MINISTER GUEST AT LONDON BANQUET

Report Of Proceedings At Dinner Tendered Hon. Price Ellison Recently By B. C. Development Association

A dinner was given, on Monday, by Mr. C. H. Wilkinson, of the British Columbia Development Association, at the Piccadilly Hotel, to a number of gentlemen interested in the Colony, to meet the Hon. Price Ellison, Minister of Agriculture and Finance for British Columbia. The company present included, besides the guest of the evening, who had a most enthusiastic reception, his Grace the Duke of Argyll, K.T., G.C.M.G., Admiral the Hon. Sir Edmund Fremantle, G.C.B., the Hon. Mr. Elphinstone, the Hon. J. H. Turner, Sir Edward Chichester, Bart., Sir Thomas Barclay, M.P., Sir John Kirk, Mr. H. B. Thomson, M.P.P. (British Columbia), Capt. Alexander, Capt. C. E. Luard, Captain Inman, Major Fulton, the Rev. Jocelyn Perkins, M.A., Dr. Clark, Dr. A. C. Morson, Dr. Jupp, Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., and Messrs. Ernest Collins, A. H. Battcock, Thos. Adams, T. H. Holford, A. Eliot, S. Lamert, William Sinclair, F. R. Atcheson-Shortis, T Watson, Alfred R. Holand, Alex. Robb, L. B. F. Nash, J. S. Rubenstein, A. F. Stoy, J. Arthur Turner, Harold Williams, C. W. Troughton, H. W. Watts, J. F. Maguire, F. R. Laing, C. E. Tempest, Harry Weber, H. C. Morgan, Vivian Troughton, Clarence Ravenscroft, H. H. Hambling, G. McL. Brown, Alfred R. Newman, Spencer Pickering, Samuel Cawston, Thomas Turketine, Frank Newson-Smith, W. Lacon Threlford, A. E. Newbould, N. D. Ridley, D. Legat Fulton, A. Verdon Anderson, C. J. Melhuish, J. J. Newbould, Scott Lings, J. J. Spear, Robert Watson, Trevor Rowland, A. J. Elkington, R. E. Middleton, A. M. Simon, George Browning, G. H. Pile, A. J. Shepheard, R. Q. Henriques, S. J. Galpin, J. M. Wood, Campbell Sweeney, F. J. Dickson, Hamilton Fulton, L. B. Neame, D. O. Croal, Andrew Still, W. Read Ward, Reginald Dando, Robert Morris, Charles Johnston, J. Rayson, A. Bullard, T. H. Skinner, W. R. Pooley, Warburton Pyke, C. E. Jerningham, H. G. H. Wilkinson, B. J. H. Wilkinson, A. C. Mariette, H. W. Hamilton Hoare, A. S. Hoe, D. M. Weber, E. M. Harvey, R. A. Phipps, J. B. Breaks, A. Geddes, John Tennent, James Greenlees, J. W. Vickers, Basil Searle, Albert Flint, Maximilian Magner, A. Baersalaman, J. Donald, Frank Brighten, Edgar Cohen, Wallace Hestor, Banner, C. F. Pretty, and T. Elliott.

Mr. C. H. Wilkinson, after the tables were cleared, said there were a great many friends and admirers of their guest who were unable to come—mainly because of the elections, he thought. He would ask his son to give a few of the names of gentlemen who much regretted not being present that night.

Mr. Wilkinson, jun., announced the names of those from whom letters of regret had been received, and read the folowing communication from Lord Strathcona:—

"I am extremely sorry to be unable to attend your dinner to meet the Honourable Price Ellison. Will you be good enough to convey to him my great appreciation of the invitation to meet him, and an expression of deep regret that my engagements will not permit me to accept the invitation?"

The loyal toast was submitted by Mr. J. J. Newbould.

