LE ROI GOLD MINE PAYING DIVIDENDS

A. J. McMillan, the Managing Director, Interviewed in Winnipeg

A. J. McMillan, of London, England, managing director of the Le Roi Mining Company, arrived in the city yesterday, and is a guest at the Royal Alexandra, says the Free Press of Wednesday last. While Mr. McMillan will be remembered as the most active spirit in the great fight in the interests of 1903 which had for its object the amalgamation of the Le Roi with other Rossland mines. The scheme, which was opposed by certain powerful interests in Canada, and supported by some of the Le Roi directors, was opposed by Mr. Macdonald, who received the support of a very influential paper in London and of practically the whole body of shareholders, nearly 3,000 in number, the result being that the amalgamation proposals were defeated, the directors who opposed them being retired from office, and Mr. McMillan and his friends placed in control.

The Le Roi paid a dividend of 3½ per cent for the past year, this being the first dividend paid for several years past. The mine is said to be looking well, but the company, in common with others operating in British Columbia, has had great difficulty this winter on account of shortage of coal and coke, which has resulted in a reduced output of ore. It is hoped that normal conditions will soon be started.

Fuel Supply.

Speaking on the question of fuel supply, Mr. McMillan said: "To me it seems absolutely wrong that it should be in the power of any man or body of men to bring about a strike or a lockout in the fuel winter in connection with the supply of fuel when as in the case of then recent trouble at the coal mines out west such action can paralyze the business of an entire community over a very large area, and in addition threaten settlers on the prairies with absolute starvation. The government are, I understand, trying to grapple with this question, and I hope success will attend their efforts."

To Mr. Maultoban of ten or fifteen years ago Mr. McMillan's name was very familiar, he about that time acting for some years as the British agent of the Manitoba government. He is still enthusiastic about this country and its future, regarding which he expressed himself as follows: "On my journeys between London and British Columbia each year I generally spend a day or two in Winnipeg to visit old friends and keep in touch with the progress of the country. At of the greatness of this country, though but men have begun to realize something it is only realized imperfectly at present. In England I often tell people that the distance is no far distant when western Canada will be able to send them all the bread they require and a great deal of the meat also. It is difficult for the Britisher to grasp this, but he is quickly becoming alive to the fact, and also to the fact that this is a good country to emigrate to and to invest money in. The recent growth of Winnipeg is extremely gratifying, especially to those who, like myself have known the city for the last 25 years. I believe that growth will continue, with perhaps an occasional halt of a temporary nature, until Winnipeg becomes the greatest city in Canada."

Capital Coming This Way.

In answer to enquiries, Mr. McMillan stated that capital was coming this way, and would come in still great volume when the money market gets a little easier, as experts think it will a few months hence. By way of illustration he mentioned that he had some influential friends in London who were making money with a view of investing some of the profits emanating from Western Canada. As an illustration, the Canadian government officials in England told him last month that they expected more people to leave Great Britain for Canada this year than ever before.

In closing the interview, Mr. McMillan said that Lord Strathcona had done, and was still doing magnificent work for Canada, and Anglo-Canadians were practically in a unit in hoping that he would continue as high commissioner.

Mr. McMillan leaves today for Rossland, B. C., where he expects to remain for several months.

SUMMER MILITARY CAMP

Movement on Foot to Mobilize Militia at Kamloops

Lieut.-Col. C. M. McDougall, of No. 1 military district, stationed at London, Ont., the officer who is in charge of the series of provisional schools of instruction now being held in British Columbia, says that a movement is on foot for a mobilization of all the troops in British Columbia at a summer camp to be held at some convenient centre—possibly Kamloops, says the Sentinel. Everything is in the air at present, but if the various corps concerned are sufficiently anxious for the camp it will probably be arranged. Vancouver is working hard for it, and the reception it received at Nelson shows that city will be just as enthusiastic.

Col. McDougall was one of the officers who went to South Africa in 1899 with the first Canadian contingent. He is an experienced officer, having been in the service for many years, and is well qualified to perform the difficult duties now assigned—those of training the examining officers, both commissioned and non-commissioned, who are anxious to secure certificates of efficiency and yet who are precluded by circumstances from taking a course at one of the permanent military schools.

INTERNATIONAL COAL CO. IN FINE SHAPE

Meeting Held at Spokane—D. M. Rogers Takes Position on Directorate

The Spokane Spokesman-Review, in its issue of Saturday last had the following:

At the meeting of the International Coal & Coke company, whose mines and plant are located at Coleman, Alta., A. C. Flumerfelt of Victoria, B. C., president of the company, filed two reports, one addressed to the directors and the other to the stockholders of the company.

The reports show that the affairs of the company are in a very healthy condition financially and otherwise. The officers of the company are: A. C. Flumerfelt, president; H. N. Galer vice president, and W. G. Fraser, secretary. D. M. Rogers of Victoria, B. C., takes the place of Mr. Flumerfelt as director.

