BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATORS

No. 36.

J. H. HAWTHORNTHWAITE, M. P. P., NANAIMO CITY.

A THOROUGH Celt, with a deep love of fighting, even for its own sake, is J. H. Hawthornthwaite, labor representative for Nanaimo City. He loves an oratorical battle, and when, as sometimes happens in British Columbia's legislature (tell it not in Gath), that fight degenerates to physical blows, his joy is proportionately increased. In the short space of time in which he has occupied a seat in the legislature he has gained immensely in popularity, and is now rated as one of the formidable men of the House. This is the more noteworthy, as he practically stands alone, refusing to coalesce with either opposition or government, although usually voting in harmony with the traditions of his race "agin the government." He is more in accord with the member for Rossland (Mr. Curtis) than with anyone else in the House, and the two are fast personal friends.

The member for Nanaimo City has never been identified with any other political party than the Labor Party, and hence he is singularly faithful to its interests and unremitting in forwarding legislation in the interests of that section of the body politic. In the pursuit of his aims in the legislature he often finds it necessary to deal hard blows, and he can do so with a vigor unsurpassed among the legislators.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite was born in Westmeath, Ireland, of Anglo-Irish parentage, in 1863. He was educated at Cardigan College, Wales, and came to British Columbia in 1885. He lived in Victoria for some time as secretary to the American Consul, and was then appointed American consular agent at Nanaimo. Six years ago he joined the Labor Party in Nanaimo and assisted in organizing its different campaigns. He was in the employ of the New Vancouver Coal Co. in connection with its metalliferous prospects for five years, and then entered the land office, which position he left a few months ago.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite married twelve years ago, Ada, daughter of ex-Mayor Bate, of Nanaimo.

FINAL PROGRAMME FOR CELEBRATION

ALL KINDS OF SPORTS ARE INCLUDED

The Appropriations to Various Sub-Committees Are Made—Total Amounts to $3,650.

The general celebration committee met last night and drew up the final programme for the Victoria Day celebrations to be held on the 23rd and 24th insts. The amounts of the appropriations for the various sub-committees were also decided. About 20 members of the committee attended the meeting, over which Mayor Hayward presided.

The total amount of the appropriations approved of by the committee was $3,650, and the finance committee have so far collected $3,411. The necessary balance will be made up during the next few days.

Mr. Moresby, the secretary, submitted his report of the work accomplished by the sub-committees, which was read and adopted.

A few minor amendments were made to the report of the finance committee. The vote for the firework display was increased from $200 to $500, and that to Victoria Athletic club for their exhibition from $50 to $100. The reception committee got $250, the decorations committee $275 and $250 was allowed for sundries. Other appropriations were: Band, $300; printing, $400; regatta, $1,000; trap shooting, $175; competitive sports, $125; rifle shooting, $100, and yachting, $200.

The programme as finally arranged is an excellent one, providing a varied amount of entertainment, which covers the whole of the two days of the celebrations, and should suit every taste. The items are arranged as follows:

Thursday Evening.

Illumination of the city and band concert in the streets.

Friday.

9 a. m.—Rifle shooting contest.

10 a. m. to 1 p. m.—Competitive sports at Beacon Hill.

10 a. m.—Open air exhibition by the members of the Victoria Athletic Club.

All Day—Trap shooting contest, under the auspices of the Victoria and Capital Gun Clubs.

3 p. m.—Baseball match at Oak Bay, between Victoria and the California University team.

All Day—Races of Victoria Yacht Club.

Evening—Illumination of the city.

Grand firework display at Beacon Hill.

Band concert.

Saturday.

10 to 12 a. m.—Great championship lacrosse match between Victoria and the famous New Westminster team at the Caledonia grounds.

1 p. m.—The annual regatta at the Gorge. Band in attendance.

1 p. m.—Baseball match at Oak Bay.

All Day—Cricket match at Beacon Hill.

Evening—Illuminations and band concert.

THE REMISSION BILL

White Pass Company Excepted From the Operation of the Act.

The Remission bill concerning which much has been published during the last few days deals with penalties sought to be collected from several companies in the province for their failure to make each year certain statistical records to the government. The penalties sued for aggregated over $15,000,000, and under the law, as it existed, there is little doubt but they were liable for a large portion of this amount.

