### MAGISTRATE PLANTA

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Returns to Nanaimo and Gives His mony With Calmness and Deliberation.

> ated Confession Is Not d the Court Adjourns for Report.

NANAIMO, Jan. 31.—(Special) - The commission of inquiry into the affairs of J. P. Planta resumed its session this evening. Mr. Planta's return was the sensation of the Gough? A. Yes, I did, hour, and the court house was packed when fact. the commission opened. Mr. H. D.

of the court. Mr. Planta's condition of mind at the time of his flight was outlined and the possibility of his being mentally unbalanced strongly urged.

The Court—With regard to Mr. Planta impression that the stronger of the coty. The popular impression that the coty. your explanation is accepted.

Mr. Bodwell—At the time of Mr. Planta's

flight we were about to call him for his story. I think he had better be called. A buzz of excitement ran around the court room as Mr. Planta calmly stepped into the box and was sworn. He looked worn but calm and had evidently made up his mind to face the consequence Mr. Bodwell opened by asking for an ex-

planation of the Ross affair. Mr. Planta then gave the opening details of this case as already published. At the time the action was taken he realized that it was technically correct, but such returns were never made. On the the moment he went up to Mr. McInnes' office and asked for an explanation, stating that the returns were Mr. McInnes said: "We are acting under the instructions of persons who consider themselves aggrieved over the actions of your court and the officers under you. We will show you that they have tried to get their complaints inquired into but failed as he, Mr. Planta, as police commissioner had refused to go into the matter."

The witness urged that he knew of no reason for complaint, when Mr. McInnes went on to say that the complaints against some of the officers must be attended to and that they should come before the com missioners. He (Mr. Planta) pointed out that missioners. He (Mr. Plants) pointed out that there was no commission. It was then said that the constables were not regularly appointed. The winness tells that it was his fault that the officers were not properly appointed. He saw the great trouble which might come out of this. He continued: "Feeling reluctant to have these men suffer through my oversight, I left then and went to the sheriff and was served. I then went to Mr. McKenzie and teld him of the action and asked him to have the suit withdrawn.

and asked him to have the suit withdrawn, and asked him to have the suit withdrawn, offering to meet any expense they had been put in in the matter. The next day I called on Mr. McInnes and stated that if any loss had been incurred I was willing to com-nensate them. They stated that the amount pensate them. They stated that the amount was \$350. I gave them a check for \$300 and told them to pay the expense; they took the check and said they wanted to get Gibbs off the force; I told them this could not be promised; Mr. MoInnes was not acting as my solicitor until I gave him that check; I don't know if they were ever my solicitors in fact; Gibbs resigned at the end of the year; Chief McKinnon said he did not require more than one officer; I then thought the one officer would be enough and don't know why there are now three

Mr. Bodwell-Did this come before you A. No.
Q. Did the council take the matter in hand? A. Well, yes.
Q. Why did the council think more men

necessary? A. I suppose owing to the difference in the activity of the chiefs.

Q. Did you tell Marshall you could not get him a position on the force? A. Yes,

for I was only one.

Q. How was it that the men were selected by the city council? A. Well, they were appointed by the commissioners in fact.

Q. Did you get any notification of the action of the city council? A. Yes, from Mr. Quennell.

After some further questions Mr. Planta went on to tell the story of the row between

Brown and McKinnon.
Q Did you know that the council had been canvassed? A. No, I acted unwisely in that matter. I should have laid it over

Here ensued a long sparring match. Mr. Plants, far from humbly confessing anything, stood on his mettle and fought his guns with skill and tact. He could not see
why the council should not recommend men
to the commissioners. He was also of opinion that green men might, by attention to
duty, come up and be as good officers as any
Many had applied who were good men, bus
the witness was not in a position to appoint
them alone.

