THE SEALING INDUSTRY

Compensation for Its Barter Must Not Be Confined to Those Directly Engaged.

Eastern Press Stirred to Discuss Subject by Memorial of Victoria Sealers.

(Montreal Gazette.)

One of the most important subjects to be considered at the Quebec conference is undoubtedly the question of sealing in the Behring Sea. The U. S. representatives will make a vigorous effort to secure the abolition of pelagic sealing and the British Columbia sealers are already beginning to consider the extinction of their industry. They have forwarded a memorial to the Dominion government asking that their claim to compensation shall not be adjudged on the basis of the present profits. There are circumstances which give great force to the plea. The wrongful seizure of British Columbia sealing schooners by U. S. cruisers in 1886 and the following year threatened serious international complications, and on June, 1891, the British government, for the sake of peace, agreed to a modus vivendi by which the British Columbia sealers were excluded from the Behring Sea, subject to a subsequent claim for compensation. A fleet of 48 vessels had at that time cleared from Victoria and the prohibition was strongly objected to by the sealers as an unfair interference with their industry. But at the Paris arbitration the general claim for compensation was for diplomatic reasons not pressed, and the damages were restricted to the actual loss sustained by particular vessels seized by the United States cruisers. The tribunal imposed upon the British Columbia sealers regulations which greatly restricted them in their operations. The sealing season was limited to about six weeks in the Behring Sea, the use of fire arms was forbidden, and the sealers were not allowed to come within sixty miles of the Pribyloff Islands. A huge protected area was established, 2,000 miles square, embracing the whole area wherein seals could be found, within which sealing was absolutely prohibited during three of the best sealing months of the year. Severe as these restrictions were, they were made unnecessarily harrassing by the manner in which they were administered by the United States. The best evidence that can be given on this point is that contained in Mr. Chamberlain's letter to Lord Salisbury in reference to the famous "shirt sleeves despatch" from Secretary Sherman. Mr. Chamberlain says:

"The constant patrolling of the limited area of the fishery by steam vessels must tend to disturb the seals and diminish the catch, which in Behring Sea is made almost entirely from sleeping seals, even if the constantly repeated boarding to which the British vessels have been subjected had not constituted a material hindrance to the operations of the sealing fleet. The extent to which British sealing vessels have been unnecessarily harrassed by the United States patrol vessels during 1895 and 1896 may be judged from the fact that in 1894, when the British sealing fleet numbered only twenty-two vessels, thirty-six boarding operations were formed, an average of one and a half per vessel, while in 1895, when a fleet of forty British vessels was engaged, the number of boardings rose to 183, an average of four and a half per vessel, and in 1896 the British fleet of forty-seven vessels was subjected to Behring Sea pilots to 171 boardings by the United States patrol, and average of three times per vessel. It is interesting to note that in 1896, seventeen United States' vessels were subjected to only 158 boarding operations. It is borne in mind that at each boarding operation by the United States vessels the whole catch is pulled out of the salt in which it is packed, and each skin carefully examined, and then left to be repacked and transported by the owner of the sealing vessel some idea may be formed of the extent to which the operations of the sealing fleet was subjected to active obstruction, in addition to the loss caused through the effect of the constant movements of the steam cruisers in scaring the seals. In addition, most of the vessels were boarded one or more times by Her Majesty's ships."

Vessels were seized and taken to the nearest port on the slightest pretext, the proportion of convictions to seizures being only 40 per cent. In fact, the United States cruisers did all in their power to kill the industry, and they very nearly succeeded. In a memorial presented to the Canadian minister of marine by the B. C. sealers in 1894, they say the restrictions imposed upon the industry are so great a burden, that it is only by the greatest economy that they can carry on business without loss, to say nothing of the risk of their vessels being seized and confiscated for unintentional violation of the regulations. The exclusion of British Columbia sealskins from the United States, and the fall in prices have hampered the industry still further, and the sealers do not pretend that their business is in a flourishing condition. Their demand for compensation is a very moderate one. They ask that not less that $200 per ton (gross registered tonnage) be deemed the amount of compensation to cover be money invested and the losses sustained. A list of the sealing schooners for the present season gives the total tonnage as 3,729, so that for a sum of $745,800 the sealers are willing to have their industry wiped out of existence. This puts the Canadian commissioners in a favorable position for negotiation, but it must not be taken to mean that for a little more than half a million dollars the United States can secure the object they have so long desired, the abolition of pelagic sealing. That would be to allow the United States to reap benefit out of its own misdoings. The British Columbia sealers are willing to accept a small amount of compensation because they have been harried out of the pursuit of a legitimate industry by the manner in which the United States cruisers have administered international regulations which fell short of what the United States desired. The Dominion government ought to compensate them and pay them handsomely. Canada is not going to close up an industry to please the United States and accept a paltry half million in return. The concession is one the United States have been agitating and working for during a number of years; apparently they place a high value upon it. One international concession should be met by another. If the Behring Sea is made into an American lake for United States seals to disport themselves in without molestation from Canadian sealers — and that is the real meaning of the concession—compensation should be given to Canada for relinquishing the rights she has successfully defended before an international tribunal at great trouble and expense both to the Dominion and the Imperial governments. The United States in December last intimated their willingness to negotiate for the surrender of the legal right of pelagic sealing by a fair compensation to those engaged in the industry." It is to be hoped that the United States commissioners will be made aware that it is with the representatives of Canada, and not of a few British Columbia sealers that they are dealing with, and that our own commissioners, at any rate, will not forget the fact.

