.

A rumored disaster to the steamship Empress of China circulated on the streets since Saturday received an official denial this afternoon.

Keathley and Lebarry, absconding butchers, have been traced to San Francisco, where they took passage to Australia. Both men deserted their wives and left them with no means of support.

VACANCY IN SUPREME COURT

Report That Minister of Justice Will Take It Confirmed.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Jan. 20.—Liberal newspapers are permitted to confirm the announcement made by your correspondent the other day that Hon. David Mills, minister of justice, will fill the vacancy on the Supreme bourt bench. It is stated that in such event Mr. Mills will be succeeded as minister of justice by Sir Louis Jette, the present lieutenant-governor of Quebec, whose term of office is drawing to a close. Such a move, however, would meet with vigorous protest from the Solicitor-General, who is looking for preferment.

The Department of Militia was advised today that the departure of the transport Victorian from Halifax has been potsponed until January 28. In consequence of this intimation Dr. Borden will not leave for Halifax until Friday.

A despatch from Kingston to the effect that the Mounted Rifles will be withdrawn from South Africa in May to serve as a bodyguard at the King's coronation is rubbish. The Mounted Rifles have been sent to South Africa for work and will be kept steadily going until the war is over.

Inquiry at the Militia Department elicits the information that some of the supplies for the field hospital company were purchased in the States, although they could be procured in Canada.

The writ for the by-election in Quebec West, owing to the death of Mr. Dobell, has been issued. Nominations take place on January 29, and polling February 5, the same as in North Oxford.

Mr. Blair will return to Ottawa tomorrow. He is greatly improved in health.

Owing to increased customs business in Western Ontario, it has been found necessary to create a new inspection district of Windsor. It will be in charge of Mr. Allan, the present collector of customs at Windsor. William McGregor, ex-M.P., will succeed Mr. Allan as collector at Windsor.

NAVAL RESERVE.

London Times on the Situation in Newfoundland.

Toronto, Jan. 20.—The Evening Telegram's London cable says: "The Times this morning commenting on the position of affairs in Newfoundland says: "Every Englishman who cares for the solidity of the Empire must regret the misunderstanding existing between the Admiralty at London and the Colony concerning the naval reserve which the latter deserves, but it is idle to deny that a very large question is involved in that of colonial contributions to Imperial defence. Such contributions must be spontaneous, entirely voluntary and must be the expression of a conviction that the British fleet is maintained as much for their defence as ours.

SEATTLE CHURCH BURNED.

Trinity Parish Episcopal church, Seattle was destroyed by fire at an early hour yesterday morning. The origin of the fire is a mystery. The rectory, occupied by Rev. H. H. Gowen and his family, narrowly escaped destruction, but was saved by the firemen. No cause can be given for the fire, though Rev. Mr. Gowen thinks it may have been caused by the furnace. The church was built about 11 years ago and cost $65,000.

Debating the Address in Reply

Mr. Dillon's Attempt to Secure Denunciation of the Government Fails.

Question Shows How Britain Stood Between Europe and United States.

London, Jan. 20.—The first important debate of the session began in the House of Commons tonight on an amendment to the address moved by Frederick Cawley (Liberal), in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The debate called out Mr. Chamberlain, the colonial secretary, who vigorously took the field in defence of the war. He made the significant statement that if, as Lord Rosebery's speech intimated, the Boers believed they could at any time secure a repetition of Lord Kitchener's terms, he wished to inform them that they were mistaken. Mr. Chamberlain added, however, that the government's programme was not one of extermination. It would not propose any general confiscation of property. Justice would be meted out for military offences and other crimes. But there would be large amnesty, and the government expected to extend the conquered people full political rights as soon as practicable.

Mr. Labouchere (Liberal) declined to support the amendment of Mr. Cawley.

John Dillon (Irish Nationalist) proposed to omit that clause of the amendment providing funds to carry on the war, and add a clause denouncing the policy of the concentration camps.

Mr. Dillon's amendment was rejected by a vote of 283 to 64, the majority of the Liberals voting against it.

Winston Churchill will resume the debate tomorrow on Mr. Cawley's amendment to the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and a division will be taken tomorrow night.

