VERY SHORT SESSION

Aldermen Disposed of the Regular Business in an Hour Last Evening.

City Engineer Says Point Ellice Bridge Can Be Made Strong Enough for Any Traffic.

The mayor and all the aldermen were present at the regular meeting of the city council last evening. It was a very short meeting, the business being disposed of in an hour.

The B. C. Board of Trade, through Secretary Elworthy, asked for directions as to the distribution of the annual reports of the board purchased by the city. The letter was laid on the table for a week.

Bishop Christie asked permission to remove and make certain alterations to Institute hall, View street. Referred to the fire wardens and building inspector, with power to act.

Mr. T. C. Sorby forwarded a plan of his proposed harbor improvements, and stated that he expected an answer shortly from the federal authorities as to the action they will take to assist the scheme. It was moved that the letter be received and filed, and Mr. Sorby thanked for the plan.

Ald. Phillips suggested that the council should meet Mr. Sorby and hear what he had to say about the scheme. He moved in amendment that a special meeting be called and Mr. Sorby asked to attend.

Mayor Redfern thought it would be better to leave the matter for the incoming council to deal with.

Ald. Phillips' motion prevailed, and a special meeting will be held an Thursday at 10 a.m.

Mr. J. C. Darling, of the Caledonia bakery, asked for the return of the fine imposed on him in June last for selling bread under weight. He contended that the bread in question was not ordinary bread, but fancy bread or cake. A similar charge laid against Mr. J. M. Hughes was dismissed by Magistrates Belyea and Dalby. Through an error in his evidence not being taken under oath, he had lost his opportunity to appeal. The fine was $25 and costs $5.

Ald. Phillips moved, seconded by Ald. Williams, that the question be referred to the mayor and city solicitor to report.

Ald. Humphrey thought it was the city that had been imposed on in the Hughes case. He had spoken to several bakers, all of whom said that the so-called rolls were as a matter of fact ordinary bread.

Ald. MacGregor moved, seconded by Ald. Wilson, that Mr. Darling be informed that the council cannot remit a fine.

Ald. Kinsman said no red tape should be allowed to interfere with justice being done to a man.

Ald. Phillips' motion was carried.

Messrs. James Leigh & Son asked that David street, between Pleasant and Bridge streets, be opened up. Referred to the street committee to report.

In reply to Ald. Bragg, Solicitor Mason said no answer had yet been received from the street railway company in connection with the continuation of the car service on Douglas street.

The city engineer reported as follows:

To His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen:

Gentlemen—In compliance with a resolution of the city council referring to the city engineer the suggestion of the B. C. Electric Railway Co., relative to the strengthening of Point Ellice bridge in such a manner as to allow of unrestricted tram car traffic, I have the honor to report that the portion of Point Ellice bridge supported on piles could, at a comparatively small expense, be made sufficiently strong for all purposes of tramcar traffic. As regards the truss span, although I consider it perfectly safe for all traffic as regulated by existing by-laws, I would recommend that if heavier traffic is to be provided for, a new truss be erected, designed for the purpose for which it is intended to be used, instead of attempting to strengthen the existing truss.

Respectfully submitted.

E. A. WILMOT,
City Engineer.

The report was received and filed, and a copy will be forwarded to the street railway company.

The street committee recommended that a concrete gutter be laid on the west side of Government street, between Yates and Johnson, estimated cost $91; that $50 be spent on repairing Garbally road; that $150 be expended in placing beach gravel on St. Charles street; and that a tar surface be laid on the Fort street cinder sidewalk, on the south side between Vancouver and Cook streets, estimated cost $65.

Mayor Redfern suggested that the council consider the advisability of not laying concrete gutters until the property owners have laid permanent sidewalks, while Ald. Phillips objected to the proposed expenditure on St. Charles street. Already half a mile of sidewalk had been laid on that street, although there are but two or three houses there.

The report was adopted.

Mr. F. G. Richards was elected deputy returning officer for the mayoralty election; Thomas Dearberg for the aldermanic election in Centre ward; J. H. Falconer for North ward and D. Spragge for South ward. The formal motion fixing the dates and places for the elections was passed. The nominations will be held on Monday, January 9, and the election on the 12th.

The council adjourned at 9:25.

To prevent food from burning as it is being cooked a piece of tin is bent around the kettle, with the ends constructed to interlock in notches at intervals, with a sliding yoke to hold them in place, the device being adjusted to any desired size by moving the ends.

PECULIAR AND PERTINENT.

A pet flea has been known to live six years.

A Laplander will often skate 150 miles in a day.

English wedding cakes are now imported by fashionable brides.