(Montreal Star.)

The stirring of the interests which stand to be affected by the coming international conference at Quebec, is some indication of the wide importance of the gathering. The men concerned in the great industries which may be benefited or damaged by the conclusions of the conference, are rightly taking pains to instruct their national representatives as fully as possible in the details of the affairs which will be entrusted to their care. This is being done on both sides of the line; and none of it is likely to be lost labor. Politicians, no matter how shrewd, cannot be expected to be informed in the technique of all the complicated industries in a great country, and yet a clause in the treaty they may frame can work great havoc or bring much good.

The reciprocity negotiations will undoubtedly cover the largest ground. The Canadian government, having come recently from a thorough canvass of the industries of the country for tariff purposes, ought to be pretty well prepared on this score; though it is Sir Louis Davies and Mr. Charlton who are to sit with Sir Wilfrid and Sir Richard, and not Mr. Fielding and Mr. Paterson. Still there can be no harm in furnishing these gentlemen with the fullest information. Sir Charles Tupper has set the country a good example in declining to present the slightest appearance of party strife during the preliminaries and sessions of this conference; and the wise policy for all Canadians is to treat our commissioners as their own particular representatives and see to it that they begin their work with the best possible "briefs."

The representatives of the sealing business have been at pains to present their case with convincing detail to the government in a memorial signed by the owners and agents of a long list of British Columbian sealing vessels. They go very fully into the history of the sealing business since it became an international question, and show that the sealers have suffered greatly from the restrictions and policing to which they have been subjected during, and as a result of, these negotiations. This fact, they think, should weigh with the conference in considering the question of compensation due to them, in case it be decided to make further concessions to the Americans in this regard.

"It is submitted," says their petition, "that the sacrifices which have been imposed upon your memorialists, and those whose interests are identical, on account of the foreign policy of the Empire, should not be overlooked, and if further concessions are to be made to the United States for imperial reasons, or for benefits to other British Canadian industries or interests the principle of full compensation should obtain. Your memorialists also submit, that under the foregoing circumstances the interests of your memorialists should not be measured by the present rate of profit in the sealing ventures."

This is undoubtedly a just claim; and the sealers are exceedingly well advised in putting it forward now before the commissioners go into the conference room. This is the time to prepare all sections of the Canadian case. It ought to be rendered impossible for our representatives to give away any valuable rights by reason of lack of information—and it will not be forgotten that it has not always been impossible for the British negotiators to do precisely this thing in the past. St. Louis Davies is likely to be posted on the condition of the Atlantic fisheries, but the men interested there should take no risks. Boundary matters, it is peculiarly the business of the government officials to look up, but they might easily be given some expert information about the position and requirements of the mining laws. When our commissioners, no matter from what party they come, go down to the gates to meet the representatives of a neighbouring people, it is the business of every Canadian to assist them, reserving either criticism or praise until their work shall have been done.

(Montreal Witness.)

We have received from Messrs. Tupper, Peters & Potts, of Victoria, British Columbia, a memorial to the Governor-General signed by the Canadian sealers, setting forth their interests and praying that they might be fully defended in the approaching international conference at Quebec. Sir Hibbert Tupper was one of the counsel of defence in the sealing arbitration at Paris, and for his conspicuous services received knighthood, and has since remained the counsel of the Canadian sealers in the subsequent arbitration at Halifax, at which the amount of the award received by them was fixed. The present memorial is for the information of the members of the Canadian government who will take part in the international conference at Quebec, at which the question of the regulations under which pelagic sealing is to be carried on in the Pacific Ocean and Behring Sea is to be earried on, will be decided. The Paris arbitration provided for the reconsideration of the regulations then fixed at the end of five years, and that period will expire this year. Last year—a year in advance of its expiry—the United States government was surprised to have the regulations reconsidered at once, with a view to their being made much more strict, and if possible a termination put to pelagic sealing altogether, but the Canadian government refused to reconsider this question before the expiry of the period unless the United States consented to negotiate in regard to all other matters under dispute between the two countries, together with reciprocity. This year the United States executive has consented to this proposition, and the Quebec conference will be the result.

