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A NEW THEATRE.

We understand that the City Council is to be approached this evening by the gentlemen who have so actively interested themselves in the theatre question with an amended proposal. It is that the city grant the site desired, that the land be valued by a qualified authority, and that stock in the concern of the full amount of the ascertained value be delivered to the council to be held in trust for the people. Such a proposal appears to us to be eminently fair and reasonable. It would place the city upon an equal footing with the citizens and concerns who have subscribed cash. If the house proved financially successful, citizens would share in the dividends. Such a proposition ought to remove any objections which heretofore have been raised by the aldermen, acting in perfectly good faith as we believe, to it. It ought to be accepted, and one of the chief obstacles to the undertaking removed. It is a scheme which could be successfully defended by the members of the Board of Aldermen who are offering themselves for re-election. If it be not adopted, there is more than a grave probability that before the end of the coming year Victoria will be without a theatre with any pretensions to the first class. The present building has passed into the hands of a syndicate which plans to turn it to other and more remunerative uses. The council should have little hesitation about embarking upon an enterprise which would prove of great public benefit, particularly considering that many of our leading citibens have set so commendable an example by putting their hands in their own pockets.

PROPOSED NEW THEATRE.

A correspondent raises the question of the expediency of the city granting a site at a nominal rental to a company for the purpose of erecting a theatre on the flats in the neighborhood of the Empress Hotel. He suggests as an alternative to the proposal laid before the council that the municipality shall itself build a theatre as a civic enterprise. Victoria has plenty of business on her hands at the present time. All her resources are required for the execution of works of absolute necessity. A theatre is not a work of absolute necessity, but there is no question that a house of entertainment of generous proportions and modern equipment would fill an aching void in the list of our civic attractions. If we are going to wait until the city is in a position to undertake the erection of a theatre with the approval of a majority of the ratepayers, it is quite sure that nothing in that direction will be accomplished for a great many years.

When the question of granting a free site and certain privileges to the C. P. R. on condition of the erection of the Empress Hotel was under consideration, the Times supported the proposal. It would do so again if the matter were up for consideration, and with increased emphasis as a result of experience. We believe the hotel to be one of the chief attractions of Victoria at the present time and one of the principal agents in the city's prosperity. This is a luxurious age, however we may regard the matter from an individual, a national, an economic or philosophic point of view, and we must accept the conditions as we find them. There are thousands of persons with plenty of leisure and practically unlimited means now visiting Victoria annually who would never have showed their noses here had there not been a modern hotel with an unexcelled equipment to receive them and cater to their requirements and tastes. The Empress Hotel is therefore one of the chief centres, from a purely business point of view, in Victoria. The management of the C. P. R. regarded it in the first instance as a doubtful investment, and would never have considered it but for the special inducements held out by the city. Experience has shown that the ratepayers made no mistake, as far as their individual interests as citizens of Victoria at the present time are concerned, by passing the by-law which resulted in the erection of the Empress Hotel.

A modern theatre is a necessary complement of this hotel. It would be an attraction second only in drawing power to the hotel. And from an educational and artistic point of view, for the cultivation of the graces and the refinements of life, it is an urgent civic necessity. Admittedly it would not prove a "paying proposition" for some years. The public-spirited citizens who have announced their willingness to invest a portion of their means in the enterprise thoroughly understand this. They know they would not receive any direct returns upon their investment for years, but they are willing "to take a chance" on the indirect benefits, in which all citizens would share. The matter for the ratepayers to decide is whether they also would be justified in embarking in such an undertaking by granting a long lease of property which is at present unproductive. We have stated the facts as they present themselves to us. It is for the ratepayers to act upon them.

THE WATER QUESTION.

The aldermen have decided to submit a by-law to the ratepayers involving an expenditure of a million and a half dollars at the coming municipal elections. The object is to proceed immediately with the project of developing Sooke Lake for water works purposes. The father of the scheme is Ald. Henderson, who is a candidate for the Mayoralty, and who also professes a lively faith in the capacity of Elk Lake as a source of water supply. But Ald. Henderson doubtless believes, as most of us do, that Victoria has entered upon an era of unprecedented growth, and that it is necessary to prepare for eventualities. Five years at least will be required to deliver water from the greater lake into the service pipes of the city, and it is abundantly evident that before five years have passed over our heads Elk Lake will be quite inadequate to meet the requirements of the situation. There is therefore sufficient reason for haste if Victoria be determined to procure water only from an independent source. On that point there are no diversities of opinion; but there are differences of opinion as to whether the decision of the aldermanic board to submit a by-law at the present time will have the effect of hastening the project of augmenting the water supply. There is a very grave danger indeed that the million dollar and a half by-law may be defeated at the municipal general elections, and, if it is killed, the effect will be just the opposite of what it is doubtless intended to be by Ald. Henderson. The inevitable result must be confusion and delay, culminating in a situation most of the ratepayers wish to avoid, purchase of water at retail from the Esquimalt Water Works Company.

