

FIRE LOSS WAS EXCEPTIONAL

WORK OF INCENDIARY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS

Report of Brigade Chief for 1908—Improved Equipment.

(From Thursday's Daily.)
As a result of the series of incendiary fires which took place in the city last summer the fire losses of the year were the heaviest ever known. The total property loss in 1908, according to Fire Chief Watson's report, was \$171,265, of which \$130,000 was contributed by four fires of the series which created so much anxiety.

Leaving these cases on the one side, the loss from ordinary fires was \$61,265 for 163 fires, which compares most favorably with a loss of \$91,400 for 163 fires in 1907. This showing is attributable in part to the great improvement in the equipment of the brigade. The chief's report to the fire wardens is as follows:

Gentlemen—I beg herewith to submit annual report of the fire department for year 1908. The number of fires and alarms responded to during the year was one hundred and sixty-seven, as compared to one hundred and ninety-seven for the previous year. The loss for the year was \$171,265, being the highest fire loss on record, due in a great measure to a series of incendiary fires. Fires in four instances have been attributed to this cause, from which the loss amounted to \$130,000. I have prepared a classified list of fires, giving supposed causes, which are as follows:

Overheated stove pipes	9
Burning rubbish	8
Sawmills	4
Gas boxes	4
Roof fires	4
False alarms	21
Gas jets	2
Children playing with matches	1
Unknown causes	3
Intoxication	3
Incendiary	4
Grass	46
Cupola	1
Cigar stubs	1
Gasoline tub	1
Wood pile	1
Automobile	1
Blacksmith forge	1
Chemical explosion	1
Electric wires	2
Charcoal stove	1

Additions to Equipment.

A noticeable improvement has been made during the year by the purchase of much needed equipment and the construction of new stations, but which requires still further augmentation to keep pace with the rapid growth of the city. The two new stations are nearly ready for occupancy.

The fire alarm equipment is being installed in a permanent central station, and in order to complete this system an appropriation is required for rebuilding the outside lines. With the completion of the new station a number of men will have to be added to the force, as more horses required to be purchased, as well as to replace some of those now in service which are past the useful life.

A great many of the old pieces of apparatus are much in need of repainting, and in this connection I would recommend that a contract be let at an early date for the painting of at least six of the old wagons. As to the horses, it will be necessary to purchase at least eight new animals and dispose of six. By the time the high pressure plant is completed it will be advisable to arrange for a wagon with a stationary turret, in connection with the wagon previously in the James Bay station would answer the purpose admirably with some slight overhauling. There is on hand at the present time a set of tubes purchased for the Watrous engine, which should be installed at an early date.

I feel more and more the absolute necessity of more rapid transportation of men to fires in the neighborhood of the outside stations, and beg to recommend the purchase of some sort of motor appliance capable of placing men at outside fires more expeditiously than can be done with present apparatus.

Protection for Eastern Section.
One of the most important propositions I feel should be brought to your notice is the condition existing in the eastern section of the city and its suburbs, the Oak Bay municipality.

The corporation has valuable property in this locality, notably the fair buildings and the Old Men's Home. I believe, if some arrangement could be entered into whereby the Oak Bay municipality would contribute a reasonable amount to equip and maintain it, a station should be established at some convenient point in that locality. With the advent of the new domestic water supply the people in that suburb will be face to face with the installation of hydrants and other methods of protection, and I feel that some sort of arrangement as that I mention would be of mutual advantage.

The purchase at an early date of sufficient hose to keep pace with augmented apparatus is a matter requiring consideration.

Present Apparatus.
Following is the list of apparatus:

Soft Beautiful Skin
Just a little attention and the use of a carefully selected lotion greatly improves the appearance and attractiveness of a woman's face.

BUTTERMILK TOILET LOTION
Is an ideal preparation for improving and preserving the health and beauty of the skin; it cleanses, softens, smooths and nourishes; heals chaps; not greasy nor sticky; will not grow hair.

PRICE, 36c. BOTTLE HERE.

CYRUS H. BOWES
CHEMIST
Government St., Near Yates
VICTORIA, B. C.

COURT RESERVES ITS JUDGMENT

ARGUMENTS FINISHED IN SETTLERS' RIGHTS CASE

Position of Crown as a Party to Suit Not Recognized.

(From Thursday's Daily.)
Argument was concluded in the supreme court before Justices Irving, Morrison and Clement yesterday afternoon in the case of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway vs. Fiddick.

L. G. McPhillips, K. C., for the defendant-respondent, concluded his arguments after luncheon. He contended that the crown, having once made a grant of these lands, was the only power which could set it aside, unless there was a statutory provision otherwise.