In view of the very determined and urgent attitude of the United States government in regard to this sealing question, and two of the great concessions which have already been made, as well as the fact that the holding of the conference turned so largely upon the sealing question, the Canadian sealers are naturally afraid that their interests may not be as rigidly guarded as they desire, and that in case further concessions are made their full rights in the way of compensation may be overlooked. Their memorial states very concisely but fully how concession after concession has been made by the British government of doubted rights of pelagic sealers on the high seas, greatly to the injury of the business of the sealers, and without anything like adequate compensation to them, until their business, formerly a very profitable one, has become of late years, for these and other reasons, run down and earned much less profitable. They therefore pray that if pelagic sealing is to be further restricted, the compensation may be properly calculated, not on the basis of the present business, but on a fair basis of what the business might reasonably have been at the present time had it not been interfered with.

The memorial concludes with the following petitions:

41. Under the condition of affairs which has obtained, your petitioners find themselves and their industry to-day so limited, trammelled and circumscribed by international regulations, and by the continued unwarrantable interference on the part of cruisers or revenue cutters pretending to act under international arrangements, as to be unable to exhibit the business as a steady source of revenue and benefit.

42. Your memorialists do not desire to conceal the fact that a decline has recently occurred in the value of seal skins, whether due to a change temporary or permanent in the public fashions and fancy, or to the exclusive legislation on the part of the United States, or to both these causes. Nevertheless, had it not been for the exceptional interference with their business in past years, it is claimed that your memorialists would have reaped such advantages from the condition of the market in those years that such contingencies as the present could have been provided against.

43. Your memorialists, in view of the foregoing facts, earnestly crave that special consideration be given to their peculiar position, and that no adjustment or arrangement be agreed upon which ignores the causes and reasons for the present unfortunate and unsatisfactory condition of those engaged in the fur seal industry.

44. It is submitted that the sacrifices, which have been imposed upon your memorialists, and those whose interests are identical, on account of the foreign policy of the Empire, should not be overlooked, and if further concessions are to be made to the United States for Imperial reasons, or for benefits to other British Canadian industries or interests, the principle of full compensation should obtain.

Your memorialists also submit, that under the foregoing circumstances the interests of your memorialists should not be measured by the present rate of profit in the sealing ventures.

45. Your memorialists would respectfully urge that no indemnity for the past or for further restrictions of this industry, will be satisfactory or fair, which does not provide for payment of the capital actually invested as well as for a sum sufficient to cover the losses sustained by the sealers in consequence of the restrictions already imposed, as well as those which may be imposed.

Your memorialists suggest that the sum of not less than two hundred dollars per ton (gross registered tonnage) of each vessel, be deemed the amount to cover the money invested and the losses sustained.

The memorial shows that there are fifty-five sealing schooners, ranging from forty tons to a hundred and twenty-three tons, in the business, with a total tonnage of 3,729 tons, and that the profits of such schooners as the "Sapphire" ranged from $3,529.07 in 1892 to $26,449.46 in 1891. At two hundred dollars a ton the compensation claimed amounts therefore to $745,800.

SOME LATE INVENTIONS.

Explosive powder is used to operate a new motor, a small quantity of the powder being fed into the cylinder to drive the piston rod, the expanding gas escaping through a valve as the piston returns.

A new tea or coffee pot strainer, to be attached to the spout of the pot, has a tin shield extending partially around the strainer to prevent the liquid from dripping from the wire meshes after the pot has been used.

In a newly designed glove, patented by a Michigan woman, the palm of the hand and inside of the thumbs and fingers are provided with interwoven rings of leather or other material which prevent the glove from wearing out.

Envelopes can be easily opened by a new device which is formed of a base suporting two uprights with slots in the side to drive a knife blade driven down by a knob at the top to slice a thin strip from the edge of the letter.

A Texas inventor has made a non-puncturable tire, which has two layers of fabric ,with the threads crossing each other, between which is placed a layer of rawhide, the whole being covered by an outer jacket of fabric or rubber.

A new carriage step is formed of a fixed rod attacher to the wagon body on which a sliding shank supporting the step is held in place by a pin, the step portion being turned inward when driving to prevent the wheels from throwing mud on it.

The neck of a new non-refillable bottle has a projection from one side of the top through which the cork is pushed to the highest point in the neck and then forced down in the bottle by a pin placed at the top, the neck being broken in order to get the cork out..

In a newly patented tire tightener the felly is divided at intervals by a wedge-shaped block having the head of a bolt seated in it, with the nut of the bolt mounted on a plate on the inner edge of the felly to draw the wedge in and increase the circumference of the rim.

To indicate the distance travelled by railway cars a bevel - gear wheel is mounted on the car axle to mesh with a second wheel and drive a mechanical arrangement under the car, designed to run in either direction and turn a shaft connected with a set of dials insidethe car.