The bill, which has just passed both Houses at Ottawa, makes it possible for the Governor-in-council to remit these penalties when it can be shown that no flagrant breach of the statutes has been committed, and that the companies have observed the spirit, if not always the letter of the law. The act will be retroactive in its effects. Parliament, it is understood, took a different view of the cases against the White Pass railway, which is being sued for the return of exorbitant freight charges, and inserted a clause excepting such cases from the operation of the act.

ANOTHER CAUCUS.

Government Members in Conclave—New York Company Ready to Start Work on Coast-Kootenay.

The government had a lengthy caucus this morning when railroad matters are understood to have been up for consideration.

To-night Manager McDougall, of the Olalla Copper Mining & Smelting Company, will arrive in the city from New York. As a proof of the bona fides of his company he has authorized his representatives here to make a definite proposal to the government, and this proposal was filed with the Chief Commissioner this morning.

This proposal is understood to be a definite undertaking on the part of the company that in return for the cash subsidy sought they will commence construction work within sixty days irrespective of Dominion aid, putting up ample bonds for the completion of the road.

It is rumored that at the government caucus this morning it was decided to leave land grants out of the railway bill.

MR. M'BRIDE EXPLAINS OPPOSITION STAND

Willing to Assist in Passing Supply and Necessary Legislation on Certain Conditions.

In the House this afternoon the leader of the opposition said, on privilege, that erroneous reports were appearing in up-country papers that the opposition were prolonging the session so that the Premier could not go to London.

He would, in a few words, announce their position. The opposition position was not one of obstruction. They had no desire to prevent the province being suitably represented at London, or to obstruct proper legislation.

"If the government would restore the reserve on the foreshore and to go to the country immediately on the railway policy, the opposition were willing to permit supply and necessary legislation to be passed. This would also permit of North Victoria being represented, and he felt sure would gratify the country at large. If the government would give those two guarantees, the opposition would readily assist in the passage of supplies and legislation necessary.

There was loud applause at this clear cut declaration of opposition principle, but the government deigned no answer.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

A Sailor Endeavored to Hang Himself in Naval Prison Yesterday.

An unsuccessful attempt at suicide was made at Esquimalt yesterday, when seaman named Martin, of H. M. S. Halcion, who is serving two years in the prison at the navy yard for striking the first lieutenant of the ship, strung himself up in his cell and strangled himself almost to death before observed by the warden. He had taken some oakum from the cell, and making a rope tied it to the ceiling and hanged by the neck until cut loose. By this time the unfortunate fellow was black in the face, and another minute or so and he would have been beyond recovery. Immediately after his discovery the Grafton was signalled, and medical assistance summoned. Restoratives were administered, and after a good deal of patient work the man began to come to. To-day he is considerably improved, although suffering from the evil effects of his rash act.

Martin was sentenced by court martial on Tuesday last. As stated, his offence was that of striking an officer. He had been doing some work aboard ship which was not altogether satisfactory to the officer, and the latter in giving him a reprimand received a severe blow in the face.

Two other prisoners in the naval yard serving terms are a couple of stokers who were sentenced to 42 days for refusing duty aboard ship on her voyage up the Coast.

Levi W. Myers and M. K. Myers, of Portland, Ore., are among those registered at the Dominion hotel. The former gentleman was at one time United States consul in this city.

BRITISH CAPITAL FOR STEMWINDER

FAIRVIEW CORPORATION OFFERED OVER $900,000

Particulars of One of the Largest and Most Economically Worked Mines in America.

It is stated on the most reliable authority that the New Fairview Corporation, Limited, has received an offer of a large sum of money for one of their properties, the well-known Stemwinder mine, from an English company, which has been looking about for a well developed mine in British Columbia. The price offered is close on to $1,000,000.

In all probability this offer will be accepted by the corporation within the next two months.

The New Fairview Corporation, as is generally known, owns the townsite of Fairview, the hotel, about 17 mineral claims and 400 acres of valuable coal lands, besides other franchises.

The corporation was reorganized some little time ago for the purpose of securing further capital with which to develop the Stemwinder mine. Messrs. Gooderham and Blackstock advanced the old company, about two years ago, a considerable sum for development purposes, and this has been practically repaid.

