The Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 1890.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

BY

W. R. ELLIS, A. G. SEARSMON. } ELLIS & CO.

FOR COLONIST BUILDING, GOV'T ST.

TERMS:

THE DAILY COLONIST

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY

Per Year, (Postage free to any part of Canada).....$10 00
Per Month.....1 00
Per week (if delivered).....20

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

Per Year (Postage Free to any part of the Dominion or United States) $1 00
Six Months.....75
Three Months.....50
Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly in ADVANCE.

ADVERTISING RATES:

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING.—Per line solid nonpareil—First insertion, 10 cents; each subsequent consecutive insertion, 5 cents. Advertisements not inserted for a day, 10 cents per line each insertion. No Advertisement inserted for less than 25 cts.

SPECIAL NOTICES—Nonpareil, in the first column of third page, 20 cents per line each insertion, or $1.50 per line per month. If inserted among local or other reading matter, 30 cents per line each insertion, or $2 per line per month. No special notice inserted for less than 25 cts.

WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS—Ten cents a line Solid Nonpareil, each insertion. No advertisement inserted for less than $2.

REGULAR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING, as distinguished from everything of a transient character—that is to say, advertising referring to regular Mercantile and Manufacturing Business, Government and Legal Notices—published at the following rates: Per line, Solid Nonpareil, the division of publication to be specified at the time of ordering advertisements:

More than one fortnight and not more than one month—20 cents.

More than one week and not more than one fortnight—40 cents.

Not more than one week—30 cents.

No advertisement under this classification inserted for less than $0.50, and accepted only for every-day insertion.

Theatrical advertisements, 10 cents per line each insertion.

Advertisements unaccompanied by specific instructions inserted till ordered out.

Advertisements discontinued before expiration of special period will be charged as if continued for full term.

Liberal allowance on yearly and half yearly contracts.

THE DISTURBANCE IN CRETE.

An article in the January number of the Fortnightly Review on "The Cretan Insurrection of 1889," shows that the disturbance was not, properly speaking, an insurrection at all. It was, according to the reviewer, nothing more than a series of faction fights between the parties into which the country was divided. He describes it as "a tempest in a tea cup." The "dreadful outrages" of which so much was seen in the newspapers were either never perpetrated or they were exaggerated accounts of acts that were very far from being outrages.

If what the Review says is true a great deal of sympathy has been thrown away upon the Cretan Christians. According to his account they were more sinning than sinned against. They form a very large and by no means peace-loving party in the country. They are exempt from military service, they pay few taxes, and they possess many political privileges. Between them and the Mahomedans there is a deadly feud, and the government is so weak and so dilatory that it is unable to keep the peace in the country. The Christians were in the late unpleasantness the aggressors. In July last at Rethymo, and in other districts where they are in the majority, they began to pillage, burn and destroy the houses of their Mahomedan neighbors. The Mahomedans were not slow to retaliate. They, in places in which they were in the majority, commenced to rob and burn the dwellings of Christians. If the Moslem authorities had been in the least energetic they could have compelled the turbulent factions to keep the peace. But they let them have their own way and the island was consequently in a state most unpleasant to those of its inhabitants who were peaceably disposed or timid. Those unfortunate people dreading the violence of the contending clans fled for safety to the towns, chiefly Canea and Candia. The bolder spirits who remained at home had the whole country to themselves and plundered the property of the absentees. But the plundering and the destroying were not by any means all on one side, Christians and Mahomedans were the sufferers in pretty nearly equal proportions. If the Mahomedans burned Christian churches the Christians burned and wrecked Mahomedan mosques.

The people who flocked to the towns told dreadful stories of what was going on in the country. Under any circumstances it would hardly be wise to believe all that these excited and injured people said of the sufferings they endured and witnessed; and the Cretans of these days do not appear to have the strictest regard for the truth. Many of the sensational telegrams that appeared in the newspapers of Europe and America at the time were exaggerated versions of the tales told by the refugees, and it is hinted that some of them were manufactured out of whole cloth for political purposes. From what is known of the performances of telegraphic liars at home in these piping times of peace, we may be able to form some idea of what the Cretan correspondents did when their country was the prey of contending factions, and when each party was doing its best to make the world believe that the other was to blame for the acts of violence that had been committed. For a long time the Government permitted the men who were disturbing the country to do pretty much as they liked.

"The Turkish authorities," the reviewer says, "made no attempt to repress the disorder, and probably were quite unable to do so, for the force of troops was very small, and the local gendarmerie either disbanded itself or was disbanded, having been without pay for some time, and being, on account of relationship to, and religious sympathy with the insurgents, unfit for any serious duty under the circumstances."