WRANGEL AND ALASKA.

A Growing, Prosperous Young City — A Country Giving Large Reward to Industry.

A leaflet issued at Wrangel to advertise that city and Southeast Alaska, reads as follows:

The locus of the flag pole in the center of the government plaza in the city of Wrangel has been determined by Webster Brown, a civil engineer, to be latitude 56 degrees, 28', 22.94" north and 132 degrees, 23', 14.30" west of Greenwich. This gives Wrangel about the same latitude as the cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Copenhagen, Riga, Moscow and Tobolsk, St. Petersburg and Kazan.

Immediately surrounding Wrangel is an inhabitable area of 45,000 square miles, a territory larger than the state of Ohio, which supports a population of nearly four millions, but, where Ohio has one natural resource, Alaska has ten. What, then may Wrangel expect of this new country when its many resources shall have been developed?

Resources—What are its resources? Whale oil and bone, ivory, sulphur, coal, petroleum, lead, copper, ice, marble, silver, gold, iron, salt, tannin, guano, furs, big and small game, cereals, small fruits, vegetables, timber (including red and yellow cedar) hemlock, fir, spruce, cottonwood, alder, willow, garrets, and food fish (including red, silver and king salmon) cod, oulachan, herring, halibut (averaging 70 pounds, but often weighing 200 to 400 pounds), lake trout, mountain trout, flounders, and many kinds which are valuable for their oil.

Fish—According to the report of Hon. John G. Brady, governor of the district of Alaska, in the southeastern part about and tributary to Wrangel, there were 10,482 seal skins taken in 1897, and 392 sea otter skins. In 1896, there were 29 canneries and 14 salteries, producing 949,645 cases of fish, 48 one-pound cans to the case, and 10,000 barrels, a total value of $2,383,757. One company has paid $103,804.85 in toto for boxes and labor. There are several hatcheries. Halibut are shipped in ice to the eastern part of the United States. The herring catch for 1896 at Killisnoo was 25,000 barrels, 90,650 gallons of oil, 550 tons of guano; total 90,650 gallons of oil, 550 tons of guano; total oil and 700 half barrels of salt herring were also put up; total value, $30,000.

Gold—The Treadwell mined 263,670 tons of ore for the year ending April 30, 1896, costing 55 cents per ton; value, $1,104,777; profit, $1,059,758. There are two other mills in Berner's, Funter, Ebner, Montana creek, Jualin, Sum Dum, Unga; a total of 414 stamps.

Coal—Vast deposits exist all along the coast; steam whalers are supplied with an excellent steam-making quality.

Petroleum—At Cook's Inlet is a lake of asphaltine of acres in extent.

Agriculture—Redtop, blue grass, clover, timothy and alfalfa are successfully grown. Silos works well. Red and black currants, strawberry, salmon berry and cranberry, are natives. Radishes, carrots, parsnips, beets, onions, turnips, potatoes, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, horse-radish, rhubarb and peas are a success. Four pounds of barley have produced sixty pounds—15 fold.

Timber—"The whole coast of Alaska including the islands from 54 degrees 40' to the eastern part of Kadiak island, is covered with timber to the snow line of the mountains. Tall spruce trees on Halleck island known to be 93 years old are two feet in diameter."—Report of Gov. Brady, 1897.

Population — Southeast Alaska probably has 5,000 whites and 10,000 Indians. Tramps are unknown, and crime of all kinds is at a minimum.

Political—Alaska is a district. It has executive and judiciary departments, but no legislature. Its laws are made by the congress of the United States. The citizens do not vote nor pay taxes.

Education—A good public school system exists. Prof. W. A. Kelly, superintendent.

Climate—Summer has many sunny days, more partly cloudy, some rainy. Seldom more than two feet of snow falls in winter; it is rarely at zero. The occasional "Stik" winds are cold but short.

Transportation—Regular lines of steamers connect with all points north and south.

History—In 1833 Baron Ferdinand P. von Wrangel, Russian governor of Alaska, built a log fort here. In 1868 the U. S. government erected the plaza buildings. In December, 1897, permanent growth began. Population, about 1,000. It has two sawmills, one cigar factory, two weekly newspapers [Journal, established 1 January, 1898; News, established 8 June, 1898]; two manufacturing jewelers, one cannery, two breweries, one school, four church societies, one church, bakeries, laundries, and stores, one opera house, several saloons, three large docks, a chamber of commerce, shoe, carpenter and blacksmith shops; lawyers, doctors, preachers and teachers, barbers, lodging houses, restaurants, butcher shops, furniture stores, groceries, one cooper shop, one military company, one metaphysical club, Y. M. C. A.

POISON AND CREMATION.

