NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Electric Tramway Scheme—The Dominion Election—News From Interior Points.

Fish Curing and Drying Enterprise—The Lulu Island Road—The Cutch-Joan Mishap.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, April 10.—Secession agitators have applied for the Market hall for Saturday, the 15th inst.

The Union S. S. Co. declined to give bonds in the suit brought by the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railroad re the Cutch-Joan accident. The Sheriff tied the Cutch up to-day. The Union Steamship Co. will enter a claim for demurrage.

The steamer State of Idaho is plying on the Kootenay.

J. C. Morgan, a prominent Free Mason from Barrie, will spend the summer in Vancouver.

VANCOUVER, April 11.—Pit, parquette and gods were delighted last night with J. F. Sheridan's presentation of Mrs. O'Brien at the Opera House.

Mr. A. M. Wastell of Hamilton is in the city collecting information in regard to the lumber trade.

A 100 pound deer was captured in the city limits on False creek yesterday by Mr. Pugu. The animal was brought down with a lasso.

South Vancouver's loan by-law will be voted on on Wednesday next.

People are fishing at Coquitlam creek with dynamite.

Rev. A. W. Corker, missionary at Alert Bay, was married to Miss Davies, of Yorkshire, England, at noon to-day. Rev. A. J. Hall, of the diocese of Caledonia, officiated. The wedding took place at the residence of Mr. A. K. Stuart.

The revival services of the Baptist church were continued last night. Rev. W. C. Weir and Rev. H. Lorimer conducted services. There is complaint of lack of unity between the ministers in town for the advancement of church work.

Survey parties will be put to work at the Vancouver end of the B. I. and F. V. R. at the end of this week.

Messrs. A. G. Ferguson, Geo. Turner, E. J. Clark and H. P. McCraney went on Sunday with Capt. McLeod to his mine on Cayuse Creek. The visitors will stay ten days. Captain McLeod will remain for the summer.

There was not a quorum at the council meeting last night.

Fred Lee and Geo. Gingell were fined $10 each for raising a row at a Salvation Army meeting.

F. C. Innes and wife have returned to Vancouver after an extended trip abroad.

Ship Hindostan sailed from Moodyville for Valparaiso this morning.

Steamer Coquitlam left for the North this morning.

The new steamer Mermaid goes on her trial trip this week.

The pupils of Buckland College reassemble on Wednesday. Mr. Hill Tout has secured the services of Mr. Wadford Rouse, formerly assistant mathematical master, Bridgwater College, Somerset, England.

VANCOUVER, April 12.—In the Supreme court yesterday, before Mr. Justice Crease, the case of Dunn vs. Robertson was in for trial, and was not concluded when the court rose at 5 p.m. In 1886 the leasehold interest and buildings of the Oriental hotel were sold under foreclosure and bought by Mr. Gideon Robertson, the defendant, acting for Mr. Thos. Dunn, the plaintiff, and with the latter's money. The defendant claims that subsequently an arrangement was reached between the two whereby he was to receive a half interest, and at a still later date the whole interest. After this last transaction the defendant had the leasehold vested in himself alone. The plaintiff claims that this last conveyance was obtained by fraudulent representation and seeks to recover all rentals paid on the same up to date, but not turned over to him, and have the property vested in himself. The defendant denies any fraud and asks to be confirmed in his title.

Mr. Nathan McCarthy has gone to Chicago, having sold out his business.

A grand Hallelujah wedding takes place at the barracks to-morrow.

Ore will be shipped from the Redondo Island mine this week.

The Foresters held a very successful entertainment, musical and literary, this evening.

Steamer Coquitlam left for the North this morning.

The following new officers of Loyal Western Star lodge No. 95 have been installed by D.D.G.M. Bro. Ramsay: N.G. Bro. Grady; V.G., Bro. Tallman; Treasurer, Bro. Thurston; Secretary, Bro. Grant; Conductor, Bro. McAuley; Warden, Bro. DeWitt; I.G., Bro. Greenway; R.S., Bro. H. Urquhart.

Mr. Fred Dyke has fifty voices under training in the production of "The Haymakers."

Hon. Mr. Kito, Japanese Consul, is in communication with his Government in reference to appointing a sub-consul at Tacoma.

Steamer Comet came in from the North yesterday.

Mayor Cope will permit a mass meeting to be held at the Market hall on Saturday evening, to discuss the Parliament Buildings bill, Redistribution bill and the railroad grant.

The members of Court Mountain View, No. 369, C. O. F., celebrated their first anniversary by an entertainment in Archer hall, Mount Pleasant, this evening.

South Vancouver will hold a mass meeting at Junction on Thursday at 3 o'clock to consider the Redistribution bill.

William Dunbar, president of the Merchants' Shipping Company of Portland, was closeted most of the day yesterday with the Browns of the C. P. R.

Geo. Youmans and Wm. Evans, two vags, were sent down for two months each at hard labor.

