

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL

News of the Day Selected from Tuesday's Evening Times.

Lost Her Propeller. The steamship Crown of England, the first of the line of mental steamers to be run in connection with the Great Northern railway, will not be here until Oct. 8th. She was due here last week, but lost her propeller shortly after leaving Yokohama and had to put back again for repairs. She left again on the 21st inst. F. C. Dividge, general agent for the company, received a cablegram, on Saturday conveying news of the accident.

Four Cases in Court. Four cases were set down for hearing in the provincial police court this afternoon. R. B. Punnett was charged with shooting two pheasants. The case was heard and Magistrate Macrae reserved judgment. The case of Geo. J. Cook, charged with stealing a pair of field glasses from W. H. Haxtall, of the property of Michael Lynch, charged with the theft of sealaska from the Ocean Belle, and the case of William Steinhilber, charged with damaging a padlock, the property of Elizabeth H. Hugh of Saanich, had not been called when the Times went to press.

Pretty Tall Parsnips. This is from the Courtenay Weekly News, and it holds the record so far this season for agricultural "stunners." Mr. Tom Graham has grown some extraordinary parsnips in his garden. On Saturday he went into his garden to pull a few specimens for this office. Tom is a tall man, as everybody knows, and he bent down low and taking and keeping a firm hold of the top he straightened himself up bringing up a portion half the length. This operation he performed three distinct times on the same plant; and finally becoming impatient gave a jerk, leaving the root off at the surface and breaking several feet in the ground.

For California. The steamer City of Puebla sailed for California this morning with the following cabin passengers from Victoria: Mrs. E. Moore, the Misses M. and E. Moore, James Molinar and wife, William Burgess and wife, M. Quinn, H. B. Phillips, A. Bluth, D. G. Carney, W. M. Southam, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. C. Bouchamp, Mrs. H. J. Heaney, Miss S. Howard, Mrs. S. J. Donel and daughter, J. McLaughlin, Charles Spratt and wife, H. J. Westford, Miss B. McGann, Mrs. McGann, Mrs. T. Gilmour, W. H. Wall wife and children, W. D. Forbes, John Smith and W. J. Pollard.

Royal Arch Masonry. The annual convention of Columbia chapter No. 120, chartered by the grand chapter of Scotland, was held last evening. The officers elected for the year are: First principal Z. B. S. Oddy; second principal H. Dr. W. A. Richardson; third principal J. E. Langley; scribe E. R. H. Swainston; scribe N. J. Hamford; treasurer, C. D. Renouf; first sojourner, C. D. Mason; second sojourner, H. T. Flett; third sojourner, R. E. Brett; director of ceremonies, Dr. G. L. Milne; tyler, G. Williams. The officers were installed by Curfew. The officers assisted by A. Stewart and A. McKewen. A banquet was given in the evening.

Struck by a Stray Bullet. D. M. Gordon, who was accidentally shot near Sooke lake on Sunday, was removed to the city last evening and died this morning. When the accident occurred Mr. Gordon was close to his camp near Deception river. The bullet, which came from some unknown person's rifle, glanced from a log and struck Mr. Gordon, passing through the fleshy part of his abdomen. He was compelled to walk half a mile before he could be reached. Shreds of clothing were carried into the flesh by the bullet, and the wound had to be opened for the purpose of cleansing it. The injury is a very painful one, but not likely to prove dangerous, as Gordon's accident is another illustration of the perils that abound in the woods these days, when careless hunters are so numerous.

MORE ABOUT GOLD.

Geo. Huff of Alberni Has Something to Say in the Gold Mine. George A. Huff, the well-known merchant of Alberni, arrived in town today. Mr. Huff says of the Alberni gold discovery: "There are already between 30 and 40 prospectors in the district and the assays have been very encouraging indeed. The district is no doubt a good one and the Alberni people are jubilant. It was known for years that the district was rich in mineral and the surface diggings all along indicated well. It was only, however, within the last two years that any prospecting worthy the name has been done. The assays made by Malcolm Ethridge, the prospector, and the assays made by the government analyst, Carmichael, agree. That shows that no undue inflation has been going on. What has been said of the mines is true. When I left Alberni on Monday Col. Baker, Government Analyst Carmichael and party had just started on a tour of inspection of the claims. I have every reason to believe that the output will be large."