For about two months the island was in a state of anarchy. Every man, whether Christian or Mahomedan, did what seemed right in his own eyes. At last Shakir Pasha and Abdul Kerim Pasha arrived and, with the troops that followed them, went to work to pacify the country. They placed the disturbed districts under martial law, and they made it unlawful for any of the inhabitants to carry arms. Some arrests were made and the country was, without any very great difficulty, quieted. Then they set about the very difficult task of restoring the stolen property to its owners. It was while performing this work of pacification and restitution that many of the alleged atrocities are said to have been committed by the Turkish authorities and soldiers. They were charged with arresting innocent persons, with flogging Christians who had done no wrong, with general acts of cruelty, and with insulting women. The British Consul carefully investigated all these charges. He had full power to make the enquiry and he was allowed to visit all the prisons and to question the prisoners. It is not likely that he would try to screen the Mohamedan soldiers and magistrates. He found that the great majority of accusations were altogether groundless. Out of fifty-eight charges brought before him in one district and investigated on the spot only two charges of cruelty and extortion by soldiers were substantiated. There was no authenticated case of outrage. There must have been cases of hardship, and it was, no doubt, impossible to do strict justice in all cases, but the reviewer bears testimony to the good faith in which the Governor-General acted in restoring stolen property to its owners, and in punishing those found guilty of robbery or arson. After he had exerted himself for some time in restoring order he declared an amnesty. From this amnesty were excepted some few professional agitators who had done their best to stir up strife among the people, and who, when it appeared that peace was to be restored, fled to Athens and elsewhere. The country will be none the worse for the banishment of these gentry.

We gather from this article, which was evidently written by a man who has an intimate knowledge of Crete and of the character and condition of its inhabitants, that the Christians of that island are very far indeed from being persecuted saints.

THE BRITISH ARMY.

Lord Wolseley has written an article for Harper's Magazine on the standing army of Great Britain. He believes that the pay of the British soldier is insufficient. As long as Great Britain offers a boy's wages it will only obtain boy recruits. He evidently believes that the men who enter the army should be both older and stronger than the average British recruit. He says it ought not "to require much genius or brains to understand that an army only 200,000 strong, more than one half of which is abroad, cannot be in a healthy or effective condition that—has to absorb annually into its ranks between 30,000 and 40,000 young lads, and that has to send abroad every year from about 19,000 to 20,000 trained soldiers to maintain the corps in our foreign garrisons at their established strength."

Although the British soldier is not physically all that Lord Wolseley would like him to be it is by no means easy to get recruits who come up to the present standard. Of those who offer themselves for enlistment between 50 and 55 per cent. are rejected "for various medical reasons." He thinks that justice to the service requires that from 10 to 15 per cent. more should be rejected. The military authorities would be in a position to be more careful in their selection if the British soldier was offered the same pay and rations as are given in the United States army. Although Lord Wolseley is not satisfied with the physical standard of the British army he admits that it is higher than that of any other European army. Recruits are required to be between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five, but as the word of the men themselves must be taken as to their age, some recruits are younger and some older than the regulations require. A soldier must be twenty years of age and he must have been one year in the army before he can be sent to India. His lordship thinks that the term of service should be two years instead of one. He considers it both extravagant and inhumane to send immature youths to India or other tropical countries. He is of opinion that the army should be managed on business principles, its present administration he regards in many respects as short-sighted and penny wise and pound foolish. However defective the British soldier may be in Lord Wolseley's estimation, he generally when he is put upon his mettle gives a good account of himself. These raw recruits who have not yet attained their full growth and whose physique is not everything that an exacting army surgeon demands, acquit themselves like men on the march and on the field of battle. Great Britain has no cause to be ashamed of her soldiers. If the British army is not, in Lord Wolseley's opinion, composed of first-class material, it, when its commanders give it a fair chance, does first-class work.

Although Lord Wolseley does not appear at all satisfied with the rank and file of the British army he is enthusiastic when he comes to speak of its officers. He pronounces them the best in the world. Here is what he says of the English officer:

"He belongs to the class, which has at all times been the backbone of the nation. As an English gentleman, he is by birth what we believe to be representative of all that is noblest, most manly, brave and honorable in human nature. His innate love of sport in every form drives him to the remotest corners of the earth. You will find him climbing Alpine mountains, crossing Swiss glaciers, tiger shooting in Bengal, hunting lions in equatorial Africa or other big game amidst the snows of Thibet. To ride well to hounds is one of his cherished ambitions, and, as a matter of course, he loves cricket, polo, and all manly out-of-door games. All these experiences train him to a self-reliance unknown to the men of other nations. In fact, the British officer is by birth and education the natural leader of the British private, who has the same sport-loving instincts. The officer of to-day is a far better soldier in every way than his predecessor of thirty or forty years ago."

This is high praise, coming from a man who knows what the British officer is and what he can do; and there are very few intelligent men of any nation who will say that it is not deserved.

Consumption Can be Cured.