Frank Churchill was brought over from Nanaimo on Sunday, on charge of stealing $75 worth of clothing and jewelry from J. J. Jones, Gold House. Churchill was dismissed for want of sufficient evidence to convict.

Vancouver people are blessed with an abundance of practical religion. There seems to be something in the air conducive to charity. A family of five, named Creswell, came here early in the winter and located on Seymour street. They were to run a section boarding house but something prevented it and Creswell could get no work. Their money gave out and Mrs. Smyth, who keeps a boarding house, found them in a starving condition. To add to their misery they could not get their stove from the C.P.R. wharf without paying $6.90. They soon got behind in the rent and were in the last extremity when Mrs. Smyth visited them. For two months this good lady kept them in food from her own larder, when she told a Baptist minister of their condition who, promptly relieved them financially, in paying back rent. Yesterday Mrs. Baker, of the W.C.T.U., heard how matters stood, and this morning a wagon load of stuff including the stove went to the house. Mrs. Baker says: "As it was an urgent case I asked everyone, and got no refusals, and in two hours had $11 in hand and quantities of necessaries. The milkman sent milk and money and offered to continue to supply milk until stopped. The Chinese laundry man gave up all the change he had, the baker will send bread there every day until relief comes, and everybody was eager to do something, and before twenty-four a situation was found for the bread winner. The ladies of the W.C.T.U. have but to point out distress and the citizens of Vancouver will do the rest. Every case made public, that has come to the notice of your correspondent, has resulted similarly.

David Jones, who was missing for some days from the Redondo Island iron mines, has been found demented, and was brought in on the Rainbow to-day.

At the meeting to be held on Saturday night at the Market hall a motion will be put to the meeting calling upon J. W. Horne, M.P.P., to resign. Mr. Horne has been invited to be present, but it is thought unlikely that he will come.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, April 10.—Woods, Travis & Co. have rented Ward's old shingle mill and will commence at once curing and drying all kinds of fish for the Oriental and Indian markets. They will also take all the canneries' offal and make fish manure.

W. H. Steves says that strong Victoria capitalists are interested in the proposed Lulu Island and Westminster railway.

Bishop Durieu, of the Roman Catholic diocese of New Westminster, left the city yesterday for Rome to pay homage to Pope Leo XIII on the occasion of the latter's episcopal jubilee. Fully one hundred members of St. Peter's congregation assembled at the station to wish the Bishop a safe journey and speedy return. Before the train pulled out, W. H. Keary, on behalf of the congregation of St. Peter's church, presented his lordship with a purse containing a handsome sum of money to assist in defraying his expenses.

NEW WESTMINSTER, April 11.—Another fall of snow occurred last night and farmers are beginning to get anxious, as very little seeding has been done and the season is well advanced.

The tramway and telegraph lines crossed this afternoon destroying the telegraph switch-board and setting fire to the office. The chemical engine put out the blaze.

In the Supreme court to-day, before Justice Bole and a jury, the case of James A. Fraser v. G. Robson, both of Yale, for slander was heard. Damages were laid at $5,000. Before the whole evidence was in the case was amicably settled, the defendant apologizing and each party agreeing to pay their own costs. Robson publicly stated that Fraser was "crooked." Hence the suit.

The draft of an agreement between the Northern Pacific and the city was laid before the Council last night. It contains no features different from what appeared in the COLONIST some weeks ago, when the preliminary agreement was reached.

The public schools will cost the city $18,000 this year. The total cost will be about $24,000, but the Government per capita allowance is estimated at $6,000.

An officer has been sent to Nanaimo to arrest Ah Hee, who with Ah Foo will be charged with conspiracy to obtain possession of the person of Boo Kim.

Produce merchants are obliged to order oats from Manitoba to keep their stock up. Hay is still being shipped to the Upper country, but the demand has switched from Ashcroft and Kamloops to Vernon.

NEW WESTMINSTER, April 12.—A desperate fight took place at Mission on Monday morning over the right of way for the road which the Council decided to cut through J. R. Wren's property. Wren was willing to allow the road to be cut, but insisted on a proper survey, with which the Council decided to dispense. Mr. Wren and Mr. McLean had words and then came to blows. While fighting, Pathmaster Anthony came up with his axe and struck Wren on the head, inflicting a terrible wound. He aimed several more blows, but was disarmed before doing further damage. Anthony then fled to the United States and McLean was arrested. He was brought to the city to-day and fined $10 for assault. Another participator, named Peen, will be tried on Friday.

Schooner Ora left for the North to-day to bring down a cargo of dogfish.

The fish dealers are preparing to put up all the oolachans they can catch. One firm will pack a hundred barrels.

Eight Japanese renounced their allegiance to the Emperor of Japan this morning and became full-fledged British subjects.

