

Crew and Ship Were Lost

Australian Mail Contains Particulars of Complete Wreck of Sierra Nevada.

Plague Still Prevalent in Southern Pacific—Report on Pacific Cable.

Through the arrival of the R. M. S. Warrimoo last evening Australian advice to May 13th were received. Details are given of the loss of the steamer Sierra Nevada about the 12th of May off Cape Otway. The vessel had worked in too close to shore. A fearful storm was raging at the time which swept the decks clear. Even those who took refuge in the fore-cabin were reached by the waves which were mounting to a great height. The boat struck and was soon beating violently on the rocks. Some of the crew managed to reach the shore, but twenty-three were lost, including the skipper, Capt. Scott. Five bodies have been recovered all battered terribly by contact with the rocks. The vessel will be a total loss.

An explosion occurred in a mine at Grimsby early in May in which several men were severely injured, including the manager, Watson.

The committee appointed at Melbourne to prepare an estimate of the cost of laying and maintaining the Pacific cable has submitted a most interesting report to the secretary of state for the colonies. The report states that the estimates furnished by the consulting engineer places the cost of laying the cable, including two maintenance ships, at £1,700,000, and the committee is assured that this will be within 5 per cent. of the contractors' prices. The cost proposed for the fanning section is £600,000, copper and 340lb. gutta-percha per knot, giving eight paying words per minute on the basis of a total capital outlay of £1,800,000. The committee estimates the annual expenditure as follows: Interest and sinking fund, £70,000; working expenses, £25,000; maintenance, £55,000; total, £150,000. As to the duplication of the cable, the committee refers to the previous report and says that it would probably be in the interests of the associated governments and of the Eastern companies to have a working agreement as to rates and exchange of traffic. Failing such an agreement, duplication might be required in the near future, and prevent the cable being self-supporting for many years. The cable could be manufactured and laid in 18 months, and it is estimated that it would obtain 900,000 words, or five-twelfths of the total of the traffic, 2,500,000 words, in 1902. The committee recommends a rate of 2s for the Pacific portion owing to the estimated deficit of £54,000, but from the stimulus of reduced rates and the development of the local Pacific business it was reasonable to expect that the deficit would disappear in some years. The management to be by a board of eight in the same proportion as a committee of unpaid, but with a salaried manager.

The report has been sent to the Postmaster-General for his consideration, and will be brought before the cabinet. Bubonic plague was still quite prevalent in Australia when the Warrimoo sailed. The Sydney Herald of May 9th says: "The fresh cases of bubonic plague were the total for yesterday. There have also been two deaths, both of them in the quarantine hospital. In all probability some twenty patients will be removed to-day from the hospital to the convalescent home at the quarantine station, thus giving more space in the hospital, the general effect of the daily report of the medical officer is encouraging. Most of them have taken a turn for the better, and there would seem to be a probability of their restoration to health."

Vavau, a town in the northern group of the Friendly Islands, was struck by a hurricane early in April and nearly wiped out. Inland on the same island 50 churches were demolished and scores of native dwellings were destroyed. The orange crop also suffered and fears were entertained for the fleet of coasting vessels.

Queen Liliuokalani received a most enthusiastic welcome upon her return to the Hawaiian Islands after her prolonged stay in Washington. She arrived by the City of Peking, it having been given out that she would arrive by the Australia as the Queen wished to avoid a demonstration in Honolulu. Her words of welcome were: "When our flag went down it went down for good. What we see with our own eyes we cannot deny. All we can do now is to become good American citizens." Her words have set at rest all hope which may have lingered in the breasts of some regarding the restoration of the old regime in Hawaii.

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PROCEEDINGS TERMINATED.

The Grand Lodge Concluded Their Session Yesterday—Banquet Last Evening.

The Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F., concluded proceedings last evening after a session occupying three days. The principal business to come up for consideration yesterday afternoon was the election of officers for next year. The candidates were Roseland, Nelson and Nanaimo. Nelson, however, withdrew, and the ballot being taken between the other two Roseland was at first decided upon. A report from the finance committee, however, directed attention to the fact that the estimated expense which would be incurred in taking the Grand Lodge to Roseland next session would amount to nearly \$4,000, and the matter was reconsidered, and as Roseland was withdrawn Nanaimo was selected as the next meeting place.