The corporation has recently purchased another 20 heads of stamps, which brings their milling capacity up to 46 stamps. The ore is widening out with depth, and at the 300-foot level the lode is 30 feet wide with values from $5 to $10 per ton.

The total cost of mining, milling and treating the concentrates has been demonstrated not to exceed the remarkably low sum of $1.75. The mill of 46 stamps can crush 150 to 175 tons of ore per day. The company has at present on hand some $20,000 worth of concentrates, which are now being sent to the smelter.

At the present time about 200 tons of ore are being broken down daily in the mine, about two-thirds of which is being left in the stopes for the mill, when the whole 46 stamps are in running order. The average value of the ore now being taken out is $5.50 per ton.

An electrical power plant is being installed, power being obtained from Reed creek, over which the company holds the necessary rights. When completed, this plant will still further reduce the cost of mining and milling.

If the projected sale is carried out—as in all probability it will be—a large amount of capital will be expended, and the Fairview township will doubtless develop rapidly. As a sign of awakening interest in British Columbia mining in British financial circles, the proposed purchase of the Stemwinder is an important event.

VOTERS' INFORMATION LEAGUE.

Meeting Last Night Arranges the Draft Constitution.

A public meeting was held in the Sir William Wallace hall last evening to discuss the formation of a new league, whose business will be to supply information on matters of importance in municipal, provincial and federal politics. C. E. Redfern presided, and among those present were the Rev. Elliott S. Rowe, Ald. McCandless, Ald. Cameron, Dr. Jones, J. L. Beckwith, A. J. Morley, Beaumont Boggs and Dr. Lewis Hall, all of whom addressed the meeting in favor of the proposed organization.

The objects of the league are shown in the draft constitution printed below, which will be considered seriatim at a meeting to be held in the same hall on the 20th inst. A. J. Morley was appointed secretary pro tem.

1. That the organization shall be called the Voters' Information League.

2. That the object of the League shall be to bring all voters of the province into closer touch and sympathy, to obtain the fullest and most reliable information upon all matters of vital importance, either municipal or provincial, by means of investigating committees arranged for as hereinafter described. That the reports of the committees may be impartially discussed at general meetings taking place simultaneously at each voting district in the province, and the results of the discussions be collected and distributed as hereinafter described. That by this organized method of blending of thought and action along lines of intelligence, we may ensure safer and more combined action on all matters affecting the stability and welfare of our province.

3. That all registered voters shall be entitled to membership.

4. That the League shall consist of branches at each voting district in the province, each having its own executive and system of committees as hereinafter described.

5. That there shall be a central office at a convenient point in the province, for receiving and distributing the results of meetings.

6. That the executive in each district shall consist of —— of whom —— shall be renewed each ——.

7. That committees shall be arranged for as follows: Each voter shall be registered in his district by number; all the numbers shall be placed in a ballot box, from which as need arises as many numbers as are required for committee work shall be drawn. The numbers drawn shall not be returned to the box until the remaining numbers have been drawn for subsequent committees. By thus constantly bringing new life and fresh intelligence into the active work of the League, the danger of individual or clique control is provided against, and the consequent stagnation that has attended public movements in the past averted. To avoid delay, it would be well at the close of a discussion and consequent dismissal of the acting committee that a fresh committee shall be elected for coming service.

8. That in municipal matters the work of the League shall be kept within the limits of the municipalities concerned.

9. That in matters of vital interest to the province at large, on notice being given for a general investigation and discussion, a date shall be set for a meeting to take place at each voting district in the province. The committee last elected in each district shall be required to make a full investigation and obtain all available information on the matter at issue, make a digest of the same, and report at their respective meetings. These reports shall be fairly and impartially discussed, strictly on merit, as affecting the general interest, it being distinctly understood that no personalities or political or party references shall be allowed in the discussions. The results of these several meetings shall be recorded in each district and forwarded to the central office, and the aggregate results distributed to all districts.

CIVIL ASSIZES.

The trial of Hylands vs. Canadian Development Company was finished yesterday afternoon. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining evidence to substantiate the plaintiff's claim, the plaintiff himself being too ill to give evidence, and other necessary witnesses having died since the action was commenced. Judge Drake reserved his decision.

This finishes the list of trials set for the May sittings. The next regular sittings for the trial of civil causes will probably commence on July 2nd, owing to the first Tuesday in July, which is the day fixed by statute for the sittings, falling on Dominion Day.