Mr. Justice Irving, in reply to a casual remark by counsel as to himself and colleague, E. E. Wootton, representing the crown as well as the settler—the crown having taken the responsibility of defending the cases which might arise by the passage of the Rights Act—said he did not see how the crown could have any part in the case. The court must settle it, with reference to what might be called the favorability of the crown for one of the parties, as between the two parties to the suit.

In reply to the point raised by A. P. Luxton, K. C., who was with Mr. Bodwell for the company, that the railway was a Dominion corporation and that therefore the province had no power to take away any part of the consideration which it received, Mr. McPhillips held that the company had been incorporated by the province and was not in any sense a portion of the C. P. R.'s Dominion line. Putting a large on from Vancouver to Nanaimo could not make it so. But even if it were a Dominion creation the province did not lose all rights over the land in any land grant. Here it could not be contended that the crown under the surface, the real point at issue between the parties, interfered in any way with the operation of the line.

Mr. Justice Clement expressed doubt as to a second crown grant taking away the first, but Mr. McPhillips went to the extent of arguing that the crown, if it saw fit, could make a second grant of an area of crown lands which would wipe out the rights of a former grantee. "What becomes then, of 'Magna Charta'?" was his lordship's only comment.

Mr. McPhillips, summing up, held that the act of 1904 was retroactive and covered the rights conveyed under the act of 1875, and that the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway never had any rights over the lands on which a pre-emption had been given.

E. V. Bodwell, K. C., for the company, held that the right to pre-emption was given by the act of 1875, and that the railway never had any rights over the lands on which a pre-emption had been given.

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FRENCH LINER CORSE ARRIVES

STEAMER HAD VERY UNPLEASANT TRIP

Will Carry First Consignment of Alberta Wheat to United Kingdom From Coast.

Steamer Corse, one of the large vessels of the Chargeurs Reunis line, made her first and last call at Victoria last evening, bringing 127 tons of freight for this port. It has been arranged that in future only the smaller vessels shall come as far north as these waters, the larger ones going direct to San Francisco from the Orient. The Corse is a new steamer, a sister to the Malle, Ceylan and Quessant and is of 9,000 tons burden. She left Yokohama three days before Christmas Day and had only two or three days good weather on the voyage.

Christmas Day was rendered a sad one on the ship. The cook, Louis Kaestle, a Frenchman, died on Christmas eve and his funeral took place early on Christmas morning. The coffin was draped in the tricolor and lowered into the sea with all the ceremony generally attendant on such sad occasions.

Christmas dinner was served in old time style and a special suite of passenger list printed and distributed on the occasion, the sixteen passengers and a dozen of the officers making a fairly large Christmas party.

The Corse carries no third class passengers. In the saloon were Mr. and Mrs. Cotton and family and governess, on their way to San Francisco, and Lieutenant Marchel, just retired from the French force still in the neighborhood of Pekin, the latter having been killed army left there after the boxer troubles. The lieutenant is now on his way home.

The Steamer Corse, of the Chargeurs Reunis Line, Which Made Her First Call Here Last Evening.

his way home. The most notable of the passengers was probably M. Rondet Saint, who is making the trip around the world in the liner in company with his wife and Mrs. Bouquet. M. Rondet Saint is the editor of the Paris paper L'Eclair, and holds a number of important offices in his own country. Mr. Cassidi, a writer of books of travel, is a native of Argentina, but at present on his way from Yokohama to San Francisco gathering material for his books. Mrs. D. D. Fuller, in company with W. A. Powell, is on her way home from a visit to the Orient.

The officers, not being informed as to the customs regulations of the country and possessing only an imperfect knowledge of the English language, it took a long time to clear the vessel, her papers not being in very good order. She came into the roads without calling at quarantine and had to return. Her agent, George Courtney & Skene, finally straightened out all the difficulties and the steamer unloaded her freight and got away to Vancouver, leaving just before midnight. At that port she will unload a quantity of freight, much of which is iron, and will then load up with Alberta wheat, taking the first shipment that has been made to the United Kingdom from Vancouver. Five thousand sacks containing ten thousand bushels are being shipped by that route, the C. P. R. having made a special rate of 45 cents per hundred weight from Calgary to Liverpool.

In the window of T. N. Hibben & Co., on Government street, is exhibited a fine oil painting of Noah Shakespear, the postmaster. It is the work of J. Carter, 2500 Dwyer street. Mr. Canler, who is a new comer to Victoria, has had a lot of distinguished persons sit for portraits in England before coming here. Among them were the Earl of Halsbury (late Lord Chancellor of England), the Hon. S. M. Rice Trevor, Sir Alexander Campbell, Bart.; Sir Frederick Howard and son, three of the Mayors of Bedford, for the council, besides many other clergymen, doctors, ladies and children.