By proper, healthful exercise, and the judicious use of Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites, which contains the healing and strength-giving virtues of these two valuable specifics in their fullest form. Dr. D. D. McDonald, Petrolia, Ont., N. B., says: "I have been prescribing Scott's Emulsion with good results. It is especially useful in persons of consumptive tendencies." Sold by all druggists, 50c. and $1.00.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria

A MEANS OF DEVELOPMENT.

The destruction of the Chlorination Works in Cariboo was a very serious loss, not to that district only, but to the whole province. It is well known that Cariboo is wonderfully rich in gold-bearing quartz. The ledges known to exist are numerous, and there are no doubt many which have not yet been discovered. But the ores are known to be refractory. It is hard to make some of them yield the gold they are known to contain. The Chlorination Works, burned down the other day, were erected by the Government to aid the miners in testing the value and the workability of the leads with which the region abounds. They had been at work just long enough to prove that their erection was a boon of inestimable value to the country. The work done in them was good. It showed that the ores experimented upon could be made to yield nearly the whole of the gold that it was found by analysis they contained. There is good reason to believe that had the works not been burned down so soon they would have proved to a demonstration that ledges which were considered not worth working by the ordinary processes, could be made to yield a handsome dividend to the men who own them. The success achieved by Mr. Marsh, the superintendent of the Cariboo works, was such as to raise the hopes of the mining population of the Cariboo district to a high pitch. They fully believed that through their instrumentality a new era of prosperity was to dawn upon Cariboo. The Government Chlorination Works were on the eve of proving that the quartz-bearing leads could be made available and that the gold yield of the district would, in a very short time, be many times greater than it was in British Columbia's palmiest days. They knew well that when once it was proved that the ores of the district could be made to yield the gold they contain in paying quantities the resources of the country in which they are would be very quickly developed:

What Cariboo chiefly wants are facilities of transport. For want of railways the settlers who live there are in a measure shut out from the world. But let it be proved that it is, what many experienced miners believe it to be, one of the richest and most extensive gold fields in the world, and capital would flow into it like water, and rival companies would contend with each other to give it the railway accommodation for which it is now languishing.

If the Chlorination Works had been in operation a year or two longer, it firmly believed by men who are in a position to form an intelligent opinion on the matter, they would have proved to a demonstration that there is no richer or more promising gold region on the face of the earth than Cariboo. This being the case, the destruction of those works, unpretending as they were, may be considered a national misfortune.

We trust that the provincial Government will see that the prospect opened up by the results achieved by their Chlorination Works warrants them in continuing the experiment so wisely begun. If the erection of new works does one-half the good which those who have watched the operation of the works that were so unfortunately burned down believe they were capable of doing, and would have done if they had not been destroyed, no public money that was ever expended in this province will be more profitably invested than that which would be appropriated for the erection of similar works on the same spot. It will, we admit, require courage and enterprise to set up new chlorination works in Cariboo, but we believe that the Government, when once they are convinced that the re erection of such works in Cariboo will be a public benefit and that they are necessary for the development of the capabilities of that large and rich district, will bravely and cheerfully undertake the work. The sum required is comparatively small, but circumstances are such that it can hardly be expected that it will be raised by individual effort. We are quite sure that nine out of every ten electors in the province will warmly approve of the Government's undertaking the work. The loss, if there is to be a loss, when spread over the whole province will be trifling, and the gain, if the hopes that have been raised by seeing what has already been done are anything like realized, will be incalculable, and it will either directly or indirectly benefit every inhabitant of the province. We confidently trust that before the present session of the legislature closes there will be voted for the erection of Chlorination Works in Cariboo a sum sufficient.

There is an impression abroad that Cariboo is exclusively a gold-mining region, and that the country is for all other purposes unproductive. This is a great mistake. There are in the district large areas on which as fine wheat as is grown in Canada can be raised. It already supplies the Peace River country with bread, and as soon as it has railway communication with the coast it will send to the seaboard annually many hundred tons of wheat and flour. One miller there has now, we are told, some thousands of dollars worth of flour which he finds it impossible to dispose of. Other crops can be raised in the district besides wheat, and there is in it a very large extent of grazing country. Cattle and sheep can be raised in that part of the province sufficient to supply the wants of the inhabitants of the coast. Cariboo, therefore, besides being a rich mining country, is capable of supporting a large farming and pastoral population. All that it needs to develop its many resources is railroad communication with the coast and the other parts of the Dominion. The certainty that its vast deposits of gold-bearing quartz can be made available will stimulate men of capital and enterprise to give it the necessary railway communication and the erection of Chlorination works in place of those so unfortunately burned down a few weeks ago, is the speediest and most effective way that can be devised to demonstrate its capabilities as a gold yielding region.

BE CONTENTED, CANADIANS.