The letters of Sir Francis Seymour Haden and Sir Henry Thompson in the "Times" gives an acute touch of drama to the controversy about cremation. Sir Francis Haden attaches small importance to the sanitary argument. That the "seeds of pestilence" are sown by the ordinary method of burying seems to him incredible, though the prosiac facts adduced by Sir Henry Thompson are clear enough. There is plenty of evidence (says "The Speaker") to support the proposition that "disease and loss of life are caused to no small extent by the elements of disease from buried bodies being conveyed by watercourses to springs and wells used for human consumption. So well is this known the sanitary authorities that a peremptory order has been given to the rural police to bury every animal that dies of "swinefever" in "unslaked lime"—a procedure which, as Sir Henry Thompson says, is "doubtless in efficacy the next best to cremation." But Sir Francis Haden cares for none of these things. His prophetic eye is fixed on crime. If cremation should become general what safeguard shall we have against secret poisoning? There is a formidable list of crimes which have been discovered only by the exhumation of the victims. There is the case of Mary Ann Cotton, who poisoned her stepson with arsenic. His body, when exhumed, was found to be full of this drug; and when the bodies of nineteen other persons were tested in the same way, it was shown that not one but twenty people had been murdered by this woman. If the dead are cremated, how are we to cope with the malignity of our Mary Ann Cottons? Even more alarming is the story of William Palmer. He poisoned J. P. Cook with a mixture of strychnine and antimony. "The strychnine kills, and the poison is removed from the stomach by the vomiting set up by the antimony, which thus helps to remove itself." Even when the body of Cook was exhumed, it betrayed no symptoms of poisoning at the first examination, and it was only by the rigid scrutiny of other bodies that the subtle devilry of Palmer, who had made away with several people, was brought home to him. Now, had all these persons been cremated, would the prisoner have escaped detection?

Sir Henry Thompson meets this case with an argument which is even more startling. "Then," he says in effect, "exhumation has disclosed some secret crimes, but is it a real guarantee of detection after all? Secret poisoning has become an even more refined art than it was in the days of Palmer. He was unmasked because some of his buried victims still showed traces of a 'prentice hand; but suppose he had murdered them all with the same skill which he showed in the case of Cook? If burial simply gives the necessary time to insure the disappearance of all traces of poison, what is the good of exhumation? It is not true that cremation must prove an incentive and a security to crime. That security is already furnished by a law which does not insist upon a complete autopsy. No body ought to be buried or cremated without the clearest evidence that this autopsy has been performed. At present a death certificate is granted on such conditions that even a deceived If the conditions imposed by the experienced doctor may easily be deceived. If the conditions imposed by the Cremation Society were universally enforced, it would be practically impossible for death by poisoning to be certified as death by natural causes. In 1893 a Parliamentary committee inquired into this subject and reported that 'with the precautions adopted in connection with cremation, as carried out by the Cremation Society, there is little probability that cases of crime will escape detection, but inasmuch as these precautions are purely voluntary, you cannot consider that in the interests of public safety safety such precautions should be enforced by law.' That was five years ago, and yet the law remains unaltered; so that at the present moment there is in the existing system of burial, even when corrected by exhumation, a far more tempting instrument to crime at hand of the criminal than could be offered by the general practice of cremation."

There is no reason in the world why post mortem examinations should not be compulsory and invariable. If it were general, it would be the chief and best guarantee against the concealment of foul play. It would make unnecessary the exhumation which, in so many cases, must be quite valueless, and it would make the argument against cremation irrelevant. Sir Francis Haden maintains that when an innocent man is accused of poisoning his wife, the witness he could summon is the body of the person he is supposed to have done to death, and that if this witness is destroyed by cremation, there can be no means of vindicating a reputation which is exposed to suspicion. A death certificate given after a post mortem examination would be a sufficient answer to any slander. There is, of course, a kind of malicious gossip which no evidence can quiet. Besides, if a body is exhumed now and found to be quite free from poison, gossip can say, "That is all very well, but don't you know that a poisoner who is clever enough never leaves any trace?" Evidently the grave is no final court of appeal; and the innocent man can be no worse off if the dead is in an urn, and not in a coffin. The unpopular citizen will still be supposed to have poisoned his grandmother, in spite of the most scientific assurance to the contrary. Sir Francis Haden can scarcely argue that exhumation after an indefinite period of time is safer than examination immediately after death. No doubt, a medical certificate under the present system is often inadequate, because a doctor cannot make or even suggest an autopsy without appearing to cast a suspicious reflection on the circumstances of the death. But if this procedure were made the rule it would remove the one real element of uncertainty to which Sir Francis Haden's criticism applies.