A member of the police force has been suspended on a charge of being intoxicated on Monday evening while on duty.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, April 10.—On Thursday, April 20, an entertainment will be given in the Opera House in aid of the hospital. The conversazione given last spring for the same object netted over $1,000, and no efforts will be spared to make this year's benefit equally successful.

Contracts have been let for the erection of the Free Press three story brick and stone building, and for Messrs. H. R. Johnston & Co.'s large single story frame building to be erected on the corner of Bastion and Commercial streets. Mr. Gibson's proposed three story building will also be commenced by the beginning of next month.

Once again a scheme to construct an electric tramway between this city and Wellington is being agitated. Whilst ex-Mayor Hilbert was down in San Francisco recently he was approached on this subject by a local electrician, who made a proposition to install a plant and place it in thorough running order for the sum of $30,000, also stating his willingness to become a shareholder in any company that might be organized to operate the line. At present a local company have a franchise for the city, but hitherto they have done nothing, and apparently are in no hurry to make a start. Mr. Hilbert is trying to work up an interest in the scheme among the citizens generally, and there is a prospect of his efforts resulting favorably. There can be no doubt that an electric tramway connecting this city with Northfield and Wellington would prove an immense boon to local business men and to the public generally.

Now that the date for the election to fill the vacancy in the Dominion Parliament, caused by the lamented death of the late D. W. Gordon, has been fixed for the 9th May, Mayor Haslam will doubtless start the campaign in earnest, though, apparently, there is to be no opposition. Mayor Haslam returned from Alberni, Saturday evening, where he had been looking up the intelligent voters; he reports a very satisfactory trip.

The escaped member of the chain gang, an Indian, undergoing two months' imprisonment for whiskey stealing, was brought back from Duncan's yesterday morning, whither he had flown to the house of his father.

NANAIMO, April 11.—W. T. Heddle and H. Morris Read have dissolved partnership; they have been carrying on a general grocery business here for some time past. W. F. Heddle continues the business.

The Nanaimo Infantry Corps holds a parade to-morrow evening.

Messrs. Rube Allyn and Charles Kelly gave a very good entertainment in the Y. M. C. A. rooms last evening. Mr. Kelly's splendid voice delighted a large audience.

Sergt. Gibbs arrested a boy named Downing last evening, a member of the Salvation Army, on a charge of larceny. A cornet belonging to the Army band was found in his possession.

The New Vancouver Coal Company's mines are only working half time at present owing to the lack of shipping. The s.s. Montserrat is due to-morrow; she will load a cargo at the Esplanade wharf, and there are several ships on their way up from San Francisco and liable to put in an appearance at any time. The Wellington mines are kept very busy, in fact the coal is not turned out half speedily enough to suit the captains of the numerous vessels now waiting to load in Departure Bay.

During the past two weeks there has been almost a complete absence of police court cases. Only one charge of drunkenness has been dealt with this month. That such is the case is very creditable to the city at large and the police authorities, more particularly so when it is taken into consideration that there are close on thirty saloons in the town and a very mixed population.

Captain McIntyre, master of the ss. Costa Rica, has arrived with his vessel. He reports that the hearing of the case against him of shooting a sailor belonging to the bark Richard III in San Francisco has been indefinitely postponed, and will in all probability be dropped entirely.

Boucherat & Co., Victoria, have purchased the Hotel Wilson, its contents and business.

The charge against A. Bertram of embezzling $150 from the French Syndicate at Northfield, at the adjourned hearing this morning, was dismissed.

Loyal Golden lodge, C.O.O.F., celebrated its first anniversary this evening with a grand concert and banquet in the Royal hotel. It was numerously attended and was an enjoyable affair.

Mayor Haslam has offered the tannery property which he recently purchased to the original shareholders for $6,309—a very liberal offer; but the question of raising the necessary capital to stock and operate the tannery, about $20,000, was referred to a committee appointed to canvass all the old shareholders. The offer is good for two weeks.

Robert Dunn, underground manager at the East Wellington colliery, is dangerously ill and is not expected to live over to-morrow. He has been unconscious all day, suffering from apoplexy. Dr. Walkem is in attendance.

Arrived—Ship Sea King from San Francisco.

THE LOWER COUNTRY.

(From the Vernon News.)

The coal seam on Myers creek, which is about seven feet in thickness and well suited for coking, is owned by D. C. Corbin, of Spokane Falls, who has surveyed a railway from Marcus which will ultimately carry the ores and coal from this district to the smelters in Spokane and elsewhere on the American side.

Quartz mining is not going to be the only mining industry in the Boundary creek sections, for in the gravel is a large quantity of coarse gold. With a view to developing this, there has been an application made to the Government for the lease of 100 acres to pursue hydraulic mining.

Matters look hopeful for a townsite on Boundary creek, where eighty acres of the Eholt property have been surveyed out into town lots. Montreal and Spokane capitalists are each interested in this, and if the development of the mines warrant it they will erect a smelter.

