Why the Alpha Came Back

Someone Opened Sea Connection and Let Water Into the Vessel.

Master of the Steamer Charges Those Who Fled With Desertion.

In the event of the arrest of the two deserting engineers, and the sailors of the steamer Alpha—of whose troubles more is coming to light daily—on the charge of desertion, which has been preferred against them at the provincial police station, by Capt. H. F. York, master of the vessel, a much more serious charge will be brought against one of them. According to statements made yesterday by Capt. York and Mr. Barber, should this man be charged in the police dock with desertion, they will bring him to book for other offences of which evidence has since come to light. They believe that he is responsible for the troubles of the steamer.

Capt. York said last night: "The police came down to the steamer for the clothes of a boy who joined the vessel in Vancouver, who is among those who left. His parents telegraphed, asking that he be returned home, he having run away. We then charged all the other deserters with that offence, and when found by the police they will be arrested. As for the deserting engineers, they are included."

Capt. York said that either the ash connection or one of the sea connections was opened, and this allowed of the water rushing into the hull. The water in the hull was discovered by the engineers, who notified the first officer. It was coming in fast, and it was at once evident that if the vessel was making water that fast, she must be at once headed back to port. It thought to go to Kyoquot, but afterwards plans were altered, and the vessel headed for here. The feed pipe was found to be in need of repair, and this further demanded the return to port.

When the Alpha came in, as told in the Colonist, she had much water in her, and it was generally believed that the steamer was leaking. The men were placed to work at the pumps, and by dint of hard work they managed to keep the water down. There was something funny about this incoming water. For a time the pumps did not gain on the inflow of water, but suddenly they began to drain out the vessel, and soon had her comparatively dry. Then suspicion began to form in the minds of the Captain and owner that all was not right. The engineers worked below and overhauled their engines, and meanwhile surveyors had been engaged to look over the vessel. Several competent surveyors pronounced the steamer seaworthy, and were at a loss to see how the water could have come in. As one said a few days ago: "There was something very fishy about it."

Mr. Genelle, who holds the largest interest in the steamer, arrived from Vancouver Wednesday and after a shortstay proceeded to the Sound. On his advice the master and Mr. Barber at once began to take action against the deserting crew, and those responsible for the costly troubles of the steamer. Her enforced idleness is a daily loss, as those familiar with the cost of delaying vessels are well aware, is very large.

THE CHIEFTAIN DOWN.

Capt. Cunningham Says Fishermen Are in Straits at Port Simpson.

Tug Chieftain is down for the winter. Capt. George Cunningham, her master and owner, says that, winter having set in, the steamer could not be taken to her usual winter quarters on the river, and, therefore, had to come down to Victoria. Capt. Cunningham says conditions are bad at Port Simpson, many being in straits there. The cause of this depression, he thinks, is found in the Fraser river strike and poor run of last season, many of the Skeena fishermen having come down and taken a prominent part in the strike. The people of Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, were in straits owing to the non-arrival of stores. The steamer Nell was not able to make the trip she had intended to with provisions for that place. The Danube called there, however, on her last trip, and took stores, for the first time since last May. The regular steamers call there but twice or three times a year.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Meeting Held Last Evening to Forward Movement for More Stringent Law.

A public meeting was held in Temperance hall Wednesday with the object of having a law passed to enforce a better observance of the Sabbath. About one hundred people were present. Senator Macdonald occupied the chair, and opened the meeting by explaining why it was called, and making a few remarks. It was not, he said, meant that British Columbia was worse than other parts of the Dominion, but some improvements were wanted. Three hundred year ago it was necessary to pass a law in England to enforce Sunday observance. All pastimes, such as football, were prohibited; butchers were not allowed to sell meat; tradesmen were not allowed to sell their goods, and the sale of all wares was prohibited. By an Ontario Bill, public meetings, fishing and hunting were not allowed; vehicles could not ply for hire, and the saloons were closed on Saturday evening at 7 o'clock and not opened until 6 o'clock on Monday morning, thus remaining closed all day Sunday.

