

Belated Steamships

Success of Gales Responsible For Delay of Olympia and the Empress.

Prominent Passengers Who Arrived From Far East on Latter Liner.

When at 9 o'clock yesterday morning the delayed steamships Empress of China and Olympia, of the C. P. R. and N. P. lines respectively, put in an appearance in the Straits almost together, as reported by the telegraph operator at Carmanah, the conclusion was arrived at that both encountered tempestuous weather on this coast. The Olympia was a week overdue being full 20 days out from Yokohama, and the Empress, usually as prompt almost as a railway train, was a day behind time. Both looked like two mighty racers when they arrived at William Head; their shiny hulls gleamed with the sun and their smokestacks stood out on either side of the very rims of their funnels. "I have eaten the first meal in comfort at noon to-day since leaving Yokohama," said one of the passengers on the Empress, who, reaching quarantine, "We have had terrible weather all through the voyage without the least injury to the vessel."

And what can be said of the Empress's last voyage also applies to the passage of the Olympia, which ship Captain Truebridge has commanded. She left Yokohama on the 22nd of November with a full cargo of Japanese merchandise and three passengers, and, according to Purser Lockwood's report, "experienced variable winds and moderate seas until the 29th, in lat. 43.22 N. and 156.22 E., when a heavy S. E. gale was encountered. It veered around to W.N.W. and from the latter quarter blew with hurricane force in squalls, accompanied by blinding rain. The barometer fell to 29 deg. on the 27th, in lat. 43.50 N. and 161.47 E., and the gale was at its height with a very high and dangerous confused sea from the south and east, and the 28th the weather moderated. On the 3rd of December the wind increased to a gale, and continued blowing from the east, stormy weather and high seas ahead being met with until the 7th, when it blew a fierce gale from E.S.E., which was followed by a very high and dangerous sea. On the 8th the weather moderated. On the 9th strong easterly winds were experienced, increasing to a gale, the wind veering to the south, and blew hard to the south and west on the 10th and 11th E.S.E. gale, rough head sea and thick dirty weather. On the 12th at 6 a.m. Cape Beale light was sighted, and a strong easterly wind with thick, dirty weather."

The Olympia brought no Asiatic passengers, and therefore was not delayed long in quarantine. She brought a good freight for this city, after discharging which she proceeded to the Sound. She did not touch through from Hongkong, as did the Empress of China, which had an encounter with the big typhoon of last month as she lay in port. Reference to this disastrous visitation of the storm King among the Chinese coast is already being published telegraphically, and a detailed account of the work of destruction is given elsewhere in this paper to-day. The ship herself sustained no damage, but one of the main masts was lost while the typhoon raged.

The Empress brings a remarkably small number of passengers. The saloon list included Capt. K. E. Haynes, a South African officer of war service, who is leaving for the Sound, and Robert's command, and is now on his return to England from a tour of the Orient, and Commander Thos. W. Kemp, R. N., of H. M. S. Aurora, now on the China station. He is also destined for England, but in varying order of the business of this city and its surrounding was not desirous of proceeding thither before first spending a few days here. He does not regard the Boxer troubles as very serious now, beyond the matter of indemnity to be settled between the nations. As to Russia coveting the Chinese province of Manchuria, he thinks the Caesar's wants in this respect are not likely to be obtained, but they will be secured without any opposition from England. The allies are at present in such a position, he says, as to crush any hostile force and danger from a fresh outbreak, such as has been predicted, but which he believes altogether unlikely, and need therefore not cause alarm.