WILL NOT DISMISS THEM.

School Trustees Retain Their Clerks for the Works. A letter was received by the school trustees yesterday from J. G. Brown, notifying them that the stonemasons working for him on the South ward school had struck in consequence of the clerk of works appointed by the trustees being objectionable to the stonemasons' and bricklayers' union. The secretary was directed to inform Mr. Brown that the clerk of works was appointed not to oversee the bricklayers only, but to see that the contractor faithfully carried out his obligations in all branches of the work, and that Mr. Brown would be retained in his position; and also to state that the board, while regretting the loss and inconvenience to the contractor by this unadvised strike, would hold him strictly to the terms of his agreement. The secretary of the bricklayers' and stonemasons' union was notified by the board that unless "practical bricklayers" were appointed to supersede the appoint-

STRIKERS AT WORK.

The striking bricklayers returned to work because of the contractors. The striking bricklayers on the Spring Ridge sewer and the North and South Ward schools returned to work this morning. A meeting of the local branch of the union was held last night, when the matter was held last night, when it was decided that in view of the fact that the winter season was coming on and the wet weather would soon set in, and the additional fact that the contractors were bound down to time and that the strike would injure the contractors they would return to work. It was claimed that the strike was not against the contractors, with whom they had always got on well, but that it was nevertheless operating against them.

TWAS INNOCENT.

A Second Hand Dealer Buys a Militia Rifle But is Discharged. The police court docket took up the case of James Haxtall, a second hand dealer, who was charged with selling a militia rifle to a workman. The rifle was found in the possession of William Stevenson, drunk, who was fined \$5. Samuel Booth, second hand dealer on Johnson street, was charged with buying a militia rifle from a workman for \$3. Arthur Rhodes, a member of the artillery, sold the rifle for \$1 to Booth. Booth satisfied the court that he did not know a government weapon, and in fact could not give the marks of difference between a rifle and a shotgun. He was discharged, the court warning him in purchasing rifles in future to look out for the broad arrow. Rhodes, who stole the rifle, has been given a certain period in which to restore it. The rifle passed on to the workman for \$3. Booth was fined \$10. The rifle cost the government \$16.50, and could not be procured new in Victoria under \$25.

From Wednesday's Evening Times.

The Unatilla's Passengers. San Francisco, Sept. 27.—Passengers by the Unatilla for Victoria to-day are: Mrs. John Seale, J. P. Fay and wife, J. Komberg, H. M. Liebes, Major Downie, Miss Ota Wilson and Miss May Adams.

No Criminal offence. Wm. Steinberg was charged in the provincial police court this afternoon with breaking a padlock on a gate belonging to his grandmother, Elizabeth McHugh. The grandmother two years ago gave a section of land to her grandson conditional that he was to build a road for himself to the property. The understanding was the grandson could use the road running through his grandmother's property till the construction of the new road. Mrs. McHugh said that Steinberg did not build the road and she refused him right-of-way through her property, when he is said to have broken the padlock. Magistrate Macrae dismissed the charge, not having jurisdiction to deal with the case.

Basar at Victoria West.

The sale of work conducted yesterday by the ladies aid society of St. Paul's Presbyterian church in Victoria West hall was a very successful affair. It was under the direction of Mrs. D. Macrae, who presided over the sale of fancy and other articles with which the tables were covered continued briskly up to 5 o'clock when tea was served. Later in the evening there was a musical program. Those who presided over the sales table were as follows: Plain work table, Mrs. Mann, Mrs. Semple and Mrs. Russell; fancy table, Mrs. Downer and Miss McKie; flower table, Miss Semple and a number of little girls; plain work table, Mrs. Haxtall; ice cream and candy table, Mrs. Dickinson, Miss Goldie, Miss Bruce and Miss Russell; and supper table, Miss McLennan, Mrs. Steele, Mrs. Beaton, Mrs. McDonald, Miss Russell, Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Moir and Mrs. A. Semple. A select musical program was provided during the evening by Mrs. MacKae, Miss Fraser, Miss Stamford, Miss Heywood and Miss Sharpe. Miss Sharpe's rendition of "Home, Sweet Home" and "Hush, Hush My Baby" was very good.