Another good coal seam which will help to maintain a smelter is that near the mouth of Rock creek, on McConnel's property. The two shafts which have been sunk on this seam show it to be six feet wide and of good coking quality.

The new saw-mill in course of erection at the falls on Boundary creek will prove of great convenience to the settlers. The timber on the north fork will supply a saw mill for a long time, and there need be no lack of good cedar and tamarac lumber.

The record of claims on the North fork of the Kettle river and on Fourth of July creek goes steadily on, and the ranch land in Grand Prairie along the banks of the Kettle river will soon be all located.

VERNON.

(From the News.)

Wild geese have again made their appearance in the district on their way to summer quarters.

Real estate has been moving during the past few weeks, and several deals are expected in a few days.

Smithtown is progressing. The fourth edifice has reared its head heavenward.

Plowing is quite general over the greater part of the district.

Jas. Christie has been engaged during the week putting Mr. Price Ellison's orchard in shape.

Mr. Lyons' place was rented by Mr. Isaac Haun with a view to starting a nursery.

Great improvements have been going on in the Kalamalka grounds during the past few days. The planting of evergreens at the doorway will give the place a much more home-like appearance.

During the last three weeks a change has been effected in the management of the Columbia Flour Mills Co. Mr. Appleton, of the Hudson's Bay Co., succeeds Mr. Gibbs as manager. Mr. Appleton will not be able to enter on his duties till the end of the month. We believe it is Mr. Gibbs' intention to return to the coast.

E. M. Chalmers, of Mabel lake, while cutting wood near his cabin on Mabel lake, split one of his toes. He was three days alone and had to limp around packing his wood and water to the cabin.

Mr. Hawthorn, of Jarvis, Ont., who brought in the carload of horses to sell is getting them fitted up after their long siege on the train. Owing to a severe storm which they encountered in Manitoba on the way out the car was delayed in Brandon for six days. The draught stallion Drayman and the Cleveland bay Vencher are admired by all who see them, but not more so, especially among the ranchers, than the span of registered Clydesdale mares.

A pleasant event took place on Wednesday evening of last week at the residence of Dr. Rheinhart, when Rev. P. F. Langill performed the marriage ceremony between the Doctor and Miss Caroline Buchbinder. Miss Buchbinder, who was the Doctor's sister-in-law, has taken care of her deceased sister's children and managed the Doctor's household, and on the Doctor's return from Cariboo by Wednesday's train, where he has been practising since last spring, the marriage ceremony took place.

The lake is now practically open and has been for a day or two past, but the s.s. Pentiction will not begin running on her regular schedule until the 10th of April, when she will begin carrying the mails for the lower country as usual.

Frank Ellis, son of Mr. Thos. Ellis, J.P., of Pentiction, came in by Monday's train. He was on his way home from England, where he has spent the last four years pursuing his studies at Bath college.

Jos. Nesbitt, of Lumby, paid Vernon a visit last week to see how the new city is growing, and to get some pointers for the further advancement of the metropolis of White Valley.

The absorbing topic among the fair sex during the week has been the wedding of Mr. Leon J. Lequime and Miss Delphine Christian, daughter of Mr. Louis Christian, of Vernon. The event took place in Okanagan church, where Rev. Father Walsh performed the ceremony.

KAMLOOPS.

(From the Inland Sentinel.)

New machinery for the Revelstoke saw mill arrived from Peterboro, Ont., last week, and will be placed in position in a few days.

Parties at Nelson are calling for tenders for a wagon road from the crossing on the C. & K. Railway to the south end of Slocan Lake, a distance of about thirty-two miles. An all-the-year route to Revelstoke via Nakusp is what everyone here wishes most to see, but this is no reason why the Slocan River route should not be utilized also.

It is reported that the Government has decided to retain that portion of the New Denver townsite staked off and sold last fall. The people expect the Government will now spend on improvements a portion of the large sum they got in last fall from the sale of lots.

PLUMPER'S PASS.

PLUMPER'S PASS, April 10.—Many persons complain of the Eastern climate, and one is apt to think and say at times that it is bad, but the line of comparison with this climate will be better understood if a visit be paid to Mayne Island at this time of the year when all kinds of fruit trees are in full blossom; violets and other wild flowers were to be picked in the beginning of last month.

The wife and family of Mr. D. Gallant, the popular school teacher on Galiano Island, are leaving to spend the summer in Victoria, and will not return until the fall.

That music hath charms is proverbial, as may have been heard at the pleasant gathering of young folks at the residence of Mr. J. W. Sinclair on Sunday evening last, when the singing of a number of sacred hymns was gone through. Mayne Islanders and families nearabout have been deprived of any kind of church services for the past eight months, and a revival of such a gathering is the only alternative.

Miss Maudie Robson is visiting in Victoria. Contractor C. Wilson paid a flying visit to his home in Vancouver on Sunday. W. H. Mawdsley, of Point Comfort, returned home Sunday, being accompanied by Mr. M. Wolff.