It is not pleasant to think that secret poisoning is far more common than the world suspects. This crime demands exceptional knowledge and intelligence, though when we consider how many murders of a far simpler kind go undetected every year in London alone, it is easy to imagine that even the inexperienced person may enjoy an immunity. Most of our scientific genius is devoted to the improvement of engines of destruction. Christendom yearns for new explosives far more terrible than their predecessors. Scarcely are battleships built according to one plan of naval construction than they are made obsolete by another. War, righteous or unrighteous, must always find a self-respecting nation ready to inflict upon its enemies the philosophy of the greatest agony of the greatest number. It is incredible that in this spirited cultivation of the appliances and means of wholesale killing, the private destroyer, who seeks personal instead of national ends, should find a stimulus to his inventive zeal? He may smile at the exhumation on which Sir Francis Haden relies for the protection of the community; he may regard even the autopsy as an inspiring challenge for his skill. Murder by bloodshed is a form of crime which has no attraction for intellect, except in military strategy; but the secret poisoner has a sense of power which must be to certain minds the most seductive of all gratifications. The activity of this unseen foe cannot be measured. We can only hope that healing science will be a match for destroying science, when it is backed by intelligent law, though the difficulty of making law intelligent is often discouraging.

A Bavonet Thrust is as a pin scratch to the tortures of Indigestion and Dyspepsia. The bravest soldier will weaken before the onslaught of these redoubtable enemies to health. Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets break down the strongholds of disease, build up and fortify the wasted nerve force, put new life, new hope, new energy, hoist the banner of victory in the stead of the sac of distress. Thirty-five cents. Sold by Hall & Co. and Dean & Hiscock.

Hon. Edward Blake, M. P., has been renominated for chancellor of the University of Toronto, and it is understood he will accept if elected.

LICENSE AUTHORIZING AN EXTRA-PROVINCIAL COMPANY TO CARRY ON BUSINESS.

"Companies' Act, 1897."

Canada:

Province of British Columbia.

No. 102.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the "Velvet Mines, Limited," is authorized and licensed to carry on business within the province of British Columbia, and to carry out or effect all or any of the objects hereinafter set forth, to which the legislative authority of the legislature of British Columbia extends.

The head office of the company is situate at No. 23, Leadenhall street, London, England.

The amount of the capital of the company is £100,000, divided into 100,000 shares of £1 each.

The head office of the company in this province is situate in the Board of Trade Building, Victoria, and the Honorable Frederick Peters, Queen's Counsel, whose address is Victoria aforesaid, is the attorney for the company.

The objects for which the company has been established are:

(a.) To apply for or to acquire and hold any gold mines, gold mining rights, leases or grants and to peg out and secure, by payment or otherwise, the right to peg out any gold, copper or other mineral claims or leases, or to search for, prospect, examine, explore and work the property or ground supposed to contain gold or minerals in British Columbia, the Australasian Colonies, America, Africa or elsewhere, whether private or government lands or proclaimed as a public gold field or not, and to search for and obtain information in regard to masked because some of his buried victims still showed traces of a 'prentice hand; but suppose he had murdered them all with the same skill which he showed in the case of Cook? If burial simply gives the necessary time to insure the disappearance of all traces of poison, what is the good of exhumation? It is not true that cremation must prove an incentive and a security to crime. That security is already furnished by a law which does not insist upon a complete autopsy. No body ought to be buried or cremated without the clearest evidence that this autopsy has been performed. At present a death certificate is granted on such conditions that even a deceived If the conditions imposed by the experienced doctor may easily be deceived. If the conditions imposed by the Cremation Society were universally enforced, it would be practically impossible for death by poisoning to be certified as death by natural causes. In 1893 a Parliamentary committee inquired into this subject and reported that 'with the precautions adopted in connection with cremation, as carried out by the Cremation Society, there is little probability that cases of crime will escape detection, but inasmuch as these precautions are purely voluntary, you cannot consider that in the interests of public safety safety such precautions should be enforced by law.' That was five years ago, and yet the law remains unaltered; so that at the present moment there is in the existing system of burial, even when corrected by exhumation, a far more tempting instrument to crime at hand of the criminal than could be offered by the general practice of cremation."

There is no reason in the world why post mortem examinations should not be compulsory and invariable. If it were general, it would be the chief and best guarantee against the concealment of foul play. It would make unnecessary the exhumation which, in so many cases, must be quite valueless, and it would make the argument against cremation irrelevant. Sir Francis Haden maintains that when an innocent man is accused of poisoning his wife, the witness he could summon is the body of the person he is supposed to have done to death, and that if this witness is destroyed by cremation, there can be no means of vindicating a reputation which is exposed to suspicion. A death certificate given after a post mortem examination would be a sufficient answer to any slander. There is, of course, a kind of malicious gossip which no evidence can quiet. Besides, if a body is exhumed now and found to be quite free from poison, gossip can say, "That is all very well, but don't you know that a poisoner who is clever enough never leaves any trace?" Evidently the grave is no final court of appeal; and the innocent man can be no worse off if the dead is in an urn, and not in a coffin. The unpopular citizen will still be supposed to have poisoned his grandmother, in spite of the most scientific assurance to the contrary. Sir Francis Haden can scarcely argue that exhumation after an indefinite period of time is safer than examination immediately after death. No doubt, a medical certificate under the present system is often inadequate, because a doctor cannot make or even suggest an autopsy without appearing to cast a suspicious reflection on the circumstances of the death. But if this procedure were made the rule it would remove the one real element of uncertainty to which Sir Francis Haden's criticism applies.