The Full court will sit in Victoria on Tuesday, June 3rd next.

The next sittings of the County court takes place on Thursday, June 12th.

Chambers.

The only application in Chambers this morning before Mr. Justice Drake was in the matter of the estate of D. Toomey, deceased. H. G. Lawson, for the official administrator of Yale, presented a petition for directions as to distributing the assets. F. J. Fulton, of Kamloops, appeared on behalf of one of the next of kin. There being some doubt as to the sufficiency of proof as to the relationship of the various next of kin to deceased, His Lordship reserved his decision.

WITH THE VICTORIA BOYS AT HALIFAX

Times Correspondent Writes About the Local Troopers of Canadian Mounted Rifles.

The Times has received a letter from its correspondent with the last Canadian contingent of Mounted Rifles, Corporal D. A. R. Mackenzie. The letter is dated Halifax, May 17th, and after describing the trip across the continent, the writer says that all the boys are in good spirits, but very busy, their duties allowing them little time for anything else but to get their meals. The daily routine is as follows: Reveille, 5.30 a.m.; breakfast, 6.30; parade at 8; drill until noon; parade again at 2 p.m. and drill until 5 o'clock. Corporal Mackenzie writes:

"There are assembled here in one barracks 2,150 men and about 1,800 horses. Our horses have not arrived, but will be here in a day or two. We are going to have the wildest horses, because the people here think that all the western people are cow punchers. Why? The Halifax paper had an article in its columns to the effect that 650 riders of the western plains had arrived in the city. That, too, is the impression at headquarters.

"Now a few words about the boys themselves. We are nearly all together, in fact about the only troop in the whole regiment of 650 men intact is the Victoria troop. We have to thank our officer for that, and I am much pleased to be able to tell you that he, too, is a Victorian—Lieut. Vernor, formerly trooper with Strathcona Horse. He is a good man, and was just as anxious to get us as we were to get him. The only change that has been made is that we have lost three men, one of whom is not in our regiment. His name is A. J. Baker. He has been transferred to the 6th Regiment.

"Trooper O. Watts also transferred to the 6th, but was returned to the 5th. Our other lost man is Harry Ware, formerly of Weiler Bros. He is sergeant of 'A' troop; Sergeant Royds is confirmed in his rank as sergeant, and is posted to 'C' squadron. 2 troop. Your humble servant is posted to the same troop as corporal. All the rest of Victoria boys are in the same troop. I have to mention one more man who has been transferred, much to our regret. He is M. Mallett, of Chemainus. The Vancouver contingent is completely cut in two, so is that from Westminster. We have one Westminster man in with us, the remainder of our troop being made up of Kamloops and Rossland men.

"On our way out here one of the officers had the misfortune to drop off the train as it was travelling at the rate of 45 miles an hour. It was dark at the time and the train was stopped when he was missed. I was roused from bed to detail four men to go to the rescue. We came across him about five miles back from the train. He was walking along the track as unconcerned as you please. 'You can't kill a Westerner,' said he as we approached. We got a hand car and made our way to the railway station. Our train had pulled out and left us, but we took the first express and caught up at 2 a.m. again. All this happened between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. The only injury sustained by the officer was a black eye."

Current History and Modern Culture for May opens with a strong portrait of our new Secretary of the Navy, Hon. W. H. Moody. "A Few of the World's Leaders" is the first title in the table of contents. This is followed by a paper on "The Indians as Farmers" and the usual copious and exact treatment of "International Affairs," "Affairs in America," "Affairs in Europe," "Affairs in Asia," "Affairs in Africa," "Science and Invention," "Education," "Sociology" (a new department conducted by Mr. Wm. W. Hudson), "Art, Music, and the Drama," "A Literary Chronicle," and "Necrology." The number contains numerous half-tone illustrations, maps, etc., and fully justifies its reputation as one of the most unique and valuable magazines now published. Sample copy free on application. Address Current History Co., Boston, Mass.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE J. B. A. A. DANCE

Assembly Hall Now in Process of Transformation—Elaborate Decorations Almost Completed.