There are some Canadians who are continually telling their friends that the United States is a much finer country than Canada, and that Canadians will never be well off until they become citizens of the United States. These admirers of the Americans and their country sometimes lead Canadians to despise their own country. But it is not safe to take all they say for gospel. The United States is indeed a magnificent country, and its citizens as a whole are perhaps better off than any sixty millions of people that can be named. But the country, rich as it is, has its drawbacks, and there are millions of its inhabitants with whom average Canadians would be very sorry to change places. We have seen that the New England States have become to a large extent depopulated. Land in the rural districts has become a drug on the market. Farms on which generations of cultivators lived in comfort are now deserted and cannot be sold at any price. And matters have come to so bad a pass that it has been found necessary in order to prevent sections of the country becoming again a wilderness to send to Europe for cultivators of the soil. No part of Canada has ever been reduced to this state. Many of its young people have gone west and south but enough have remained at home to cultivate and to improve the homesteads.

But this, bad as it is, is not the worst that is to be said of parts of the rural population of the United States. We see that there is severe distress in both North and South Dakota. Farmers in districts of those States have neither food to eat nor seed to sow. There has been a succession of bad harvests in those States, and many farmers have, in consequence, been reduced to actual want. But in Kansas and Nebraska the crops have been abundant, yet the farmers are very far from being well off. The Omaha Bee says that "the indigent and distressed farmers are struggling bravely with the sheriff and the mortgagee to keep their heads above water." One of the causes of the distress among the farmers of those states is the high railroad rates. So far are they from a market, and so great is the cost of transport in proportion to the value of the corn they raise, that the farmers find that it pays better to burn it at home than to incur the expense of sending it to market. The farmers are agitating for lower rates, but their agitation has not hitherto been very successful.

The Kansas farmers are even worse off than those of Nebraska. So sorely are they pressed by want that their ideas of commercial morality appear to have undergone a very great change. They are petitioning the governor of the state to convene the legislature in order that laws may be enacted to relieve them of their obligations to their creditors. "One petition," says a Californian contemporary, "asks for the relief of the farmers by the passage of a law giving the mortgagor of a homestead at least two years in which to occupy, enjoy and redeem, if possible, after sale of mortgaged premises and to provide also for a stay of execution on all judgments on promissory notes and mortgage bonds for a reasonable time without bond." This is getting perilously near general repudiation of debts. We do not think that any community in any part of Canada was ever reduced to such straits as to resort to means like these to get clear of the obligations it had incurred. Our authority goes on to say:—

"Other petitions demand that the call for a special session shall embrace also provisions for the amendment of existing railroad laws and the establishment of maximum railroad tariffs, while still other petitions demand the re-submission of the prohibitory amendment to the Kansas constitution."

All this goes to show that farmers in Kansas are not so well off as are those in Canada, and that the market of sixty millions of which we used to hear so much does not make it unnecessary for the Nebraska and Kansas farmers to mortgage their land, and does not enable them to meet their liabilities when they become due. When these men, who are no doubt as honest and as desirous to pay their debts as is the average Canadian, feel themselves forced to apply to their legislature to interfere, in their behalf, between them and their creditors they must indeed be sorely pressed.

Then, in the South, the position of the white farmer is not as comfortable as it might be. The negro problem gives him considerable uneasiness and he would no doubt exchange some of his advantages, as regards both soil and climate, to be able to live in a community composed solely of people of his own race and color. Whether he looks to the east or the south or the west of the neighboring republic, the Canadian farmer cannot see much to envy in the condition of the cultivators of the soil who have open to them the market of sixty millions.

CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS.

There seems to be considerable diversity of opinion as to what is being done in Washington with regard to the granting of a lease to a company to catch seals in Alaskan waters and on Alaskan territory, and as to the measures to be taken for the preservation of the seals. Some say that the Commercial Company is certain to get a new lease on slightly different terms, and that the policing of the sea is, this year, to be more stringent than ever. Others say that the competition for sealing privileges will be really open, and that no one can tell who will get the lease or what the terms will be, and that Great Britain and the United States are likely to come to an arrangement as to what are to be the rights of British subjects in Behring's Sea.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald says that "nothing is known at the State Department, the Treasury Department or the British Legation in confirmation of the statement telegraphed from Victoria that the Treasury Department is making unusually strong preparations to police Behrings Sea during the approaching season." Further on he says: "From a careful enquiry which I have made it seems probable that nothing but a renewed and increased scarcity of seals is likely to stand in the way of the seal poachers having another season this coming summer."

The writer thinks that the seal fisheries in Behrings Sea will be regulated by international arrangement. He says: "I am also advised that on the American side the disposition is to revert to Mr. Bayard's plan of an international convention for a preservative regulation of the seal fisheries. Our own officials are confident that the British Government will interpose no objection to a reasonable arrangement of that sort, and in fact virtual assurances are in possession of the State Department to that effect."