After some further passages-at-arms on
these points, the inquiry was turned to
police court matters. The matter of costs
was reviewed with much the same results as
in the original inquiry, and then the in
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these points, the inquiry was turned to
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After some further passages-at-arms
on these points, the inquiry was turned to
police court matters. The matter of costs
was reviewed with much the same results as
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in the original inquiry, and then the investigation turned to particular cases: H. Lawson, tried summarily for attempting to assault a little girl; and Eli, an Indian, for stealing sheep, which he returned and paid costs. A number of cases were referred to Indians. The parties were released on cash bail on conviction of having intexicants in their possession.
This bail was forfeited, and the men went free. These were explained at length. Mr. Bodwell rested here without really bringing out any points not already touched on, the promised confession not having yet materialized.

A. He took a fatherly interest in the affairs of the city.

Mr. Plants then proceeded to state that this missanderstanding was a private matter only to allay his intense feeling in the matter. He never intended this letter to come

to the council.

Q. Did you not know that without some arrangement you would not have secured this position?

A. Well, I don't know

O Do you think Mr. Gough the man to divulge such a matter unless he understood that some such use was to be made of the etter ? A. Can't say ; it was private. Q Did you get your salary ? A. Yes, in

Helmoken appeared for Mr. Planta, and in a vigorous and elequent address in behalf of his client he first made an apology for his of the court. Mr. Planta's condition of seemed best under the circ

> mpression that the magistrate farming the prisoners' keep is, he said, all wrong. Regarding the Morrow case and others, where it was said that fines were paid without being accounted for, a general denial was made. In the matter of the hearing of cases by telephone, Mr. Planta was con Apropinion that some day much would be done by telephone and by quicker methods. He

Mr. Helmoken—The suggestion is that Mr. Planta has made use of his office for his personal pecuniary benefit, Mr. Planta, have you done this? A.—No, not to my knowledge; not so far as any intention on my part. Further, for the benefit of the public I wish to say that when I did what happened January 18 I was laboring under such stress of mind that I was scarcely accountable for what I did, and then The Court-There is no need going into

that.
Mr. Planta—That twenty five years of arnest labor should be thus-The Court-That will be considered. Mr. Helmcken-Mr. Planta-Please not go into that. That is all we have to say

The Commission then adjourned sine die for report and the crowd slowly filed away, wondering where the "confession" came in.
It is understood that Mr. Planta will be given time to arrange his papers and pre-pare a report on intestate estate matters.

Magistrate Planta left yesterday for Na-nalmo accompanied by Superintendent Hussey, to be present at the sessions of the Royal Commission now being conducted by Judge Harrison, Mr. E. V. Bodwell and Mr. H. D. Helmcken also went up.

CABLE ITEMS

Apostolic Vicarates for Wales-Ger man Honors For The Emperor of Japan.

Russian Minister De Giers' Successo -"Joe" Chamberlain's Prospects-Premier Crispi III.

LONDON, Jan. 30 .- The Daily Chronicle's Rome correspondent says that the congregation of the Propaganda has decided to establish apostolic vicarates in Wales.

Robert Bar writes to the Daily Chronicl that the proposed Canadian copywright act is far more generous than the act which England accepted with such gratitude from the United States. The very thing which objectors fear in Canada is done daily in Mudies' library, London. Why is that right here and wrong in Canada?

A dispatch to the Times from Melbourne

Viscount Acki, the Japanese minister

Germany. Italian Premier Crispi is ill with bon-

chitis.

It is probable that Captain Carter, of the Prince of Wales yacht Britannia, will act as sailing master for the new Valkyrie in the race for the America's cup next fall.

Churchill are visiting the Dowager Duchess of Mariborough at Dorking. The report of the Earl of Jersey, British

The report of the Earl of Jersey, British delegate to the Ottawa intercolonial conference, has been laid upon the table at the conference of the Australian premiers sitting at Hobart town.

Reginald Saunderson, charged with the murder of a young woman named Augusta Dawes, whose throat was out on Holland park road on the night of November 25, has been adjudged insane.

The Spanish senate has approved a modus vivendi giving the United States the benefit of the tariff on importations to Cuba and other colonies enjoyed under the former reciprocity arrangements.

It is asserted that Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain has agreed to join the Conservative-

CAPITAL NOTES.