The Assembly hall has presented a scene of unusual activity the past few days, continuing from morning until late at night. It is in preparation for a great social function that this energy has been displayed—the dance of the J. B. A. A., which takes place to-morrow night. Members and non-members have looked forward to this event with much expectation ever since it was announced. The arrangements have been in the hands of a capable committee and all the details have been completed. The finishing touch, the adornment of the hall, is now in progress, and so elaborate will it be that those engaged in this important task will be employed almost to the time of commencement of the dance before their labors will be at an end.

The decorating committee drew liberally upon their ingenuity to produce something new in this department. The decorative display in the past has been characterized by a rather monotonous sameness, which will be absent on the present occasion. True, there are pennants, flags and bunting in abundance, but these are only accessory features in the decoration. The blue and white, the colors of the club, naturally predominate, but there is a harmonious arrangement of the whole which reflects great credit on those responsible for it. The electric fountain, as on other occasions, will be a feature at the entrance. Access to the hall will be obtained under picturesque evergreen arches, symmetrically made. At the northern end one of the club racing shells, the lithe, graceful craft in which the Big Four won for themselves, the association and their city, renown in the aquatic world, is suspended in mid air. The cosy corners in the northeast and northwest portions of the hall are being furnished by the Westside and Weiler Bros., names which guarantee opulence and comfort.

An innovation in sitting-out arbors has been adopted. The spare room on the right of the entrance has been converted into a veritable evergreen grove, subdivided into a number of little corners and apartments, where those who become temporarily surfeited with dancing may find diversion in a tete-a-tete. There will be no room for ping pong, and for once it will be relegated to obscurity. The approach to this little Mecca will be through a glade redolent with the fragrance of pine branches. It is a miniature lovers' lane, and, as it will be in the shadow, it will undoubtedly be widely patronized.

The supper room is being decked in a manner which should make the hearts of the J. B. A. A. members throb with loyalty to their institution. The walls have been draped in blue and white, off-set with festooned evergreens. The light in this section of the hall will be subdued in character, a pleasing contrast to the bright illumination of the main dancing apartment. A large orchestra, supplied by Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir, will provide a carefully arranged programme of dances. On the programme will be a picture of the Big Four in their shell ready for action, a happy idea and one suggestive of that department of sport in which the association has won such signal success. Tickets have been sold in large numbers, and there will unquestionably be a splendid attendance.

THROUGH BILLS OF LADING.

White Pass Co.'s Arrangement Inaugurated To-Day—Large Shipment by J. Piercy & Co.

Commencing to-day and continuing until the close of navigation in the fall the White Pass & Yukon Company will issue through bills of lading to Dawson. Consequently to-day may well be termed "shipping day," as the wholesalers of the city will take advantage of the inauguration of this arrangement to rush their shipments as fast as possible in order that they may be among the vanguard to reach the Yukon metropolis. Employees in the various establishments have had their hands full the past few days preparing for the shipments, and the quantity of packing cases on the sidewalks in front of some of the premises gives some idea of the magnitude of their task, as well as the extent of Victoria's spring trade with Dawson. Messrs. J. Piercy & Co. have a shipment of thirty tons awaiting transportation, the greater portion of which will be conveyed by the Cottage City.

Navigation will be practically open by the time this freight reaches White Horse. At any rate, the delay will be very slight, as the river is about clear, the only obstruction remaining being the ice on La Barge, which will disappear at any time. May 25th should see navigation opened and the freight en route from White Horse to Dawson.

LEGAL NEWS.

Mr. Justice Drake presided in Chambers this morning and disposed of the following applications:

Re Ibex Mining & Development Co., winding up—An application for leave to sell property on behalf of a secured creditor was stood over until the 20th inst. J. H. Lawson, jr., for applicant, G. H. Barnard for liquidator.

Nell & Berkeley vs. Nelson Electric Co.—L. Bond, for plaintiff, applied for an order striking out the defence and counter claim. L. P. Duff, K. C., opposed the application. Certain paragraphs of counter claim were ordered to be struck out, with liberty to amend in one week, costs of application to be plaintiffs' in any event.

Applications by defendants in the various suits against the White Pass & Yukon Railway Co., for particulars and discovery, were stood over until to-morrow. F. Higgins for plaintiffs, R. Cassidy, K. C., for defendants.

Re John Gosnell, deceased—H. M. Cleland applied for probate of will of deceased, which was granted in favor of Edward Gosnell, with liberty to the executor named in will to come in and prove.