The company produced during the year 334,230 tons of coal, of which 100,000 tons were sent to the company's ovens, and yielded 31,066 tons of coke, all of which had a ready sale. The balance of the output was marketable coal. The payroll for 1906 amounted to $360,874.72, the average number of men employed being 365, and the number of days worked were 291.

MINING ENGINEER DEAD

End to the Promising Career of Frank N. Anderson of Golden

In the prime of life and with a bright and prosperous future lying before him, the death occurred recently at Golden, B. C., of Frank N. Anderson, a practical civil and mining engineer who was formerly in the employ of the Guggenheim brothers for nearly nine years, says the Vancouver World. Needless to say with that experience at his back, an experience that few engineers can boast of, Mr Anderson was widely and practically experienced in the mining industry. He went with his wife to Golden in August and held the position of mining engineer for the Laborers' Co-operative Mining company. He was a graduate of Berkeley university, California, of which state he was a native. He had great faith in this province and made a careful and thoughtful study of geological conditions of the various ores throughout the country. The deceased leaves a father, mother and one sister in Carlsford, New Mexico. The remains have been embalmed and forwarded to Carlsford to be laid in their last home. Mrs. Anderson, who was with her husband at the end, accompanied the body down to New Mexico.

MUCH TIMBER WANTED

Iowa Man Asks for a Large Quantity Immediately

J. Phelan, of Sibley, Iowa, wants 1,750,000,000 feet of timber, and wants it quick, so long as it is near a railroad or the sea. As will be seen by an advertisement in another column, he asks that full,true particulars be sent to him.

This modest demand could doubtless be easily met. Estimating at 20,000 feet to the acre, the area required would cover between 136 and 137 miles. It is understood that Mr. Phelan was in the city some time last summer, in company with other residents of the same place.

The advertisement came to the Colonist through the King's Printer. The advertiser forwarded the matter, evidently under the impression that commercial advertisements were inserted in the British Columbia Gazette. As such is not the case, it was decided to hand the letter to the Colonist.

VICTORIA STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL

Scholars From This City Lead Classes at Toronto Examinations

There are three of Victoria's daughters studying kindergarten in Toronto and making brilliant records for themselves. They are Miss Helen Newcombe, daughter of Dr. Newcombe, Miss Spencer, daughter of David Spencer and Miss Beanlands, daughter of Canon Beanlands. At the close of the first year's examination last summer, Miss Newcombe headed the list with Miss Spencer second. At the Christmas examinations the positions were reversed, Miss Spencer first, and Miss Newcombe second, British Columbia still leading. Miss Beanlands came first in the Christmas examinations in her year. When it is considered that their competitors are all from Ontario and have had the benefit of all the advantages of the public school system there and hence are more familiar with the work, the success of the local girls is most gratifying.

YACHT CLUB PROSPECTS.

For some years that royal recreation, yachting, has been falling off in its popularity among Victorians. The membership of the local club has steadily decreased; motor boats, canoes, and other varieties of aquatic sports attracting the attention of many who, previously, had devoted themselves almost exclusively to the maintenance of the local yachting fleet. It was the intention of the officers of the organization to make an effort to rejuvenate the club this summer. With that object in view the announcement was made some time ago that a splendid new racing boat would be constructed to compete with the fastest on the American side for the various coveted international trophies. But that proposal has had to be abandoned, owing to the fact that the club's boathouse has to be removed from its present site, at considerable expense, or destroyed and another one erected elsewhere. This move is rendered necessary because the property upon which the boathouse is located is being used by the Alaska Steamship company for the construction of its new wharf.

Despite the handicap thus imposed, a determined effort will be made to stimulate the general interest in a sport which should be one of the most popular in Victoria. As the removal of the present building would incur practically as much expense as the erection of a new one upon more modern plans, it is probable that the latter course will be adopted. It is understood that a site has been located in the neighborhood of the Spratt & Ker mills and that as soon as possible another clubhouse will be commenced.

Nothing definite, however, will be decided until the annual meeting of the club. On that occasion the season's programme will be discussed at length. In the meantime an effort will be made by the officers of the club to enthuse local sportsmen so that the spring and summer months of 1907 may mark at least the opening of a period of recrudescence in the history of the Victoria Yacht club.

DREDGES FOR CARIBOO

Burns' Syndicate To Do Active Work on Fraser River Leases

D. P. Cameron, vice-president of the Western Engineering & Constructing company of San Francisco, has gone up to Big Bar. Mr. Cameron, whose company are constructors of gold dredges, is a member of the Burns syndicate who have a long string of dredging leases on the Fraser above and below Big Bar, and the object of his visit is to arrange for the installation of a couple of dredges on the ground which was prospected last year by W. J. Kirkwood. This information of an intention to place a dredge to work on these leases is the first news that the boring operations conducted by the syndicate engineer, Mr. Kirkwood, have turned out well. The fact that the syndicate are ready to build dredges show that the result of the tests of last summer must have been very satisfactory.

HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES REQUIRED

Consideration of the Proposal to Secure Affiliation With McGill

The importance of providing a means through which the rising generations of people on Vancouver Island may obtain higher education, without incurring the expense and inconvenience of leaving the home circle, is becoming more and more generally recognized. As a result of the remarks made by F. H. Eaton, superintendent of local schools, in these columns some days ago, there is a movement on foot having for its goal the establishment in Victoria of a college in affiliation with McGill University and under the control of the Royal Institute of Learning. The latter organization has charge of an institution at Vancouver, similar to what is proposed for Victoria, and its members have practically placed themselves on record as being willing to take over a local seat of learning, providing the educationists of the Capital City and the citizens as a whole demonstrate sufficient interest in the project to set the ball rolling.

Already the faculty of McGill University has been communicated with upon the subject, and has asserted that there can be no possible objection to extending the scope of higher education in this community as far as Arts are concerned. No definite reply, however, could be given in respect to Applied Science. That was a matter which would have to be considered at the next meeting of the Faculty. The probability was that affiliation in that branch of study also would be granted without difficulty. With the necessary permission to carry on a two years' course in these two lines, the local institution would be placed upon exactly the same standing as that of Vancouver. It is announced that Dr. Tory, who supervises the business affairs of the great Canadian university, will visit Victoria some time in March. He intends going into the matter in detail with the local school board and others interested in the proposition. He will be empowered, it is understood, to come to some arrangement.

Yesterday Trustee Jay, who has had a wide experience in educational matters, having been identified with the local board of School Trustees for many years, stated that he endorsed the views which had been expressed by Superintendent Eaton. There was not the slightest doubt but that the present was an opportune time for Victorians to make some definite movement towards obtaining higher education. Such a thing was required. There were students enough to warrant the undertaking, and the prospects were that, as the city grew, it would become imperative, if it was the intention to maintain the standing of the local system of education, that there should be a college in direct connection with some university of standing in the country. It could be started in a small way, but it was altogether probable that it would expand very rapidly, in fact to such an extent that in the course of a few years it would be generally recognized that a separate college building was required.

Equipment.

In reference to the question of accommodation Trustee Jay asserted that this was a question with which the board would have to grapple immediately. The introduction of applied science work would mean the erection of part of the High School building and also some considerable expenditure in providing the equipment required. As all educationalists knew, or, as a matter of fact, as was patent to any intelligent person, such course meant the study of scientific subjects in a practical way. Therefore it would be necessary, in order that the studies might be properly carried on, that there should be laboratories, work shops, etc., all furnished in the most modern fashion. And if Victorians intended taking up the proposal, the successful consummation of which meant much to the future of Victoria from an educational standpoint, it would surely be their desire to carry it out in the most complete and up-to-manner possible.

Even if higher education is not introduced here, Trustee Jay says that addition will have to be built to the High School in the near future. He states that the school population of the city is increasing steadily, and it is becoming an urgent problem to provide sufficient room for those who apply for entrance to the public schools. His idea is to convert the assembly room of the building mentioned into two class rooms, and to construct a wing on the rear of the present structure. This, he estimates, would give twelve additional rooms. The latter would include a new assembly apartment.

This, he points out, would provide a sufficiency of accommodation for the contemplated Applied Science work, and, besides, would fulfil another requirement—it would allow space for the overflow from the Central School for two or three years. In that period it would be apparent in what direction Victoria ultimately would expand, and thus give those in charge of local educational affairs an opportunity to deal intelligently with the problem of providing enough buildings to house all the young people of the community.

Future Development.

As to what could be done immediately towards obtaining higher education for Vancouver Island, through the inauguration of a seat of learning here, he was of the opinion that the movement had been advanced about as far as was possible at present. The matter had been brought to the attention of the faculty of McGill University. Their representative, Dr. Tory, had decided to come West for the special purpose of conferring with the local educationalists upon the subject, while the members of the Royal Institute of Learning appeared to be willing to accept the control of a local college were one established. That, briefly, was the situation. What more could be done? He did not quite understand what Chairman Huggett, of the Board of School Trustees, meant by his resolution. It stated that something should be done to place the proposition upon a practical basis. To carry out that injunction he supposed the only thing, or at least the only move which presented itself to his mind, was the appointment of a committee to wait upon the Royal Institute of Learning for the purpose of discussing the matter. But these questions of detail, he thought, would be better—and more effectively dealt with after the arrival of Dr. Tory.