On the other hand, the Toronto Mail of the 10th inst. says:

"It was stated in a Washington despatch in Saturday's Mail that there could be little doubt that the United States Government was making preparations to have a thoroughly effective police force in Behring Sea during the coming season. What then about those mysterious negotiations for the adjustment of the seal fisheries difficulty which have been in progress for several years, but without result. The season will be open in less than three months! Are our fishermen to be compelled either to give up their business or else submit to another course of harassment at the hands of the United States authorities."

When statements so confidently made are so conflicting it is difficult to decide which to believe. The correspondent of the New York Herald writes as if the the most reliable sources of information were open to him, and if all stories are true, the Toronto Mail is in the confidence of the United States authorities and has special facilities for coming at the truth as to what is going on in the inner circles at Washington.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

WE are glad to learn that both the Government and the Legislative Assembly have taken action in the matter of the withholding of the subsidy for conveying the mails between Victoria and New Westminster. The matter is one which concerns both the Island and a large and important section of the Mainland. There is evidently an impression on the minds of many in this city and elsewhere that there is an influence at work in Ottawa which is acting prejudically to Victoria, and the canners on the Fraser river. Attempts have been made more than once to deprive them of the mail and steam communication, to which they have as good a right as any district in any part of the Dominion. It would be impossible to find in any of the provinces a section of equal area which contributes to the revenue so large a sum in proportion to its population as that from which the very moderate subsidy hitherto given has been withdrawn. The Lower Fraser so far from needing less accommodation from the Post Office Department than it has hitherto received, requires more. We trust that the representations made by the representative men of the Province, both in the Provincial and Dominion capitals will have the effect of prevailing upon the Government to continue a subsidy so greatly needed and which has done so much good in the past and which is calculated to do still greater good in the future.

WE see by the report of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works that the very considerable sum of $5,994 was expended by the Government last year in erecting and furnishing school houses in Victoria. In every other province of the Dominion this expense would fall upon the municipality. Here we have a sum considerably in excess of the contribution required by the Government expended in providing increased school accommodation for the children of the city. If a fair rent for the other school buildings and grounds were added to this it would be seen that for school accommodation alone the city receives very much more than it is asked to contribute to the school fund. This being the case it does seem singular that the corporation persists in refusing to pay the comparatively small sum which the Government requires. Every fair-minded man must see that the treatment which the city receives at the hands of the Government is very liberal indeed. In every other province in which what is called "free education" prevails, as we have already said, the municipality or school district is obliged to furnish the school houses and to keep them in working order. If Victoria were required to do this it, even then, would have no good reason to complain.

Those who take an interest in the revision question will perhaps be surprised to learn that the Presbytery of New York were not satisfied with recommending the changes in the Confession of Faith set forth in the overture which we published on Sunday. The Presbytery afterwards decided upon recommending that a short creed be drawn up, not to be substituted for the Confession of Faith, which in its revised form, they wished to keep as a standard, but to be supplementary to it. This is the committee's recommendation.

"Furthermore, as germane to the object which the assembly had in mind in referring these questions to the Presbyteries, your committee recommends that the Presbytery of New York respectfully overtures the assembly to invite the co-operation of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of America and the Great Britain and Ireland to formulate a simple creed, couched so far as may be in Scripture language, and containing all the essential and necessary articles of the Westminster Confession, which creed shall be submitted for approval and adoption as the common creed of the Presbyterian and the Reformed Churches. We believe that there is a demand for such a creed, not as a substitute for our confession, but only to summarize and supplement it for the work of the church. We would and we unwittingly retain our standard, which we have as our family inheritance, and as the safeguard of our ministry and our institution but a brief and comprehensive creed, at once interpreting and representing those standards, would be welcomed by our churches as most helpful and beneficent for the exposition of what we have been through all these years. We want no new doctrines, but only a statement of the old doctrines, made in the light and in the spirit of our present activities, of our high privileges, and our large obligations; a statement in which the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, shall be central and dominant."

From THE DAILY COLONIST Feb. 20.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

For the North.

The steamer Princess Louise sailed for the North last evening with the following passengers and about ten tons of freight: Mr. H. Leary, Mr. Goodear, Mr. Price, Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. J. Cuthbert, and Miss Durham.

Real Estate Transfers.

Messrs. Dalby & Ballantyne yesterday disposed of the R. C. Janion & Co. property on Store street for $32,000. This includes the brick building, wharf, warehouses, etc., at present occupied by Hall & Goepel. The same firm also sold 23 lots on Fairfield road yesterday for $7,800.

Official Dinners.

To-morrow evening His Honor Lieut.-Governor Nelson, who has now almost completely recovered his health, will give his first parliamentary dinner of the session at Government house. On Thursday evening next Mr. Speaker Higgins will give his second dinner of the session at his residence, Regents Park.

His Father Again Settles.

The proceedings for fraud against Dr. J. P. Guthrie, now celebrated all over the Northern Pacific coast as a foolish and careless young prodigal, were not pushed yesterday, his father once more promising to settle and thus save his son. The gay young doctor, went east as soon as he knew that he was clear of the entanglement of his last escapade.