"Waits" were formerly an established institution. "Waits" badges" embroidered with the town arms.

You cannot possibly have a better Cocoa than

ERPP'S
A delicious drink and a sustaining food. Fragrant, nutritious and economical. This excellent Cocoa maintains the system in robust health, and enables it to resist winter's extreme cold.

COCOA
Sold by Grocers and Storekeepers in 1-lb. and 1/2-lb. Tins.

COLD SPELL IS TO CONTINUE

SEVERAL DAYS MORE OF SEVERE WEATHER

Blizzards Prevail Throughout Pacific Northwest—Ice in Columbia River.

Portland, Ogn., Jan. 7.—The greater part of the Pacific Northwest is to continue in the grip of the present cold spell for several days to come, according to District Forecaster E. A. Beals, of the weather bureau, Extreme northwestern Washington and southwestern Oregon are excepted.

It has begun to snow in the Puget Sound country and in the northwestern part of Washington, while in Oregon the fall of snow continues. The Columbia river is frozen over at Cascade locks, and large cakes of ice are running as far down the stream as Kalama. River navigation is at a standstill above the mouth of the Willamette river. Up to noon to-day there was about a foot of snow fallen in Portland and from six to eight inches altogether on lower Puget Sound.

In the Willamette valley four inches more of snow fell this morning. In northwestern Washington a foot of snow has fallen since yesterday.

Although trains are running somewhat behind their schedules, no serious delays have been experienced. In this city the street system has discontinued service, and business is seriously interfered with.

Temperatures this morning ranged from four below to four above east of the Cascades, and stood about 16 above west of the mountains. Along the coast it is about ten degrees warmer.

Zero Weather in Bellingham.
Bellingham, Wash., Jan. 7.—With the

mercury hovering around the zero mark Bellingham and Northwest Washington is shivering in the worst cold wave experienced since January, 1898, when 14 below was registered. At Sumas on the border twenty miles northeast of here, ten below was recorded last night. At Anacortes, fifteen miles south, the schools have been dismissed and lumber and shingle mills have been compelled to close down.

John Davis was frozen to death in his cabin at Noons, eight miles north of this city, last night. He was 68 years old and had been ill.

Bellingham is without fire protection. Thousands of water taps have been allowed to run, to prevent freezing and the pressure on the fire mains has been reduced to nil. Water inspectors have enjoined consumers to enforce regulations to shut water off from the thousands of residences.

The wind is blowing a gale from the southeast but there has been but little snow. Shipping is hampered by the gale and cold. Vessels are coming with their bows and rigging a mass of ice.

Conditions in Seattle.
Seattle, Wn., Jan. 7.—Seattle is experiencing the coldest weather in two years. The temperature shortly after 5 o'clock this morning was 15 degrees above zero. About two and one-half inches of snow has fallen, and the snow is still coming. The local weather office reports no indication of immediate change.

Street car traffic has not been delayed, but a force of extra men is busy keeping the switches and tracks clear. Several rooms in the Salmon Bay school, Ballard, were closed to-day owing to the inability to keep them heated. Fuel is plentiful and the cold snap has occasioned small inconvenience so far.

A special to the Times from Portland says: While no actual ice jams have formed yet, the Columbia is full of floating cakes, which are ten to fifteen feet across at Vancouver, Washington, and bigger than that at Stevenson, where they are one to two feet thick. The Vancouver-Portland ferry is frozen in and ice is forming in hollows along the Columbia at Wenatchee, Washington. The river is frozen five miles from the shore. At Stevenson the storm is terrific this afternoon.

Seven Inches of Snow in Tacoma.
Tacoma, Wn., Jan. 7.—Seven inches of snow is reported by the local weather bureau as having fallen up to 5 o'clock this morning from the time it began at 4 o'clock yesterday morning. The mercury was 17 degrees above zero this morning, holding about that temperature through the night. It began snow again about 10 o'clock to-day. The wind is in the north.

ASPHYXIATED BY COAL GAS.
Vancouver, Jan. 6.—The first coal gas poisoning case of the winter occurred early to-day, resulting in the asphyxiation of Shora Iwashima, a Japanese residing on Sixth avenue west, and may result in the death of his wife, who is now in a critical condition in the general hospital. Last night the husband piled an extra amount of coal in the stove, which was so left as to permit the deadly fumes to escape. He was found dead in bed this morning.

Navigation on the Skeena River Tied Up

Two Tugs Are Caught in Ice and Driven Ashore.

(Special Correspondence.)