The Kansas City Journal tells of a girl whose first name is "Analyza."

At banquets during Elizabeth's time every guest came with his spoon in his pocket.

The Japanese are, as a race, so small that it is necessary to build specially low bicycles for them.

Of the 11,000,000 women in Italy about 2,000,000 are employed in industrial labor, and over 3,000,000 in agriculture.

Chinese babies are fed on rice and nothing else after they are a few months old. Cow's milk is never given to them.

A new element is now introduced into a London fog by the weird toots of the motor cabs, which have become so general since last winter.

The only artisan buried in Westminster Abbey, is George Graham, the instrument maker, who invented an improved clock work in the year 1700.

HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION.

Prof. McEwen Makes Peculiar Use of the Telephone in His Entertainment.

Though the last performance of Mr. McEwen, the hypnotist, in this city, it was not the least, both in point of merit and attendance, which was witnessed in the Victoria theatre last evening—at the outset the entertainer addressed a few remarks on the letter of "Tau," in yesterday's Colonist. Mr. McEwen was of opinion that the writer of the letter had not attended any of the performances, otherwise he would not have adopted the line of reasoning which he had. There was nothing in hypnotism opposed to the doctrine of Christ; on the contrary. The speaker is a profound believer himself in that doctrine, and holds to the truth of the statement that Christ was undoubtedly the Saviour of mankind. Christ's divine knowledge of mankind and man's mind it was which he used to such effect in his mission on earth; and he worked mainly by suggestion—by the faith which he caused others to have in his power to heal, to give sight, hearing, and even life when that was gone. As it is in the power of the individual to accept or reject the doctrine of Christ, and so reject salvation, so it is that no one can be hypnotized against his own will. There must be co-operation, as the hypnotist possesses no subtle power over the hypnotized, nor absolute control even temporarily; it is all based on the power of suggestion on the part of the hypnotist and the receptiveness and co-operation of the subject. The professor repeated the principles of the science of hypnotism as set forth in the Colonist article, which he paid the compliment of having been correctly and scientifically set out. "Tau" had shown considerable ignorance on the subject, when he quoted from a book fifteen years behind the times, and that book one by a doctor who necessarily was not a hypnotist. The word "miracle" had been made use of in the article in question; there was no such thing as a miracle, which is something supernatural; and in these days, unless a proposition is based on common sense and capable of being established by facts, it was not believed. On the whole, anyone attending these entertainments must admit that there is nothing in them which would be at variance with the thoughts and opinions of any believer in the Bible when the whole principle of hypnotism is thought out and applied to people's lives.

The programme last evening included a number of very laughable events, and one of considerable value to the science of medicine if the opportunity could be afforded when required. A subject was taken who allowed himself to go into the desired condition and Dr. Ernest Hall tested the eyes for the purpose of a supposed operation. This pronounced the eye entirely free from any sensitiveness, there being ample anasthesia for any operation. Among the amusing numbers was a baseball match with the theatre for a field, the players showing all the features of the game, including the inevitable assassination of the umpire. There were a balloon journey to Europe, a visit to a theatre in Calcutta and numerous other imaginary circumstances, all productive of one continual laugh on the part of the audience, and huge amusement by the innocent amusers when they were recalled to their normal senses by the professor. The most interesting case, however, was the placing in a cataleptic sleep of seven subjects. This was done by telephone from the Dominion hotel, with which the stage was connected. The professor, with a committee of four repaired to the hotel and called up the subjects separately. Dr. Ernest Hall held the 'phone to the subjects' ear, who in a few seconds would stiffen out and be laid away by the remainder of the committee left on the stage. In this sleep the seven men were when the professor returned. They were placed, feet and heads resting on trestles, the space between being vacant, and in this way they were piled across each other like so much crib work.

The week's entertainment has been productive of much instruction and amusement to theatre goers, who filled the Victoria nightly.

LABOR MEN IN CONFERENCE.

A Proposed Workingman's Weekly for Victoria—Platform for Consideration of Committee of Fifty.

The largest meeting that the local Trades and Labor Council have held in many a month was held yesterday evening, when among other communications to invite discussion was one from Dr. J. deC. Hathaway, formerly of New Zealand, who asked the council to endorse a proposition he and associates have in hand looking to the publication of a workingman's weekly paper in this city. The endorsation of the representative labor body was solicited in order that with it a more effectual appeal might be made for stock. As the subject appears one deserving of careful consideration it was arranged to deal with it in all its bearings at a special meeting to-morrow night.