Watters-Charge Upon Which He Has Been Arrested.

Reductions in the Mounted Police Big Storm on the Coast-No Hopes Force-Post Office Inspector for Ontario

(From Our Own Correspondent.) OTTAWA, Jan. 31.-Thomas J. Watters, the charge of defalcation sworn out by A. P. Sherwood, commissioner of Deminion popeared for the Crown and A. Ferguson

yesterday.

Thomas J. Watters did unlawfully take from Her Majesty the Queen, on January of Her Majesty the Queen in right of her Dominion of Canada, and further sums, namely, on April 28, \$94; June 15, \$90; and August washed ashore on the Suffolk coast, which inion of Canada, and further sums, namely, on April 28, \$94; June 15, \$90; and August

by telephone and by quicker meetious.

then gave the history of the cases. It had been done to accommodate the men, who been done to accommodate the men, who execution of the duties of said office, certain salaries were payable and paid to the said Thomas J. Watters, of Her Majesty the Queen.

That it was part of the duties of the said Thomas J. Watters in the execution of his office to account to Her Majesty the Queer for all moneys which came into his hands in connection with the business and adminis-tration of the department of customs of Canada at Ottawa, and the deponent says that the said Thomas J. Watters while so occupying the said office of acting commis sioner, did receive from the Wabash Rail road Co. certain bank drafts for the severa sums at the dates mentioned, and which drafts were the property of Her Majesty the Queen and should have been accounted for to Her Majesty, but the said Thomas J. Watters, contrary to and in breach of the duties and trusts of his said office, and in fraud of Her Majesty the Queen, obtained and procured the money upon each of the said drafts, and used and employed the same for his own purposes, contrary to the statute in such cases made

privileges owing to the refusal of that journal to comply with the demands of the university council and apologise for state-ments reflecting on the university manage-ment. The feeling among the students runs

A dispatch to the Times from Melbourne says it is understood that the delegates to the federation conference in Hobarttown favor a federal convention elected by the people rather than appointed by the parliament of each colony.

The Emperor William has conferred the collar of the Black Eagle upon the Emperor of Japan and the star of the Red Eagle upon Viscount Acki, the Japanese minister to Viscount Acki, the Japanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Emperor of Japan and the star of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Methodist mission arise in that country are to be asked to state their grievances explicitly, and it is hoped a satisfactory settlement of existing difficulties will be arrived at.

Sir Oliver Mowat stated yesterday, in the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese minister to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese explicitly, and it is hoped to the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese explicitly and the collar of the Red Eagle upon the Capanese explicitly and the collar of the

reply to a deputation from the Dominion Alliance, that he had taken steps to have the decision of the Supreme court as to the powers of the provinces, re Prohibition, appealed to the Privy Council.

Jack Gaudaur, champion carsman, has made up his mind to go to England to meet any sculler who is willing to join in the race. Gaudaur leaves in April.

James Saurin McMurray, an old resident,

tawa.
The Canadian Press Association is in ses The Canadian Press Association is in session here. The president's address noted the tendency of newspapers towards independence politically. The executive advocates changes in the libel law. The meeting will discuss the copyright act, subscription rates of newspapers and abuse of the postal law by alleged newspapers.

# MONTREAL MATTERS.

MONTREAL, Jan. 31,-(Special)-John

THE LOST "ELBE."

Acting Commissioner of Customs Further Statements by Survivors-The Night Clear and Calm-Abandoned by the "Crathie."