The Bishop of Columbia, Rev. E. S. Rowe, Rev. Leslie Clay, Mr. C. H. Lugrin, Rev. Mr. Hughes and several other gentlemen spoke strongly in favor of a better observance of the Sabbath. Rev. Mr. Clay submitted a resolution to the audience. There were several clauses to the resolution, but in the main it was: "Be it resolved that the government at the forthcoming meeting of the legislature should pass legislation to have a proper observance of the Sabbath." The resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. Shakespeare explained that an organization for a better observance of the Sabbath was in existence. It was intended to write to other parts of the province about it. A similar constitution to that of Ontario had been adopted, and anyone wishing to join the organization must pay 50 cents a year. Very little could be done in the way of reform without the sinews of war. Other questions of reform had failed, because there was a want of money. The speaker invited the people to attach their names to a document pledging themselves to join the organization. A number of people responded, and the meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

Improvements That Are to be Made at Ashcroft.

The Ashcroft court house has been removed to the new grounds owned by the government on Brink street, where the court house, government office and jail will occupy three lots adjoining, says the Ashcroft Journal. The plans indicate that rather fine looking buildings will be erected.

These buildings have been greatly needed for many years, particularly a jail; the old one being a disgrace to any community. Often eight or ten, and as many as thirteen prisoners being confined in three small cells without ventilation, and without any of the ordinary conditions of a jail, the sma'l space and lack of separate cells making it utterly impossible to keep the place in a hygienic condition. All of this will be changed in the new jail. There will be six cells, with a corridor between, the cells being three on each side. In front are four rooms about 9x12 marked bedroom, office, kitchen and dining-room, the two latter rooms having barred windows so that the prisoners can be taken out of the cells to work in preparing food for other prisoners and be allowed to eat in the kitchen. The jail can easily be added to in the way of more cell rooms at any time, by simply extending the building back. The court house and government agent's office as above stated, will make a fine loking building, with the grounds fenced, and seeded down in grass, trees planted and the grounds kept as they are in other towns, in perfect order by the chain gang. Brink street will be much improved by the new conditions.

Winners at Oakland Show

Seven First Prizes Brought to this City from California.

Rugby and Association Football Matches to be Played on Saturday.

Frank Turner returned last evening from San Francisco, with a string of Victoria prize winners from the California Collie Club's dog show, held at Oakland. With eight dogs entered, he won seven firsts, three seconds and two special prizes.

H. L. O'Brien's English setter "Victor L," won first in the open dogs, and the special prize of $5.00 for the best English setter dog in the show, beating Count Harold, the Seattle champion and winner of first in the champion class at the show.

T. P. McConnell's English setter bitch "Victoria Belle II," a promising youngster but one year and one month old, won first in the novice, and first in the open bitches.

Mrs. Bradley-Dyne's two Irish terriers each won a first and the silver cup for the best pair of Irish terriers in the show.

Mrs. Creighton's black cocker "Queen of Sheba," won first in the cocker class. Mrs. Hitchcock's great Dane won first in the champion great Danes. T. Pilmley's English setter "Earl of Dudley" although shown out of condition, won second in the open dog class. Mr. Macabe's collie made a splendid showing, by winning second in the open field for collies.

SPORTING NOTES.

An enthusiastic meeting to organize a Kennel Club was held last night. Several cups and trophies were promised for the coming show.

On Friday afternoon a meeting of the Junior League will be held in the Young Women's Christian Association rooms, Rae street, to give a hearing to those who have protests to enter against any of the games.

Next Saturday a game will probably be played at Beacon Hill between the Columbias and a team picked from the crew of H.M.S. Warspite, as the former team has issued a challenge. The Columbias are also trying to make arrangements with some local club to play a game at Beacon Hill on Christmas Day.

COST OF ELECTIONS.

Speculation as to What It Amounts to and Who Provides It.

From Events, Ottawa.