It is not pleasant to think that secret poisoning is far more common than the world suspects. This crime demands exceptional knowledge and intelligence, though when we consider how many murders of a far simpler kind go undetected every year in London alone, it is easy to imagine that even the inexperienced person may enjoy an immunity. Most of our scientific genius is devoted to the improvement of engines of destruction. Christendom yearns for new explosives far more terrible than their predecessors. Scarcely are battleships built according to one plan of naval construction than they are made obsolete by another. War, righteous or unrighteous, must always find a self-respecting nation ready to inflict upon its enemies the philosophy of the greatest agony of the greatest number. It is incredible that in this spirited cultivation of the appliances and means of wholesale killing, the private destroyer, who seeks personal instead of national ends, should find a stimulus to his inventive zeal? He may smile at the exhumation on which Sir Francis Haden relies for the protection of the community; he may regard even the autopsy as an inspiring challenge for his skill. Murder by bloodshed is a form of crime which has no attraction for intellect, except in military strategy; but the secret poisoner has a sense of power which must be to certain minds the most seductive of all gratifications. The activity of this unseen foe cannot be measured. We can only hope that healing science will be a match for destroying science, when it is backed by intelligent law, though the difficulty of making law intelligent is often discouraging.

A Bavonet Thrust is as a pin scratch to the tortures of Indigestion and Dyspepsia. The bravest soldier will weaken before the onslaught of these redoubtable enemies to health. Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets break down the strongholds of disease, build up and fortify the wasted nerve force, put new life, new hope, new energy, hoist the banner of victory in the stead of the sac of distress. Thirty-five cents. Sold by Hall & Co. and Dean & Hiscock.

Hon. Edward Blake, M. P., has been renominated for chancellor of the University of Toronto, and it is understood he will accept if elected.

(u.) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Victoria, Province of British Columbia, this second day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

[L.S] S. Y. WOOTTON,
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

No. 107.

CERTIFICATE OF THE REGISTRATION OF AN EXTRA-PROVINCIAL COMPANY.

"COMPANIES' ACT, 1897."

Arctic Express Company.

Registered the 10th day of August, A. D. 1898.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day registered the "Arctic Express Company" as an Extra-Provincial Company under the "Companies Act, 1897," to carry out or effect all or any of the objects hereinafter set forth to which the legislative authority of the Legislature of British Columbia extends.

The head office of the company is situate in the City of Seattle, County of King, State of Washington, U.S.A.

The amount of the capital of the company is one hundred thousand dollars, divided into one hundred thousand shares of one dollar each.

The head office of the company in this province is situate in Victoria, and Francis M. Rattenbury, architect, whose address is Victoria aforesaid, is the attorney for the company.

The time of the existence of the company is fifty years.

The objects for which the company has been established are:

1. To acquire and take by grant, purchase, donation, prescription, or by any other lawful means lands, tenements, goods, chattels and choses in action of every kind and description, embracing property, proprietary rights, ticket, interests, estates, franchises and privileges of every denomination whatsoever known to the law within the term property, real, personal and mixed, and necessary and convenient to fully carry out the specific objects of this corporation hereinafter more particularly stated, together with the fruits, increase or accretions or accessions thereof to the same extent that any natural or artificial person may of right and according to law acquire and take the same, and to hold the same title, and under similar right, and in like manner to use, occupy, better, incumber, or alienate the same, in whole or in part, as any person, natural or artificial, having similar dominion over property and property rights may lawfully do.

2. To establish, maintain and operate any express route or routes by land or by water for the transportation of treasure, merchandise or property of any kind from, to and between any place or places in the State of Washington and any place or places beyond the limits thereof in the United States and the territories thereof and the Dominion of Canada:

3. To erect or hire and maintain warehouses and other structures for the safe keeping of goods, wares and merchandise and other chattels or effects necessary for the transaction of the business of this company.