> for the Safety of Passengers.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The absorbing topic to-day is the loss of the North German Lloyd acting commissioner of customs, appeared in steamship Elbe with nearly 400 lives, as the beyond the possibility of a doubt was the British steamer Crathie, Capt. Gordon, from lice. Mr. Hogg, of O'Connor & Hogg, ap. Rotterdam for Aberdeen. The latest information places the number of lives at 374. for Mr. Watters. The case was put off for which is the number of missing, and very

taken. Mr. Watters gave the same bail as will eventually be heard from alive. The weather is unfavorable to the survival of Commissioner Sherwood, who laid the in- the castaways for any considerable time. formation, says in the charge that he has just cause to suspect and believe that Thomas J. Watters did unlawfully take is regarded as proving the suddenness and completeness of the disaster, and tending to diminish the probabilities of further salvage being reported. A lifeboat of the Elbe was washed ashore at Yarmouth last evening, the oars and lifebuoys being found in it but it is undoubtedly the boat from which terday, and which was set adrift after occupants had been taken off, so that its

discovery on shore furnishes no additional news or encouragement. The officers in London of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company are be-sieged with anxious inquiries, but are with-out information and can do nothing to allay the anxiety of relatives and friends of the Elbe's passengers. The company is refunding the fares to the survivors and paying their expenses back to Germany or to what ever point they select as their destinations The steam tug Despatch was sent out in search of survivors of the Elbe, but the tre-mendous wind, heavy sea and blinding snowstorm drove her back to Lowestoft after she had proceeded only a short dis-tame. The storm having moderated in the afternoon she started again, but a raging blizzard then prevented the sea being seen off Ramsgate and Yarmouth and compelled

appointed a post office inspector for Ontario, in succession to F. D. Barwick, resigned.

The government, following out the pledges made last session, are cutting down the mounted police force, both officers and men. Superinfendents MacDonnell and Norman and Inspectors Oliver and Hopkins will be placed on the retired list from May next.

TORONTO TOPICS.

TORONTO TOPICS.

TORONTO TOPICS.

TORONTO TOPICS.

TORONTO TOPICS.

Toronto in the station the boat was blown ashore and the crew were dashed into the surf, says that the steamer to the officers of the Crathic, occurred between five and six's clock on the morning of January were: The collision, according to the officers of the Crathic, occurred between five and six's clock on the morning of January were: The survivors of the Elbe brought to Jured by the collision. Capt. Gordon, of the Crathic, says that the steamer with which the slip came into collision was lost sight of immediately after the vessels came together, and it was thought she had proceeded. The Crathic remained in the vicinity for two hours and then returned to Rotterdam, as it yesterday, and is the guest of Sir Frank and the area of the Blob.

Toronto in succession to F. D. Barwick, resigned.

The bearing of the Dewdney municipal made no water. The collision, according to the officers of the Crathic, occurred between five and six's clock on the morning of January 20. One of the crathic, occurred between five and six's clock on the morning of January 20. One of the crathic, occurred between five and six's clock on the morning of January 20. One of the Crathic, says that the steamer with which the slip came into collision. Capt. Gordon, of the Crathic, says that the steamer with which the slip came into collision. The survival of the Crathic, occurred between five and six's clock on the morning of January 20. One of the Crathic, says that the steamer with which the slip came into collision. The survival of the Crathic, occurred to the crathic, occurred to the crathic, occurred to the crathic proving TORONTO TOPICS.

Toronto, Jan. 31. — (Special) — Lady Thompson arrived in this city from Ottawa yesterday, and is the guest of Sir Frank and Lady Smith. Lady Thompson will remain in the city until after Sunday, when she will leave for Hamilton on a visit to Mrs. Sanford.

The editor of the Varsity has been suspended from lectures and all university privileges owing to the refusal of that journal to comply with the demands of the university council and apologise for state-independent of the sand sand exposure. Miss Anna Buecker, the only woman known to have been saved, is the only one not able to be about. The surviving officers of the Elbe are very reticent in regard to the disaster pending the official investigation. It is alleged was trying to the vessel which it is alleged was trying to cut across their bows. The Crathle, it is now certainly known, is the ship which is truck the liner and senr her to the bottom. Greenham, the English pilot of the Elbe, who is one of the survivors, made the following statement to-day: "When I came on the deck of the Elbe Capt. Von Goessel was on the bridge in charge. was on the bridge in charge. The first order was to swing the boats out. Then came