The lodge passed a vote of thanks to Mayor Hayward for his kindness and courtesy in taking the members for a drive through the beautiful suburbs of the city, also to the city papers for their full and accurate reports of the proceedings. The Grand Lodge met in the evening, when the officers were installed as follows:

W. E. Johnstone, Vancouver, Grand Master.
W. Hogg, Vancouver, Deputy Grand Master.
A. Graham, Victoria, Grand Warden.
Fred. Davey, Victoria, Grand Secretary.
G. T. Fox, Victoria, Grand Treasurer.
R. Mar, New Westminster, Grand Marshal.
A. Parker, Vancouver, Grand Guardian.

J. Palmer, Donald, Grand Conductor.
J. Newton, Nanaimo, Grand Herald.
C. E. Arthur, Nelson, Grand Chaplain.
The Grand Master appointed the following District Deputy Grand Masters for the ensuing year: District No. 1, James Pottinger; No. 2, D. McPherson; No. 3, George A. Thompson; No. 4, James Glenn; No. 5, T. Knight; No. 6, G. L. Carter; No. 7, J. Kerr; No. 8, R. Cessford; No. 9, J. A. Storer; No. 10, R. B. Collishaw; No. 11, A. H. Clements; No. 12, S. W. Hagan; No. 13, S. C. Smith; No. 14, Thomas Humes; No. 15, P. Wade; No. 16, J. B. Bryson; No. 17, S. Churchill; No. 18, H. L. Calvert; No. 19, C. A. Warren; No. 20, F. French; No. 21, W. M. Clarke; No. 22, W. M. Haver; No. 23, George Waite; No. 24, P. Hatched; No. 25, J. R. Haner; No. 26, R. E. Beattie; No. 27, P. Ryan; No. 28, — Pollard.

For the Rebekahs—District No. 1, Mrs. J. E. Phillips; No. 2, Mrs. W. H. Walsh; No. 3, Mrs. M. Anderson; No. 4, Mrs. I. L. Insley; No. 5, Miss Odell; No. 6, Miss Davey; No. 7, no appointment; No. 8, Mrs. Martin.

The following standing committees were also appointed:

Finance—James Pottinger, A. Rumble, R. Livingstone, R. Drake, T. Knight, J. Newton.

Apprentice—T. A. Muir, E. L. Webber, D. E. McKenzie, T. F. Neelands, D. M. O'Dwyer, W. Law.

Laws of Subordinates—E. Bragg, J. York, J. A. Bell, R. Rivers, M. Dunsmuir, H. L. Calvert.

Petitions—F. Cockburn, A. Mitchell, C. McMillan, S. Churchill, P. J. Moore, T. S. Brown.

State of the Order—H. J. Rickard, W. S. Smith, S. E. Marshall, E. P. Dennis, R. B. Collishaw, A. C. Aitken.

Legislation—T. Taylor, H. J. Raymer, W. H. Thorpe, R. Smiles, P. Hauck, J. E. Phillips.

Judiciary—J. Stark, R. May, F. E. French, T. Bryant, W. M. Clark, P. W. Dempster.

Mileage and Per Diem—T. C. Gray, J. Palmer, J. E. Phillips, E. C. Arthur, J. McMillan, G. Waite.

Printing—Grand Secretary, T. Crowell, H. Siddall, A. Parker, J. Crossan, C. L. McDonald.

After the proceedings were concluded the Grand Lodge adjourned to the dining room of the Clarence Hotel, where a splendid banquet, prepared by Mrs. White, of the Imperial Hotel, was partaken of, and the remainder of the evening was most enjoyably passed in toast and song.

THE CAMPS OF ATLIN.

Progress of Work Being Done on the Creeks—Great Future for Country.

In an interview appearing in the Alaskan Budget, C. H. DeWitt, a recent arrival from Atlin, said: "Most of the work this year will be done by large plants. Sunday last Marston Williams, on Birch creek, began piling. This is the first plant to begin operations this year. It consists of two No. 4 giants, fed by twenty-inch pipes, reduced to eleven inches, with a foot fall. The people of the whole country were invited to see the plant begin work."

"Another promising plant preparing for operations is that of the Wright Creek Mining Co., owned by the railroad people. Of this, Mr. Blodgett, one of the greatest hydraulic experts in the country, is manager, and Mr. Christopher superintendent. This company has 7,000 feet of flume to build and has a splendid property."

"George Brackett of the Willow Creek Mining Company, is a ground-sliding, cleaning up bedrock as he goes. He is working 52 men and doing splendidly, taking out considerable gold every day by the ground-sliding process."

"Sailor Bill will put in a New Zealand dredge at the mouth of Pine and McKee creeks. Cook & Ruffner, managing the Sunrise Hydraulic Mining Company, will have the largest plant in the district this season when they get to work. The stamp mill on Lord Hamilton's property has been working successfully up to within a few days, when certain delicate pieces had to be sent for to San Francisco."