Questioned in reference to the practicability of a local college obtaining affiliation with Toronto University, Trustee Jay said he was under the impression that that institution had not the power to enter into business connections with any organization outside the bounds of the province of Ontario. He did not make this assertion as a statement of fact, because he was not sure of his ground. Under any circumstances there could be no doubt that the identification of a Victoria college with McGill would give the former a better standing, in the educational world, than could otherwise be obtained. It would be quite possible, when it was considered that the growth and development of the province in regard to population warranted such a move, for the local organizations for instruction in the higher branches to sever their connection with the eastern university and to establish an absolutely distinct British Columbia university. That time, however, had not yet arrived and, in his opinion, it should be the object of all interested in the instruction of the growing generations of the Canadian west to give the organizations which they were required to attend the highest possible standing. To obtain that object, the best, and indeed the only course open, was affiliation with McGill. There was no question of the status of the latter, especially in applied science. To prove the statement it was only necessary to mention that so widespread was the reputation of the Canadian University that students often came from the Old Country and other European points in order to obtain the advantage of a course under the direction of the McGill faculty.

AFTERMATH OF THE TROUBLE WITH BABINES

Agreement Arrived at That Will in all Probability be Adhered to

J. D. Wells, fishery officer in charge at Babine during the recent Indian troubles, was in the city on Saturday. He states that the settlement arrived at between the Dominion government and the tribe will in all probability be adhered to by the Indians, who appear themselves as satisfied. This settlement will give them a large area of farming land, to be selected as soon as possible this spring, farming implements and cattle, and also result in the provision of facilities for the tribe being instructed in scientific farming. Nets have also been furnished them for catching white fish, the only pledge given by the Indians being that they will refrain from barricading the streams flowing into Babine lake for the purpose of catching salmon.

Mr. Wells believes this will result in great benefit to the physical well being of the tribe. Up to the present they have lived almost entirely on salmon. This easy life has caused them to deteriorate to a most remarkable degree and he characterizes their present condition physically, as the worst of any band of Indians in the province. The result of the absence of barricades will, in Mr. Wells' opinion, much increase the number of salmon spawned in the headwaters of Skeena river every season. Some five or six small rivers flow into Babine lake and during spawning time the fish are so plentiful in the environment which, however similar to that to which they had been accustomed, must, of necessity, have been strange to them in many particulars. Therefore what has been regarded of their actions since their liberation has, "under the circumstances," been most satisfactory to those concerned.

The black game, it appears, have not done as well as the capercailzie. This is absolutely accurate information can be obtained, it has been asserted, unauthoritatively, that some of the bands have not survived the change. But the capercailzie have proved the healthier and more adaptable bird. Evidently they have taken to the fastnesses of British Columbia as though they were their native heath.

An official and detailed report of the venture has been drafted by F. M. Chaldecott, honorary treasurer of the fund "for the importation of black game and capercailzie into British Columbia." It follows:

"In January, 1906, subscription lists were opened for the above purpose.

"Sufficient funds were collected to warrant the purchase of black game and capercailzie from Copenhagen—74 in all.

"They arrived in Vancouver on the 10th of October last with the loss en route of two birds only. The birds having to be divided equally between the mainland of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, it was necessary to uncrate them and attend to the weakly ones. This was done at Stanley park, Vancouver, where pens had been prepared.

"Unfortunately the weather was extremely wet, which was very hard on the weak birds. In addition to this an epidemic of diarrhoea carried off some of the birds before the cause was discovered. The total loss from all causes was nineteen birds.

"The consignment sent to J. Musgrave at Victoria, consisted of seven black cock and twelve grey hens and five cock and nine hen capercailzie. Mr. Musgrave distributed these birds as follows: Three black cocks and six grey hens were turned out at Quamichan, near Duncan, four black cocks and six grey hens were sent to Saturna Island. The capercailzie, five cocks and nine hen birds) were given their freedom on Meade's farm at the lower end of Cowichan lake. The birds retained on the Mainland suffered further loss as the stronger birds had been sent to Victoria, in the hope that weaker ones would pull round in a few days. The Black game (twelve hens and four cocks), all in good condition, were liberated at the foot of Dewdney mountain, near Nicomen, on the north bank of the Fraser river. The capercailzie (three cocks and five hens) were liberated at Lake Buntzen (formerly Lake Beautiful), on the east side of the north arm of Burrard inlet, about fourteen miles up the harbor from Vancouver, on the property of the B. C. Electric Power company, where they will receive the strictest protection.

"It is admitted that the experiment met with greater success than was anticipated. As yet it is too early to hazard any opinion as to how the birds will prosper. There is no doubt, however, that the country is adapted for them. If the experiment succeeds even in a small degree, I should be sanguine that a subsequent shipment would fare better. Had the weather been better at the time of arrival of the birds, it is safe to say there would have been little or no further loss. They have also since experienced one of the hardest winters for the past fifteen years.

"Both Mr. Lindesay (who purchased the birds in our behalf in Copenhagen) and Mr. Crowley, who organized the movement in England, are strongly of opinion that more birds should be imported next autumn.

"That this should be done and the birds put down in the same localities so as to give fresh blood there can be little doubt. But with the small balance in hand this hardly possible, and it is doubtful if one would be justified in calling for further subscriptions.