Oddfellows at Dinner.

Last evening the members of Columbia Lodge No. 2, I. O. O. F., celebrated the 20th anniversary of the institution of the lodge with a grand banquet in the library hall. The Noble Grand, Bro. M. McCahill, was in the chair of honor, and there was a full attendance of members, who enjoyed to the fullest the supper and the programme of toast, speech and song which brought the evening to a close.

A Labor Experiment.

The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners propose soon to establish a cash and door factory in Victoria on the profit sharing scheme. They hope to receive assistance in the shape of tax exemption from the city, and the result of the experiment will be watched with keenest interest by all who are observing the various phases assumed by the labor question, and are studying its effect on the future of the nation.

The Fire Losses.

The losses by the fire in Hastie & Lockhart's premises on Friday were yesterday estimated at less than $5,000 in all, including the damage by smoke and water to the adjoining cellars and the stocks contained in them. In referring to the fire yesterday an omission was made in not complimenting the James Bay fire company on the promptness with which they turned out, and the valuable aid they rendered the paid department in fighting the fire.

Police Court Notes.

Tick Yuen, charged with allowing his chimney to catch fire, was fined $25, after a stirring lecture from his honor.

Ma Dick, the Chinaman charged with stealing 12 razors, was dismissed.

The charge against P. Brown, charged with having smuggled goods in his possession, was also dismissed.

The Indians, who deserted from the Amphion, were captured on Esquimalt road by Officers Miller and Robb, of the provincial police force.

The North Arm Bridge.

The select committee of enquiry on the North Arm bridge failure were to have held their final meeting yesterday morning and completed their report for presentation to the House. It was found impossible to keep a quorum, however, and the committee adjourned till Monday, when it is expected that they will report. The evidence was taken yesterday, and but little testimony remains to be submitted. All the members of the committee are dumb as oysters, and no inkling of the contents of the report can be obtained.

Fire at Chilliwhack.

At 1 o'clock Sunday morning the residence of John A. Campbell, of Chilliwhack, was completely destroyed by fire. The fire was first discovered by Mr. Ronald Campbell, who was returning from Centreville, about 12:30 a. m. He rushed into the house and rescued Peter McRae, who was asleep at the time, and who would undoubtedly have perished in the flames. The whole building, together with furniture, bedding and clothing, was destroyed in an hour. The fire is supposed to have started in a defective flue. The building was insured for $2,000.

Obituary.

Mr. C. J. King, of the Esquimalt stage line, has received intelligence of the death of his eldest brother, Wm. C. King, at Bath, England, on the 19th of January. Mr. King has also received news of the death of his uncle, Mr. Charles King, at the ripe old age of 93 years. The deceased was the only surviving member who signed the pledge when the Bath Temperance Association was formed in June, 1836. He was a faithful adherent to the principle of total abstinence from the time he adopted it, and was ever earnest in its advocacy. He enjoyed through life robust health, and his death was simply due to old age. Mr. C. J. King's father is still living, and in good health, although over 94 years of age.

Sir Knights Parade.

Yesterday afternoon the members of Victoria Division No. 2 U. R., K. of P. assembled at Conlin's Hall and paraded the streets, headed by the band of the order, in full uniform, in honor of Pythian Day. Sir Knight Hayes acted as marshall of the day, and there were in all about fifty knights in line. All marched with their fine appearance and thorough knowledge of the drill were fully commented upon. After parading the principal streets the little army marched over James Bay bridge to the government grounds, where the band serenaded the legislature in session and the men were put through the ordinary drill. Photographs were taken of the Knights and they returned to their hall and were dismissed.

Those Fire Alarms.

Mayor Grant yesterday received a telegram in answer to the one forwarded to the Department of Customs at Ottawa in reference to the detention of the fire alarms; which does not place the matter in any more favorable position for the city. The message states that the amount named as the value of the alarms will have to be deposited with the Customs, pending the arrangement of the matter, before the boxes can be released. Mr. McMicking, the present owner of the boxes, does not object to any deposit being made, and the prospects of the city securing the alarm system at an early date are very slim.

In reporting the facts referred to above to the council last night, Mayor Grant remarked that by telegrams whose fairness could not be questioned it had been shown to the Customs officials here that the valuation to which exception was taken was actually much below what the boxes could be obtained for in Eastern Canada. He could not understand why any man should come here and act in the arbitrary and unfair manner that had marked the treatment of this case. Mr. McMicking naturally objected to his money being tied up, as it would of necessity be if the deposit demanded was made, and without his consent nothing could now be done by the Council.

Ald. Wilson, chairman of the fire committee, is in favor of dropping the whole matter and inviting fresh tenders, leaving the boxes in the possession of the Dominion Government. Here the matter rests.

The New Methodist Church.

The trustee board of the Methodist church held another meeting last night to consider the tenders for the construction of the new edifice, and after mature deliberation awarded the contract to Mr. W. H. Burkholder, the figure not being disclosed.