"There is another stamp mill at Bennett awaiting transportation. 'A. A. Johnson and partner expect to put in a \$25,000 plant at an early date. They have a lease on a half-mile of creek, and two eighty-acre bench claims."

"Taking the district as a whole, there will be but few plants worked this season, but these are reasonably successful, the next few years will see in Atlin one of the greatest hydraulic camps in the world. There are possibly 2,000 people in various camps. A recent census of voters showed 576 were entitled to vote at the election."

CANADIAN NOTES.

Montreal, June 15.—Avila Boursassa, who is charged with having murdered his wife about noon on Wednesday, April 4th, in his house on Visitation street, while in a fit of jealousy, was placed on trial before the Court of Queen's Bench yesterday.

Kingston, June 15.—There is likely to be a three-cornered fight in Frontenac County at the next election. D. D. Rogers, the present member, to run as Independent, T. H. Reynolds as Liberal, and H. Calvin as Conservative.

Bowmanville, June 15.—Speaking at the annual meeting of the West Durham Reform Association yesterday afternoon, Hon. Sidney Fisher, after a long and eloquent address, reduced the price of government land to 10 cents per acre, and referring to preferential tariff he said the difference in the policy of Conservatives and Liberals was that the former wanted the Motherland to give preference to Canada for a large part of the Dominion; the Liberal policy was giving preference without asking anything in return, thereby obtaining a higher position in the English minds and helping on Imperial sentiment, which is now becoming so popular.



UNCLE SAMUEL—Say, John, couldn't you lend me "Bobs" for a few weeks to finish my Philippine campaign? (Montreal Daily Star)

Victorians In a Fight

Corp. O'Dell Describes an Engagement in Which Local Men Participated.

A Vancouver Man Missing But the Remainder of "A" Company Well.

The Times is in receipt of another letter from Corp. O'Dell, dated at Thaba Nchu, May 2nd. The letter is in diary form and opens on April 20th. The writer says:

"April 26.—We were aroused at 3 a.m. Last night we slept by the graveside of DeWitt. We marched off about 10 a.m. and formed the rear guard of the brigade. Just before we left Colonel Otter was carried on a stretcher, and passed our battalion. I heard that he had bled freely, and that there was a possibility of tetanus setting in. We marched to Thaba Nchu and entered the town about 1 p.m. Our regiment was sent out to the south about 3 miles."

"April 27.—Early this morning we sighted General French's and General Rundle's divisions advancing towards us from the south part of the pass through the pass we were holding. From helicopter messages that I received a Boer force pursued by them amounted to 10,000 men, mostly from Dewetsdorp and Wepener. General French rode into the city, passed our camp and we transmitted messages from General Richardson, left in command of the Canadian division, to him at Thaba Nchu. The signallers of the 10th Lancers assisting us in the work. In the afternoon we received orders to return to Thaba Nchu and join the brigade before dusk. This was carried out, and we camped near the Gordons, north of the town, about 5 p.m."

"April 28.—Marched out about 5 a.m. and found the Boers holding a very high kopje some 7 miles off, which, for want of a better, I will call Canadian Peak. It was the highest peak among several high ridges and kopjes round us, rising majestically to a height of 6,700 feet above the sea. Shortly after 8 a.m., as we rounded a kopje, several bullets pattered around, and down on our stomachs we went, as one man. We have now learnt the value of taking to cover quickly when fired upon. These shots I have since learnt were not intended for us but were fired at some mounted infantry on the sky line, about 500 yards off on our left. We slowly advanced up a ridge and soon the firing line opened fire on Canadian Peak, and on a village to the northeast of it. Beneath us, nestled among some orchard trees, was Field Cornet Dewet's house, which later on was well hit by some members of 'H' Company. They secured jam, butter and three or four tins of army service corps biscuits (hardtack). Court, of Victoria, went off foraging, and came back with a young turkey. In the afternoon we climbed Canadian Peak, and by 5.30 p.m. had gained the highest ridge but one without any opposition or casualties to our side."

"We all then set to work to build

breastworks and shelters for the night. The air was bitterly cold. Shortly after 6 p.m. orders were received to return immediately to Thaba Nchu. It was now dark. The difficult climb down the precipitous slope was accomplished, except for a few scratches and bruises, without mishap. At the base of the peak the regiment formed up, and 'banded' by Capt. Ogilvie and Lieut. Hodgins (of B. Co.) on horseback we marched back to Thaba Nchu."