DUNCAN'S.

DUNCAN'S, April 11.—Mr. and Mrs. Ashdown Green, J. C. Prevost and W. Prevost came up on Saturday and returned to town the following day.

E. Musgrave, I. Musgrave, R. Musgrave and Dr. A. M. Watson returned from Victoria on Saturday.

Miss Marsley (Koksilah) traveled down to the Capital Saturday last.

I. Tarlton (Koksilah) has gone to Nanaimo.

Lieut. Col. Andrew C. P. Haggard and Mrs. Haggard are at the Quamichan Hotel.

Indian Agent Lomas, H. I. Haighett and W. Paull were passengers for Victoria yesterday morning.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the North Cowichan Municipal Council will be held in the Agricultural hall on Saturday.

Some miscreants broke into Mr. C. Bazett's store last night and made off with a small booty, consisting chiefly of a few dollars worth of nickels. The affair is probably the work of a Celestial.

REVELSTOKE.

(From the Kootenay Star.)

Gus Lund has bonded his quartz claims at McCullogh creek, Big Bend, to a Seattle company, of which C. F. Blackburn is a leading member. The claims are the Jenny Lind, with a rich vein six inches wide; the Ole Bull and Hamlin, each with a 12-inch vein. Quartz from all these assayed from $150 to $5,000 per ton. The bond is for $5,000.

The town is filling up with prospectors and others bound for the new Eldorado—Lardeau and Slocan.

It is to be hoped the Government will make some badly needed improvements on the roads at Salmon Arm this season, as in several places they have become nearly impassable.

Many new houses are being built at the station, and that end of the town is fast putting on a progressive businesslike aspect. Robson's new flour and feed store is now open for business, and Mr. Longheed has just completed a house and store adjoining his dwelling house.

REVELSTOKE, April 11.—The first attempt at navigation on the Columbia was made yesterday, when five boat loads of men, taking on board a supply of provisions, drew their craft over the ice at the bend of the river, near the smelter works, to the clear water further down. Several loads went down to-day so that it may be said navigation has opened. The Marion will make her first trip on Thursday or Friday of this week. There is yet considerable ice floating in the river.

GOLDEN.

(From the Golden Era.)

Messrs. Griffith and Galbraith have purchased for a London syndicate all the placer hydraulic and other mining properties held by the Chinese companies on Wild Horse creek, together with all their interests in ditches and all water rights owned by them. This is one of the most important mining transactions that have taken place in East Kootenay, and places the whole of the mining properties in Wild Horse creek in the hands of a strong London syndicate. The company intend employing only white labor.

The steamers of the Upper Columbia company will resume regular traffic on or about the 18th instant. This is the latest on record, showing how exceedingly and unusually severe the winter has been. In 1891 traffic opened on March 25, and last year on the 21st of the same month.

Lawrence Mangan died of heart failure at St. Eugene's mission on March 23. Mr. Mangan, familiarly known as "Larry" by all old timers, came to Wild Horse creek amongst the first in 1864, and has remained in the country ever since. He was born in Ireland.

The first tram from the Columbia ran on the 4th inst.

The demand for lumber from the mill company is very great. They have booked as much as they can ship for a long way ahead.

Lady Adela Cochrane has very generously contributed a carpet to St. Paul's.

The Government dredge being built here, which is sixty-five feet long by twenty-five feet wide, is getting along nicely.

NEW DENVER.

(From the Nelson Tribune.)

Sixty-three claims have been recorded since the first snow last fall.

The sawmill at the head of the lake is in successful operation, and lumber is being turned out at the rate of eight to ten thousand feet a day.

M. Grady, J. Briggs, C. Laatz, Jap King, George Long, John Burns, and many others have found their way back to their old quarters. Jap King says he is going to take a short trip into the Duncan river country, but will be back here to prospect.

Reports from the Twin Lakes basin are most satisfactory. The Queen Bess, Young Dominion, and Alamo will be worked all spring. It is reported that a good body of ore has been struck on the Young Dominion. J. E. Boss, of Spokane, who is interested in the property, is now on the ground.

NELSON.

(From the Nelson Tribune.)

The steamer State of Idaho, now building at Bonner's Ferry, will be completed by the middle of the month. The Spokane will be running some time next week, when a daily service will be given from Bonner's Ferry to Kaslo and Nelson.

On the Columbia river the Lytton has not yet been able to get above Tincup rapids, and until she does travellers will not be apt to take that route if they can avoid it.

The owners of the Tam o' Shanter, a claim on the east side of Kootenay lake, a mile or so north of the Blue Bell, have let a contract to drive the tunnel another fifty feet. Work will be commenced at once by the contractors, Henry Cody and Alex. McLeod.

The owners of the Highlander have a large force at work under the superintendence of A. Stalberg. There are two veins in the claim. The first one was tapped by the tunnel some time ago, and a drift is now being run on it, and it is said to be in a fine body of good-grade ore. The tunnel is also being extended to tap the other, or "Little Donald," vein.