The reasons for the hostility of the citizens to any water scheme put forward by the present council we do not wish to enlarge upon at the present time. We are still in the holiday season and have no desire to arouse feelings which are not in complete harmony with the spirit of that delectable season. But the aldermen know perfectly well the effect upon the public mind of recent developments in connection with water works matters. The members of the council may not be directly responsible for the fisaco in connection with the Smith's Hill reservoir and for other "improvements" which have not come up to the standard expected, but unfortunately the members of the council are associated in the public mind with these blunders (or whatever they may be), and there is a danger that as a result of the vote proposed on the 13th of January, 1910, the sins of omission or of commisison may be visited upon the head of the city at large as well as upon the heads of the aldermen. That is a consummation which members of the council whose civic patriotism is larger than their self-interest or personal ambition should endeavor to avoid.

For these reasons we hold that the council would have been well-advised had they decided to leave the question of future water supply to a new council. As the matter stands we submit that the ratepayers may be in quandary as to whether they ought to vote yea or nay on the Sooke Lake proposition, and that even if the voters were in a mood to listen to advice, it will be an exceedingly difficult matter for the most sagacious of councillors to advise them intelligently.

It is quite true, as Ald. Henderson has pointed out, that the majority of the people have already expressed their preference for Sooke Lake, and that such a preference was indicated not only in a plebiscite taken at a municipal general election, but in the death of the proposal for the acquirement of the works of the Esquimalt Water Works Company; but the fact must also be taken into consideration that a referendum is merely an expression of abstract opinion, while a vote of the qualified ratepayers is quite a different matter.

We fear very much that if the council believes it is taking steps to hasten a permanent settlement of the water problem, it will find it has made a grave mistake when the ballots are counted on the evening of the 13th of January next.

A GERMAN FIREEATER ON THE BRITISH CAMPAIGN.

From the Unionist point of view, the very best campaign material available in the present exciting political campaign in Great Britain is the "German menace." The leaders of the Conservative opposition realise this, and they are naturally using that which comes most readily to their hands to the best possible advantage. No consideration of possible deplorable consequences exercises a restraining influence upon them, because, like all politicians, the supreme consideration with them is the attainment of power and the discomfiture of their opponents.

The facts being as stated, one would naturally think the Unionists would not be likely to secure any great amount of assistance from parties or individuals in Germany. Yet one who is described as a prominent Teutonic statesman and ex-diplomat has fashioned a very effective weapon and placed it in the hands of the leaders of the British Conservative party. This gentleman's name is Hermann von Rath, and he has stated in an article which has been given wide circulation, and will be given even wider currency, that the day the tariff reformers came into power would be a critical one for Germany. Rath, a news dispatch says, strongly intimated that the erection of a tariff wall around the British Isles, and later around the entire Empire, would deal so staggering a blow to German trade that the Fatherland might be compelled to go to war to smash these barriers to her industrial progress.

"At the beginning," he declares, "the tariff would not affect us so seriously because there are numerous articles which Britain cannot purchase elsewhere. Gradually, however, the strangling process would become more oppressive and the day would arrive when our imperious necessity to find employment for our enormously increasing population would drive us to desperation."

Rath went on to say that the Conservatives, in whom the hatred of Germany was ingrown, might be expected to inaugurate a deliberately Germanophobe policy.

"Peace," closes this remarkable article, "may not be so easy to maintain as during the dark days of the Balkan crisis of a year ago. The Franco-Russian alliance in military power and strength has been considerably strengthened, and under the influence of British intrigues Italian loyalty to the Triple Alliance, through flirtation with Russia, has been still further undermined."