The Chinese question was another topic inviting interesting and extended debate, the outcome of which was the adoption of a resolution to the effect that "in the opinion of this council the rapid encroachment of the Chinese in all branches of trade throughout the city is a great drawback to and against the best interests of Victoria; and further, that the attention of the Committee of Fifty be directed to this evil, and they be asked to take some decided action thereon; and further that the workingmen of the city of Victoria be asked to co-operate towards this end by refusing to patronize any or all firms who are in the habit of dealing, directly or indirectly, with Chinese, no matter what trade or business such firms may represent."

The municipal politics platform of the brother council of Vancouver come in for its full share of discussion, and a somewhat similar declaration of principles was agreed upon, for submission also to the Citizen's Committee, as follows:

1. The abolition of the property qualification for civic office.

2. The abolition of the contract system on public works.

3. Tax reform by lessening taxation on improvements and increasing it on land values.

4. Public ownership of electric street railways, electric lighting plants, and the advocating of an extension of the electric plant in this city so that private lights may be supplied, and the city thereby derive a direct revenue therefrom; also public ownership of gas and similar works.

The use of the union label on city printing and the police and firemen's clothing.

One of the newest flashlight discharges has a bowl mounted at the end of a hollow stem, with a lid to keep the powder in place, a match being slipped into the stem until the head is at the entrance of the bowl, when it is forced through a grated opening by a trigger in the stem.

THE SONS OF ENGLAND

Anniversary Banquet of the Two City Lodges at the Victoria Hotel.

The Brethren and Guests Honor the Tight Little Island Over the Sea.

The brethren in Victoria of that flourishing society, the Sons of England, held their twenty-fourth annual banquet at the Victoria hotel last night. There are two lodges in the city—"Alexandra" and "The Pride of the Island"—and with brotherly good will they joined together to celebrate in fraternal style the order's birthday. There were at least 125 guests present, for Englishmen are famous hands at a dinner now as well as in the old days that one reads about, when ruddy ale and big barons of beef were the principal ornaments of the banquet tables. Especially is this the case at Christmas time, with its plum puddings and other means of building up stout English bodies with the brawn and muscle for which they are famous.

Hon. E. G. Prior, M. P., made a splendid chairman, and the evening went along with jolly song and story, capital addresses and general good humor and enjoyment. The chairman, a typical Britisher, had on his right Hon. Abraham E. Smith, United States consul, whose presence happily illustrated the new union of feeling between the two great Anglo-Saxon nations. The dinner set out by the Victoria hotel was really very good, and the service prompt, so that the courses reached are hot and appetizing. A feature of the dinner were the big roasts of beef at the ends of the three long tables, to be carved by the vice-chairmen, while the music struck up "The Roast Beef of Old England," in honor of the national dish. It was city council meeting night, but dinner had not advanced far when Mayor Redfern put in an appearance and was given a seat of honor at the head table.

The dinner over, the chairman rose and made a few appropriate remarks preparatory to the toast list. They were six thousand miles away from Old England; hew was Old England getting on tonight? (Shouts of "All right.") Her men were just as good to-day as ever, and the same patriotic fires burn just as bright as ever. How had it been with Canada, too? ("All right.") In Canada we had a country of which any man might be proud—a country with free government and illimitable resources, populated by a resolute and determined people, with confidence in themselves and confidence in the future, and determined to hew out their own future. There was not a man here who did not want to see the Imperial idea expand. (Applause). With the city of Victoria times were prosperous, too, and why should they not be happy? He paid a compliment to one of the members present, Mr. Wolley, a man who could hit straight from the shoulder, and the writer of the poem, "The Sea Queen Wakes," a stirring poem that had been published from one end of the country to the other, and, he might say, all over the world.

"Her Majesty the Queen" was then proposed by the chairman, amid cheers and the singing of the National Anthem. Next came the toast of "The President of the United States," one that the chairman was sure every Englishman would drink with the greatest enthusiasm. (Cheers). In proposing this toast to the nation that had sprung from Great Britain, he referred to the war with Spain and the fact that the Americans appreciated the stand which Great Britain had taken in giving her moral support, which kept the other countries of Europe from interfering.

This toast was drunk standing, and there was a burst of very genuine applause as the United States consul rose to reply. It came to his heart, he said, to be so received by the Sons of England. He spoke of the numbers of Englishmen in the United States, and he was glad to meet the Sons of England, for there was no prouder name than a Son of England. He spoke of the growth of English constitutional history, the most fascinating history in the world. In literature, science and warfare England had always been to the fore. The war with the United States had been a blessing in disguise, and the very men who fought against her were sons of England. It was, he said, the lesson then learned that had helped Britain's Empire to spread till it stands where it is to-day. He paid a compliment to the English character, and spoke of how interwoven the ties are of Canada, Great Britain and the United States. In the past few months Great Britain had let the world know that if there was going to be a free fight the lion would be in it, and the stand the Empire then took had been appreciated in the United States. He made a humorous reference to Englishmen marrying American girls, and hoped that the union of the Sons of England and daughters of America might go on forever, and may their posterity inhabit the earth.