The subject of proposed European intervention in the Spanish-American war was brought up by Henry Norman, Liberal, in the form of a question asking whether any communication proposing or concerning a joint note or collective action by the European states in view of the outbreak or expected outbreak of the late war between the United States and Spain was received from the Austrian or any other government, and if so what was the nature of the reply of Her Majesty's government. Mr. Norman further invited Lord Cranborne, under secretary for foreign affairs, to lay the papers in the case on the table.

Lord Cranborne, in reply, said no such communication had been made to the government and after the outbreak of the war, but that immediately before the war communications were received from other powers suggesting the presentation of a joint note to the President of the United States. Her Majesty's government agreed to join with other European powers in a joint note expressing the hope that further negotiations might lead to a peaceful settlement accompanied by guarantees acceptable to the United States for the preservation of order in Cuba. The government first took steps to ascertain whether the presentation of the note, as well as its terms, would be acceptable to the President.

Her Majesty's government, Lord Cranborne continued, declined to associate itself with other subsequent proposals which seemed open to the objection of putting pressure on the government of the United States and offering an opinion on its action.

The under secretary concluded with saying he was unable to lay the papers in the case on the table.

This statement was received with a burst of ringing cheers, such as seldom greets the mere answer of a parliamentary question. Inquiries made by the Associated Press concerning the "subsequent proposals" mentioned by Lord Cranborne, elicited important information from the Foreign Office. There it was stated that Great Britain had been twice formally approached on this matter, but only once after the commencement of hostilities between Spain and the United States.

The occasion upon which Great Britain deliberately put down her foot was, according to the Foreign Office, when the Austrian ambassador at London interviewed Lord Salisbury and asked him if Great Britain would be willing to join in a collective note from the European powers urging the United States to desist from war with Spain.

Lord Salisbury, so the representative of the Associated Press was informed, regarded this proposition as unwarrantable interference in the affairs of a friendly country and frankly said so.

The Foreign Office heard nothing more on this subject, the matter of a collective note apparently being dropped.

Regarding the much disputed point as to what powers were previously prepared to sign this note had Great Britain acquiesced thereto, a Foreign Office official makes the following statement:

"We have no direct evidence to prove that any power other than the one which formally approached us was concerned in this effort to send a collective note to the United States.

"We had at the time, however, every reason to believe that France, Germany and Russia were only waiting our assent formally to announce their own. We have never had reason to change that belief, which amounts to a moral certainty."

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Its Property Handed Over to the British Nation.

The London Canadian Gazette, of December 26, contains the following:

On Saturday last, with the entire approval of the King and the concurrence of the Prince of Wales, the governors of the Imperial institute unanimously decided to hand over the building with all its contents and such other property as they possess, to the British nation. The reasons which have actuated the governors in thus nationalizing this splendid property were fully set forth by Lord James of Hereford as chairman of the executive council. Its transfer, he pointed out, was due to no misgivings as to the financial situation, which was completely satisfactory, but to the fact that its work in furthering the commercial welfare of the Empire is covered by the Board of Trade, which is acting in directly the same path and the same field. Moreover, both bodies have founded similar advisory committees, with the same objects and appealing to the same interests. Very wisely, then, as we think, the governors of the institute have come to the conclusion that its work is being so efficiently done by the Board of Trade, it is almost a waste of energy for the institute to duplicate it. There is no idea, of course, of depriving the institute of its imperial character; that would be wholly unfair to the colonies and India, who so generously helped in its initiation. Under the management of the government, with all the superior machinery and resources at their command, its imperial usefulness is likely to be extended rather than diminished.

Founded in 1887 as a memorial of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the institute has accomplished much valuable work for the Empire in the course of its somewhat chequered existence. The fact of its lying so far out of the beaten track has naturally proved a drawback to its popularity. Yet those who have visited its long corridors and spacious halls have never come away without receiving an object lesson in the natural wealth and industries of the various portions of the Empire represented there. In the scientific department some excellent work has been done by experimental research, technical trials and commercial valuations regarding new or little known products of British colonies and dependencies, while the Canadian trade section, under the superintendence of Mr. Harrison Watson, has frequently been instrumental in promoting new lines of trade between the Dominion and the Mother Country. Another useful feature has been the winter course of addresses and lectures on colonial topics, and we can say with knowledge that so far as Canada is concerned, they have almost always been well attended.