It is not surprising that such extraordinary utterances have attracted world-wide attention. The New York Times comments so vigorously and so effectively upon the expressions of Herr von Rath that we take the liberty of reproducing the article in full. We are sure it will be perused with great interest by readers of the Victoria Times:

"And now comes a growl from Germany because there is a possibility that Great Britain will adopt protection, will erect artificial barriers to exchange with other countries; will follow, in short, the example of short-sighted Germany. It is not inconsistent with the dullness of the protectionist intellect that the Germans do not see that the very best way to promote protection in Great Britain is to emit this growl on the eve of the elections. Apart from their internal troubles nothing so stirs the feelings of the British voters as the dread of the German navy and German competition in trade. The billboards and 'hoardings' of the English towns are just now flaming with coarse caricatures presenting John Bull having his pockets picked by German footpads in mechanics' clothing. 'Made in Germany,' words with which English law compels all German goods to be labeled, practically describes the whole protectionist propaganda. It is true that the Yankee is also something of a bogy to the industrial infants of the United Kingdom, but the terror and hatred he excites would not amount to much if the German were out of the way. And, of course, the German navy fits in perfectly with German trade as a means of scaring the voters. If Mr. Balfour had himself secured a prominent German writer to sound the note of alarm from the shores of the North Sea he could not have done anything that would better have served the purpose of his party.

"As a matter of fact, if the Conservatives should win in the elections next month, Germany would have nothing worse to fear than having to bargain with Great Britain for lowering some of her own protective duties in return for the suspension of such moderate taxes as the Conservative government might impose. But this is precisely what the doughty Prussian legislator Herr von Rath would not wish to do. He is, in true protectionist humor, bent on hampering all trade but his own. He even thinks that, rather than submit to surrendering any of the advantage protection gives, Germany should fight. The moral aspect of a great nation, which prides itself on its enlightenment, going to war with another nation for doing what the first has itself done, does not interest this Pomeranian statesman. And apparently he has not the small modicum of common sense to see that even a successful war would cost Germany more than all the trade would be worth that she could wrest from Great Britain. If every pfennig of the $250,000,000 of German exports to England were pure profit it would not pay for the destruction of war in the first month of hostilities. We do not look for any such immense catastrophe, nor is there even any immediate prospect of the adoption of protection in Great Britain, but we call attention to the incident as showing the grotesque working of a mind infected with the protectionist fallacy."

The municipal political pot in Victoria is merely simmering just now. The letter of Mayoralty Candidate Oliver, announcing that its writer is in the fight to a finish, is practically the only outward indication that a contest is one which may prove the most exciting, as it will be the most doubtful, in recent years. But the other candidates are not resting on their oars by any means. Their committees are hard at work perfecting arrangements towards a thorough organization. The big guns will begin to boom next week.

What Other People Think

DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

To the Editor:—I have read with interest several letters in the Times regarding the dearth of domestic servants in Victoria. I doubt very much if the demand is so great as some would make out, as everybody here seems to prefer Chinamen to female servants. If the demand is so great as some say, I don't think there would be much difficulty in getting dozens of them from the Old Country, as the conditions of the domestic servant in Victoria and those of the Old Country are so different. I may tell you that the highest wages a good cook gets in the Old Country (or at least as far as Scotland is concerned) is $55 per six months, and no evenings off, but only a day or two to themselves if they are going to a new situation. On the farms work commences at 5 a. m. and continues till 9 p. m. and often later, so you will know the difference of the conditions under which they live. I spent an evening with several of the Scottish farmer delegates who were sent out from the Old Country 15 months ago, and they were quite charmed with Canada, and told me that they were supposed to give lectures to the farmers when they returned. Well, some of them did, but they never said a word regarding the conditions for domestic servants in Canada. No, sir, for the simple reason that there is so many emigrating that there is beginning to be a scarcity in the Old Country. You may ask, why don't more of them come to Victoria? Well, in the first place the fare costs too much for this, in fact, only 1 per cent. manages to get beyond Winnipeg. Another reason is that domestic servants in the Old Country never have a chance of hearing from a reliable party of the real conditions under which they are treated in this part of Canada, for if they did there would be no difficulty in getting them out here, only, as I said, they keep enough money to take them to Winnipeg, and there they remain. Now, sir, as I employed three domestic servants on a farm in the Old Country (until coming out to Victoria) and know the difference of how they are treated here, I have no hesitation in saying that if the proper steps were taken to get female servants out to British Columbia the demand would be greatly reduced in a very short time.