A despatch from Bremen says the Eibe and on oard 324 passengers, of whom 149 had on board 324 passengers. Of the passengers and 125 steerage passengers. Of the passengers and 125 steerage passengers. Of the passengers and 126 steerage passengers. Of the passenger and the light of the Eibe have received the following telescated by first officer. The sonders were given by the captain himself and were repeated by first possess of rowering the boats. There was no confusion among the orew or in the giving of the passengers or crew. A high sea was running and there was a strong E S.E. wind blowing. It was bitterly cold, there having been 15 degrees of frost (centigrade) since the morning before. The lanyards of the boat grips were frozon stiff and had to be boat grips were frozon stiff and had to be boat grips were frozon stiff and had to be obtoped away to save time, though this would have been done anyway in even of a collision. The Eibe went down in two minutes sites we pushed sway from her side."

William Wright, skipper of the fishing again. It was a terrible runs for its office," he said, "a struggle for places in the boat grips lifeboat a mile away. The boat's mast was naked, but I saw something from her stern. Water was breaking over the boat. I was done boat in the boat was naked, but I saw something from her stern. Water was breaking over the boat. I was the head of the coupants seemed to think I was going to leave them, so I waved my hat. I took use her many the was difficed to the many in the boat was difficed by the many in the boat was difficed by the west of the many in the boat was difficed by the many the boat was difficed by the world have and the took and the many time the boat was difficed by the world have the strong the passengers of the strong the passengers of the strong the passengers of the care that the coupants seemed to think I was going to leave the would have been done anyway in event of a collision. The Eibe went down in two minutes after we pushed away from her side."

William Wright, skipper of the fishing smack Wildflower, says: "We were east, southeast of Lowestoft with our trawling gear down, when about 11 o'clock yesterday morning I saw a ship's lifeboat a mile away. The boat's mast was naked, but I saw something from her stern. Water was breaking over the boat. I watched her closely, her occupants seemed to think I was going to leave them, so I waved my hat. It took us half an hour to get up our trawling gear, and in the meantime the boat was drifting away from us. When I got close to them I cast them a rope, but they were so cold and wet and numb that they could not make it fast for some time. We pulled them around to the side of the smack, and about half of

fast for some time. We pulled them around to the side of the smack, and about half of them jumped aboard, but the strain caused by the heavy sea parted the rope, and the remainder once more drifted away. Eventually we made another line fast, and four more of the unfortunates were dragged in, leaving a woman and four more in

had she done so she could have resoued a large number of those on board, the sinking ship. This seems to be the version of several others of the survivors. Jan Vevera, another of those saved, says that when he last saw the Elbe she was listed over to port and her boats were high in the air. The tug Despatch returned to Lowestoft this afternoon, having proceeded forty-five miles in her search for any persons who may have been fortunate enough to get away from the filbe in the missing boat or by clinging to the wreckage. The Despatch reports that nothing was seen of either the boats or the wreckage.

The storm is now raging more wildly than ever. It is impossible that any small boat acting commissioner of customs, appeared in steamship Elbe with nearly 400 lives, as the could have lived in the heavy sea, or if it should have weathered the gale that any of the charge of defalcation sworp out by A. beyond the possibility of a doubt was the until this time. A great deal of adverse comment is caused by the fact that out of twenty persons saved from the Elbe fifteen of them belong to the ship's crew and that the boat in which they saved themselves contained only one woman and no children. Attempts have been made by some of the survivors to account for this, but in no case in a satisfactory way. Even the solitary woman who was saved was not originally taken into the boat, but was nicked up in matter will be brought up at the personal content of the survivors to the content of the solitary woman who was saved was not originally taken into the boat, but was nicked up in matter will be brought up at the personal content of the content of the content of the members take this view, though nothing was done to change the decision of Tuesday. It is likely the aken into the boat, but was picked up in matter will be brought up at the next

taken into the boat, but was picked up in the water after the boat had pushed away council meeting.