On the 13th of December another passenger on the China, who perhaps be remembered by a number of Victorians as the third officer of the tramp steamer West Indian, of which Capt. Scott, now in Vancouver, had charge. He comes now from Manila, after filling an important contract for the United States navy, and is now going to Tacoma, where his family reside. The contract consisted of the delivery of some 55 launches at the Philippine Islands from Hongkong. There were 72 of these craft in all, says Capt. Raymond, and average from 40 to 50 feet. With the use of these it is supposed that the coasts of the islands can be easily and efficaciously patrolled. In his last trip to the island Capt. Raymond was caught out in the typhoon which wrought such great destruction at Hongkong. The United States man-of-war Brooklyn, he states, stood by him for 12 hours in the storm. There were thirty-two saloon passengers on the Empress as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Ashworth, Mr. and Mrs. Bilbrough, Rev. F. A. Christopherson, Mrs. Christopherson and child, Mr. Frank F. Davis, Mr. F. W. Franks, Capt. J. Galsford, Mrs. Wm. Shawing, Walter Klypen and Herbert Bowstick. The witnesses are Mrs. Sing Chang Sing, Mrs. Lin Hing and Jay Kan Gee.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 10.—The official estimates for this year's winter and spring crops in 64 departments of European Russia, are as follows: Wheat, 658,800,000 pounds; rye, 1,410,700,000 pounds, and oats, 721,000,000 pounds.

Score, Hcp. Result. 81 8 81 100 17 83 86 8 86 88 8 88 95 7 93 100 12 88 121 8 113 P. Luxton, C. J. returned no score.

Score, Hcp. Result. 110 25 89 114 15 89 106 4 102 Person returned no score.

Score, Hcp. Result. 70 28 42 61 32 49 50 8 50 65 12 53 66 14 53 66 20 56 69 10 59 81 22 50 82 20 59 76 14 62 88 20 68 85 16 69 137 128 100 Person returned no score.

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THE SCHOOL BOARD. Free Supplies For the Children Under Consideration.

The school board held a brief session last evening, all the members being present, with the exception of Mrs. Wm. Grant.

An invitation was read from the pupils of the High school, asking the board to attend an At Home in the Pemberton gymnasium on the 20th. Received and filed.

An application from Miss Laura Tingley for a position on the teaching staff was also read.

The superintendent submitted the following report:

Trustees of Victoria Public Schools: Ladies and Gentlemen—Permit me to make the following recommendations:

1. That children of the first and second primary classes who live in the North ward division of the city school district west of the middle line of Douglas street, be required to attend the Rock Bay school.

2. That the middle line of Pandora street, from Quadra street to Chambers street, be hereafter the southern limit of the Spring Ridge division, instead of Frederick and Putnam streets, in order that a better distribution of the primary children of the Spring Ridge and Central schools may be effected.

3. That the stationary supplies, hitherto bought by the teachers, with money collected from the pupils be hereafter provided by the board. If this is done, a good deal of inconvenience to teachers and parents will be avoided, and a considerable saving in the cost of these supplies will be effected.

F. H. EATON.

The report passed with little discussion, excepting the last clause, Trustees Belyea and McCandless did not consider the board justified in incurring an additional expense of \$500 for providing free books for the children.

Trustee Drury entered a vigorous protest against the exclusive use of exercise books instead of slates, especially in the lower grades. This involved a serious expense to parents.

Trustee Brown heartily supported the clause. The present system of exacting a fee from the children caused humiliation to the poorer children, who could not afford to pay for their supplies.

The last clause was laid on the table. The chairman being obliged to leave at this point, the chair was taken by Trustee Belyea.

The superintendent reported that the decision of the board, not to allow a collection for the poor in the schools for the same reasons as were outlined by Trustee Brown, in speaking to the last clause of the superintendent's report.

The superintendent reported that the schools would close on the 21st. The trustees agreed to distribute themselves on that date as follows: Victoria West, Mrs. Wm. Grant; North Ward and Hillside, Mrs. Gordon Grant; Central School, Mr. Drury; North Ward and Hillside, Mr. McCandless; South Park and Spring Ridge, Mr. Brown; Kingston Street, South Park and Central, Mr. Belyea.

The superintendent recommended the publication of the school report in June instead of in December. The matter was laid over.

Trustee Belyea submitted a resolution empowering the buildings and grounds committee to proceed with the filling up of the Rock Bay school. Carried.

He also submitted a resolution amending the regulation so as to limit the maximum salary of teachers of the senior grade to \$500, excepting teaching holding first A or academic class certificates.

He said that a high standard of education was necessary for a high grade of teachers, and he proposed to discriminate between these teachers. Some of the trustees feared that this would work to the injury of the principals, and the motion was laid on the table.