SCOTCHMAN.

Victoria, Dec. 27th, 199.

CHAMBERLAIN ISSUES MANIFESTO TO ELECTORS

(Continued from page 1.)

ceived it at Blenheim Palace, one of the great ducal homes of England. (Loud laughter.) Isn't it a pretty picture? Can't you see Churchill sitting cosily in the midst of ducal luxury, waited upon by ducal footmen in ducal plush breeches (laughter), drinking ducal champagne, smoking ducal cigars and concocting posters villifying dukes? (Loud laughter.) What monstrous humbug it is."

Veto of the Lords.

Nevertheless, Mr. Churchill in his election address to the Dundee electors, which is the third manifesto he has emitted in advance of his leaders, puts the campaign against the Lords in the forefront. He uses language whose only meaning is: "The hereditary principle must go."

This is also the announced policy of Sir Edward Grey, but it is just the policy which Mr. Asquith carefully refrained from adopting. He stops short at the withdrawal of the Lords' veto on finance and in less definite language on other legislation. It is Sir Edward Grey, not Mr. Asquith, who boldly favors an elective second chamber.

Indeed, one of the most remarkable features of the crisis is that the one man in the cabinet who has always been regarded as the most pronounced Whig, and the greatest obstacle to revolutionary changes, is now stepping far in advance of Mr. Asquith. No stranger thing has happened in British politics than that Sir Edward Grey, third baronet though he is, an ex-Balliol scholar and a Northumberland squire, owner of 2,000 acres, should be accepted as the leader of the new Lloyd George evangel.

His foreign secretaryship has given him a high repute in every European chancellery, and thousands of staid Liberals, who fear the Socialistic tendencies of Lloyd George's and Churchill's policy, would follow him with easy minds.

Criticize London Times.

The Liberal press is getting after the London Times for some articles it has printed from Canadian correspondents. One paper criticizes its Toronto correspondent for saying pretty plainly that the increasing preponderance of the foreign population of Canada cannot be kept loyal to the Empire unless it is given a bribe in the shape of a tax on food by the people of Great Britain. This, the paper says, is Imperial thinking which one may leave the slandered people of Canada to characterize adequately.

Another paper remarks that the Times' mammoth supplement, published Tuesday, to the glorification of South America, than which country the Times says, fewer portions of the globe offer richer rewards to capitalists, is a hint to judicious capitalists to accelerate that exodus of British capital which the tariff reformers lament. Coupled with the Times' disguised pride, the fact that British capital has had a great deal to do with the development of Latin America is amusingly pointed out.

WEEKLY WEATHER SYNOPSIS.

Victoria Meteorological Office,
22nd to 28th December, 1909.

Victoria—Bright sunshine, 7 hours; highest temperature, 40 on 26th; lowest, 26.2 on 22nd; rain and melted snow, .15 inch.

Vancouver—Bright sunshine, 7 hours; highest temperature, 36 on 23rd and 25th; lowest, 21 on 22nd; precipitation, .03 inch.

New Westminster—Highest, 34 on 22nd, 24th, 25th and 26th; lowest, 20 on 22nd; no precipitation.

Kamloops—Highest, 22 on 25th and 28th; lowest, 8 on 27th; snow, 1.21 inches.

Barkerville—Highest, 30 on 28th; lowest, zero on 22nd and 23rd; no precipitation.

Port Simpson—Highest, 40 on 25th; lowest, 26 on 22nd; precipitation, .28 inch.

Atlin—Highest, 36 on 26th and 27th; lowest, 12 on 22nd; no precipitation.

Dawson (so far as heard from)—Highest, 12 on 26th; lowest, 6 below zero on 24th; snow, 7.10 inches.

PRETTY CHURCH WEDDING TO-DAY

SPENCER-WATTS NUPTIALS CELEBRATED

Metropolitan Methodist Church Scene of Pleasing Ceremony.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

At the Metropolitan Methodist church, Pandora avenue, at 3 o'clock this afternoon, in the presence of a crowd of friends and acquaintances which completely filled the spacious auditorium, Rev. T. E. Holling, the pastor, performed the ceremony which made Mr. John William Spencer and Miss Lillian L. Watts man and wife.