What then, it will be asked, is the future of the institute to be? That remains for the government to decide. Of one thing we may be certain, that it will be given over to no unworthy object. There is no reason, as the Standard suggests, why it should not be a sort of academy of all learning—statistical, historical, political and scientific—which pertains to the British Empire, and in attaining this object the University of London, who occupy a large portion of the building, might render valuable assistance.

Searching For Missing Condor

H. M. S. Phaeton Leaves on Hunt Between Victoria and Honolulu.

Steamer Victoria Reaches Port From the Orient—Queen City Sails.

H. M. S. Phaeton left Esquimalt yesterday afternoon to cruise between Victoria and Honolulu in search of the missing Condor. The Admiralty is much alarmed regarding the safety of the missing sloop-of-war, and on Saturday orders were received from London by cable for the Phaeton to proceed to sea in search, and for the Egeria, which was in the dry dock undergoing repairs, to hold herself in readiness to proceed at a moment's notice. On the receipt of the orders from the Admiralty the work of repairs was at once suspended on the Egeria and she is getting ready to proceed should she be ordered to sea.

The Phaeton, which left at 3:30 p.m. yesterday, after first making a trial trip to the Straits to test her recently overhauled engines, will make a cruise in the vicinity of Cape Flattery before proceeding to Honolulu, and in all probability will speak the inbound Australian liner to inquire if she brings advices of the missing warship. The Moana is expected to reach port tonight, and with her coming news will be given from the islands to January 15—42 days from the time the Condor sailed from Esquimalt, and as the sailing vessels usually make the voyage in about half that time, the warship should have arrived, if she has not been lost, as many fear.

The schooner Manila, which has reached port from Honolulu, made the passage in 17 days. She left Honolulu, at which port she discharged part of her cargo from Iquique, on January 3. When about 200 miles out the Manila sighted a quantity of lumber, evidently part of the deck load of some vessel, and from a distance it looked as though there were some spars amongst the wreckage. The Manila did not go close to the wreckage. She has 450 tons of nitre for the Chemical works.

FROM THE ORIENT.

Steamer Victoria Has a Fine Voyage Across the Pacific.

Steamer Victoria arrived at the outer wharf yesterday afternoon from the Orient, after a fine voyage. She brought 45 steerage Chinese passengers for Victoria and five Japanese and 11 Chinese for United States points. About 250 tons of general cargo was landed at the outer wharf before proceeding on her voyage to Tacoma this morning. Purser Marrington reports that the Victoria left Yokohama January 7, and encountered in long 144 E., moderate to strong westerly gales, with rain, hail and snow squalls, lasting three days, till long. 160 E., thereafter had fresh and strong west-north-west and west winds and moderate westerly gales, with snow, till long. 162 west. Thence had fresh west-south-west and southerly winds, with cloudy weather to port.

MENACE TO NAVIGATION.

Capt. Thomas Tells of a Southbound Schooner Sailing Without Lights.

Capt. Thomas, of the steamer Queen reports that while on the voyage up the steamer sighted a schooner bound down close inshore with not a light displayed. "I could not," Capt. Thomas said, in discussing this violation of marine regulations, "I regret to say, discern her name, as it was a dark night. We passed her about 40 miles south of Cape Mendocino and 14 or 15 miles off the coast Thursday night. She did not have a single light displayed. That much I can state with positiveness. We were close enough to see her sails and tell the type of vessel. She was a lumber schooner, scudding along with all sails set, and of 400 or 500 tons gross capacity."

Capt. Thomas will make further effort to ascertain the identity of the vessel.

LIBERAL EXECUTIVE.

Decide to Postpone Convention Until February.

The resolutions adopted at the Liberal executive meeting in Vancouver on Saturday were as follows:

1. The right to sit in convention asked for by Liberal editors shall be passed upon both by the executive and the credential committee.

2. Recognizing the justice of the demand of up country constituencies for increased voting power at conventions, we recommend that the voting powers of each constituency be based on the number of votes cast at the last provincial election; the final decision of the question to rest with the convention.