Re Robert R. Hind, deceased. R. H. Pooley applied for probate of will of deceased, which was granted.

In Ah Tam vs. Robertson, the case stated which was argued before Mr. Justice Irving at the assizes last week, His Lordship has handed down judgment, dismissing the action, holding that the amount due plaintiff under his canning contract cannot be considered as wages entitled to preference.

Seals have been tamed and domesticated like dogs.

MOTHER GOOSE PUZZLE.

Three neighbors are here watching Cross Patch pout and spin. Find them.

JOHN SHOWED FIGHT.

Chicken Thief Gave Night Watchman a Warm Tussle—Police Court News.

This morning in the police court a woman named Lilly Morton was fined $50 or three months' imprisonment for being an inmate of a house of ill-fame. A row occurred at her house on Chatham street early this morning, in which a bluejacket was implicated. He will appear in court to-morrow to answer to a charge of assault. Henry Jenkinson, charged with ill-treating four dogs, was convicted and allowed out on suspended sentence. The prosecution was in the hands of the S. P. C. A., and it was shown that the dogs were half starved. The magistrate, police and officers of the society adjourned to Jenkinson's place during the hearing to see for themselves. When the food was placed in front of the unfortunate canines they devoured it ravenously. Jenkinson promised to obey the instructions of Dr. Hamilton in his treatment of the dogs.

Quock Sing, a very dilapidated looking Chinaman, was convicted of stealing chickens from Mrs. Grathwohl, who lives on Government street. The Chinaman was caught at 1.30 this morning by Night Watchman Roach, and a struggle ensued in which John emerged in a sorry state. His eye and face were decorated in various colors, while his body was covered with bruises. The watchman also showed evidences of a tough fight. The Chinaman pleaded guilty and will come up to-morrow for punishment. He was only recently released from imprisonment for stealing chickens from Hon. James Dunsmuir.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Civil Assizes—Hyland vs. Canada Development Company—In Chambers.

The trial of Moi Chung vs. Snyder was completed yesterday afternoon at the civil assizes, and the action was dismissed with costs.

When the court resumed at 11 o'clock this morning, Mr. Justice Drake presiding, H. D. Helmcken, K. C., in his capacity of a bencher, presented Alexander McLean to the court. Mr. McLean took the oaths required of barristers and solicitors, and affixed his signature to the rolls.

The case of Hyland vs. Canadian Development Co., the last case on the list for trial at the present sittings, was called. A. L. Belyea, K. C., and A. J. Kitto, conduct the case for the plaintiff, L. P. Duff, K. C., having charge of the defence.

The amount sued for is $730, claimed by Robt. Hyland to be due him from the C. D. Co. for goods supplied and packing done on the Stikine-Teslin trail in the spring of 1898. He alleges that C. McDonald, the company's agent on the trail, gave him an order for above amount upon the company in that year. The order was sent to the Bank of Montreal here for collection, payment was refused, the order was forwarded to Wrangel by the bank and it disappeared. Later on a duplicate order was given by McDonald, which was handed to Thos. Earle for collection, and this duplicate likewise disappeared. He now sues for the amount of the accounts stated.

The company's defence is that there was never an account stated between the parties, that McDonald was not their agent, and that the money is not owing.

The trial is still in progress as we go to press.

Chambers.

Mr. Justice Drake presided in Chambers this morning and disposed of the following applications:

Wilson vs. Davison et al—An application for judgment under Order XIV. was adjourned until the 16th inst. T. Fell for plaintiff, A. F. R. Martin, for defendants.

Re estate of John McDonald, deceased—W. C. Moresby obtained an order for payment out.

Re estate of Toomey, deceased—A petition herein was stood over until to-morrow. J. H. Lawson, jr., for petitioner.

Northern Counties vs. Nathan—R. H. Pooley, for plaintiffs, applied for an order approving tender made, which was granted.

Vernon vs. Cargill et al—R. H. Pooley, for plaintiff, applied for an order for substituted service of writ out of the jurisdiction. Service was directed to be effected by registered letter to defendant's brother and to defendant himself, fourteen days being allowed for entering appearance.

The Assizes.