A Desert Dust Storm.

A 11:30 o'clock last night a dust storm that would have done credit to old Sahara raged on the streets of Victoria. The wind whirled the thick and choking sand cloud high in the air, and made it impossible for pedestrians to see more than thirty feet before them even where the electric lights made the night as bright as day.

The City of Kingston.

Mr. H. Jackson, of the Puget Sound and Alaska Steamship Company, in speaking of the company's plans concerning the steamer City of Kingston, said: "We will have her refitted immediately, and she will be ready for service in two weeks. I am not positive upon what route she will be run, but I guess she will go on the Tacoma, Seattle and Victoria run. She will be refitted here in Seattle."

How is This?

The butchers and meat dealers of Victoria are just now asking a question which they would like to receive an answer to from the customs authorities. It is why 30 cents duty is now charged on imported lambs on foot, while the duty on dressed lamb is only 1 cent per pound. The usual rate of duty and the rate hitherto collected was 20 per cent. on the first price of the sheep, in the case quoted about $2.50 each.

Chinese not Wanted.

Last evening a delegation of workingmen, headed by Eli Hallet, interviewed Mayor Grant and the board of aldermen, prior to the regular council meeting, to request that in all bonus by-laws a clause be inserted prohibiting the employment, either directly or indirectly, of Chinese labor. Mayor Grant assured the delegates that their request would receive careful and favorable consideration.

The Batavia's Passengers.

The steamship Batavia sailed from Vancouver on Tuesday morning for China and Japan with a full cargo of general merchandise and the following cabin passengers: G. H. Forsaith, Boston, for Hong Kong; Dr. J. J. Selwood and Mrs. Selwood, Portland, W. H. Brenner, Miss Kate Deal, Miss Whitney, Dr. and Mrs. Whitney, Philadelphia, for Yokohama; R. Randall, E. M. McPrier, Miss L. J. Kay, Miss Rose Power, C. J. Stearns, Toronto, for Shanghai. In the steerage were Ah Kee, a wealthy Celestial from Boston, wife and two children, and thirty other Chinamen.

For the Benefit of Importers.

Collector Milne yesterday completed an arrangement with Messrs. R. P. Rithet & Co., Turner, Beeton & Co., and the C. P. N. Co., which will be of great benefit to importers and the public generally. It has been contemplated and will save considerable expense to importers in the event of their not receiving their invoices in proper time for entry. All goods not entered will, under the new arrangement, remain in sufferance warehouses on the wharves until cleared. In the past the goods were removed to the Custom's warehouse, and the importers were according to law made pay for Custom's handling and double cartage, which the new method of treating the matter relieves them of. This latest action of Collector Milne is in the interest of importers, practically does away with the necessity for the unclaimed warehouse.

Death of A. E. Lindsay.

Mr. A. E. Lindsay, employed as bookkeeper in the office of Dunsmuir & Sons, and who also acted as private secretary to Mr. James Dunsmuir, died at St. Joseph's Hospital yesterday morning from diphtheria. The deceased formerly lived at Wellington, but came to Victoria to reside when the general offices of the company were removed to this city. Since his residence in Victoria Mr. Lindsay made himself a general favorite with all with whom he came in contact, and his friends were deeply grieved to learn of his death at the early age of 25. Yesterday morning, about five minutes before his death, he felt himself sinking, and he wrote a short note to Mr. F. Brown, the station master at the Store street station, to wire to his brother at Nanaimo asking him to come to Victoria at once. The messenger left the hospital with the note, but had not even reached the station when Mr. Lindsay expired.

Our Electric-Car System.

Yesterday morning there was inaugurated in this city the first car service of the National Electric Tramway Company. The event had been looked forward to with considerable interest, and though there were many thorough believers in the practicability of the system, there were others not quite as confident who waited for further developments. It is hardly necessary to say that the anticipations of the most sanguine were more than realized, although, owing to the frost, the track might have been in a much more satisfactory condition. Shortly after ten o'clock car No. 3, operated on the Thomson Houston system and running on Beamis trucks, started from the company's works and ran to the corner of Store and Johnson streets, forward and backward several times at the rate of from eight to twelve miles an hour, the current being manipulated by Mr. J. S. Wilson, superintendent of the road, Mr. J. Sparks acting as conductor. There was no such thing as a hitch in any respect, the motive power being under full control, even when it was "let go" to accomplish something more than ordinary. Inside and out the car is most elegantly appointed, and it is manifestly the intention of those concerned to make the enterprise an immense success. No. 3 car weighs six tons, and seats very comfortably from 26 to 30 passengers. The augury from yesterday is, indeed, most promising, and not only the company but the traveling public are to be congratulated on the departure.

"THE BRITISH COLUMBIA RAILWAY ACT."