3. On account of the Dominion by-election in Victoria, it was decided to postpone the convention for one week, thus making the date of meeting February 6, 1902.

UP-TO-DATE STYLES AT WEILER BROS.

Our First Consignment

Of Fall Goods in the Upholstering, Drapery and Curtain line are now on sale, and we can only say that for coloring, artistic effect and value we have surpassed ourselves in these last purchasings.

Latest Novelties From PARIS, BERLIN, LONDON.

WEILER BROS
VICTORIA B. C.

FOR WEST COAST.

Queen City Leaves for Cape Scott and Way Ports.

Steamer Queen City, Capt. Townsend, sailed last night on her long trip to Cape Scott and way ports on the Island coast. On her return trip she is expected to bring further news of the wreckage recently reported washed ashore. The Queen City had a number of passengers ,including several mining men. A. F. Gwin went up to Quatsino to examine a property; W. H. Newton went to his coast mines, and other passengers were F. B. Smith, C. C. and G. C. Fox, F. C. Carter, R. W. Douglas, R. Carmichael, Mrs. Eyensong, F. V. Hobbs, Mr. Colley, H. Herdson and T. Jacobsen.

PRINCE LOUIS SAFE.

The Overdue Norwegian Ship Reaches Honolulu.

According to advices received by yesterday's mail from Honolulu via San Francisco, the overdue Norwegian ship Prince Louis had arrived there, her destination, on January 7, after a long trip of 95 days from Newcastle, Australia, with a cargo of coal. Reinsurance of 25 per cent. had been quoted upon the ship, which is an old wooden vessel, and fears were entertained for her safety. She is to come to Victoria from Honolulu. At the San Francisco Merchants' Exchange the only vessel listed as overdue and reinsurable is the British bark Kelverdale, 50 days out from Manila for Puget Sound, quoted at 20 per cent.

YUKON APPEALS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In the Times of Thursday last, the 16th inst., there appeared an editorial headed "The Courts Paralyzed," which dealt among other things, with the hearing by the British Columbia courts of appeals from the judges of the Yukon Territory. The writer of this article says "that it seems strange that appeals in matters altogether outside of British Columbia should be dealt with by our courts," and he goes on to state that urgent matters of more local concern have been neglected, to enable these appeals to be disposed of. Any such impression is entirely erroneous, and should not be allowed to pass without correction. Appeals from the courts of the Yukon Territory are brought to the Supreme Court of British Columbia, by virtue of a Dominion statute passed in 1899, and passed, one must assume, with the concurrence of the government of British Columbia. "Strange" as it may appear to the Times that this is so, it is surely more of a matter for congratulation than surprise, particularly to the people of Victoria and Vancouver. The fact that their business disputes are brought here for determination, must keep the attention of the business men in Dawson and the other Yukon towns constantly fixed on Victoria and Vancouver; it makes them read our newspapers, and in very many instances it brings them here in person. In short, the presence here of the courts to which they look for the decision of their disputes, keeps, and must always tend to keep, the chief cities of British Columbia prominently before the business public of the Yukon Territory, to the mutual advantage of both. At a time when the Northern trade can assist so greatly in our commercial expansion, a reminder as useful as the presence here of the appellate courts should be a matter of satisfaction much more than of regret.

So far as the legal profession in this province is concerned, it is plain that they should be of one mind on this question. The Yukon appeals form an important and increasing addition to the ordinary legal work of the province, and in this all or nearly all the profession have a share. The Bar of any of the other towns, or at the Capital, would, of course, be only too happy to relieve them from the responsibility of this work, should it prove too irksome.

Now, with reference to the assertion that local cases were made to stand over pending the hearing of Yukon appeals, this is soon disposed of. The judges of our court have complete control over the list of cases set down for hearing by them, and of the order in which they shall be brought on, and their discretion has so far been exercised by putting the Yukon appeals at the foot of the list, as they taken up only when all the provincial cases have been disposed of. This course was adopted at the present sittings, and it was only after the whole list of British Columbia cases had been considered and all those which were ready, and which the court, as at present constituted, could hear, had been disposed of, that the court turned its attention to the list of Yukon cases. Had it not been for the absence of the late Chief Justice, all the British Columbia cases would have been heard, before the Yukon appeals were proceeded with.