COOK IS DISMISSED.

He Proves to the Court That He is Not a Thief. George John Cook appeared in the provincial police court this afternoon. He was charged with stealing a pair of field glasses from Thomas Huxtable, of the Islander. Cook was arrested several days ago and has been in jail since. Lindley Crease, lawyer, was in the court room, but stated to the court that Cook would conduct his own case. Mr. Crease sat by. Huxtable said that the glasses were stolen from his room on the Islander when that steamer was near Port Simpson. Officer McDonald said that he arrested Cook on Monday. Cook had stated that he was working on the case himself and was a provincial police officer. He questioned the authority of McDonald. Capt. Myers of the Danube said that Cook had spoken to him at Port Essington and said that the glasses had been stolen by him. Cook gave a letter to take to Capt. Irving. Capt. Myers corroborated the statement of Capt. Myers. Supr. Hussey said that there was a notice in the door of the provincial police office signed by a man named Cook and asking him to call at the Colonial Metropolitan. This was last Sunday evening. Cook took the box himself and said that he bought the glasses from Captain Hermann, of the Minnie, who said that he purchased them from a person on the Islander. Cook did not pay money but gave him a sofa in exchange. He had reason to suspect that they were stolen day or two afterwards and he thought that he could "spot" the man. He said that he had told Sergeants Walker and Levin that he had the glasses from Constable McDonald had ever seen them. The court dismissed the case telling Cook that he could get a certificate to that effect.

A Baschero.

In the Plate Valley, in referring to his isolated life, said: "Oh, you see, stranger, I'll make a big stake here after a while, and the climate is perfect. My family are all well, except in wild-plum season, when the youngsters get all tied up with cramps, and diarrhoea, and cholera morbus and sick like, but I kin knock all such complaints higher'n a kite with Perry Davis' Pain Killer. I've tried it to beat the world for complaints of the stomach, and there ain't a ranchero in the valley that hasn't got half a dozen bottles lying around ready for emergencies."

EMPEROR OF INDIA HERE.

D. E. Brown of the Canadian Pacific Home on a Visit. The Asiatic Line is prospering.

The royal mail steamship Empress of India, Capt. O. P. Marshall, arrived at 6 o'clock this morning from Yokohama, after a very pleasant voyage of 11 days. The Earle, with Dr. MacNaughton Jones aboard, was alongside a short time afterwards, and at a little after 7 o'clock the Maude, acting as tender, reached the ship. The transfer of passengers and baggage was soon over, and at 9:30 the India was on her way to Vancouver. Fifty Chinese and four saloon passengers left the vessel here. The latter were D. B. Brown of the C. P. R., Capt. Bourke, R. N., K. Weirheim, of Frankfurt-on-the-Main, and W. A. Wilson of London.

The last three mentioned are at the Hotel Victoria. Capt. Bourke was formerly on the Pacific station and spent a few months at Esquimalt as commander of H. M. S. Garnet. Speaking to a Times reporter he said: "Esquimalt did not have much of a squadron, but we who were on the Pacific station enjoyed coming to it, but this was the only thoroughly English place included in its limits. I remember with a deal of pleasure the few months I was here. I was in the Pacific squadron in 1887-88 as commander of H. M. S. Hyacinthe, but did not get to Esquimalt during the entire period. In 1888 I went to the Cook islands from Honolulu and raised the British flag there, thus annexing them. In later years I commanded the Ringarooma of the auxiliary Australian squadron, but did not get to Esquimalt during the period, having retired from the service. I left Sydney on April 1st and have since been touring in China and Japan. I will spend a little time here and go on home to England before the winter sets in." Capt. Bourke is remembered by many old-time Victorians, who will be pleased at the opportunity of renewing their acquaintance with him.