For weeks past the intimate friends of the principals in this interesting event had been conspiring to make it indicative of the great popularity and esteem which they enjoy in Victoria, and that they succeeded admirably was the verdict of the hundreds who thronged the sacred edifice this afternoon.

The church had been decorated some days ago in accordance with the custom at Christmastide and these decorations were added to by friends of the bride, with the result that the effect was exceedingly pretty. Holly and chrysanthemums were largely used in the scheme of floral decoration.

To give additional eclat to an event which has been awaited for weeks with keen interest by the young people of the city, a canopy had been erected at the main entrance of the church on Pandora avenue, and the bridal party walked into the building over a fine carpet which had been laid for the occasion.

The bride entered the church promptly at 3 o'clock, the hour set for the wedding, to the strains of the Wedding March, played by the organist, E. Parsons, and leaning on the arm of her father, J. H. Watts, Esq., and carrying a strikingly handsome bouquet, she presented a very pretty appearance. Her costume was of white satin trimmed with real lace. She wore a tulle veil.

Miss Vera Watts, who was maid of honor, wore a white dress trimmed with lace. The bridesmaids were the Misses Sarah and Ada Spencer, sisters of the groom. They wore dresses of old mauve, with white lace overdress, and black hats.

The groom was supported by his brother, Mr. David Spencer, junior. The following acted as ushers: Mr. Herbert Pendray, Victoria; Mr. George Crow, Vancouver; Mr. Bishop, Vancouver; Mr. J. D. S. Spencer, Vancouver; Mr. B. MacLeod, Vancouver, and Mr. J. Potts, Vancouver.

The efficient choir of the Metropolitan church, led by Mr. J. M. Morgan, was in attendance in full strength, surpliced, and rendered most impressively Burnaby's beautiful anthem, "O, Perfect Love."

The interesting ceremony which joined two most popular Victorians in the holy bonds over, they were the recipients of wholesale congratulations from many present, and the register having been signed, the party made their way to the carriages in waiting and drove to the home of the bride's parents, corner of Fort street and Pemberton road, where a reception, to last from 4 to 6 o'clock, is being held.

To-night Mr. and Mrs. Spencer will leave on the Princess Charlotte for the Mainland on their honeymoon tour. Some time may be spent in visiting friends in Eastern states, and it is intended to tour Europe, returning in about six months, when they will take up residence on Rockland avenue.

The bride is the daughter of J. H. Watts, Esq., who took up his residence in Victoria a few years ago, and though here but a comparatively brief time she has made a host of friends and is exceedingly popular. The groom is one of the best known young business men in Western Canada, his position as a member of the firm operating great departmental stores bringing him into prominence in the commercial world, particularly in Victoria and Vancouver.

In view of the popularity of the principals in the wedding, it was not surprising, therefore, that the event attracted a greater amount of attention than any similar event in recent years. The groom being widely known in Vancouver there was a large delegation of friends present from that point. In order that the employees of the Arcade in this city might have an opportunity of witnessing the marriage the store was closed this afternoon from 3 to 4 o'clock.

That the groom is very popular, not only amongst his social acquaintances, but his employees, was demonstrated yesterday, when a deputation waited on him and presented him with a handsome cabinet containing table furnishings of every description. This most beautiful and costly present was procured from W. H. Wilkerson, the local jeweler.

The groom's gift to the bride was a ruby scarf pin, and to the bridesmaids amethyst brooches, the latter set in pearls.

MUST REFUND MONEY.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—Holding that a common carrier charged with exacting an unreasonable rate cannot escape liability on the ground that the shipments could have been transported over a route carrying a lower rate, the interstate commerce commission has ordered reparation of unreasonable charges upon eighteen carloads of newspaper shipped from Grand Mere, Que., to San Francisco, in the case of H. R. Williams vs. the Canadian Northern-Quebec Railroad Company. The commission holds that if the rate assessed was in fact unreasonable the defendants should be required to make reparation, irrespective of the fact that the shipper would have enjoyed a lower rate if his shipments had mov[illegible] ent route.

ROCK WEIGHING TONS FELL ON WORKMEN

One Man Killed and a Second Badly Injured at Prince Rupert.

Prince Rupert, Dec. 29.—With hardly a second's warning, a huge rock, loosened by the thaw, fell in a cut near Rankin's camp, recently, and crushed to death a young laborer named W. J. Smith. His thigh was smashed, his skull fractured, and both legs broken.