W. MARTIN GRIFFIN.

THE NEW STAMPS.

London Daily Mail, Jan. 4.

No fewer than 82,270,720 of the new stamps bearing the Kings head, had been issued up till Thursday night.

The Postmaster-General had instructed the Inland Revenue Department to supply post offices with the new issue up to a maximum of a fortnight's supply.

The idea throughout has been to use up the old stamps first, and for this reason only the ½d., 1d., 2½d., and 6d. varieties have yet been issued. The more expensive stamps are ready, but will not be issued until the post offices exhaust the old supplies.

The controller of the stamps at Somerset House was prepared for a gigantic demand. It has not been so great, however, as was anticipated, although on the first two days the quantity supplied seems to have equalled a week's ordinary demand.

The usual average weekly issue of penny stamps is about 48,000,000 in 200,000 sheets of 240 each. The new stamps were on sale on January 1, and by the following evening 205,000 sheets of penny stamps amounting to 49,200,000 had been distributed.

Of the ½d. stamps 29,680,000 were issued, 1,830,720 of the 2½d., and 1,560,000 of the 6d.

Several enthusiastic collectors secured sets of four complete sheets, one of each issue, on New Year's morning. This has cost them £10 each.

The Leeds post office sold £6,000 worth of the new stamps on January 1, and equally large amounts were sold in other provincial towns, yet, strangely enough, the majority of yesterday's letters bore the familiar Queen's head.

The total face value of the new stamps issued from Somerset House during the first forty-eight hours of the new year is stated to have been £270,920.

During the autumn gales a sealed bottle was washed up near Pwllheli, on the Welsh coast, containing a musical manuscript. No one knows who composed it. The tune is now rendered in sol-fa notation and set to words of a celebrated Welsh hymn, and is sung in all the chapels in Wales. It is called "The Tune in the Bottle."—Westminster Gazette.

CANADA FIRST.

Has Finest Facilities in the World for Teaching Electrical Science.

In a recent issue of the Electrical World and Engineer, published in New York, some very flattering remarks were made with respect to the excellence and perfection of the electrical and scientific equipment of McGill university in this city. So complete and thorough, in fact, does this paper regard the equipment and apparatus in the MacDonald Engineering, Mining and Physics buildings at the university that it advises intending English students in electricity to take up courses of study at McGill rather than at similar institutions in the States.

Speaking with regard to recent developments at McGill, the paper says: "It is with no little pleasure that we direct attention to the excellent work that has been done at McGill university, Montreal, in providing for electrical engineering education in its higher ranges. Probably the equipment is without its equal on this continent in modernity and completeness of detail. Our English educational friends might well consider the value that McGill ought to be to engineering students. We understand that even today the university receives men from England and her colonies, but it would now seem that her resources would be particularly attractive to electrical students from the Old Country. They would still be under their national flag and they would have the latest and best facilities for study. For these reasons it would pay the English electrical student to take up a course at McGill, and it would equally be to the interest of the university to reach out for English students."

The excellence of the equipment to which the Electrical World and Engineer refers, is steadily becoming better known in England, as a result of which a number of English students in the department of engineering at the university is annually increasing. The visit of the British association for the advancement of science and the British Medical Association of Canada some years ago, did much to advertise McGill in the Old Country, and since that time the English students at the university have gradually become more numerous. The completeness of the scientific and engineering equipment at McGill greatly impressed the English visitors, among the number being Lord Lister, Lord Kelvin and Sir Michael Foster. The latter unhesitatingly pronounced it to be the most thorough he had ever seen. He had been greatly surprised at its extent and excellence.

In a recent issue of the London Times, a correspondent refers to the action of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in deciding to hold examinations in London for entrance to that institute, on account of the large number of English students who come annually to Boston for instruction in electrical engineering. The writer then alludes to McGill's splendid equipment, and urges intending students in electrical engineering to give McGill the preference or they should consider it necessary to secure instruction in that subject elsewhere than in England. He says: "McGill has an equipment for the training of engineers probably unsurpassed in the world."

Needless to say, these words of commendation are greatly appreciated by the authorities of McGill.

FIGHTING IN VENEZUELA.