"It was impossible to make out a balance sheet as quickly as one would have wished, owing to the subscriptions and payments not having been collected and made at points so far distant from each other.

"However, the statement has now been prepared and audited by Messrs. Butter & Chiene (chartered accountants, Edinburgh), of Vancouver, and is inclosed herewith. The balance, $197.-54, of £40 9s. 1d. in sterling, will be held as a reserve for the above purpose or other importation of game birds. I am directed by the executive to express their best thanks to all subscribers and others who have worked and helped in behalf of the undertaking.

Receipts

Subscriptions received—	
In England by J. C. Crowley...$	461 90
In Vancouver by F. M. Chaldecott	386 97
In Victoria by J. Musgrave ...	537 51
Total	$1,803 28

Payments

Cost of 46 black game and 30 capercailzie delivered in New York		$1,114 90
Express charges	$496 57	
Less rebate	138 75	
	$357 82	
Local freights and cost of turning birds down.....	59 92	
	$417 4	
Insurance	$102 70	
Less claim paid on two dead birds	32 10	
	$ 70 60	
Total cost of birds when set free		$1,603 24
Printing, stationery and bank charges		92 50
Balance on account current with the Northern Bank, Vancouver, at 31st Dec., 1906		197 54
		$1,893 28

Taking everything into consideration there is reason to believe that, with the introduction of a new lot of these birds this autumn, they should be given a start sufficient to enable them to become thoroughly adapted to the peculiarities of the country. That ultimately they will thrive in British Columbia is proven by the fact that, despite the exceptionally severe winter through which they have passed, reports received show that they have been able to hold their own. As stated the Blackgame is the variety which appears to find it hard to become acclimatized. Several bands, however, are understood to be doing well. Therefore confidence is expressed by all sportsmen that, with the importation of a little new blood; the birds will be put upon such a footing as to insure their profitable propagation. This being the case it seems assured that within ten years, the period set by the provincial government during which a heavy penalty is provided in case anyone convicted of killing either a Capercailzie or Blackgame, local hunters will be enjoying the shooting of, at least a limited number of the species of game bird so much prized by Old Country sportsmen.

Very little is known among either Canadian or American Nimrods, of these varieties. Therefore the following description of Black Game should be of more or less general interest:

"Among the numerous game birds of Great Britain few can compare in beauty of form or plumage with the black-cock. Black Game are to be found from the north of Sutherlandshire, all through the Highlands, to the south of Scotland, in the north and south of England, Hebrides, and Orkneys. Though many attempts have been made to introduce black-cock into the distressful country across the channel (Ireland), both by sending eggs and young birds, the endeavor has always failed, though there are plenty in Cantyre, Mull of Galloway, quite within sight of it; they also abound in Switzerland, Germany, and Norway.

"We may begin with some comments on the habits of black game. They will be found at the end of December and through January in packs, composed sometimes of all cocks, at others of all hens, but more often mixed of both sexes. A little later, depending to a great extent on the weather, they will be seen congregating on hillsides in bare spots, and in March and April the cocks begin fighting. They usually select a smooth bit of meadow land, a sort of natural platform of turf, and at early morning you will see them strutting about, spreading their tails, making a kind of drumming noise, showing themselves off to the best advantage to the hens, who sit around looking on at the fights. These combats are quite worth getting up early to see. The birds are so intent on their own affairs that they will not appear to notice a man though he may go pretty close to them. These fights generally begin by one or two veterans flying down onto the platform, where they are speedily joined by others, and they fight most viciously, until the weaker birds are driven off and only one or two left masters of the field. The younger birds keep at a respectful distance while their seniors are engaged, but the combats cease as the day advances, when the birds fly onto the hill again. Soon after this season the cocks with five or six hens each will be seen keeping company together, the hens now remaining much under covert in long grass and ferns. And so they live and love until the nesting time begins, about the latter end of May. They select for their nest a rush or bent bush in preference to the heather. They generally lay from five to eight eggs; the time of incubation is twenty-seven days. The young birds are very tender and difficult to rear; a wet summer kills many, and as the mothers are not careful, and get no assistance whatever from the males in the rearing of their families, there is a great loss amongst the broods. Many attempts have been made to rear black game under a hen, but they have seldom succeeded.

Black game moult at the end of July, and it is not until October that they get into good plumage. When moulting, that is to say during August, the cocks lose their tails, their bumptious demeanor disappears, and they keep more out of sight, in bracken and bushes. They lie very close, and afford very easy shooting, for sport it cannot be called. When their tails are grown again they take to more open ground, and later in the season sit on thorn trees, alder, birch or on stone walls. They prefer an undulating country with rough herbage, a mixture of heather and grass. Corn fields near at hand will do much to insure a good stock, though you will find large packs far away from corn, that do not go to the stubbles at all. Their food consists of seed of rushes, mountain ash berries, shoots of hazel and Scotch fir. They roost on the ground.