4. To do a general collection and commission business at any place on any of its routes, and to generally do and carry on any business legitimately and ordinarily belonging to the business of express companies:

5. To acquire, possess, own, lease, sell, mortgage, and deal in such real and personal property as may be necessary or convenient to transact or facilitate its business:

6. To acquire, own, charter, sell, lease, equip, operate, maintain and transfer steamships, steamboats, steam tugs, barges, sailing vessels, and any other kind of water craft, and to carry on as common carriers of freight and passengers a general transportation business for passengers and freight therewith for hire upon the navigable waters of the State of Washington, Province of British Columbia, Territory of Alaska and the Northwest British Territories, and the Pacific Ocean:

7. To build, construct, purchase or otherwise acquire, operate, maintain, sell, transfer, railroads, street railroads, tramways, whether operated by horse, electric, steam, or any other motive power and other appliances for the transportation of freight and passengers, and to collect tolls therefor:

8. To acquire, maintain, and operate electric, water and other plants in and for the places hereinbefore mentioned, and to collect tolls and other compensation for the use thereof from any person or persons using the same.

9. To borrow money on bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness, and to issue bonds and debentures, and to mortgage or hypothecate any or all of the property of this corporation to secure the payment of the same:

10. To do and perform all things necessary, proper or convenient for the carrying out or accomplishment of the objects above specified:

11. To connect with other express and transportation companies, and receive their business and to make arrangements over its routes, and to enter into such contracts with such connecting companies as may be necessary to carry out the objects hereof:

Given under my hand and seal of office at Victoria, Province of British Columbia, this 10th day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

(L.S.) S. Y. WOOTTON,
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

COMPANIES ACT, 1897.

Notice is hereby given that the Honorable Frederick Peters, of Board of Trade Building, Victoria, B. C., Queen's Counsel, has been appointed the attorney for "The Klondike Mining, Trading and Transport Corporation, Limited," and "The New Gold Fields of British Columbia, Limited," in place of Caldwell Ashworth.

Dated the 13th day of June, 1898.

S. Y. WOOTTON,
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

NOTICE.

Take notice that 60 days after date I intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase the following described tract of land: Commencing at the northeast corner of Lot 17, Telegraph Creek, Cassiar District, thence west 40 chains, thence north 80 chains, thence east 40 chains, thence south 80 chains to the point of commencement, containing 320 acres.

(Sgd.) A. CAMPBELL.
Per J. H. McGregor.

June 27, 1898.

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and remove timber and trees from off a tract of land situate in Cassiar District more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a post about two miles northwest of the log cabin, and about 20 chains west of the trail leading from Shallow lake to Bennett; thence north 100 chains; thence west 100 chains; thence south 100 chains; thence east 100 chains to the place of commencement, comprising one thousand acres, more or less.

T. R. ELLA.

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and remove timber and trees from off a tract of land situate in Cassiar District more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a post about one mile northwest of the log cabin, and about 20 chains west of the trail leading from Shallow lake to Bennett; thence north 100 chains; thence west 100 chains; thence south 100 chains; thence east 100 chains to the place of commencement, comprising one thousand acres, more or less.

JOSEPH WEILER.

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and remove timber and trees from off a tract of land situate in Cassiar District, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a post about 1½ miles southwesterly from the log cabin, and about 100 chains west of the trail leading from Shallow lake to Bennett; thence north 125 chains; thence east 80 chains; thence south 125 chains; thence west 80 chains to the place of commencement, comprising one thousand acres, more or less.

J. SAVANNAH.

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and remove timber and trees from off a tract of land situate in Cassiar District, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a post about three quarters of a mile northeasterly from the log cabin, and on the east side of the trail from Shallow lake to Bennett; thence north 100 chains; thence east 100 chains; thence south 100 chains; thence west 100 chains to the place of commencement, comprising one thousand acres, more or less.

CHAS. E. CLARKE.

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and remove timber and trees from off a tract of land situate in Cassiar District, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a post about 1½ miles northeasterly from the log cabin, on the east side of the trail from Shallow lake to Bennett, and about three-quarters of a mile therefrom; thence north 100 chains; thence east 100 chains; thence south 100 chains; thence west 100 chains to the place of commencement, comprising one thousand acres, more or less.

ROBT. JAMIESON.

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and remove timber and trees from off a tract of land situate in Cassiar District more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a post about two miles northwesterly from the log cabin, on the west side of the trail from Shallow lake to Bennett, and about 20 chains distant therefrom; thence north 100 chains; thence west 100 chains; thence south 100 chains; thence east 100 chains to the place of commencement, comprising one thousand acres, more or less.

ROBERT SANGSTER.

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and remove timber and trees from off a tract of land situate in Cassiar District, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a post about 20 chains west of the trail from Shallow lake to Bennett, and about one mile northwest of the log cabin; thence north 100 chains; thence east 100 chains; thence south 100 chains; thence west 100 chains to the place of commencement, comprising one thousand acres.

J. M. FISHER.

NOTICE is hereby given that I intend to apply to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and remove timber and trees from off a tract of land situate in Cassiar District, more particularly described as follows