A great many stories are going the rounds as to the amount of money the government spent in the elections, and the chances are that there is a good deal of exaggeration. That they spent money, and lots of it, there is not the least doubt, but if they spent anything like the sum each candidate alleges to have been employed against him, the country would not be able to produce it in the next twenty-five years. I have heard men declare that there was $50,000 used against them, when probably there was not $5,000. But even admitting that it was the smaller amount only, what a lot it amounts to in the aggregate; and it comes out of the people one way or the other. It is admitted, as a matter of course, that a government has the advantage in an election, "because it has the money." No one seems to question their having it as anything but what should be. No one apparently enquires into the reason why the government has more money for election purposes than the opposition. The questions are never asked: "Where do they get it, whose money is it they get, and have they a right to use it for party purposes?" These are questions that are never put. No matter which party is in power, it is recognized that it has the money, and the other fellows are short of funds. It may surprise some people to be told that the money a government uses in an election is the people's money. True, they do not sign an official cheque for it and draw directly from the people's funds, but they might as well, for all the difference it makes. Wealthy men doing business with the government and seeking favors from it, such as land or railway, or timber, or mining concessions, put up the funds, and get it all back again with big interest in the grants afterwards made to them out of the people's taxes or assets. The party out of power gets its funds from its friends, too, but they are always fewer, and as the risk they take is greater they gamble less. Contractors and railway promoters are usually on the side of the party in power, though they sometimes put up for both sides, so as to be sure of a win no matter how the game goes. Of course, a government has another leverage in the patronage at its disposal, and we have all heard it alleged that it gets heavy contributions from this source. It is certain, for instance, that there are men in the Senate of Canada who had absolutely no claim upon the position, except that they were men of means. If the government grants Mr. H. H. Cook a commission to investigate his charge in this respect we may hear something really startling.

The Annual S. O. E. Dinner

Old England's Sons Meet Once More Round the Festive Board.

Among the Guests are Men From South African Battlefields.

About four score of Englishmen and their guests gathered Wednesday around the board at the Sons of England Benevolent Society's annual dinner, held at the Hotel Dawson. The spacious dining room had been handsomely decorated by the tasty hands of Mine Host Jensen and his better half. Resplendent with bunting, some nice effects were worked out on the walls with the little Union Jacks, on which a picture of Her Most Gracious Majesty appeared in the centre, surrounded by her noble generals who have so gallantly directed her arms in the South African campaign. Over the head of the table two splendid flags—the Red Ensign and the Stars and Stripes—encircled the fine painting of the Queen that had been brought down from the lodge rooms; while the long table found further decoration in the pots of primroses and other flowers suggestive of the downs and gardens of the little isle across the sea.

About 9 o'clock Col. Prior took the chair. On his right were United States Consul Smith, District Deputy Master Brakes, Rev. Dr. Wilson, and Privates Beech, Neill and Stewart, all of the First Contingent. These latter were undoubtedly the guests of the evening. To the chairman's left sat His Worship Mayor Hayward, Lieut.-Col. Gregory, Dr. Lewis Hall and Dr. Ernest Hall.

After the delicacies of the Dawson cuisine had been duly appreciated, the worthy chairman read letters of regret from Capt. Fleet, R. N., of H. M. S. Phaeton, Hon. J. H. Turner, Sergeant J. B. Northcott, and Privates Frank Finch-Smiles, Seymour H. O'Dell and Clarke Gamble, the latter being of the famous first contingent, and all unfortunately prevented from attending the re-union.

The toast list was then proceeded with, the great toast of England's sons, "The Queen," being proposed by Col. Prior, and being followed by a hearty rendering of the national anthem.

"The President of the United States" followed. In tendering this toast, Bro. W. Jones spoke of the high appreciation with which Consul Smith was held throughout the city. He had made friends of them all, and all rejoiced that his term of office had been further assured by the result of the recent elections in his great republic in the return of President McKinley.

In reply Mr. Smith thanked the gathering for their kind reception of the toast and the speaker for his reference to the great tribune of his people. Their president had been tried and not found wanting. He had stood for honesty, freedom, Christianity and liberty, and the people had stood by him. They had put him in the place where he belonged because he was a clean man. This high office was within reach of every native-born. To it men had come from the log cabin, the tow-path and the tannery, and the people rejoiced, not because of their humble origin, but because they had surmounted the circumstances that had surrounded their station in life. Of President McKinley it might well be said that he was first in peace, last in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen. He had been opposed to the war with Spain, but when the nation, in the cause of humanity, had urged for strife, the republic had re-enacted the Armada scenes in sweeping the Spanish fleet from off the seas, and spreading freedom where Christ had been unknown. And the war over, the United States had remembered her boys. England of old remembered her leaders. Large sums were granted to Marlborough and to other generals, and that not only to the men themselves, but to their children after them, so that he who had married the rich American heiress still had his living from the tax roll of the people. The United States gave to the individual and stopped at that, but she gave to all both small and great. She gave positions, too, and so a boy from Illinois who had been down at Porto Rico was to-day to be found in his office in this very city. He was glad to read lately that England purposed the same thing, the least gift to the humblest Tommy Atkins being a £5 note. He rejoiced to see the two great nations so much at harmony, and he could say:

"O Britons all, our hope and creed,
Our blood and tongue the same,
We too are heirs of Runnymede,
And Shakespeare's fame and Cromwell's deed,
Are ours as well as Motherland's;
So while we sing to the Stars and Stripes,
And shout for our Uncle Sam,
We sing the glory of England's Queen,
And say "God bless her evermore!"