A companion named John Laurquist, a Swede, was also caught, but it is not thought that his injuries will prove fatal. At present he is in the local hospital.

The rock was high up on the side of a cut, and a party of men were at work directly beneath. The boulder, which weighed tons, descended with the rapidity of thought, and in a flash Smith was a corpse. He had tried to dash to one side, but the effort was futile.

Laurquist was pinned to the ground along with Smith, but in some way, it is thought, the body of the former shielded him from receiving fatal injuries.

Smith was only about twenty-three years of age, and is believed to have relatives in Winnipeg.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE E. CASTLEY AT DUNCAN

Odd Fellows Paid Last Honors to a Former Noble Grand.

Duncan, Dec. 29.—The funeral of Elias Castley took place yesterday from the I. O. O. F. hall in Duncan, the deceased having been past grand of the local lodge. At 1.30 p. m., in the presence of the local brethren and of a large number of relatives and friends, the beautiful service of the order was held, H. D. Evans taking the part of Noble Grand, and Rev. Mr. Barton, of Victoria, that of chaplain. Mr. Barton gave an address that will be long remembered by those present.

The funeral procession then wended its way to the little churchyard at Somenos, where Rev. Granville Christmas officiated at the service in the church, and Rev. Mr. Barton, on behalf of the Odd Fellows, read their service at the grave. The service was concluded by Rev. A. J. Leahey, who had christened, confirmed and married the deceased, and now read the last rites.

The pallbearers were the following members of the I. O. O. F.: Bros. T. Pitt, A. Peterson, A. C. Aitken, W. W. Bell, W. R. Hattie and H. Halpenny.

The late Mr. Castley was born at Rosegill, Westmorland, Eng., on January 14th, 1872, and is survived by his aged father, H. C. Castley of Sahtlam, four brothers, Thomas S. John H., Joseph, and William J.; three sisters, Mrs. J. M. Campbell and Mrs. Charles Grassie of Duncan, and Mrs. A. W. Munro, of Nelson, B. C. He also leaves a wife and six little girls, the eldest being not more than eight years old.

The funeral was one of the largest held in the district and the floral offerings were numerous and very beautiful. The business houses were closed during the hours of the funeral.

The funeral of David Bennet, who was killed by the E. & N. train on Wednesday night, took place yesterday at St. Peter's church, Quamichan, Rev. A. J. Leahey officiating. The deceased had been working at the quarry at Koksilah. No trace of his relatives has been found.

W. E. VANSTONE DIED IN MANITOBA

Was a Prominent and Respected Citizen of New Westminster.

New Westminster, Dec. 29. — The death occurred at Wawanesa, Man., on Christmas day of Wesley Edgar Vanstone, president of the Vancouver Heating & Plumbing Company, of this city, with a branch in Vancouver. The deceased was a native of Ontario, 42 years of age, and had been a resident of this city for over 20 years. He was educated in Winnipeg, and shortly after leaving school came to New Westminster. He was taken ill in October of 1908, and about a year ago went to Wawanesa to live with his brother, Dr. C. M. Vanstone, in the hope that a change of climate would be beneficial to him. He leaves to mourn his loss a wife and three children—one girl and two boys—besides his parents, who live in Winnipeg, where his father is in the government service, and two brothers—Dr. Vanstone and E. A. Vanstone, who own a large farm in Manitoba. The funeral took place in Wawanesa with Masonic honors.

The late Mr. Vanstone was one of the best known citizens of New Westminster. He had served three years as alderman. He was a very prominent Mason, and was a member of King Solomon Lodge No. 27, A. F. & A. M., as well as a member of the Royal Arch Chapter. He was an athlete of no mean repute.

FIVE KILLED BY EXPLOSION.

Reading, Pa., Dec. 30. — Five men were killed by a boiler explosion at the plant of the Metropolitan Electric Company in West Reading yesterday. The dead are: James Conry and Frank Cole, Waterbury, Conn.; Clifford Martin, Tom's River, Pa.; Elmer Dengler, Mount Penn, Pa.; Martin Lynch, Phoenixville, Pa.

"He calls himself a timber merchant, but he's really a hawker of firewood," said a constable of a defendant at Bristol, Eng.

BURNABY NOW HAS A BOARD OF TRADE

New Organization Launched at a Well Attended Meeting.