A song from Mr. Pilling paved the way for the next toast, "The Army, Navy and Volunteers." This was proposed by Mr. Clive Phillipps-Wolley, who, patting the United States consul on the back, said that as an Englishman he was proud of what "our little sons" had done. They had only been pitted against a little one, but they had knocked him out in one round. He made a comical reference to the Fashoda affair, and said that no praise from him was necessary for the British army. It was always ready and kept in condition by the little fights they were always engaged in. England's flag was the flag of the seas, and the incident of the Londonian a few days ago showed that the sailors had not deteriorated. The sailors who made that rescue were only merchant sailors, but they were typical Englishmen. He did not want to talk politics, but he hoped the sealing industry would not be taken away from British Columbia, as it was a school for sailors that he did not want to see disappear. "If you wish well of the navy, gentlemen," he said in conclusion, "pray that the school of Behring Sea may never be taken away."

Lieut.-Col. Gregory replied, saying the army and navy were next to the Bible among English-speaking people, and he was very proud of his own connection with the militia. He would be glad if the day of fighting did come, just to see the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes arrayed together in the cause of humanity, for he believed they never would be separated again as they had been formerly.

After a song by Mr. Ball came the toast of the evening,

"The Sons of England," proposed by Brother Beaven. This was the twenty-fourth anniversary of the order, and looking around he saw but six of the men who were with them when they started. The order was started in Canada, for the Scotch and Irish were getting all the offices, and the Englishmen thought it was about time to stop that sort of thing. (Laughter). He spoke of the benefits of the order, and humorously said that when the United States and Britain broke apart it was just as if a family had grown up and the father undertook to lick the eldest boy and found he was too big. (Laughter).

District Deputy Lee responded to the toast. He had been connected with the Sons of England for eight years, and he wanted to interest them in the order. They had between 14,000 and 15,000 members last year and added 2,100 members. They expended last year $22,000 in sick benefits and $20,000 in insurance; paid $15,000 in physicians' fees and over $10,000 giving respectable burials to members. In the year altogether they spent $70,000—a very respectable sum. He gave some idea of the benefits of the order, and he hoped that the future would be as it was in the past—one of progress—and that next year the membership would top the 20,000 mark.

Then came a song by Brother Lucas, a prelude to the toast,

"The Dominion Parliament and Local Legislature," proposed by Dr. Crompton, who made a comical allusion to the plebiscite as a move to deprive the poor man of his beer. However, he thought that this was simply playing at politics. He knew little of Dominion politics and less of provincial, for he really did not know who was premier. Some said Mr. Semlin, others Mr. Sword and others Mr. Joseph Martin, so he did not know what party to drink to. (Laughter).

Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken, M. P. P.-elect, in replying to the toast, paid a compliment to Lieut.-Col. Prior as a very capable representative of British Columbia in the Dominion parliament. While there were members of both parties no doubt present, they were all on doubt in favor of good, honest government ("If we can get it," said a voice), and as long as he was in the legislature he would try to get that for them. Touching on the joining of British Columbia with the Dominion, he said that it was to British Columbia that the credit of getting railway from ocean to ocean should be given, for his father and the Hon. Joseph Trutch went back to Ottawa, with the weight of the people of British Columbia behind them, to demand a railway, or British Columbia would not join confederation. He wanted to see the young men of British Columbia take their part in the country and help build up the Empire. He did not want to talk politics, but he wanted to see wonders brought into the legislature that would not retard the progress that the province had already made, but would help it along. He brought down the house when he pointed to Lieut-Col. Prior and said he hoped to see the day when that gentleman would be lieutenant-governor.

Brother Briggs sang a patriotic song, a very appropriate introduction to "The Daughters of England," proposed by Brother Charles Homes.

Brother Critchley replied for the Daughters, giving some idea of the good work the order was carrying on, and made a very witty speech, which provoked roars of laughter.

"Simon the Celleret" was sung in Mayor Redfern's best style.

Brother Jones proposed "Sister Societies," and Mr. Price, of the Sons of St. George, responded.

Lieut.Col. Gregory appeared as a singer of a comic song that made quite a hit, and the last toast, "The Mayor and Corporation," was proposed by the chairman and responded to by the mayor; and a recitation by the chairman and some volunteer songs closed the evening.

FREED FROM THE REEF

After Three Months on the Rocks the Boscowitz Is Brought to Port.