The Dominion and Provincial Parliament was then proposed by Bro. J. Critchley, in a speech redolent with humor and happy hits. Joke followed joke in side-splitting succession, and though three several times the speaker sought to be serious, it was all to no purpose, and the crowd laughed on. This toast was met with a happy reply from Col. Prior, M.P., who, while avoiding politics, spoke of the happy condition of their affairs, all being met good friends immediately after the campaign was over. His speech was punctuated by repeated outbursts of applause.

Bro. Hemming sponsored the Imperial Forces with happy reference to the spontaneous rush of the colonies to the Empire's aid, giving his words a marked effect by reference to the hero guests of the contingent. To this Col. Gregory, of the Fifth Regiment, replied. It was the first time in his memory that a militia officer had responded to this toast in Victoria, and it emphasized an epoch that had been reached but lately. A new word, the Imperial Forces now toow the place of the Army and the Volunteers, or the Militia, and the change had come in the great flood of patriotism that had cemented the Empire's bonds so closely. But two years ago England had taken the demonstration of colonial soldiery in London on faith, now she knew what she had believed in. The record was a good one, generals and Prince and Queen had all commended their deeds, and it was well.

In response to a request from Col. Prior, Pte. Beech then spoke on behalf of his comrades. To his words of thanks was added an expression that took the board by storm, "If the people of Victoria were proud of the boys who had gone out from Victoria, the boys that had gone from Victoria were proud to go for such a city." As a private it had occurred to himself as well, as to hundreds of his comrades in arms that good results in the new style of warfare (such as they had just returned from fighting) would be had by treating the men a little more as men, and somewhat less like machines.

In a short speech Consul Smith then proposed the toast of the Sons of England themselves, closing a good rally with the thought you ask where they are, and I answer, where they ain't. This was well taken up by Bro. S. H. Brakes, who thought that even if such an enemy to society as Elder Brooks could look in and observe many sides of the national character as were there exhibited, he would be quite converted to its principles.

Bro. Prout's toast of the Mayor and Corporation, was replied to by His Worship, who took occasion to remind all of their duty to attend next Tuesday's meeting at the City hall to consider the question of a fitting memorial to be erected to Victoria's soldiers in the campaign on the veldt. Point Ellice bridge and the James Bay flats also received brief notice, as well as a few other of the acts of this year's council.

In the toast of Sister Societies, Mr. W. H. Price and Dr. Ernest Hall both spoke at length on the lodge doctoring question, the latter making some interesting remarks upon municipal responsibility for this work. At a rate of $3 per head per annum, all doctors of the city would make much more than they did at present.

The toasts of the Visitors, the Ladies, and the Host, were interspersed with songs by Mr. A. E. Crane, J. Critchley, and a recitation by J. Wilson, and at an early hour the dinner came to a close.

Chemainus Improvements

Additions to the Already Large Plant of the Victoria Lumber Company.

Planing Mills and Drying Kilns ---To Ship Lumber By Rail.

In connection with the proposed extensions of the big lumber mill at Chemainus, Mr. E. J. Palmer, who arrived down from that point yesterday, states that the additions contemplated are chiefly such as will be necessary for the preparation of the shipments by rail that his company expects to make next year. In that branch of the trade, in addition to the occasional orders of big timber dimensions, a great deal of lumber is required. All this in its various sizes of board stuffs must be kiln-dried, single or double surfaced, and often jointed to the various uses and styles required for house-building and the many other orders of a lumber yard.

To do this it is proposed to erect three large kilns each with a capacity of 20,000 feet; also to put in the planing and sizing machinery, as well as a shingle mill plant. The handling of the stock further necessitates the erection of warehouse room, and by springtime the company will have three big buildings, 60x120 each in size, ready for that purpose.