New Westminster, Dec. 27. — The Burnaby board of trade is the latest addition to the institutions of that nature in British Columbia.

The new board was launched on its career at a meeting held in the Burnaby Municipal hall. The meeting was one of the most enthusiastic ever held in the municipality, and the spirit of optimism shown by those taking part in it augurs well for the success of the new body. Over thirty residents of the district were present, and although Burnaby is one of the largest municipalities in the province, every portion of it was represented by several of its influential residents.

The meeting was devoted for the most part to preliminary work. Reeve Byrne of Burnaby, was voted to the chair at the commencement of the evening, and after a resolution to the effect that the board be organized had been put and passed with enthusiasm the meeting got down to a consideration of the ways and means to be adopted for the establishment of the new body on a firm basis.

It was ultimately decided to divide the municipality into six districts, and to appoint three committees to look after the work of organization in each district. Before the meeting closed all those present signed their names to the document forming the board, some twenty-five signatures in all being secured. Thes signatories will form the charter members of the board. An attempt will be made to secure a number more charter members before the board is actually formed.

Thomas W. Coldicutt, who acted as secretary at the meeting, was appointed secretary of committees and to him all those wishing to become charter members should apply.

NELSON MAYORALTY.

Nelson, Dec., 28.—There is after all to be a three cornered contest for the mayoralty at the approaching municipal elections. Ald. Edward Kerr has announced his candidature and will contest the election with Harold Selous, the present occupant of the mayor's chair, and John A. Irving, who is running as the candidate of the Citizen's party. There is at present no one definitely in the field for the aldermanic board and it is not known yet who will be. Several members of the old council have announced their intention of retiring while the intentions of others are not yet known. No one has yet come forward for the vacancies but it is expected that this week several candidates will announce themselves.

WILL PRESS ON TO THE CAPITAL

(Continued from page 1.)

all from eight American gunboats anchored in the river to protect American interests. The official explanation given me was that these men were deserters."

Story Causes Amusement.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 30.—Statements made by former President Zelaya that United States marines participated in the battles between the government troops of Nicaragua and the revolutionists are received here with amusement.

While neither officials of the marine corps nor those of the navy department would dignify the statement by discussing it, it is known that there are not 400 marines on the east side of the country and that, on November 1st, when the battle of Colorado Junction took place, there were none at all.

A dispatch from Managua says it is currently reported there that before he left Managua Zelaya distributed ten thousand rifles among his followers. Military activity at Managua and on the west coast continues.

Another telegram states that Madriz has issue an order creating a tribunal to investigate alleged frauds of the Zelaya administration.

Will Join Revolutionists.

San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua, Dec. 30.—It was reported here to-day that the commander of the government troops at Acoyapa has announced that he will join the revolutionary party and will not oppose Estrada's march against Managua.

This report is believed here to be authentic, and that the most serious obstacle in the way of Estrada's advance upon the capital has been removed.

BORN.

KIRKENDALE—On Dec. 28th, the wife of Capt. Kirkendale, of a daughter.

BRADFORD—At 2412 Work street, Victoria, on Christmas Day, the wife of J. J. Bradford, of a daughter (Christine Mary).

SCHOLEFIELD—On the 24th inst., the wife of Ethelbert O. S. Scholefield, provincial librarian, 939 Pemberton road, of a son.

MARRIED.

CUPPAGE-READE—At the Reformed Episcopal church, Victoria, B. C., by the Rev. T. W. Gladstone, on Christmas Day, Granville William Vernon Cuppage, of Mount Edwards, County Antrim, Ireland, to Edith Madeleine, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Reade, and granddaughter of the late William Barrington Reade, of "Ipsden," Oxfordshire, England, and of the late Lt.-Colonel Colman, of H. M. Imperial Army.

HUTCHISON-CROFT—On December 24th, at St. Paul's Presbyterian church, by the Rev. D. MacRae, Mr. Daniel C. Hutchison, of this city, and Miss Effie Croft, youngest daughter of Mrs. Croft, Discovery Island.

DIED.

POPHAM—At St. Joseph's hospital, on the 25th instant, Arthur Charles Popham, a native of Devonshire, England, aged 45 years.

SPRAGGE—At the family residence, 263 Work street, on Thursday morning, Dec. 23rd, David K. Spragge, a native of Hensler, Ont., and 63 years of age.