The chairman drew attention to the fact that although the department had issued new regulations, and had been memorialized on the matter, they had given government in the schools, and had given Vancouver no standing whatever. He didn't know why this was the case.

Trustee McCandless said as long as he was on the board he would oppose any government in the schools. He regretted the superintendent had not received recognition.

Trustee McCandless moved that a notice be inserted in the daily newspapers to the effect that children being beyond the city limits should not be admitted to the city schools, excepting by special permission, after the present school term, and that a copy of the resolution be sent by registered letter to the department.

The board will meet again on the last Thursday in December.

CHINESE WOMAN'S SUICIDE. Wife of Lee Chung, Who is Away, Took Optium With Fatal Results.

About 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, a Chinese woman, the wife of a Chinaman named Lee Chung, who is at present on the Mainland, committed suicide by taking a heavy dose of opium in her apartment over the tailor shop of Kam Cheong, on Comorant street.

It appears that between three and four o'clock some relatives of Mong Kow, who resides in the same building, noticed the absence of the woman, and knocked at her door. She called out that she "was not up." After a while they heard her again call out asking for a cup of tea. Their suspicions being aroused, they endeavored to open the door, but it was barred. Finally they succeeded in forcing it open, and saw the unfortunate woman on the bed in the throes of death from opium poisoning. Medical assistance was at once obtained, but all efforts to resuscitate her were ineffectual.

She had evidently committed the rash deed with the greatest deliberation, having arrayed herself in gala costume and fastened her attire as though in contemplation of attending a fête. It is probable that she became dejected over the absence of her husband, who is working on the Fraser, which caused her to take the fatal step. She had written to him frequently to return, but this he refused to do, and his determination to remain away played her apparently into despair. An inquest is being held this afternoon.

The jury for the inquest are as follows: John Worman, Jas. Painter, Scott Miller, Wm. Shawing, Walter Klypen and Herbert Bowstick. The witnesses are Mrs. Sing Chang Sing, Mrs. Lin Hing and Jay Kan Gee.

Prosperous Company

Gratifying Reports at Meeting of the Arctic Slope Hydraulic Company.

A Dividend of Fifty Per Cent. Already in Sight—Officers Elected.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Arctic Slope Hydraulic Mining Company, Ltd., was held at the head offices of the company in the board of trade building on Monday, December 10th, at 3 p.m.

Hon. F. Peters, president, took the chair, and D. Fraser acted as secretary to the meeting.

Mr. Peters submitted the following financial statement and report, and explained all the transactions with the Omineca Prospecting & Development Company, the Omineca Consolidated, the Celestia General Mining Association and the Omineca Syndicate, which resulted in the formation of the present company, with its capital of 1,000,000 shares, fifty per cent. of which goes to the other companies for the purchase of the properties and to the promoters, and the remaining 500,000 shares to the treasury. He drew attention to the shareholdings to the fact that slightly over 200,000 shares of the treasury stock had already been sold, and it had been decided to make another issue of 200,000 shares.

He also explained that it was decided to make all the treasury shares already issued and the 200,000 shares now offered preferential shares, and he was assisted by Capt. Black and M. W. Lovelidge that the directors were safe in expecting to be in a position to declare a dividend of fifty per cent. on the paid up capital of the company next season, and also upon the capital of the Omineca Consolidated paid up in cash to the company.

In fact the dividend was practically in sight; had it not been for a severe frost on the night of the 30th September sufficient gold would have been taken out to pay off the current liabilities. As an evidence of the sincerity of Messrs. Black and Lovelidge in their statements they were taking shares in the company for as much of their wages as they could.

The chairman thanked Messrs. Black and Lovelidge to give an account of the work done at the mine during the past season. This was done by means of several enlarged photographs, showing the work in active operation. Several practical questions were asked by Messrs. Williams, J. Griffiths and others, all of which were answered satisfactorily by Messrs. Black and Lovelidge. Many of the shareholders expressed themselves as well pleased with the explanations.

The chairman then moved, seconded by Hon. T. R. McInnes, that the report be adopted. Carried.

The resolution adopted at the joint meeting of the representatives of the several companies interested in the Sound, to the effect that the preferential shares were issued was read to the meeting.