These various additions will make a great difference in the appearance of the mill town of Chemainus. The old stables, stores, hotel and other buildings being in the way of the improvements, must be removed, and large additions made to the wharfage front, as well as a slip constructed for the transfer barge by which the cars are to be shipped over to the Mainland. A railway spur will also be put into Horseshoe Bay, connecting the mills with the E. & N. railway system. All this will entail a good deal of work, most of which will be done by the company directly; and, while the cost is not yet definitely stated, it cannot fall much below $100,000.

This project means a great deal to Vancouver Island. Hitherto the great lumber market of the Canadian Northwest has been in the undisturbed possession of the mills of Burrard Inlet and the Fraser river. Now, however, the superior timber of the Island will flow in that direction, through the enterprise of this big company; and the fact that the trade is of such a sort as requires the expending of more labor upon the output is not the least of the many advantages of their contemplated stretching out.

Just at present the mill company is adding a new and much enlarged engine plant to its establishment that will be able to supply sufficient power not only for the present enlargements, but for any others that the new trade may be found to authorize.

THE GERTRUDE SAFE.

She Went to San Francisco for Repairs Instead of Making for the Sound.

The German ship Gertrude, for which a fleet of tugs were searching for seven or eight days off the Cape, did not after all come to the Sound, as was thought, and while the fears were being entertained for her safety, on account of her having sprung a leak, she was heading for San Francisco, at which port she yesterday arrived in safety. On making an offing from the Columbia, the Gertrude's master found the wind favorable for passage south, and he determined to go to San Francisco for repairs, instead of to the Sound.

The Gertrude had loaded wheat at Portland. She sailed from Astoria on November 27, and two days later returned and reported to the pilot boat that she was leaking. Her captain reports that when 150 miles south of Astoria the ship encountered a heavy sea and southeasterly gale. Then she made twelve inches of water in her hold. On shifting some of her cargo, it was found that most of the water came through an open porthole on the starboard side. The leakage in the hull was very slight.

Just a Spoonful

Of Bowes' Balsam of Aniseed will give instant relief, and a bottle will usually cure two or three bad colds.

We know all about the ingredients of this remedy; that's the reason we guarantee its purity and effectiveness.—25 cents.

CYRUS H. BOWES,
Chemist.
Telephone 425. 98 Government St.
Near Yates Street.

The School Trustees

Regular Meeting of the Board Last Night Deals With Routine Business.

Rock Bay School to Be Fitted Up for the Reception of Pupils.

There was little of interest brought up for discussion at the meeting of the board of school trustees Wednesday. There were present Trustees Mrs. Gordon Grant, A. L. Belyea, R. L. Drury, J. G. Brown and A. G. McCandless, the chairman, Dr. Lewis Hall, presiding.

An invitation was read to the board from the pupils of the High school to an "at home" in the Pemberton gymnasium for to-night at 8 o'clock. The invitation was accepted.

The regular accounts were then read and ordered to take the usual course.

The following report from Superintendent Eaton was then given consideration:

Trustees of Victoria Public Schools:

Ladies and Gentlemen:—Permit me to make the following recommendations:—

1. That children of the first and second primer classes who live in the North ward division of the city school district west of the middle line of Douglas street, be required to attend the Rock Bay school.

2. That the middle line of Pandora street, from Quadra street to Chambers street, be hereafter the southern limit of the Spring Ridge division, instead of Frederick and Putnam streets, in order that a better distribution of the primary children of the Spring Ridge and Central schools may be effected.

3. That the stationery supplies, hitherto bought by the teachers, with money collected from the pupils, be hereafter provided by the board. If this is done, a good deal of inconvenience to teachers and parents will be avoided, and a considerable saving in the cost of these supplies will be effected.

F. H. EATON.

With respect to the last item, the superintendent explained that the supplies as now purchased by the teachers amounted to about $600 annually, whereas it was more than probable that the trustees could do the same service for $500.

Trustee Belyea said that before passing this item it would be well for the board to take notice of the principle involved, which would mean that the board was to supply all school requisites free, and he for one did not think it was proper. He accordingly moved that the last clause be laid on the table.

Trustee Drury said he could not understand why so much stationery was used in the schools. He spoke as a parent, and said he for his part could not keep track of the exercise books that were required. The whole system should be overhauled, and the teachers made to modify the amount of stationery required.

Trustee Brown had for many years been of the opinion that all stationery should be free to the pupils, for the reason advanced in the report, and discrimination having to be made in the matter of those who are not able to pay.