Prince Rupert, Jan. 6.—The cold weather of the past few days has completely tied up navigation of every kind on the Skeena river, both above and below tide-water limit. Late arrivals from the upper Skeena report 30 below zero, and the river frozen over and full of floating ice on the lower reach, which drifts up and down stream with the tide. On the Coast zero weather has prevailed for some days and everything has frozen solid.

The tug Lottie N., white moored at her anchorage opposite the port Esquimalt wharf, was caught by the ice and driven ashore, where she keeled over on her beam ends, but being built of iron she withstood the force of the ice and was floated off last night, sustaining little damage.

The tug Topaz, owned by the Georgetown Sawmill Company, was caught in the ice further up the river and driven ashore, where she keeled over on her beam ends, but being built of iron she withstood the force of the ice and was floated off last night, sustaining little damage.

The steamer Elsie, owned by F. J. Welch & Stewart, was sheeted with iron and has been caught in the ice and driven ashore, where she keeled over on her beam ends, but being built of iron she withstood the force of the ice and was floated off last night, sustaining little damage.

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MRS. HOPE, Morpeth, Ont.

Terrible Effect of La Grippe

How many people there are who know from bitter experience the evils which follow in the train of La Grippe! The whole system is run down, appetite entirely fails, there is a continual feeling of languor and weakness, and life seems scarcely worth living. In many cases the lungs are attacked, and the victim gradually declines, until prematurely carried off by the dreaded "white plague."

What would not the sufferer give to know of a SURE remedy—of some medicine that would not only arrest the disease, but build up the wasted system, and restore permanently the lost health and strength; in a word, give new life and hope? SUCH A TONIC IS PSYCHINE.

Mrs. Hope (nee Cattle), of Morpeth, writes: "My lungs were in a terrible state, I had had La Grippe, and it had settled on my lungs. I kept steadily getting worse, and got so low that I was confined to bed, and could not even sit up. I consulted several doctors, but they said nothing could be done for me. Then I started taking PSYCHINE and it has certainly done wonders. I am now as strong as I was before my sickness, and can truly say that PSYCHINE saved my life." Such testimony as this is convincing.

If you are suffering in a similar way, and have almost despaired of ever recovering the health you once enjoyed, why not send for a sample bottle of PSYCHINE and test it for yourself? There is no reason why you should not be restored. PSYCHINE has proved the sovereign remedy in hundreds of other cases. Why not in yours? PSYCHINE is sold by all druggists and dealers at 50c. and \$1.00 a bottle. LIFE IN EVERY DOSE.

SEASONABLE SUGGESTIONS

PORK AND BEANS, 3 tins 25c
VAN CAMP'S SOUPS, 2 tins 25c
BLUE POINT OYSTERS, per tin, 25c and 45c
SAATCHI CLAMS, 2 tins 25c
JOHNSTON'S FLUID BEEF, 16 oz. bottle \$1
BOVRII, CORDIAL, 16 oz. bottle \$1

When you want something special You will find it here at the right price

The Family Cash Grocery

Cor. Yates and Douglas Streets. Tel. 312

JANUARY SALE GOOD FOR 10 DAYS.

In order to reduce our Stock as low as possible before stock-taking, we offer you

25% DISCOUNT ON GRANITWARE, TINWARE, WIRE GOODS, DOOR MATS.

Our Discount of 15% on Heaters still continues

B. C. HARDWARE CO., LTD.
CORNER YATES AND BROAD STS.
Phone 82 Warehouse Phone 1611

Nervous, Diseased Men

DRS. K. & K. ESTABLISHED 20 YEARS

Consultation FREE.
Question Blank for Home Treatment sent FREE.
Reasonable Fees for Treatment.

A NERVOUS WRECK ROBUST MANHOOD

We Guarantee to Cure all Curable Cases of Stricture, Varicocele, Nervous Debility, Blood Poisons, Vital Weaknesses, Kidney, Bladder and Urinary Diseases, and all Diseases Peculiar to Men and Women.

Don't waste your time and money on cheap, dangerous, experimental treatment. Don't increase at your own cost your sufferings by being experimented on with remedies which they claim to have just discovered. But come to us in confidence. We will treat you conscientiously, honestly and skillfully, and restore you to health in the shortest possible time with the least medicine, discomfort and expense practicable. Each case is treated as the symptoms indicate. Our New Method is original and has stood the test for twenty years.

DRS. KENNEDY & KENNEDY
Cor. Michigan Ave., and Griswold St., Detroit, Mich.

(Continued)

AWFUL S IN 'QU

ARMY OF GHG PR

Forty Thousand Unburied, a Public

Messina, Jan. 11.—buried victims of quake continued yesterday at noon. zaji, who had spe food locked in the was taken out up stored. He had moved from a nalive but a few hment had lasted t

On Saturday night accompanied by a causing