"Black game ought not to be shot till September 1 or 15, and should be open until the end of December. Few sportsmen would object to this, though perhaps some shooters (there is a broad distinction) not very good at hitting them when driven, might prefer lurking them up under a pointer's nose in their half-moulting condition. On a dull, misty day they are easily got at; they will sit on thorn bushes and on alders, and let the shooter pick them off one by one. Black game grow very stupid also when on stubbles; they will let a man fire at them, and, if they do not see him, will fly around the field and settle again, or pitch into a wall quite close to him."

The appended exceedingly interesting account of capercailzie is given by a prominent English authority:

"Some hundred years ago these majestic birds were plentiful in the north of Scotland, but from different causes they have since become gradually extinct. The falling off has been owing partly to the increase in cultivation, but chiefly to the destructive hand of man. They are plentiful in Norway, Russia, and Germany; they entirely disappeared from Scotland about the end of the last century, and for a long time were forgotten. In 1836, the second Marquis of Breadalbane determined to try and reinforce them at Taymouth Castle, in Perthshire, and sent his keeper, a man named Guthrie, to Norway, in the hope of procuring some birds. This Guthrie accomplished, and in the early autumn of 1836 he brought home some thirty or forty specimens, and turned them down at Taymouth. The result was a great success. After a few years they began to stray and appear in many places in the north of Scotland, in Forfarshire, in the Rannoch country, and other parts of Perthshire. They increased very rapidly, and in three or four years became numerous.

"Capercailzie and black game are both classed as of the grouse family, although there is really nothing in common between them. Their plumage varies to begin with; they do not frequent the same kind of ground, their food is different, they do not pair as grouse do; they can exist, which grouse cannot, without heather. They do not collect together in large packs; indeed their nature and habits are quite distinct. Capercailzie roost on trees, cocks and hens very often together, and sometimes several on the same tree. When moulting and unable to fly they roost on the ground. The cocks begin to collect their harems at the end of March, and then they fight savagely; they make a great noise, striking with their wings, beaks and claws, both the latter being most formidable weapons. They feed chiefly on pine tops and acorns. Hens begin to lay at the beginning of May, the period of incubation being about three weeks; they make their nests on the ground, and lay from seven to eleven eggs. The young birds are very difficult to rear, and in a wet breeding season may die.

"The cock capercailzie is very wary, the hen much the contrary. The best way, indeed the only way, to shoot the old cocks is to go out on purpose, placing the guns as quietly as possible in open places in the old fir woods they frequent, and where their natural flight would take them. The cocks when driven a few times get very wary; they will soar about the woods for a long while, higher almost than any other game bird, and remain long before they come in again.

"Should one of these birds be winged the sportsman must be very cautious how he approaches or tries to take hold of the bird, for he can make an ugly wound with his beak, and knows how to use it. They are noble birds to bring down in full flight, but big as they are, more than one has been missed in a drive, and in the open. The hens fly well and quickly, but the cock bird has an awkward way of rising off the ground, and does not get quickly on wing at any time; even when starting to fly from a tree they throw themselves from it, as it were, with a forward swooping motion, and drop a foot or two before their wings seem to acquire the power to support them in their flight. The only other bird known to have the same peculiarity is the cormorant, if started from a tree or rock."

The question has been asked whether it would be practicable to introduce the black game and capercailzie into the Northern United States. That is a query which cannot yet be satisfactorily answered. The reply thereto will depend entirely upon the outcome of the experiment in British Columbia. But if the birds thrive in this part of Canada—and the indications are that they will—it is reasonable to believe that they would do equally well in the adjacent country south of the boundary line. Perhaps this province is just a little more rugged and wild, but essentially the conditions are much similar. Under the circumstances, therefore, providing the imported birds find that they can make their home here without difficulty, our cousins to the south should feel encouraged to at least try, on a small scale at first, if need be, to bring in the two species which are acknowledged to possess all the qualities necessary in the game bird. If the sportsmen residing in neighboring states were to undertake the project it might be that in a few years both the capercailzie and black game, now so scarce in the lands of which they are considered a native, would become common throughout North America.

EARL GREY'S PURCHASE

Ranch in Okanagan to Be Worked to Supply English Market

Earl Grey has come to the conclusion that the Okanagan valley is good enough for him to invest largely in, and what is more, not to invest from any speculative motive, but from a fine business point of view, says the Armstrong Advertiser. The deal was the outcome of much serious thought and consideration, and we are certainly of the opinion that Earl Grey has decided well and wisely.

We understand that the fruit ranch will be worked principally with the object of supplying the English market, and it may be remembered that that is what we urged on the whole district some short while back in one of our editorial notes. We urge it now, more strongly than ever, and are sure that our fruit growers can do no better than follow the example now set before them by a man who has been elevated to the proudest position in Canada by sheer force of merit and business capability. First class fruit and first class fruit only, should be our aim. We have every opportunity to grow it, and to grow it to perfection, and nothing less should satisfy us. We must work out of the old groove, and instead of following examples set by others, we must lead the dance and let others follow us.