The second and second clauses were passed and the remaining clause accordingly laid over.

At this point the chairman, who had another engagement, took leave of the meeting, and Trustee Belyea was voted to the chair.

The report of the school management committee was read, expressing the idea that the board should not sanction the use of the schools for the collection of gifts for the poor, as asked by the Friendly Help Society. This was adopted.

The superintendent called the attention of the board to the fact that the schools would close on the 21st, and, as usual on these occasions, the trustees would be expected to "distribute themselves" among the various schools. This was accordingly arranged during an informal discussion of the matter.

The question of an annual report was also brought up by the superintendent. This was not exactly the proper time to publish an annual report, as the school year did not end till the 30th June, and it would perhaps be well to postpone the getting out of a report until that date.

Trustee Belyea's resolution as to fitting up the Rock Bay school to receive pupils after the Christmas holidays was then read and adopted. The second resolution of which notice was given by Trustee Belyea was read. This resolution is with reference to teachers in the grammar or senior divisions, and limits the salary to $800 per annum. This matter was also laid over.

As it will be necessary to hold one more meeting this year, in order that school matters may be finally arranged for 1900, a special meeting of the board will be held on Thursday, the 27th instant.

Just before adjournment, Trustee Brown brought up what at first promised to be the business of the evening—the alleged injury to a pupil of the South Park school through the actions of one of the teachers. Mr. Brown had been informed that a little girl had been chased out of a class-room, down the stairs and out on to the play-ground by a teacher, and as a result the pupil was now suffering from a sprained ankle.

Quite a different face was put on the affair, however, when the superintendent explained that the pupil, along with others, had been kept in, and in making a break for liberty had stumbled and fallen on the stairway, spraining her ankle. The teacher had subsequently taken the pupil home in a cab. With this explanation the matter was dropped, and the board adjourned.

SOCIETIES' WARD.

Proposal of the Federated Board to Be Laid Before Lodge Members.

Considerable interest is manifested by the members of the various lodges in the meeting to be held at the A. O. U. W. hall Sunday afternoon next. The extension of co-operative privileges arranged by the federated board, as far as hospital accommodation is concerned, has been favorably received among the societies—so much so that applications for co-operation are being made by lodges outside the federation. The plans of the federated board, briefly speaking, provide for the erection of a wing to the Jubilee hospital, to be utilized and known as the Society Ward, containing some 15 or 18 beds, divided into private rooms and semi-ward. The cost of erection is estimated at about $7,000, half of which amount the societies are asked to contribute. It is estimated that there are over 2,200 society members in the city. The federated board anticipate that 1,000 at least will avail themselves of the opportunity, and suggest a contribution of 25 cents per month by each member for a period of 12 or 14 months, until the amount requisite has been subscribed. A maintenance contribution after the erection of the ward of 10 cents monthly will enable the subscriber to obtain hospital accommodation without any further charge; it being understood, however, that this does not apply to physicians' services obtained from other than those supplied by the lodges. In the absence of any information showing the number of lodge members treated in the hospital during the past four or five years, it is the intention to try the maintenance contribution for a period of three or five years, until an average of attendance can be arrived at, and the scale adjusted accordingly. As an offset to any possible loss by the hospital, the directors are empowered to make use of the beds when not otherwise engaged; sufficient, however, being kept in reserve to meet any emergency. It has been suggested to the federated board by members outside of the city that the privilege of subscribing to hospital privileges be extended to lodges throughout the province. The Jubilee offering many advantages, many would—especially in the smaller localities—gladly welcome the opportunities offered. This, they contend, would make Victoria the sanitorium of the province; the climate being all that can be desired, would afford rest and change to their members. The question is well worth taking up, and would, if successful, lessen the amount required of city members.

In addition to hospital matters, a resume of the work done by the board will be presented; and, if time permits, several other questions of great interest to lodge members will be taken up. The meeting will be open to all lodges in the city (male and female), and to the lady relatives of the members, the chair being taken at 2:30 p.m. It is earnestly desired that the charter members of the various lodges be in attendance.

Noted In The Gazette

Number of Appointments Made to the Provincial Civic Service.

Private Bills to Be Introduced At the Next Session.