When H. B. Walkem woke up this mornfrom the sinking ship, greatly against the wishes of some of the occupants of the boat. The owner at Aberdeen of the steamship Crathie, which is believed to have run into and sunk the Elbe, has received a brief telegram from the captain at Masslus, stating that the Crathie's bow was terribly crushed by the impact of the vessel with the Elbe. and that the Crathie was in a sinking condition when she reached Masslus. The capand the mate was in charge of the vessel. The latter has made a statement to the capto the name of the vessel with which the the best prices ever obtained. Crathie collided. His own vessel was so requests that some more hops and the entire crew, all of whom had to bend year an increased acreage of hops will be their energies to saving their ship and their planted in this province. own lives. There was, the mate adds, a dense fog at the time, and the vessel with which the Crathie had collided was lost to view in the mist almost immediately after past few weeks. Mr. D. McGillivrav's the crash.

Mr. Carl Hollmann, of Grand Island, the half rack cleared of several overcomment by making the assertion in addition to his already helped himself liberally. No noise was published statement that if the vessel heard by the family and it was only when which came into collision with the Elbe had stood by the sinking ship a majority of the passengers might have been saved, as the come visitors. Elbe stood porfectly still for many minutes after the impact. Prior to this, however, discipline was maintained and there could have been no difficulty in transferring the

hours and then returned to Rotterdam, as it was feared that she could not keep afloat. The segond efficer of the Crathie said that immediately after the collision the ship struck by the Crathie burned blue and red lights. Similar signals were returned by the Crathie, his belief being that no assistance was required on either side. The Crathie's officers say that the ship with which the Crathie was in collision was a position in the Victoria office. which the Crathie was in collision was a

large steamer with two funnels.

A despatch from Bremen says the Elbe A despatch from Bremen says the Eibe had on board 324 passengers, of whom 149 were officers and crew, 30 cabin passengers and 125 steerage passengers. Of the passengers eighteen were children. The owners of the Eibe have received the following belegram



NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Westminster's Reduced School Expenditures - Reeveship of Dewdney to Be Contested.

Wages on Vancouver's Special Relief Works-Sneak Thieves-B. C. Hops in England.

## (Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 31. - The board of works on Tuesday arranged the wages of the

ing he found himself minus his gold watch and trousers, carried off by a thief in the night, in a manner similar to the robbery at Beattie's on Sunday last. C. T. Dunbar's room was also visited last night and his watch taken. It seems as if the same thief were responsible for all the three robberies.

Mesers. Sich, Lane & Co., of Agassiz,
bave received a letter from William tain was below at the time of the collision Boswell & Co., of London, Eng., stating and the mate was in charge of the vessel. The latter has made a statement to the captain that he has no knowledge whatever as terribly damaged that its condition called several buyers will be disappointed if they for the undivided attentions of the officers do not get them. It is believed that next

VANCOUVER, Feb. 1.-Last night added another to the frequent burglaries of the house on Georgia street was broken into and Mr. Carl Hoffmann, of Grand Island, the hall rack cleared of several overcoats.

come visitors.

There were three fires during the month with the small loss of \$300. In January 29 births, 11 deaths and 6

employed the same for his own purposes, contrary to the statute in such cases made and provided.

The above is sworn to before M. O'Gass, police magistrate. Watters went up to his efficient the Western block after the police court proceedings, and finding it is possession of the Dominion police made no attempt to enter. While in the department Watters was handed a letter from Controller Wallace suspending him from duty.

His accounts for the non-arrival of the cruise. This accounts for the non-arrival of the night of January 29 for a says the Crathis left Massius at 10 o'clock on the night of January 29 for the night of January 29 for a pointed a post office in the department Watters were table at the police of the Dominion police made no attempt to enter. While in the department Watters was handed a letter from Controller Wallace suspending him from duty.

Hency Marrick of Merrickville, has been appointed a post office inspector for Ontario, in succession to F. D. Barwick, resigned.

New WESTMINSTER, Jan. 31.-The school board estimates sent to the city

NANAIMO, Feb. 1.-Six Chinamen, arrest-

DUNCAN, Jan. 31. - The funeral of Mr. Harold Glassiger, formerly of Brighton, England. took place at St. Peter's church, Quamich 

gh Craig,

BLE.

3. C., and certainly ffers from y a cable cured.