D. E. Brown does not look well after the hot summer he spent in China. He has had a fever since he is in the same old D. E. jolly, and with a smile and warm hand-shake for all his friends. "I have been away for more than a year," he said, "most of which time I have spent in China. Yes, our affairs out there are in splendid shape. I will say that there are too many lines in the business and some will have to come to grief. I do not think the Great Northern will do much business with its line. I am going east for a short trip and will return to Hong Kong on the India when she goes back. Mr. Brown leaves for Tacoma this evening and will be married there to-morrow to Miss Post, a most charming young lady.

The saloon passengers of the Empress were: Mr. and Mrs. Boggs and three children, Mr. D. E. Brown, Mr. Blum, Capt. Bourke, R. N., C. Annolly, Mr. Dayton, Miss Dayton, Miss Featherston, Mr. Greaves, Mr. Hiron, Dr. MacNaughton, Mr. Kan, Dr. M. Law, Mr. and Mrs. Mackay, Mr. G. Mackay, Miss M. E. Mackay, Miss B. K. Mackay, Miss J. A. Myers, Mr. Oishi, Mr. H. Putnam, Mr. K. Putnam, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Adams, Mr. H. Bury, Mr. J. Richards, Mr. Smith, Rev. F. P. Sutherland, Mr. Ueno, Mr. K. Weirheim, Mr. W. A. Wilson, Mr. G. A. Willis.

Rear-Admiral H. Bury Palliser, accompanied by his wife and niece, Miss Featherstonhaugh, is returning to England. He has been commodore of the Chinese squadron and was recently promoted.

Rev. Mr. Boggs, wife and children are returning from India, where Mr. Boggs has seen 15 years' missionary service. He is a brother of Dr. Boggs of New Westminster, and is going to visit his old home in Nova Scotia.

Lt. Richardson, R. N., has been on duty at Esquimalt, and is going home to England on leave. Korea has demanded back the 60,000 yen, their first payment on the cereal indemnity.

Japan is to order a new warship in England. She will be of 11,500 tons burden with 12-inch armament and cost 12,000,000 yen. Her armor will be backed with cork.

Japan produced 64,925,041 pounds of tea last year, the largest crop since 1886 and exceeding that of 1891 by 5,788,391 pounds.

About the middle of August war junks caught a pirate junk near Wenchow, and after the crew had rescued seven Chinese held for ransom, decapitated the 13 Chinese who manned the pirate vessel.

HARVEST FESTIVALS.

Congregations of the Episcopal Churches Decorating for the Occasion. One of the events of the year took place in St. Mark's church last evening, when the series of harvest festivals held at this season were initiated auspiciously. The ritual, indeed, was of the humblest kind, as neither incense nor vestments have yet been introduced, "though," it is said, "they are coming next year." Otherwise the altar looked truly magnificent with its eight massive brass candlesticks a blaze of light and six vases a mass of choice white flowers, each side being banked up with ferns and chrysanthemums in relief to the golden candles. The altar gables were decorated by Miss Grace Godden, with grain in festoons, bunches of grapes and flowers appearing at intervals. The screen was the special work of Mrs. Bellamy, whose advice and labor on these occasions are indispensable. It was "something to see." Grain lifted the contours of this elegant structure of Mr. Keith's, and immediately in front of the

INSPECTOR MURRAY.

His Appointment as Inspector of the City Proposes to Increase Allowances.

The question between bricklayers in regard to work on surface drains last evening's meeting Inspector Murray was present at the meeting in the chair and Mr. Belyea, Styles, Bardon and Munn.

The finance committee of the appropriation of \$5000 purposes. The report of the market committee of the application of \$5000 to hold a public market for the city was adopted. The sewerage committee of the construction of flu under way, F. G. Jones appointed inspector.

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