The following notices appear in this week's number of the British Columbia Gazette:

Through the Provincial Secretary's office the following appointments have been made to be J. P.'s for the counties of Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Westminster, Yale, Cariboo and Kootenay: Eli Harrison, of Victoria, and James Fyffe Harris, of Nicomen; to be commissioners for taking affidavits in and for the Supreme Court of British Columbia: Thomas Percival Galt, of the city of Toronto; to be police commissioners at Phoenix: James Marshall and James Tunet; to be liquor licence commissioner at Phoenix: James Marshall, vice W. R. Williams; and to be a notary public for the province: Harry Bird, of Nelson.

The resignation of J. E. Knight, of Ashcroft, of the office of justice of the peace, has been accepted.

A public highway has been established in Cowichan as follows, viz.:

Commencing at the point where the present road to McCallum's leaves the Cowichan Lake trunk road; thence southerly along the centre line of the existing road to Cowichan lake, a distance of about 300 yards, and having a width of 33 feet on each side of said line.

A certificate of registration of an extra provincial company has been issued to La Franco-Canadienne, of Donal, France, with capital of 300,000 francs, and head offices in this province at Kaslo. M. Jules Justin Tleutot, of that city, mining engineer, is its present attorney.

To the Emily Edith Mines, Ltd., of England, a license to carry on business in this province has also been granted. Of this company, Charles Edward Hope is the agent, with head offices in Vancouver.

The following private bill notices are also given:

To incorporate a company to construct and operate a railway and ferry from Victoria to Chilliwack, by Messrs. Bodwell & Duff.

To incorporate a company to construct a railway ferry from Grand Forks to the mouth of Eagle creek, by Messrs. Cayley, Dickson & Cochrane.

To incorporate a company to excavate a tunnel from Silverton to Sandon, etc., by Messrs. Davis, Marshall & Macneill.

To have the Vancouver & Lulu Island Railway declared to be a road for the general advantage of Canada, by F. G. Geddes.

To incorporate a company to conduct a general trust business, by A. F. Griffiths.

The new fire by-law of the city of Vancouver is also published.

The sittings of the courts of revision and appeal (under the Assessment Act) in North Yale will be held as follows: Kamloops, on December 28; Nicola Lake, January 4; Princeton, January 11, 1901.

If you once try Carter's Little Liver Pills for sick headache, biliousness or constipation, you will never be without them. They are purely vegetable; small and easy to take. Don't forget this.

GETTING TO BUSINESS.

Representatives of Powers Choose Committee to Confer With Chinese.

London, Dec. 18.—The Pekin correspondent of the Daily Mail, writing on Tuesday and confirming the reports of the agreement as to the collective note, says that the committee of representatives of the powers has been chosen to regulate the conference with the Chinese plenipotentiaries.

Two Stormy Ocean Trips

Empress of India and Olympia Arrive After Tempestuous Voyages

Very Heavy Gales Blow From all Points of the Compass.

R. M. S. Empress of India and the Northern Pacific liner Olympia arrived from the Orient Wedensday morning, the former one day late and the latter several days behind her time. Both had encountered terribly rough weather. The passage was marked throughout by heavy easterly and southeasterly winds, and, in fact, by gales from nearly every point of the compass. Some of the heavy storms were circular and of sufficient violence to be called typhoons. The Empress encountered rough weather from Hongkong to the Quarantine station. Even while lying at her wharf at Kowloon she was swept by the heavy typhoon, details of whose ravages are given in another column, and the storms followed her up through the China sea and inland sea to Yokohama, and from thence across the Pacific. She was hardly ever free from being swung to and fro by tremendous seas, tossed up by the heavy gales. Fortunately she came through the storms without damage, but she was unable on some occasions to make much headway. On two days she did not register more than 87 knots each day.

Capt. Truebridge, of the Olympia, repors as follows regarding the delayed trip of that steamer: "Variable light winds were experienced, with moderate seas until the 20th, when, in Lat. 43.22 N., and 156.22 E., she encountered a heavy southeast gale, veering round to west-northwest. From the latter quarter it blew with hurricane force. The barometer had gone down to 29.00. On the 27th inst., Lat. 43.56 N., and 161.47 E., the gale was at its height, with a very high and dangerous confused sea from the south and from the west. On the 28th, moderate weather again. On the 2nd December, strong head winds from the east and high head sea were encountered, and on the 3rd December the wind increased to a gale (easterly), and continued blowing from the east. Fresh gales and high seas ahead were experienced until the 7th, when it blew a fierce gale from east-southeast, with a heavy high and dangerous sea. On the 8th, the weather moderated, with light southwest wind, and a very high following sea. On the 9th, there was a strong easterly wind, increasing to a gale, the wind heeling and blowing hard from the south, with a heavy sea. On the 10th and 11th there was an east-southeast gale, a rough head sea, and thick, dirty weather. When Cape Beale was sighted, early yesterday morning, the weather was very thick and dirty."