LIEUT-GOVERNOR SNOWBALL

Died on Street While on His Way to Church

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 25.—Hon. Jabez Bunting Snowball, governor of New Brunswick, dropped dead last evening on Queen street while on his way to attend service in the cathedral. He had left the Queen's Hotel and walked only a short distance, when he complained to his servant that he did not feel well, and then turned about to return to the hotel. He had gone but a few yards when he sank to the sidewalk, unconscious. He never spoke again, but was dead in less than five minutes. Help soon came and the prostrate man was carried to his room in the hotel, where Doctors Athern and McGrath were in attendance, but there was no sign of life. The doctors said heart disease caused death.

The Importation of Game

Written for the Colonist by Robt. Dunn, Jr.

It was early in the spring of 1906 that the members of the Victoria and Vancouver (B. C.) Fish and Game clubs decided to try an experiment, which promises to develop most satisfactorily. They undertook to introduce in British Columbia the capercailzie and black cock, species of game birds peculiar to Denmark, the Scandinavian peninsula and the north of Scotland.

The task was a delicate one, but those responsible did not come to a decision without giving the matter careful consideration. All the information available in respect to the peculiarities of the two breeds was obtained, and it was found that in almost every detail the climate of the North Pacific was identical to that to which they were accustomed. Having learned this, it was agreed to make the test, and the order for an equal number of capercailzie and black game was forwarded to G. Lindsey, of Copenhagen, Denmark.

In due course the birds arrived and were distributed in even proportion between the mainland of British Columbia and Vancouver Island. It is almost a year now since they were liberated, and the reports, which have been received from time to time, in regard to their welfare are exceedingly gratifying. It would perhaps be well to qualify this statement by introducing the phrase "under the circumstances," for, it must be remembered, the birds had traveled several thousand miles before being permitted to forage for themselves in an environment which, however similar to that to which they had been accustomed, must, of necessity, have been strange to them in many particulars. Therefore what has been regarded of their actions since their liberation has, "under the circumstances," been most satisfactory to those concerned.

The black game, it appears, have not done as well as the capercailzie. This is absolutely accurate information can be obtained, it has been asserted, unauthoritatively, that some of the bands have not survived the change. But the capercailzie have proved the healthier and more adaptable bird. Evidently they have taken to the fastnesses of British Columbia as though they were their native heath.

An official and detailed report of the venture has been drafted by F. M. Chaldecott, honorary treasurer of the fund "for the importation of black game and capercailzie into British Columbia." It follows:

"In January, 1906, subscription lists were opened for the above purpose.

"Sufficient funds were collected to warrant the purchase of black game and capercailzie from Copenhagen—74 in all.

"They arrived in Vancouver on the 10th of October last with the loss en route of two birds only. The birds having to be divided equally between the mainland of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, it was necessary to uncrate them and attend to the weakly ones. This was done at Stanley park, Vancouver, where pens had been prepared.

"Unfortunately the weather was extremely wet, which was very hard on the weak birds. In addition to this an epidemic of diarrhoea carried off some of the birds before the cause was discovered. The total loss from all causes was nineteen birds.

"The consignment sent to J. Musgrave, at Victoria, consisted of seven black cock and twelve grey hens and five cock and nine hen capercailzie. Mr. Musgrave distributed these birds as follows: Three black cocks and six grey hens were turned out at Quamichan, near Duncan, four black cocks and six grey hens were sent to Saturna Island. The capercailzie, five cocks and nine hen birds) were given their freedom on Meade's farm at the lower end of Cowichan lake. The birds retained on the Mainland suffered further loss as the stronger birds had been sent to Victoria, in the hope that weaker ones would pull round in a few days. The Black game (twelve hens and four cocks), all in good condition, were liberated at the foot of Dewdney mountain, near Nicomen, on the north bank of the Fraser river. The capercailzie (three cocks and five hens) were liberated at Lake Buntzen (formerly Lake Beautiful), on the east side of the north arm of Burrard inlet, about fourteen miles up the harbor from Vancouver, on the property of the B. C. Electric Power company, where they will receive the strictest protection.

"It is admitted that the experiment met with greater success than was anticipated. As yet it is too early to hazard any opinion as to how the birds will prosper. There is no doubt, however, that the country is adapted for them. If the experiment succeeds even in a small degree, I should be sanguine that a subsequent shipment would fare better. Had the weather been better at the time of arrival of the birds, it is safe to say there would have been little or no further loss. They have also since experienced one of the hardest winters for the past fifteen years.

"Both Mr. Lindesay (who purchased the birds in our behalf in Copenhagen) and Mr. Crowley, who organized the movement in England, are strongly of opinion that more birds should be imported next autumn.