The civil and criminal assizes open to-day in Nanaimo, where the Chief Justice presides; in Vernon, under Judge Walkem; and in New Westminster, under Judge Irving. In Rossland, where Judge Martin opens court to-day, only civil cases are to be heard.

A. L. Meyer, the promoter, of the Hackensack Meadows and of other companies, the stock certificates of which declined in price a week ago, and against whom an order of arrest was issued, surrendered himself to the sheriff at New York yesterday. Bail was fixed at $4,000, and was furnished.

METHODIST CONFERENCE.

Vancouver, May 15.—The Methodist conference transacted only routine ministerial business this morning. The stationing committee's report will not be out till to-morrow.

FAVORABLE PROGRESS.

M. Kurikka Tells of Malcolm Island Settlement—Sawmill to Be Constructed.

Matti Kurikka, president of the Kalevan Kanza Colonization Company, is in the city on private business in connection with the settlement of Malcolm Island. He is a guest at the Queen's hotel.

Mr. Kurikka said this morning that the settling of Malcolm Island was going forward to the satisfaction of all concerned. There are now about thirty people in all on the island, and the results of their work are astonishing when it is considered what a short time they have been at it. A considerable amount of land has already been cleared, some of which is being put under cultivation this spring. Some portions of the island near the coast, it was found, were covered with water and the little work necessary in digging trenches in order to drain the water off placed this land in shape for agricultural purposes.

Another industry which it is the intention to develop on Malcolm Island is lumbering. Mr. Kurikka said there is a large amount of good standing timber which when cut would readily find a good market. A necessity, however, which is at present much felt is the want of a sawmill. A practical man has been looking over the Island for a suitable site and work on it will commence in the near future.

The vessel which was prepared in this city for the colony is at present at the Island. The craft will be completed when the necessary lumber is available. That will probably not be until the sawmill is in operation.

The town will be located on the west coast of the Island. Mr. Kurikka stated that the company realized the difficulties in the way of the establishment of a settlement such as they have in view, but with slow and careful work they hope to succeed. Mr. Kurikka said it was not a question of procuring settlers, as there are plenty who are anxious to join the colony. It was a question of being able to give them accommodation when they arrive. As the accommodation increases the number of settlers will be correspondingly increased.

BUSINESS AT ALBERNI.

G. A. Huff and J. F. Bledsoe Arrived From West Coast Yesterday.

Messrs. Geo. H. Huff and J. F. Bledsoe are among those registered at the Vernon. They arrived yesterday from Alberni, coming by the stage route via Nanaimo. Mr. Huff is in the city on business of a private nature. He says that on account of the shutting down of the Hayes, Monitor and Thistle mines at Alberni business there at present is rather flat, especially in the steamboat line. The proposition of putting another steamer on the route with the steamer Wylie, which he considered for some time, he has let drop on account of the lack of business activity.

He says that the new charter for the construction of a railway to the north end of the Island, now before the House, is generally satisfactory to the residents of Alberni, as it provides for the proposed line to touch at Alberni, which the expired charter did not.

Work on the Pacific Steel Company's properties at the mouth of the canal, namely, the Sereta, Copper Island and Sechart Island, is very active. The construction of the station at Banfield creek is also going forward rapidly.

OUT ON STRIKE.

Carpenters on Government House Demand Nine Hour Pay For Eight Hour Day.

About seventeen carpenters employed on the new Government House went on strike to-day, and their line of work on the building is consequently at a standstill. Since May 1st they have been working eight hours a day for $2.65 per day. They have now demanded $3, the rate they received for a nine-hour day, and not securing it they have struck.

Some time ago at a mass meeting, the carpenters of the city decided in favor of an eight hour day after May 1st, the question of wages to regulate itself. Members of the union were tacitly agreeable to finish old work before demanding compliance with the new rule, as they considered that this would be only fair to the contractors. The work at the Government House may be classified as old work, as it was started before the new rule was decided upon. It was commenced in February last, but is not half completed. The contractor for the building is R. Drake, and he may possibly be able to fill the places of the recalcitrant ones who, it is understood, are not union men. It would be impossible, however, for him to secure members of the union. The Carpenters' Union has not endorsed the strike.

A. Brett and wife are awaiting the arrival of the Australian liner Miowera, for the purpose of meeting friends. They will then leave in company with the arrivals for the East by way of the C. P. R.