The boys who were driving the Shafer company tunnel had to quit when in 171 feet on account of foul air and powder smoke combined. The ground was very hard also. Manager Johnson is expected in from Seattle soon, when arrangements will be perfected to drive the tunnel by machinery.

The Mile Point company will start a new tunnel about eighty feet lower than the original one, and expect to run 150 feet before they strike the vein. In their prospecting tunnel they had six feet of ore, which ran from 40 to 345 ounces of silver to the ton.

It is reported that the Highland is bonded by Mr. Stevenson, an expert from Eastern Oregon, at a pretty round sum.

A little over a year ago, George T. Kane would have laughed at the man who would have intimated that he would be buying back land in the Kaslo townsite at as much per acre as he was then asking for half the townsite. Yet that is what he is doing. Last Friday he bought "Buchanan's acre," on upper Front street, paying $10,000 for it. James McNaughton is interested in the deal with Mr. Kane.

NELSON.

(From the Miner.)

J. C. Rykert, who was down from the Boundary, says that the Kootenay Reclamation works have the machinery and timbers at Bonner's Ferry for a floating dredge, and will do work this summer on a big scale. The largest consignment of freight which ever passed through the Custom house was on board the Nelson on her first trip.

The outlook for Goat river and Duck creek mining districts is good this year. N. S. Dodds and partner have a property on Duck creek called the Lizard, which presents one of the finest showings in the country. Mr. Rykert may be obliged shortly to abandon the West for the more civilized East.

All is activity in the infant city of Argenta, and the feature of the day at Kaslo is the rapid advance in the value of lots in the latter place. Andy Revsbeck of the Victoria Hotel, Nelson, went to Kaslo on the first boat and has returned to town richer by $500, realized by the judicious purchase and re-sale of Argenta town lots.

At Argenta two hotels are being built, one by Walmsley and Piper, and the other by Whitesides and Bigsby. The townsite owners have begun to clear and grade streets, and work on the wharf is making good progress.

R. W. Rathbone, from New Denver, reports work shut down on the Mountain Boomer for want of grub. He considers the prospects of Four-Mile camp to be excellent for the coming summer. In his opinion snow-shoes are very nearly over for the year, the rapid thaw in January having brought down a great deal of the snow.

The extensions of the Mountain Chief have been sold for good figures. Regarding one of these there was a jumping case at the last County court which was dismissed in a very summary manner by Judge Walkem. The defendant is now richer by something between $5,000 and $10,000.

Speaking of the losses of the Morning Mine company, D. B. Huntley, the manager, says: "You may state that the loss to the company from operating the mine in December was $6,000, in January $7,000, in February $2,000, and from the 1st to the 17th of March the loss was $2,500, the decrease of expenses for the month of February being due to the fact that better ore was taken out than during the previous month.

The steamer Nelson returned from Bonner's Ferry on Monday evening, bringing with her 67 passengers, most of them for Kaslo, and the largest amount of bonded freight which ever passed through the customs at the boundary line. The rapid disappearance of the ice was a surprise to everyone. Captain Troup, who had opportunities of knowing what the ice was like, said that if anyone had wired him that the river was open he would have treated it as a practical joke. It appears that the warm rain of last week caused a freshet in the river which burst the ice up and carried it off in a single day. The new boat at Bonner's Ferry is making good progress, as are the repairs on the Spokane; when these are completed the Spokane will have considerably more saloon accommodation than before. It is expected that there will be enormous traffic over the Bonner's Ferry route this year, and active competition between the owners of the new boat and the C. & K. The Nelson and the Spokane will shortly be fitted with 6,000 candle power electric search-lights. The plants have been ordered from Wisconsin, where they make a specialty of manufacturing search-lights for use on the Mississipi steamers. Those ordered for the C. & K. Steam Navigation Co. will be the exact counterpart of the ones in use there. The machinery is on its way in by Bonner's Ferry, over the Great Northern, and it is expected that the boat will be fitted up by the 10th of this month.

NICOLA.

NICOLA, April 6.—The marriage of Miss Minnie Chapman, only daughter of James Chapman, to Mr. Daniel McInnes, was solemnized on Wednesday evening at the residence of the bride's parents, Coldstream, Nicola. The interesting ceremony was performed by Rev. George Murray, Presbyterian minister, before a large number of friends and well-wishers. The bride, beautifully attired, was supported by Miss Letitia Riley, as bridesmaid, while Mr. Will McInnes attended the bridegroom as best man. At the conclusion of the ceremony the wedding guests were entertained to a sumptuous repast which reflected the greatest credit on Mrs. Chapman. The usual toasts having been drunk the company adjourned and indulged in dancing, singing, etc., etc., until the "wee sma' oors." Showers of rice and old boots, emblems of good luck, followed the happy couple on their departure for their new home, where it is hoped every blessing and prosperity may attend them. The presents were numerous and beautiful, demonstrating the high estimation in which the bride is held by her numerous friends.