"Soon after starting Capt. Ogilvie sent for me to march with him, and signalling a Boer was occasionally showing up in the gloom. Men spoke rarely and then only in whispers as we groped our way along. To the east, on our left, about 3 miles off, lights from the camp fires of a Boer laager flicked and danced an invitation, but we were not for it. Two or three Boer kopjes were caught on the march were taken with us. After marching through a graveyard and circumventing some hills near the town, we arrived at our camp just before midnight, where Lieut. Lafferty was ready with a good supper. By George! that rum-tasted good. We must have covered nearly 12 miles on the march back to camp."

"Sunday, April 29.—Resting in camp. Needed it. I don't like these rests in one place, but they usually precede a hard day's fight or a long march."

"Monday, April 30.—The whole brigade, in fact all the 9th division with the exception of the Highlanders, whom we have not seen for some days, together with mounted infantry, and a long wagon train of supplies, left the town shortly before 6 a.m. in a northwest direction."

"Tuesday, May 1.—Yesterday and today we have had the stiffest fight since no casualties, but Pte. Hutchins, of Vancouver, is reported missing. The enemy held a good position from 11 a.m. yesterday until 1 p.m. to-day."

"Their firing started before 11 a.m., and their big gun of long range to the east got the range and dropped five or six shells right amongst us. Three of them among our own regiment; luckily they were badly fused, and did not burst. Some men, however, were knocked over by the concussion. One shell fell near Pte. Lewis, of 'H' Company, and lifted him off his feet into the air. The men were perfectly cool and showed admirable fortitude under this trying ordeal. Orders were instantly issued to slowly move off to the left. We had been facing north, so left turn brought us with our faces to the hill on which I am now writing, and to the west."

"While this was going on our guns were shelling this kopje, covering the advance of the Shropshires and Gordons, who, on crossing the donga and climbing the side of the hill, were in turned shelled by the Boer gun. This gun was remarkably well served all through the fighting."

"As we got out of range of the enemy's shell fire from the east we also were subjected to its fire, and Pte. Cotton, a member of 'D' Company, and for a time in the Maxlin gun section, received one that tore him almost in two. At the moment of writing I can see, with the aid of my field glasses, a party burning him. It is now 1 p.m., and Capt. Ogilvie has just told me to keep my eyes on a man galloping from the enemy's rear towards the Maxlin gun, from which a few puffs of smoke from Martini rifles can be now and again seen. To the northeast all day yesterday and the early part of to-day continued firing could be heard, shot and shell was flying everywhere. Big guns,

boom poms and Maxims added to the incessant rifle fire."

"Boers were on three sides of us. This morning 'K' Company of the Gordons charged a point, and a Boer shouted: 'Hold up your hands.' 'Hold up hell' came the reply, accompanied by a volley that knocked over the Boer and some more of his countrymen. Capt. Towse, who led the charge, was shot through the head behind the eyes, and is still alive. I will now turn from the fight to the wounded, who are going down the kopje past me. There goes a Gordon with a bullet through his left breast. Behind him is a Shropshire lad, the missile that sends him to the ambulance wagon has passed through his nose and lip, out again and through his left arm. Another shot through the calf is leaning on the arm of his chum as he climbs down the steep and rocky descent."

"I just spoke to another Shropshire lad, who is returning to the firing line. He has come up with ammunition from the carts at the foot of the hill. 'Where were you shot?' 'Through my canteen.' 'What have you done with it?' 'Thrown it away because it leaked.' 'You ought to send it home to your best girl.' I ventured to remark, 'Not me, she'd say it served me right.' Still the wounded go down, but my attention is arrested by seeing the Boers in full retreat and our scouts and mounted infantry, supported by guns and infantry, are advancing on them to my left, to the north. Orders received to leave the kopje and I am off."

"Wednesday, May 2.—A day of rest. Pte. Hutchins has not turned up yet. Lieut. Ross, of 'B' Company, was wounded and about six privates, whose names I have not yet learnt. We have marched to a farm some three miles since yesterday. Poisoned bullets were found on some of the prisoners we took. I hear that 400 prisoners were taken. The bullets were found by a member of 'B' Company."

"Monday night Court, who, with some of our other signallers and the writer, had been in a Kaffir hut, went over to our transports to sleep. The rest of us, together with four or five of 'F' Company and some of Kitchen's Horse, slept in the huts. We secured a few chickens and roasted them on the embers. To-day, Wednesday, May 2nd, we are as I remarked above, resting. We had a medical inspection and some more have been marked unfit, and are going this afternoon with our wounded back to Bloemfontein. I will take the opportunity to get this off to you by one of them."