It was then moved by Capt. C. E. Clarke, seconded by Hon. T. R. McInnes, that this resolution be approved by the shareholders. Carried.

Hon. T. R. McInnes addressed the meeting on the subject of the mining laws of the province, pointing out several particulars which they should be amended, and urging those present to use their influence with the government to have these amendments carried into effect.

The chairman then read the names of the directors, and stated that it was the duty of the directors to meet on the 15th of the coming year.

Moved by Angus McKeon, seconded by Capt. Black, that the secretary cast a ballot for the old board, and the name of G. G. Hinton be carried.

The general statement to November 30th was as follows:

Table with columns: Expenditures, Receipts, and various financial items like Wages Account, Freight and Transportation, Plant and Material, Supplies, Provincial Government, Omineca Consolidated, Manson Creek Claims, Interest and Exchange, Incorporation Charges, Printing, Telegrams, Sundry Accounts, Treasury Shares sold, Gold account, Liabilities other than Debentures, Debentures guaranteed, For Omineca Consolidated, 1901, Sundry accounts.

Receipts. Treasury Shares sold, \$18,850 00. Gold account, 8,835 82. Liabilities other than Debentures, 13,280 33. Debentures guaranteed, 1,000 00. For Omineca Consolidated, 1,000 00. 1901, 6,750 00. Sundry accounts, 824 47. Total, \$42,740 12.

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STATION TAKEN OVER. Rear-Admiral Bickford Formally Assumes Charge of His New Command.

Rear-Admiral Bickford, C. M. G., and party, arrived from England on the Charmer last evening, and this morning formally assumed charge of his new command as officer in command of the Pacific squadron. The regulation number of guns were fired in honor of the event at 8 o'clock this morning.



REAR-ADMIRAL BICKFORD.

Suitable arrangements were made aboard the flagship, and the distinguished party were tendered a warm and hearty welcome. They were met at the C. E. N. wharf on arrival last evening by several of the naval officers, and escorted to the Druard hotel. Accompanying Rear-Admiral Bickford are Flag Capt. Keppel, Mr. R. Clutton Baker, secretary, Flag Lieut. G. V. Knox, and Messrs. M. R. Hodder and H. W. Woodward, assistant paymasters. The party has been three weeks in coming from the Old Country, and their trip was not altogether of the pleasantest. They voyaged across the Atlantic on the Allain liner Parisian, and experienced a series of delays through mishaps to the machinery of the big liner.

Rear-Admiral Bickford has been on this coast before, having been a guest of Lord Dufferin's party during its memorable trip to the Pacific coast, which it will be remembered was extended to Alaskan points. A sketch of Admiral Bickford's career has already been published in the Times.

WORK OF TYPHOON. Beach at Hongkong Presented an Awful Scene After Disastrous Wind.

Oriental advices received by the R. M. S. Empress of China contain particulars of the damage done at Hongkong by the big typhoon on the 10th of last month, in which over 2,500 people lost their lives, the British man-of-war Sandpiper was swamped and an immense amount of damage done to shipping and to property. After the typhoon the beach was strewn with wreckage of all kinds and dead bodies were found in heaps on the sands.

Among the vessels which suffered was the American ship Benjamin Sewell, well known in these waters. She dragged her anchors and went ashore, but various companies interested in the vessel to the basin or wharf. She is leaking, however, and will have to be doctored. It is estimated that in all 77 steam launches were lost in the typhoon, which residents of Hongkong describe as the worst that city has felt since 1874.

During one of the fatal gusts of wind the ponderous dredge Canton River capsized. In describing the incident a Hongkong correspondent says: "It must have been very shortly after the dredger had fallen a prey to the elements and as the tide was out, the dredge was carried forward by the wind and the Tamar oblong some of the Canton River's crew clinging to the bottom of the vessel, which then resembled a cigar shaped craft. H. M. S. Astraea's lookout also reported the sight of the struggling steamer, and boats from her vessels with volunteer crews put off to the rescue. It was at the greatest risk that the Tamar's whaler, with her crew of fifty under Queen's Harbor Master Butler, attending at every moment to meet with a similar fate to those they were about to save, forced their way through the breakers. However, both boats reached the upturned vessel in time, and together saved twelve, while a number of others were justly swimming for the most recent design and constructed upon the latest known scientific principles of dredging either in sea or river water."