Raised From Her Precarious Position by Means of Empty Barrels.

The old reliable northern steamer Barbara Bascowitz, which was wrecked on High Water rock near Kitkahtla, three months ago, is in port. She came in yesterday at noon in tow of the steamer Thistle, to the astonishment of all on the water front, and particularly to the surprise of Capt. J. D. Warren, who was agent at the time she was wrecked, on September 16 last, and commanded her for many years during the pioneer days of steamboating on the Coast. There was a general exodus of curious ones to the rice mills wharf when she was made fast. No one knew that she had been even floated, and many had thought that raising her was an impossibility. The task certainly presented many obstacles, but was accomplished by the application of a simple method, namely, the filling of the hold with empty barrels and allowing the ship to float herself at high water. This was Capt. Wallace Langley's idea and worked so well that the very first day the steamer yielded to the buoyancy thus created, and was towed to a smooth beach near by, patched up and brought to Victoria. It was on December 1 that the vessel cleared the rocks, and her presence in port tells the story clearly of one of the finest wrecking undertakings on record this year, for which the credit is due to Capt. Langley. The Boscowitz is badly disfigured, her upper works being carried away, nothing but the stumps of the masts being left, and over one of these floats proudly a big Union Jack. Her hull, however, is in no way impaired as to staunchness, though several holes have been made in her bottom. The Boscowitz is one of those vessels that are made to last, being as strong as wood, iron and copper could make her; in fact she is a marvel as to strength and workmanship. It was only last year that the Boscowitz was fitted up with new machinery and boilers, and those vital parts being put into the boat with the same care that was manifested in the building of her hull, still retain their position, and only require a little cleaning to put them in first-class running order. The Boscowitz is, therefore, a nice pick-up. Steam was up yesterday in her main boiler, and with comparatively small expense the steamer can be put in running order again. The steamer Thistle, Capt. Bisset, was gone from port just 18 days. She had made a trip previously, but this proved unsuccessful. This time Capt. Langley superintended the work personally, accompanied by Mr. T.

$500.00 will purchase farm of 176 acres, situated on the beach at Big Qualicum; house, barn and stabling on the place; about fifteen acres partly improved; over half the place good bottom land; wagon road from Nanaimo to Comox runs through farm. For further particulars apply to D. A. McMillan, Parksville.

MINING IS MADE EASY.

Atlin's Climate Involves No Hardship and Fields are Handy to Civilization.

An Ontario Miner Speaks With Admiration of the Golden Prospects He Found.

While this winter on White pass and from there to the coast is said to be one of the most severe in the history of the North, the people of the Atlin district, in Northern British Columbia, are reported to be enjoying weather almost as mild as that of Victoria. Arthur De Soucy, tentmaker for the White Pass & Yukon Railway Company, who returned from Skagway on Sunday on the City of Topeka, says there is from five to six feet of snow on the level at the summit of the pass, and that cold weather has been the rule there for the last month, although the last few days have been slightly warmer. But the nearer Lake Atlin is approached, he says, the warmer becomes the weather. There is little snow in that water and little snow has fallen. Shallow lake is frozen, but Tagish lake is not, there being only occasional scum ice found there. The same mild conditions obtain on Lake Bennett and the other upper Yukon lakes.

AN ONTARIO MAN'S LUCK.

J. E. Moran has returned from the North after a stay of three and a half months with profitable results of his labors as prospector and miner. Mr. Moran went to the Atlin lake district early last August from his home in Ontario, and succeeded in locating claims on Otter creek, Wright creek, McKee creek and O'Donnell river. He is enthusiastic over the coming prospects of that country and says:

"I think that next year this will be the greatest mining camp of the century. I have no doubt of the future of that country. Its great wealth has not yet been discovered. The prospects everywhere make good this assertion. Pine and Spruce creeks are the only ones that have been worked to any extent; a few others have only been prospected, and the work done on them this winter and everybody has practically gone out, except, perhaps, some 300 who are wintering in the several camps.

"That country differs materially from the Klondike, in that the bedrock of the creeks is not frozen, nor near the surface, where on the Klondike, I understand, it to be all the way from ten to twelve feet. Burning to bedrock in the Atlin district is unknown, and I believe will not have to be resorted to. Most of the work done in that district this last fall was on benches. The work, of course, is of the crudest order, the men having to pack their pay dirt on their backs down to the creeks, where they wash it in sluice boxes. Some rich results were obtained in this manner. Two men, I can say from my own personal knowledge, washed out on an average one pound of gold a day.