"The farm house close to us has evidently been there some years, and its late occupant has made a very pretty place of his farm. Nearby there is a private graveyard with two graves railed in, and the marble tombstones are the following inscriptions: 'Sacred to the memory of Titus Ebeneser Von Plaster, born at Grahamstown, Jan. 24th, 1854; died at Jacob's Rest, December 27th, 1894, and sacred to the memory of the widow of Titus Ebeneser Von Plaster. Died at East London on August 27th, 1895, aged 43 years.'"

"We captured a Boer ambulance containing six or seven wounded, and from what they said the enemy lost heavily yesterday. There is no time to give further details, unfortunately omitted in the above. 'Victoria' boys are well except Pte. Gamble, who returns with the sick. The Victoria contingent here to-day are: Capt. Blanchard, Sergt. Northcott, Ptes. Court, Smithurst, Leaman, Dickenson, Brethour, Scobbing, Wood, Dixon, Cornwall and the writer."

"SEYMOUR HASTINGS O'DELL."

Snarley—How did Jingo get run over? You—He was stooping to pick up a horseshoe—Syracuse Herald.

Gold Goes Down Yukon

Some Large Shipments of Yellow Metal Shipped via St. Michael.

Lack of Water Serious Problem in Klondike—Ore From White Horse.

From late advices from Dawson it would seem that considerable of the Klondike gold output will this year find its way down the Yukon notwithstanding the splendid transportation facilities provided along the White Pass route. A telegram from Dawson, under date of June 4th, says that on that day the barge Seattle No. 1 left in tow for down the river, with 250 passengers and \$500,000 in gold dust. Several vessels were to follow and it is presumed that on each more of the yellow metal will be shipped. A lack of water is now a serious matter to miners in the Klondike district. "The denudation of the forests and the burning of the moss and brush have caused the waters to run off much earlier than they did a few years ago," says the Dawson News. "It is well worth the while of the government to consider the matter seriously, and to grant concessions for bringing in water from the largest streams by means of conduits, such as ditches, pipes and flumes. There is no doubt that ultimately it will be necessary to bring in water at heavy expense from the upper reaches of the Klondike or its branches. Such enterprise would involve the outlay of large capital. Applications have already been made at Ottawa for several concessions for the purpose of bringing in water in this way, and one or two of these are reported to have been granted, but unfortunately these have been given to people who have not the command of either the necessary large capital or large enough ideas as to the necessities of the case in order for them to accomplish any lasting or satisfactory results. It is very unfortunate that so many grants have been given for hydraulic concessions to people who, in nine cases out of ten, do nothing towards increasing the water supply. These are now idle, and the capital to come along and buy their unprospected grounds."

Some very narrow escapes from drowning are reported by Dawson papers. Robert C. Shaw, Jules Lefevre, H. A. Johnson and J. R. Sinclair were captured in the rapids off the city. Four of the men clung to the up-turned boat for about two miles before being able to land. They lost in the river about 1,000 pounds of provisions. R. J. McMillan, of McMillan & Hamilton, Vancouver, also came within an ace of losing his life in the Bonanza while crossing on a log float bridge. Still another accident is reported to have occurred on May 15th on the Klondike river. Humbolt Gates was the victim. While \$15,000 of supplies, his back, he attempted to ford the fire on horseback. The horse sank and the heavy load and Gates found it necessary to dive under the animal and cut the saddle girth in order to free the brute. He afterwards recovered the saddle and gold.

Market prices went very high in Dawson last winter. The following were among some of the most interesting quotations given: Milk, three cents for 15; eggs, 44¢ a dozen; butter, 10¢ a pound; bacon, same as ham; tomatoes, 12¢ per case; all fruits 50 cents per can, except strawberries, which were 75¢; flour, 44¢ to \$1.60 per sack; sugar, 11¢ a pound; potatoes, 75¢ per pound retail, 55¢ wholesale.

John Diers, city engineer of Skagway, has received a letter from his brother, H. C. Diers, in which it is stated that he, soon as the railroad reaches White Horse, at least 100,000 tons of ore will be ready for shipment. One mine is in full operation and several more are about to be opened. The road has made a rate of \$10 a ton to Tacoma.

An unofficial statement is made as coming from the White Pass & Yukon route, that with the completion of the road to White Horse, some 200 tons of freight will be moved daily from Bennett to the former point.

Capt. Irving has been offered \$40,000 for his new boat, the Responder, but has not sold it yet. The vessel is one of the handsy, light draft order, and is very desirable.

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