The Railway Bill introduced by the Hon. the Attorney-General is an important and comprehensive measure. It contains 113 sections, many of which have numerous sub-sections. It repeals the Vancouver Island Railway Clauses Consolidation Act, power to construct railways hereafter to be exercised subject to the provisions of this measure. It defines the powers of railway companies, provides how lands for railway purposes are to be acquired; how they are to be valued and, in case of dispute, how they are to be estimated. The Companies' relations to mine under and near the railway bed are dwelt upon at length, while stipulations with respect to highways and bridges, fences, tolls, etc., are given at length. The usual clauses appear with respect to general meetings, directors calls and dividends, is being strictly prohibited to declare the latter to the impairment or reduction of capital. All railways are to be under Government inspection, each company to contribute not less than $10 per mile for the necessary expenses. The other provisions much resemble those of the various Provincial Railway Acts.

A DOUBLE DROWNING.

James and Edward Alexander Break Through the Ice While Skating.

At about 9:30 o'clock last night a young woman, breathless and excited, reported at the police station that James and Ed. Alexander had just been drowned while skating on the pond in the rear of Maurice Humber's residence.

A man was at once despatched to the spot named, supplied with a lantern and a coil of rope, but on his arrival he found only Mr. Humber who knew little or nothing of the reported fatal accident. Two young women had rushed to his residence with the same tale, but as he had seen no skaters around during the evening and no searchers had put in an appearance he was in doubt whether to credit or disbelieve the report of the drowning.

Finding that the scene of the tragedy was beyond the jurisdiction of the city police the officer returned to town, and when a COLONIST reporter visited the spot a little later he found it deserted. Taking a lantern Mr. Humber and the reporter proceeded to investigate more fully. The pond was an artificial one, caused by the water being dammed up for the use of the brick-yard. It was not frozen a few days ago, but now a smooth, shining sheet of ice extended around the edges. In the centre, where the water is about eight feet deep, could be seen, when the lantern was raised high in the air, the dark gleam of open water. At one side, the ice bore the marks of skates, while a few planks extended from the bank out toward the opening in the ice, about fifteen or twenty feet away.

Finding that no particulars of the double drowning were to be obtained on the spot the reporter next visited Mrs. Gant, mother-in-law of James Alexander, the elder of the two brothers. At her home he found young Mrs. Alexander, and from her was obtained the following story of the tragedy, which is given as nearly as possible in her own words. She said: "James and his brother Ed., and Miss Phelps and I went out skating at about 8 o'clock, it was just as the church bells were ringing. Ed. had his skates on first, and went out on the ice, when we heard him give a scream and call to his brother that he was in the water. We saw him go down, and James took the lantern and went out on the ice to help him. Then the light fell on the ice and broke, and we heard the splashing of James. There wasn't a sound. They never called for help again. We waited and called to them, but we couldn't get any answer. Then Miss Phelps ran near Mr. Meldrum's house for help, and I ran every step of the way to the police station. They sent a man out to try and get their bodies, and Will and the other brothers went out too, but they said they couldn't do anything till morning. Then Will got a horse and went out to Saanich where the boys' father lives, to tell him, and we came home."

The two victims of the tragedy were both well-known to almost everyone who has been long resident in this city. James, the elder brother, was married but had no children. He was the driver of a double express wagon and a familiar figure on the Yates street stand. His brother Ed., who was several years his junior, worked for Mr. James Baker, and was popular with all who knew him. Both boys were generally favorites in large circle of friends, and their particularly sad death will cause universal regret among all who were accustomed to listen to their merry jokes and laughter and to enjoy the innocent fun which they were always making.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

THE RING.

The names of those who will compete this evening for Prof. Foster's prize cups are as follows: Heavyweights—J. Fisher, 160 lbs.; F. J. Seeley, 155; J. Smith, 158. Middle-weights—S. Lewis, 148; E. Miller, 146; C. Tight, 145; R. Clarke, 141. Light-weights—J. Hawkes, 130; T. Graham, 131½; R. Martin, 134. Feather-weights—D. McDonald, 117; J. Clarke, 115; W. L. Clarke, 117 and shoot; F. Prevost, 87; W. Johnson, 112. The gymnasium has been fixed up to accommodate about 200 persons, and a fine programme of instrumental and vocal selections, Highland and clog dancing, club swinging and other athletic feats has been prepared. A very select audience will be present and the affair takes place under the most distinguished patronage in the city.

KILRAIN BESTED.

Corbett, of San Francisco, bested Kilrain in six rounds at New Orleans on Monday night. Kilrain agreed to knock Corbett out in six rounds for a purse of $3,500 of which $2,000 was to go to the winner. Corbett outfought Kilrain at every point.

DEMPSEY DEFEATS M'CARTHY.

At San Francisco on Tuesday night Jack Demsey, champion middleweight of the world, defeated Billy McCarthy, of Melbourne of Australia, in twenty-eight stubborn rounds, at