QUESNELLE.

QUESNELLE, April 8.—William Ellis, better known as Billy the Barber, died in the hospital at Barkerville last night. He was an old-timer and for the last five years kept the Stanley hotel. A stroke of paralysis sent him to the hospital three weeks ago, where he gradually grew worse until relieved by death.

The people of Cariboo are well aware that their district is well treated by the Government, and have no reason to complain. There is yet in old Cariboo that which will amply justify the different Governments in the expenditure of so much money in years past, and a railway will materially conduce to that end.

The season is nearly six weeks later than last year. The snow is thawing very slowly, but the heavy night frosts retard its disappearance.

Eight men from Ottawa will arrive in a few days and will proceed up the Fraser as soon as navigation is open with Mr. Louis Samson, of gold-trap fame. He will have a force of ten men and several horses, with which, and his gold-saving machine, he expects to catch the gold on one of the northern creeks by the tub-full.

The flour mill will begin grinding in a few days. The wheat is slightly inferior to last year's, but Mr. Jack Smith, the miller, intends making flour that will again rival, if it does not equal, the famous Winnipeg flour.

THE CITY MARKETS.

The general tone of the local markets is improving as the season opens, and a more hopeful spirit is everywhere manifested. Farmers are busy with spring operations, and it is evident that there will be more cereals laid down this year than heretofore. The weather appears to have cleared up, and although the winter was particularly severe everything now looks well.

FLOUR is firm at prices quoted, as also wheat.

OATS are stiffening owing to the home supply becoming exhausted. Manitoba is sending on some big shipments, and is demanding more money. Prices have advanced slightly, but not sufficient to affect the retail trade.

SHORTS have advanced a dollar or two per ton, and are in demand at figures quoted.

EGGS are plentiful at from 20c. to 25c. per dozen.

POTATOES sell at from $1.75 to $2 per bag, and are all imported. They are not likely to be cheaper until the new crop comes in.

MEATS are as quoted below. Some prime beeves have been received from Calgary during the week. There have also been large consignments of hogs and sheep.

FISH is in liberal supply. Salmon sells freely at from 10c. to 20c. per pound. Halibut is quoted at from 12c. to 18c. per pound. Trout have not as yet shown up on the fishmongers' slabs, but those sold by peddlers command from 25c. to 30c. per pound.

FRUITS are freely imported. Oranges range from 20c. to 75c. per dozen, according to quality, pineapples from 25c. to 60c. each, bananas 50c. per doz.

Appended are the ruling retail prices:—

FLOUR—Portland roller per bbl	$ 5.75
Salem "	5.75
Ogilvie's (Hungarian)	6.00
Lake of the Woods (Hungarian)	6.00
Premier "	6.00
Three Star "	5.75
Victoria "	5.75
Lion "	5.75
Royal "	6.00
Wheat, per ton	30.00@40.00
Oats, per ton	28.00@30.00
Barley, per ton	30.00@35.00
Middlings, per ton	32.00@37.00
Bran, per ton	27.00@ 30.00
Ground Feed, per ton	30.00@35.00
Corn, whole	45.00
" cracked	50.00
Cornmeal, per 100 lbs	4.75@3.00
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs	50
Rolled Oats, per lb	6
Potatoes, per bag	1.75@2.00
Cabbage, per lb	2@4
Cauliflowers, per doz	1.50@2.00
Hay, baled, per ton	18@20.00
Straw, per bale	1.00
Onions, new, per lb	05
" Silver, per lb	2@3
Eggs, Island, per dozen	20@25
" Portland "	25
Butter, Island roll, (2 lbs)	50 @ 65
" Creamery, per 3 lbs	1.00
Cheese, Canadian per lb., retail	25
Hams, American "	25
" Canadian "	20
Bacon, American, per lb	25
" Rolled " "	18
" Long clear " "	17
Shoulders, per lb	14
Lard " "	16@25
Meats—Beef "	10@18
Sides "	8@11
Mutton, per lb	12@20
Pork, fresh "	10@18
Chickens, per pair	1.75@2.00
Turkey per lb	30
Geese per lb	25
Fish—Salmon (Spring), per lb	12@18
" (Smoked), "	8@10
Halibut	10@18
Cod, per lb	8@10
" (N'fd.), per lb	12½
Small fish	5@8
Sturgeon	2@4
Herring (Labrador), per doz	50
" (smoked) "	50
Fruits—Apples per lb	5@8
Oranges (Navel), per doz	50@75
" (Riverside) "	25@30
Lemons, per doz	40@50

Tug Lorne went around to Esquimalt yesterday morning to enter the dry dock.

FIRE PROTECTION.

The Dangers to Which the Outlying Districts of the City Are Exposed.

Proposed Enlargement of the Fire Department—James Bay and Victoria West.