And Government Striving to Make Foreigners Pay the Cost.

Willemstad, Island of Curacoa, Jan. 20.—Venezuelan advices received here today say the government forces had the best of the fighting at Maracaibo on Saturday last, although Col. Peralto, Col. Fuenmayor and 50 men of the government forces were seriously wounded. These advices say the revolution is slowly gaining ground in the state of Lara. The financial situation is pronounced hopeless.

Later in the day it became known that the insurgents who attempted to capture Maracaibo on Saturday were adherents of Gen. Hernandez. There were several men killed and wounded, according to the latest advices received, other reports making the loss quite heavy on the government side. The revolutionists concentrated at Paraguana, near Vela de Coro, according to the reports which have reached Curacoa, have been defeated by the government troops. Confirmation has been received of the report that the government forces were completely defeated by the revolutionists near Carupano.

The authorities of that place have raised a large war tax on all the foreign residents, which action has caused protests on the part of the foreign representatives, and requests for the despatch of war vessels to protect foreign interests.

The reply of the Venezuelan government to the request of the German government for a settlement of the claims of German citizens, arising from the late revolutions, will be submitted to the next congress of Venezuela, which will meet in February.

DR. HARBOTTLE GUILTY.

Sentenced to a Year in the Central Prison.

Brantford, Ont., Jan. 20.—(Special)—Dr. Harbottle, of Burford, was tried today before Judge Hardy, on a charge of shooting Herman Stuart, on November 20, with intent to do bodily harm. Harbottle was found guilty as charged, but having regard to his advanced years, his scholarly attainments and his eccentric nature, the judge let him off as lightly as possible with a sentence of one year in the Central prison.

MILITIA ESTIMATES.

Rifle Ranges Will Receive Special Attention This Season.

It is understood, says the Ottawa Citizen, that the estimates of the Militia department, now in course of preparation, will contain a very large and substantial appropriation for the construction of much-needed rifle ranges in different parts of the country. Pressure has been brought to bear upon the government to make a liberal grant towards this purpose, and it is said that about $200,000 may be voted. It is recognized that, after all, the efficiency of a soldier is very largely proportionate to his ability to shoot and that latent talent can only be brought out by thorough and systematic rifle practice. Such is impossible unless opportunity for such work is afforded by the inauguration of ranges, not alone in the principal centres, but all over the country. In this connection a suggestion has been made that a board of officers should be commissioned by the government to go over the country and select suitable sites. Three or four could do the work. They should be practical shots and able to attend to every detail of procuring accommodation for Canadian riflemen. A lot of time and bother in obtaining proper locations could thus be saved. If the government sees fit to make liberal allowances towards fostering rifle shooting it will, it is agreed, be performing a meritorious work.

Turned Down.—Of course, said Miss Goldrox's lover, I realize that your daughter is an heiress, but I assure you that I would be just as anxious to marry if she were a pauper. That settles you, replied her father; we don't want any such fool as that in the family.—Philadelphia Press.

Mr. Recks—You say you were formerly a western millionaire. I suppose, like the rest, you gambled your fortune away?

Fuzzle Freddie—No, sir. I lived in Utah, an' as all me friends got married 'bout three dozen times apiece, I went broke buyin' cut glass and silverware for weddin' presents.—Judge.

The Mines of Atlin

H. Findley Brings Wonderful Specimens and News From Northern B. C.

Copper and Gold Quartz Finds Reported of Wonderful Richness.

Steamer City of Seattle Reports a Land Slide Near Juneau.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 20.—H. Findley is here from Atlin to raise capital to work his quartz claims on Atlin lake, 30 miles from the city. Mr. Findley's account of these claims are more sensational than anything that has come down from the Klondike since the beginning of the boom.

Mr. Findley says that he and his associates own seven copper claims in the locality mentioned, and that one of these claims has a lead of 600 feet in width and the ore averages 6 per cent. in copper, $10 in gold and $2 in silver.

In places enormous deposits of pure native copper outcrop. In one place a huge mound of pure copper stands out from the rock 15 feet across. Mr. Findley has with him a sheet of pure copper four inches through and the size and shape of the seat of a cane bottomed chair. He also shows specimens of free gold ore from another of the claims, the gold standing out from the white quartz as big as beans.