"That district is larger in extent than people have any idea of, and much of it has not even been prospected. There is plenty of room for an unlimited number of people, and only one-half of the claims already staked were worked, there would be room for over 30,000 men.

"One of the advantages of that country is that it is easily accessible, being only about eighty miles from the terminal of the White Pass railroad, so that at the very longest tour and a half day's sail that is required to get from Skagway to Atlin City. The railroad is a great convenience to the Atlin district, and is a splendid piece of engineering work that must be seen to be appreciated. I guess it is safe to say that it is the most solid roadbed of any roadbed in the world. In fact, it could not be more so, from the fact that the bed is on solid rock all the way down to Skagway.

"I left the Atlin district November 20 and there was still considerable open weather. There had been some cold snaps, the thermometer registering down to twenty degrees below zero. There was also some six to twelve inches of snow in the woods and about two feet on the higher ranges and on some of the creeks. Atlin lake was not frozen over when I left, but Taku arm was closed.

"Another great advantage the Atlin district possesses over the Klondike, aside from that of distance, is the easy grade of the trail from Log Cabin to Atlin City. The trail follows a beautiful valley down to the lakes and follows a series of lakes to Atlin City."

Mr. Moran has several samples of the gold taken from the Lake Atlin district. Samples from Wright river assayed $16 and that from Pine creek $18 to the ounce. The gold from Pine and Spruce creeks is fine, while that from Otter and Wright creeks is coarse, but not so rich.

QUEER DOINGS IN ALBERNI.

Ballot Boxes for Coming Election Turned Over to an Alien—The Government's Spies.

Evidence accumulates that the government realize that they have few friends in Alberni. Simultaneously with the announcement in the local organ that a gang of spies are to the dispatched to the constituency, to make or procure evidence to upset the election of the people's choice, comes a telegram from Alberni, which says: "The ballot boxes for the coming election have been placed in charge of an American citizen for transport to the various polling stations. From appearances the present government do not think there are any British subjects resident in Alberni trustworthy enough for this service."

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Militia Regulations Nearly Ready—Holidays Proclaimed—Medals From Omaha.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Dec. 13.—A new edition of the Regulations and Orders for the Militia, revised fully, will probably be issued to the force next month. Col. Aylmer, A.-G., and Major Rivers have been at work on it for some time and have made excellent progress. The current issue was promulgated in 1887, and the force have been clamoring for a revision. Copies of the new edition of the Queen's Regulations have just been received.

The Soo canal was closed for the season last Saturday. Total lockages have been 2,520; and of vessels passed through, 3,712, a decrease in lockages of 456 and in vessels of 664. The vessel tonnage shows a falling off of over a million.

The government has received the medals and diplomas for Canadian exhibits at the Omaha exposition.

An order-in-council will be passed declaring December 26 and January 2 public holidays.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

A CORRECTION.

Sir: Permit me to make the following correction: The late Hon. Augustus F. Pemberton was commissioner of police in 1858, his nephew, J. D. Pemberton, being the then surveyor-general. Yours obediently,

EDWARD CRIDGE.

ST. CHARLES STREET.

Sir: The discussion on the matter of St. Charles street, which was before the city council last evening, shows how little knowledge Ald. Phillips has of the residents and traffic of St. Charles street and its neighborhood. There are about twenty families living around here, not to say anything of the many families that come here in the summer months. Then St. Charles street is the main street from Fort street car line to the cemetery, and is used more than any other street in the neighborhood. It is strange that an alderman should ask for $750 to spend on the sea beach near the cemetery and object to $150 being spent to make the main street leading to the cemetery decent.

RESIDENT.

THE B. C. AND PACIFIC NAVIGATION COMPANY.

Sir: It appears that considerable interest has been taken by the merchants and citizens of Victoria in the direct 'Frisco scheme. This is most gratifying, especially as it has been fully made known that Vancouver is our home port. If this scheme is supported as we are led to believe, the line may be looked upon as an accomplished fact; but in order that it may be perfectly plain to all concerned in the extension and welfare of the coast cities, and the immense country at the back of them, it may be stated that it is proposed to put on three fast steamers between Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo direct, and two for the Northern trade. These boats would be about a thousand tons net, luxuriously fitted for the saloon passengers and persons who have not any occasion necessarily to make a trip may do so for pleasure. The second-class would be equal to anything offered by the best Atlantic boats. The freight handling facilities would be both convenient and spacious. The speed of the boats would be no less than any others, and would be worked upon the latest and most economical principles consistent with the efficiency of the service.