"That this should be done and the birds put down in the same localities so as to give fresh blood there can be little doubt. But with the small balance in hand this hardly possible, and it is doubtful if one would be justified in calling for further subscriptions.

"It was impossible to make out a balance sheet as quickly as one would have wished, owing to the subscriptions and payments not having been collected and made at points so far distant from each other.

"However, the statement has now been prepared and audited by Messrs. Butter & Chiene (chartered accountants, Edinburgh), of Vancouver, and is inclosed herewith. The balance, $197.-54, of £40 9s. 1d. in sterling, will be held as a reserve for the above purpose or other importation of game birds. I am directed by the executive to express their best thanks to all subscribers and others who have worked and helped in behalf of the undertaking.

Receipts

Subscriptions received—	
In England by J. C. Crowley...$	461 90
In Vancouver by F. M. Chaldecott	386 97
In Victoria by J. Musgrave ...	537 51
Total	$1,803 28

Payments

Cost of 46 black game and 30 capercailzie delivered in New York		$1,114 90
Express charges	$496 57	
Less rebate	138 75	
	$357 82	
Local freights and cost of turning birds down.....	59 92	
	$417 4	
Insurance	$102 70	
Less claim paid on two dead birds	32 10	
	$ 70 60	
Total cost of birds when set free		$1,603 24
Printing, stationery and bank charges		92 50
Balance on account current with the Northern Bank, Vancouver, at 31st Dec., 1906		197 54
		$1,893 28

Taking everything into consideration there is reason to believe that, with the introduction of a new lot of these birds this autumn, they should be given a start sufficient to enable them to become thoroughly adapted to the peculiarities of the country. That ultimately they will thrive in British Columbia is proven by the fact that, despite the exceptionally severe winter through which they have passed, reports received show that they have been able to hold their own. As stated the Blackgame is the variety which appears to find it hard to become acclimatized. Several bands, however, are understood to be doing well. Therefore confidence is expressed by all sportsmen that, with the importation of a little new blood; the birds will be put upon such a footing as to insure their profitable propagation. This being the case it seems assured that within ten years, the period set by the provincial government during which a heavy penalty is provided in case anyone convicted of killing either a Capercailzie or Blackgame, local hunters will be enjoying the shooting of, at least a limited number of the species of game bird so much prized by Old Country sportsmen.

Very little is known among either Canadian or American Nimrods, of these varieties. Therefore the following description of Black Game should be of more or less general interest:

"Among the numerous game birds of Great Britain few can compare in beauty of form or plumage with the black-cock. Black Game are to be found from the north of Sutherlandshire, all through the Highlands, to the south of Scotland, in the north and south of England, Hebrides, and Orkneys. Though many attempts have been made to introduce black-cock into the distressful country across the channel (Ireland), both by sending eggs and young birds, the endeavor has always failed, though there are plenty in Cantyre, Mull of Galloway, quite within sight of it; they also abound in Switzerland, Germany, and Norway.

"We may begin with some comments on the habits of black game. They will be found at the end of December and through January in packs, composed sometimes of all cocks, at others of all hens, but more often mixed of both sexes. A little later, depending to a great extent on the weather, they will be seen congregating on hillsides in bare spots, and in March and April the cocks begin fighting. They usually select a smooth bit of meadow land, a sort of natural platform of turf, and at early morning you will see them strutting about, spreading their tails, making a kind of drumming noise, showing themselves off to the best advantage to the hens, who sit around looking on at the fights. These combats are quite worth getting up early to see. The birds are so intent on their own affairs that they will not appear to notice a man though he may go pretty close to them. These fights generally begin by one or two veterans flying down onto the platform, where they are speedily joined by others, and they fight most viciously, until the weaker birds are driven off and only one or two left masters of the field. The younger birds keep at a respectful distance while their seniors are engaged, but the combats cease as the day advances, when the birds fly onto the hill again. Soon after this season the cocks with five or six hens each will be seen keeping company together, the hens now remaining much under covert in long grass and ferns. And so they live and love until the nesting time begins, about the latter end of May. They select for their nest a rush or bent bush in preference to the heather. They generally lay from five to eight eggs; the time of incubation is twenty-seven days. The young birds are very tender and difficult to rear; a wet summer kills many, and as the mothers are not careful, and get no assistance whatever from the males in the rearing of their families, there is a great loss amongst the broods. Many attempts have been made to rear black game under a hen, but they have seldom succeeded.

Black game moult at the end of July, and it is not until October that they get into good plumage. When moulting, that is to say during August, the cocks lose their tails, their bumptious demeanor disappears, and they keep more out of sight, in bracken and bushes. They lie very close, and afford very easy shooting, for sport it cannot be called. When their tails are grown again they take to more open ground, and later in the season sit on thorn trees, alder, birch or on stone walls. They prefer an undulating country with rough herbage, a mixture of heather and grass. Corn fields near at hand will do much to insure a good stock, though you will find large packs far away from corn, that do not go to the stubbles at all. Their food