The specimens which Mr. Findley has on exhibition are marvelously rich, and contain all values.

Across the lake from these properties Clark, the Montana copper king, has taken up three claims, and the White Pass railway are surveying for a smelter on the portage between Taku and Atlin lakes.

Frank Breeze, son of J. D. Breeze, Vancouver, has also struck it very rich on Pine creek, where he and his partners have exposed ore on their hydraulic claim running $1,000 to the ton. They are running their ore over the plates of the Featherstone mill. The extent of the deposit is not known, but has been proved far enough to put a big fortune in sight for them. The lead is traced 15 miles to McKee creek, 27 claims being staked in one day.

The Boulder creek hydraulic claim, owned by the Delemare syndicate, is proving up wonderfully rich. Mr. Delemare when leaving for France stated to a certain mining engineer that if he wished to work his claim on Boulder creek in a certain direction not yet explored, during his absence, he could take out what he could get in gold and have it in exchange for developing the property. The man struck it rich at once, and is making hay while the sun shines. He has 50 men working for him, and is taking out $7 in gold to the bucket.

Mr. Findley says that Atlin is not much good as a placer country, as the hydraulic interests have killed the placer diggings. But it would astonish the world as a gold and copper producer by hydraulicing and quartz mining. All the copper claims are free milling as far as developed, and can be pounded out and panned.

The steamer City of Seattle arrived today from Skagway bringing the following news. On January 9, Dawson declared for a municipal council instead of commissioners to govern the city. The elections take place in March. The weather in Dawson is not severe this winter, the thermometer hovering about zero for days then dropping to 25 below.

Tagish Charlie, a well known Indian miner, left a trunk at the Skagway hotel containing $3,300 in bills. He claims the bills were stolen during his absence.

An enormous laid slide, 1,700 feet in width, has taken place near Juneau, but the only damage done was the destruction of the Last Chance flume.

ONTARIO ESTIMATES.

Legislature Will be Asked For Four Million Dollars.

Toronto, Jan. 20.—(Special.)—Business in the legislature is much further advanced now than is usually the case so early in the session. The public accounts and estimates were laid on the table today and the Premier's budget speech will be delivered tomorrow. The estimates call for a total expenditure of $4,004,228. Receipts for the year were $4,466,043 and expenditures $4,038,834.

TAKING COAL CARGO.

Kosmos Liner Gone to Cumberland to Finish Loading.

Nanaimo, Jan. 20.—(Special)—The Kosmos liner Dendarah, which arrived here on Saturday night, after taking on 200 tons of cargo coal, left this forenoon for Cumberland. After completing her cargo she leaves for Mexican ports.

The poultry show opens tomorrow. There will be about 800 entries. The exhibition will be held in the city hall.

MR. MANN.

Has Started From Montreal For British Columbia.

Montreal, Jan. 20.—(Special.)—D. D. Mann (of Mackenzie & Mann) leaves for British Columbia tonight accompanied by J. N. Greenshields, K. C., counsel for the firm. It is understood the object of their visit is to arrange with the British Columbia government as to a subsidy for an extension of the Canadian Northern through the Rockies to the Pacific Coast.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.

An Interesting Evening With the Natural History Society.

The meeting of the Natural History society last evening was one of the largest and most successful of the season. After the disposal of routine business and the examination of specimens, which included a plant new to the British Columbia collection, and a number of trilabites from the fossil formation of Mt. Stephen, an illustrated lecture on mountain climbing was given by Mr. R. H. Jameson and Mr. Howard Chapman. Mr. Jameson started with Field, the centre of attraction for Rocky mountain climbers, and described the mountain scenery, the flora, the great glaciers, lakes, water falls, etc., comparing them with the Alps and the Himalayas. The opinion of men like Whymter was that British Columbia was the greatest field for mountain climbers in the world. Mr. Howard Chapman then took up the narrative and exhibited over 200 lantern views taking the members of the society through every part of British Columbia. All, or nearly all the views had been taken by himself, and many of them were of rare interest. Hearty votes were passed. Mr. Caulfield will at the next meeting deliver an address on "The Physical Basis of Logic."