It is ultimately intended to extend the line to Central America, and thus put British Columbia ports in direct connection with the markets of that country. It is the experience of our good friend Captain John Irving, who has extended towards us the hand of fellowship at the mouth of the Yukon, as well as here; it is a fact, the experience of shipping men that when a proper and efficient line of steamers has been established, that trade will increase and freights command fair rates. It is perhaps, however, not generally appreciated what the establishment of such a line means. It means the increase of traffic and commerce; the coming and going of hundreds of people, who are constantly putting their hands into their pockets and spending money at every port an hour's stay may happen to, therefore an increase of banking and all the thousand and one other issues connected with a seaport. The scheme means the establishment of a steamship line, pure and simple, so that the merchants may do their trade, without fear. They would not have to sent their goods by competitors in their own trade. The ports of British Columbia are at the present time in a most humiliating position. At the beginning of this year we had the monopoly of the trade to a fairly reasonable extent, but now there are only two boats upon the route North, the Danube and Cutch. This is due to the suspension of the customs laws. Any goods carried on the C. P. R. Co. from, say Boston, in the U. S., to San Francisco, must go in American vessels; whereas goods going from one part of British North America to another, and carried over the railway in bond in Alaska also go in American vessels. It is the result of such a short sighted policy that the merchants of the Sound ports have the control of the trade of the Northwest Territories.

It is absolutely imperative that the Dominion and Provincial governments should subsidize the line. It is doubtless fair to assume that severe competition would be met with. It is necessary that the proposed line should be sufficiently supported, in order that competition with American companies could be energetically fought out. It is further reasonable to expect that the people of San Francisco would support their own line to the utmost. That they would pile up all charges they could against any competing company by way of wharfage and port due. The pilot dues are in themselves a considerable item. The last time we were in San Francisco the pilotage dues were $255. It may therefore reasonably be expected that the outgoings for such expenses would amount to at least nearly a thousand dollars per week; therefore the amount granted should be sufficient to defray these charges.

The speed of the proposed boats would be at least fourteen knots. The distance from Victoria to San Francisco is 750 miles; therefore the run would be made in two days and five hours.

It appears to me that the interests of the merchants of Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo are identical. If they supported British shipping they would be supporting themselves. British ships would have their home ports in the province. Our home port, as before stated, would be Vancouver, but on each trip we would come right into the harbor at Victoria, and the ships' custom would be divided between the merchants of the three cities—Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo—pro rata to the amount of business done. The crews would be British. It must be understood by the word "British" that it is used in the very broadest sense. It would include Australians as well as Canadians. Their families would reside in these cities. It is needless to dwell upon the result of such facts which go to build up a city. The repairs would be done here. As a matter of fact you have already an instance of the manner in which money would be expended. Within the last few weeks we have expended $50,000 in labor in the city of Victoria in connection with one boat. It is true that this is exceptional in so short a period. But it is needless to say that if there were more boats there would be more expense.

I think sufficient has been said to give a fair indication of what we propose to do, but we cannot ask our friends for a capital of $1,000,000 unless we have the support financially of the Dominion and Provincial governments.

FRANK RICHARDS.

Victoria, Dec. 13, 1898.

Ask your grocer for Windsor Salt
For Table and Dairy. Purest and Best

GENERAL GARCIA DEAD.

Cuban Warrior Succumbs to Exposure in Washington on His Peaceful Mission.

For Thirty Years Head of Movement to Throw Off Spanish Yoke.

Washington, Dec. 11.—General Galixto Garcia, the distinguished Cuban warrior and leader, and the head of the commission elected by the Cuban assembly to visit this country, died here this morning shortly after 10 o'clock at the Raleigh, the commission's headquarters.

The sudden change from the warm climate of Cuba with the hardships he had there endured, to the wintry weather of New York and Washington, is responsible for the pneumonia which resulted in his demise. He contracted a slight cold in New York, which did not assume an alarming stage until the early part of last week. On Tuesday night Gen. Garcia, in company with other members of the commission, attended a dinner given in his honor by Gen. Miles, and it was the resulting exposure that culminated in his death. During the twelve hours or more preceding dissolution Gen. Garcia was unconscious most of the time. At intervals he recognized one or more of those about him. In his dying moments, as all through his busy and active life, his thoughts were for his beloved country and its people, and among his last words were irrational mutterings in which he gave orders to his son, who is on his staff, for the battle which he supposed was to occur to-morrow and in which he held there were only 400 Spaniards to combat. Just before he died he embraced his son.

Rev. Father Magee, of St. Patrick's church, was called in during the day and was with Gen. Garcia until the end, administering the last rites of the Catholic church.

Other members of the commission and Mr. Rubens, their counsel in this country, were also in the bed chamber when the end came.