Neither vessel had any news of the fully due sugar ship Royalist, which has also doubtless experienced a very stormy passage. The Olympia spoke her in the inland sea, but not after leaving the Japan coast. The Royalist is now out 22 days from Moji.

The two liners had small passenger lists. The Empress had eighteen saloon and 266 steerage passengers, of whom about 50 debarked here. The included among the Empress' passengers were Capt. Raymond, a well known mariner in these waters, who was mate of the old West Indian, and now a resident of Tacoma. He is returning from the Philippines after taking 55 steam launches, averaging forty or fifty feet long, to Manila, for service at the garrison ports of the islands. The United States government, he says, has bought over 70 of these steam launches, mostly at Hongkong. Other passengers were Commander T. W. Kemp, R.N., a naval officer, who is returning home after some service in the China campaign. Other naval men bound home on furlough after engagements in the East, are: Capts. Haynes and Gaisford. Dr. Lowry, a well known missionary, who has had much adventure in connection with the troubles in North China; Rev. and Mrs. Jaffrey, Rev. and Mrs. Christopher, Mr. and Mrs. Ashworth, Mr. and Mrs. Bilsborough, F. F. Davis, F. W. Franks, Mrs. and Miss Gillett, Miss Laverne, and Miss S. Relyea, were also passengers.

The Olympia had no Chinese or Japanese passengers, but she, like the Empress, had a full cargo of Chinese and Japanese merchandise. A small amount was landed here from the Olympia.

MR. GILBERT'S VISIT.

Dominion Poultry Expert Says Nice Things About Victoria District.

The Montreal Gazette has this to say of Mr. A. G. Gilbert's visit to British Columbia:

Mr. A. G. Gilbert, manager of the poultry department, Experimental Farm, has returned from British Columbia and Manitoba where for the past seven weeks he has been delivering addresses to the farmers of both provinces.

In British Columbia Mr. Gilbert was accompanied by Mr. J. K. Anderson, deputy minister of agriculture, and in Manitoba by Mr. Hugh McKellar, deputy minister of agriculture for that province. Much interest was taken by the farmers of both provinces in poultry raising.

In Vancouver, at the beginning of the present month, eggs were selling at 45 to 50 cents per dozen; chickens 50 cents each, and turkeys 25 cents per pound. Dairy products were also selling at high figures. The same may be said of Victoria, where eggs in the winter season go as high as 60 cents per dozen. And this in a country where the conditions appear unusually favorable for profitable raising of live stock. The winter season in British Columbia is really the rainy season, and during that time live stock require to be sheltered at night time. But grass seems to thrive all the year round.

There are parts of British Columbia where irrigation has to be resorted to, but the fertility of the Okanagan valley and the Fraser delta, as well as many portions of Vancouver Island, is very great. Both Victoria and Vancouver are fine cities, with good harbor accommodation. Victoria is one of the most beautiful and beautifully situated cities in the world. At present the Chinese and Japanese do much of the extensive farming—such as market gardening, and as they are industrious, sober, and live on comparatively humble fare, they are dangerous rivals of the white man. But it should not be so, and if it were possible the white men should use this comparatively cheap Oriental labor to his own enrichment and that of his country.

Mr. W. H. Hayward, the popular chairman of the agricultural committee of British Columbia, has a large poultry farm with incubators and a brooder house, and intends raising poultry for market and eggs for sale in winter in the city market. His farm is most beautifully situated on the seashore at Metchosin, 16 miles from Victoria city. Mr. Hayward has unbounded confidence in the success of his poultry enterprise, and is practically aided and abetted to it by his charming wife, who has a thorough knowledge of how to raise chickens. In and around Victoria there are several other poultry fanciers, among them Mr. R. M. Palmer, of the department of agriculture, and who fancies Silver-Faced Wyandottes.