Some conception of the force of the tempest can also be gained from the fact that in Hongkong strong iron telegraph poles were bent by the force of the wind to an angle of 35 degrees, and iron lamp-posts had everywhere assumed the most grotesque shapes. Thousands of houses and go-downs suffered severely, hundreds being completely destroyed.

JOINT CHINA NOTE. Powers Agree to Proposal Submitted by Count von Buelow.

(Associated Press.) London, Dec. 12.—The negotiations of the powers in regard to the joint China note were concluded satisfactorily yesterday, all agreeing to the conditions identically as outlined by Count von Buelow, the Imperial Chancellor of Germany, on November 19th, with the exception of the introductory clause, saying the demands are irrevocable, which is eliminated.

PNEUMONIA PREVENTED. Among the tens of thousands who have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for colds and influenza during the past few years, to our knowledge, not a single case has resulted in pneumonia. Thos. Whitfield & Co., 204 Washburn avenue, Chicago, one of the most prominent retail druggists in that city, in speaking of this, says: "We recommend Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for influenza in many cases, as it not only gives prompt and complete recovery, but also counteracts any tendency of a gripe to result in pneumonia." For sale by Henderson Bros., Wholesale Agents.

By the aid of modern machinery one man can cut 10,000 watch wheels in a day.

Old Albion's Lusty Sons

Consumers of Roast Beef Make Merry About Their Hospitable Board.

Eloquent Speeches Delivered by Guests and Others—List of Those Present.

The twenty-sixth annual banquet of the V. V. & E., which was held last night at the Dawson hotel, was quite in keeping with the record established by the function in past years. An excellent spread had been provided by Proprietor Jensen, and the dining-room had also received careful attention in the way of decorations, which enhanced its beauty immeasurably. The handsome oil painting of the Queen, won in competition by Pride of the Island Lodge some time ago, occupied the place of honor at the head of the room, while around her were grouped pictures of the general and the picture of the Queen, Princesses and other potted flowers, suggestive of the mother isle, were also employed in the table decorations.

The chair was occupied by Col. Esior, M. P., who was supported on his right by Hon. Abraham Smith, District Deputy Brakes, Rev. Dr. Wilson, P.D., D. A. Lee, and Ptes. Beech, Stewart and Neill, of the first contingent. On the chairman's left were seated Mayor Hayward, Col. Gregory, Dr. Ernest Hill, Dr. H. H. Hill, C. P. D. Bull, Letters were read from Hon. J. H. Turner, Capt. Fleet, R.N., Sergt. Northcott, and Ptes. O'Dell, Finch-Smiles and Gamble, of the first contingent, expressing regret that they were unable to accept the invitation of the society to be present.

Seated around the board also were the following: Arthur G. Crane, W. Jones, Thomas Prier, Fred Dykes, Wm. Reid, W. Wain, Saanich, Wm. North, W. Wood, F. Foster, W. Heatherbell, G. Brakes, W. H. Price, Phil. R. Smith, D. Critchley, Wm. Prout, F. Wood, H. Norman, V. Ground, E. Atkins, H. Herward, Edward P. Chapman, G. Sheldon-Williams, J. H. MacGill, Chas. Holton, C. W. Wyle, C. P. Schilling, R. Celler, Bradley, I. Dickinson, J. Critchley, Jno. McGraw, T. J. Marrion, F. Tabbs, R. W. Shaw, W. Bull, H. E. Hobbs, Charles Pearn, Geo. Millett, G. H. Cole, W. Balman, W. Appleby, C. M. Godwin, C. Ford, P. Lewin, S. Laurier, H. T. Gravin, W. H. Hemmings, J. H. Allen, Chas. Gilman, G. Ramsey, Walter Porter, J. Nankeville, A. Thomas, W. P. Allen, W. C. Wilson, Thomas Whitfield, John Pope and Richard J. Gillig.

The dinner being disposed of the chairman proposed the health of the "Queen," which was honored by the company rising and singing the National Anthem.