There was a meeting of the Fire Wardens yesterday morning in the office of Chief Deasy, at which the necessity of providing fire protection for the outlying districts of the city was discussed. Chief Deasy reported that Victoria West requires an engine house, a combined chemical engine and hose wagon, two horses, three men and ten hydrants, estimated cost $7,500; James Bay needs one hose carriage and three men, estimated cost $2,500; the Eastern district, above Cook street, should have an engine house with a steam fire engine, hose wagon, four horses and six men, cost $10,000.

The Fire Wardens concurred in the suggestions of the Chief, who in his report adds:

"The expense connected with this extension of the fire service would necessarily be very great; but the extension of the city limits and the increase in population should be taken into consideration. At present the fire department is of little use in Victoria West and above Fernwood road. No hydrants in one district, and no pressure in another, are drawbacks which tended during the past year to increase materially the fire loss. The districts mentioned might be protected, and means furnished in the following manner: A by-law to borrow the sum of $20,000 for building and furnishing fire halls might be placed before the ratepayers for their approval. The ground, hall and apparatus would be of value, and the repayment of the capital and interest should extend over fifty years. Insurance rates would be reduced and the property owners would lose nothing. The apparatus for outside districts would be of use, in case of fire, in the business section of the city. It would not be safe to remove any of the apparatus at present in service; but we have two steam fire engines, a hose wagon and one hose cart in reserve, which might be used in the places mentioned."

The recent suspicious fires were discussed and it was conceded that the inquests recently held had had the effect of checking incendiarism to a very considerable extent; still it was held that better protection was essential to the safety of life and property in the outlying districts.

The Wardens will report to the Council.

WELCOME VISITORS.

The Canadian Gazette (London) says:

Canada is to be honored by a visit from some leading British journalists during the summer. The party, which has been arranged by Mr. C. D. Leng, of the Sheffield Telegraph, will include the following representative journalists:

Sir William C. Leng, Sheffield Telegraph.
Mr. Clement K. Shorter, Editor of the Illustrated London News and of the Sketch.
Mr. A. D Murray, Newcastle Journal.
Mr. J. Dixon, Industries.
Mr. G. B. Dibblee, Manchester Guardian.
Mr. G. Harrison Law, Scotsman.
Mr. F. G. Byles, Bradford Observer.
Mr. Alden, Keighley News.
Mr. B. H. Smith, Engineer.
Mr. William Heinemann, Weekly Sun.
Mr. H. Bramley, Sheffield and Rotherham Independent.
Mr Lascelles Carr, Western Mail, Cardiff.
Mr. C. D. Leng, Weekly Telegraph, Sheffield.

The party leaves Liverpool on April 5th for New York and Chicago, and it is intended to enter Canada at Niagara Falls on May 5th, spending five drys sight-seeing in Toronto, on the St. Lawrence, and in Montreal. We have no doubt that the citizens of Toronto and Montreal will be glad to give the journalists a hearty welcome. They may wait a long time before another such opportunity presents itself, and if we might make a suggestion to the enterprising men of the two commercial centres of Canada, it would be to show Sir William Leng, Mr. Shorter, and their colleagues what Canada can do in the way of hospitality. The party stays at the Fifth Avenue hotel in New York, and at the Auditorium hotel in Chicago.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.

The San Francisco Commercial News gives the following review of the market: "Trade advices from the East received by mail are of an encouraging nature. The settlement of the five months' strike among the factory hands in England has a favorable effect on imports of cotton and cereals into that country, and the railway strike in the West is also over, allowing uninterrupted traffic. The volume of business in the East has been well maintained, and manufacturers generally report increasing demand for goods. It is reported from London that the oranges sent from Southern California were disposed of at $3.50 a box, and were the finest ever imported. This is certainly high praise, as the California fruit in that market meets in competition all the best growths in the world, and even if the report is exaggerated, shows that if reasonable freights can be secured a permanent market can be established there. With the Nicaragua canal open the southern part of the state could compete on equal terms with Southern Europe and Africa in this trade. The most important local change was made on the 4th, when the refinery advanced the rate on all grades of sugar ⅛c. per pound. This followed a marked advance in refined in New York, where an active business was reported until the advance came, which materially checked the demand. Raw sugars were also marked up in the East, while the London prices were undisturbed. The receipts of Southern rice by rail continue liberal, and prevent any advance in other grades. The situation in the South seems to be more favorable, although many contradictory reports are received from that quarter. The canned fruit trade is at a standstill. Stocks in the East are liberal, and prices there absolutely lower than canners are able to quote at the factories here. A turn for the better is hoped for soon, and locally stocks are well cleaned up. Salmon is featureless, but heavy supplies of canning material are now going forward in anticipation of a full pack in Alaska this season. The export business this week has been rather light, but it is nearly the end of the season, and it is therefore natural shipments should fall off. Freight is offering freely for New York by s