The remains were immediately prepared for burial and were placed in a bier in the room in which he died. A large Cuban flag served as a covering and the head rested on one of smalled dimensions. The face and bust were left exposed to public view.

By direction of Maj.-Gen. Miles a detachment of soldiers from Battery E, Eeventh artillery, under command of Lieut. Cox, was detailed as a body guard for the remains.

As soon as the death became known a number of visitors, including many public men, came to the hotel to express their condolences. President McKinley manifested his sympathy by sending a suitably worded letter, and vice-president his card. Gen. Garcia left a large family, only one of whom, Justo, just of age, and captain on his staff, was with him when he died. His widow and Mercedes, a daughter seventeen years of age, are at Thomasville, Ga., where the girl is quite ill; Mario a son nineteen years old, is with his mother at Thomasville, and Col. Carlos Garcia, another son, is in Cuba. A daughter, Leonora, who married an American, is now living in Paris. Gen. Garcia's mother is still alive and resides in Havana.

Gen. Garcia, whose name will be ever linked with those of other patriots who have fought against unequal odds for the freedom of Cuba, has had a most active and varied life, much of which has been spent in fighting for the cause of Cuban liberty. He was a man of culture and refinement, of splendid education and came from a distinguished family of Jaiquani, of Santiago de Cuba province. He was born October 14, 1839, and was educated in Havana and in Spain. In 1864 he was married to Isabel Velez.

Garcia was the original conspirator in the uprising of the Cubans against Spain in 1868 and in that war under Gomez, he attained the rank of a brigadier-general. In October, 1868, he captured the towns Jaiquani and Birel and recruited many hundreds of patriots. He had command of the eastern departments during that revolution and won many notable victories, including those at Melonez and Aurea. While the revolution was in a critical stage in the other provinces and its outcome was uncertain he maintained it with vigor in the territory under his command. In 1875 while reconnoitering with his escort he was surrounded by 2,000 Spaniards. Preferring death to capture and death at the hands of his enemies he attempted suicide by placing his revolver under his chin and firing. The bullet came out between his eyebrows, but was saved finally by Spanish surgeons who possibly had owed their own lives to his mercy. The Spaniards believing he was to die, gave him a pardon. The hole which the bullet made when it entered the chin and came out between the eyebrows was always visible and showed plainly in the calmness of death.

For his participation in the revolutionary movement Gen. Garcia was sent to Spain, where for four years he was confined in castles and fortresses, remaining to see the peace of San Juan. He then returned to the United States, and together with Jose Marti attempted another revolution. He landed in Cuba with a few followers, but the country was tired of war and wanted to try the home rule offered by Spain. He capitulated to the Spanish forces in order to save his few remaining followers, and was again banished to Spain in 1880, where he remained under surveillance until 1895, when the last revolution broke out in Cuba. Then he escaped to France, and later to New York. His movements from that time and his active participation in the war are familiar to many newspaper readers.

After coming to this country he endeavored to get an expedition to the island of Cuba in the steamer Hawkins, but this met shipwreck in a storm and the cargo was lost. Gen. Garcia was the last man to leave the vessel. Undaunted by his failure Garcia made another attempt to ship stores for the insurgents, this time on the ship Bermuda. He was intercepted, however, by the United States authorities and was arrested on the charge of filibustering, but was released on $3,000 bail. He forfeited this bail, and in a final attempt landed on the eastern coast of the island with one of the largest expeditions that ever landed in Cuba. After landing he succeeded Gen. Antonio Maceo in command of the troops of the eastern department, holding the rank of major-general.

Gen. Garcia marched west with his men. At Maceo's death Garcia was elected lieutenant-general of the army, which position he held to the close of the war. During this command he assaulted and took by siege Tunas, Guisa and Guiamore, and cleared the interior of Spanish troops. After the declaration of war between the United States and Spain, Gen. Miles, commanding the American army, sent his representative to Gen. Garcia, and subsequently the American and Cuban generals co-operated in their movement against Santiago. All the officers who participated in the active work around Santiago bear testimony to the great aid, assistance and loyalty manifested by Gen. Garcia during the campaign.

When the Cuban assembly met at the close of the war Gen. Garcia was one of the principal advisers and was elected chairman of the commission directed to come to the United States and confer with the authorities here with reference to the work in hand.

A Minnesota woman has invented a washboiler, having a wire basket carried by a flanged ring, which rests on the top of the boiler, the basket being inserted before the clothes are put in and lifted out when the clothes have boiled sufficiently, bringing all the garments with it.—Chicago News.

Boston, Dec. 10.—The state is preparing to send a small patrol steamer along the shore of Cape Cod in order to pick up bodies of the steamer Portland victims which have been seen by incoming vessels.