"The Press of the United States" was fittingly proposed by W. Jones, who alluded to the satisfaction felt in Victoria at the return of President McKinley, and the continuance in his office heretofore by United States Consul Smith, who, during his residence in Victoria, had endeared himself to all.

Hon. A. Smith responded in an eloquent speech, in which he paid a eulogistic tribute to President McKinley, and as the toast of his land that men could rise to the highest office in the gift of the nation from the humblest walks of life. It was also a matter for congratulation that as England honored her soldiers slain by titles and honors, the United States was acting in a similar manner with her returned warriors. In his own office was a young officer of an Illinois regiment (Lieut. Hunter) who fought at Porto Rico.

Bro. J. Critchley proposed the "House of Parliament," in speech, the humor of which kept the company in roars of laughter. The toast was responded to by Col. Prier.

"The Imperial Forces" was proposed by Bro. Hamming, and was most appropriately responded to by Col. Gregory, who referred to the fact that this toast had supplanted the old one of "The Army, Navy and Volunteers" owing to the fact that colonials and regulars had fought side by side and on equal distinction in the war now happily drawing to a close.

Ptes. Beech also responded on behalf of himself and his comrades, who were the honored guests of the evening. In a few manly words he referred to the fact that while Victoria had confessed herself proud of her soldier sons, they in turn were proud of the old city which had sent them out with a God-speed to the war. Critchley proposed the "House of Parliament," in speech, the humor of which kept the company in roars of laughter. The toast was responded to by Col. Prier.

"The Sons of England" was proposed by United States Consul Smith. District Deputy Brakes, in his reply, took occasion to go into some statistics which abundantly demonstrated the benefits the society conferred and the solidity of its position among the fraternal orders.

"The Mayor and Corporation" was proposed by Bro. Prout and responded to by the Mayor.

"Sister Societies" found an eloquent champion in Bro. W. H. Prier. In response Dr. Ernest Hill gave a most interesting outline of his ideas on the subject of lodge doctors and the relation of the state to those in need and in suffering.

Bro. Nankeville proposed the health of the "Visitors," and Phil R. Smith responded. P. D. Deputy A. Lee offered a toast to the "Ladies," which was responded to by Col. Gregory, and Bro. Holmes offered a health to the "Host and Hostess." He also toasted the "Press," which was responded to by Geo. Sheldon Williams.

Songs were given during the evening by A. Kendall, A. E. Oran, and W. Porter, while a recitation was contributed by J. Wilson.

The proceedings broke up at a late hour with the singing of the National Anthem.

Germany received one-third (about \$4,000,000 worth) of the exports of Ecuador last year.

V. V. AND E. RAILWAY. Report That Work of Construction Will Commence Shortly.

Vancouver, Dec. 12.—The original promoters of the V. V. and E. railway meet in McLean Bros.' office to-day to discuss the telegram received from M. McLean, who has been in Toronto negotiating with other interested parties in connection with the construction of the road. Mr. McLean sent the news that all differences have been adjusted, and the road is to be built. In speaking of the matter before the meeting convened, Mr. Hugh McLean said: "On Tuesday next the press will definitely announce that the V. V. & E. will be built, operations to commence at once. One of the first things to be done will be the establishment of a fast three-hour ferry service between Vancouver Island and the Mainland at the shortest distance between the two points, namely, Point Roberts. Connection will be made with Victoria City. Vancouver will be the headquarters of the road, and it will be extended without delay through the Hope mountains into the Kootenays." D. G. Macdonell, legal adviser of the company, when asked as to the progress made by the V. V. & E. promoters, said that the Victoria Vancouver & Eastern Railway Company had about closed a deal by which the Coast-Kootenay road would be eventually responsible for the inauguration of another transcontinental line. In fact the V. V. & E. was to be built, and Mackenzie & Mann, who had just their little differences with the original holders of the charter, were to be the financial backers of the road. But there was to be far more in sight than the construction of the V. V. & E., for Mackenzie & Mann's scheme was to connect the V. V. & E. on the Coast with the Great Northern system, and with the Grand Trunk system at the boundary line, thus making an independent transcontinental line from Montreal to Victoria.

CONCERT MANAGER MISSING. Sailor Said