The Duke of Argyll, in proposing "The Guest of the Evening," said: "I am in a certain measure glad that I can make a public apology to our friend and guest, because I am afraid I behaved very badly to him over a quarter of a century ago. (Laughter.) Somebody said to me lately, 'He is one of those men to whom you did not behave well in 1883. You may remember that he is one of the deputation you did not meet.' It turns out, owing I suppose, to some awkwardness of the trip I took in 1883, that I missed seeing Mr. Ellison at that time. He was kind enough, with some friends, to come and meet us. I only mention it because I wish to apologise to him now, after a lapse of twenty-seven years, for that oversight. It says something for British Columbia—and that is what I want you to lay to heart—namely, that if you do make a mistake in British Columbia and do some awkwardness you can say, 'My dear fellow, I am very sorry indeed; I will apologize to you twenty-seven years hence, and we shall meet in the same health and spirits.' (Laughter.) Elections have been quoted tonight as being bad things, but they are not always bad things, because they have given us as our guest the Minister of Finance and Agriculture of British Columbia. He comes to us looking like a God of Harvest crowned with fruit and accompanied by baskets of apples about the size of a cannon-ball. (Laughter.) Stevenson, you remember, in one of his novels makes the whole plot of his story turn on what happened inside a barrel of apples. He tells how the hero crept inside a barrel of apples and heard how he and every man were to be slaughtered by mutineers. Today everything seems to turn on a barrel of apples as to what is to be our part in the future. From the short experience of orchard culture and fruit culture, we may be very certain indeed that no British money can be better invested than in the fruit orchards of British Columbia. I feel jealous of you because you are each proprietors of fruit gardens in British Columbia. I came across that ancient objection the other day to an official having property in any country over which he was set temporarily in office. I found some letters of Lord Plymouth, who was Minister of Plantations just before the American Revolution, asking one of my people who happened to be governor of South Carolina, in effect, 'What the dickens do you mean by buying four hundred acres against the regulations of his Majesty's Service?' He explained that he had married a South Carolina lady and had a South Carolina family, and he thought it only a just provision that he should be allowed to buy four hundred acres in South Carolina. Now we see, not that officers command dispensations in order to buy four hundred acres, but Lord Aberdeen and Lord Grey buy thousands of acres. The old Governors were much more unfairly treated than those of the present day, and I think we must all envy those who have large plantations in British Columbia, and I only hope they will be cut up for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the small holdings for which there is such a great demand at present. Another thing for which I envy British Columbia is that our guest has the offices of Minister of Finance and Agriculture joined together in him. Imagine what the happy fate of landlords in England would be if that were done here, and we had in Whitehall a gentleman who combined Mr Lloyd George and Earl Carrington! (Laughter.) Why, we should all be happy for ever, and never be uncomfortable about attacks upon imaginary apples to be grown in the future. (Laughter.) However, I must not trench upon politics, and I only ask you to drink the health of our guest. We are delighted he has come amongst us, and we shall only be too happy to send out capital over which he may exercise the salutary control for which he has been distinguished already." (Cheers.)

In drinking the toast the Duke of Argyll called for three cheers for Mr. Ellison, and these were heartily given.

The Hon. Price Ellison, in reply said: "I wish to thank every one of you for the hearty manner in which you have drunk the toast, and I thank you not only on behalf of myself but on behalf of the great province which I represent here today. You may say, 'What are you doing in London?' Well, as my predecessor in office, the Hon. J. H. Turner, came here several times to float a loan, I have come for a different purpose. I came as a Minister of Agriculture——not as a Minister of Finance—to draw the attention of the people of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales to what the possibilities were in British Columbia, more particularly with regard to the growing of fruit such as I have here. (Cheers.) We have been holding exhibitions through the length and breadth of this great Empire for the sole purpose of inducing and asking you to come over there. We should be delighted to have you there, and when I say this, I say it sincerely, because we have room for you. You can do well in that country. Not but what you all look prosperous, and have money to burn. (Laughter.) I hope you have, and if you have any to spare don't be afraid to invest it in British Columbia. Now, it is very important that British Columbia should have population. We are a very large province with very few people, and the Government have for several years been exhibiting the fruit of British Columbia for the purpose of inducing settlement. People with small sums and people with large means can do well, and there is no pleasanter occupation in the world than the growing of fruit. I want you to look at this apple, and remember that that fruit has travelled 6,000 miles or more, and has been handled a great many times, on wagons, railroads steamships, and trucks, and knocked about more or less. Surely it speaks for itself? It is very well for you to look at this apple as I hold it in my hand, but if you saw that apple as it was plucked off the tree with the bloom on it it would be quite a different thing altogether. You would admire it. The bloom on it is just like the bloom on the peach. We had eleven hundred boxes at the Horticultural Hall the other day, and there was no finer sight in the world than those apples. If, in gathering, one of the apples is dropped on the ground, it is never placed on the market. It would be bruised more or less, and it is never allowed to be shipped. It is safe to say that in our country, in British Columbia, certain packers have a reputation. There was a man came along not long ago to a packer and said, 'I want a carload of apples. What have you got?' The packer said: 'Well, we have just about sold out, but we have a carload on the truck, and if you will take those I will sell them to you.' The man said, 'Have they your brand on?' 'Yes.' 'Well, that is quite sufficient for me,' replied the man. What better reputation could a firm have than that? He bought them then and there, and even without any investigation whatever. When I speak to you about British Columbia I don't want to make a lengthy speech on fruit-growing, because it is not the only thing that is going on in British Columbia. These pears were grown in British Columbia. It is very difficult to beat this good land in growing pears, but you will find these are just as good as you can grow in England. British Columbia is a great country. It is one of the greatest, and I will say that it is the greatest colony under the British Flag, that it has more natural resources than any country in the world, and tha is saying a good deal. But I know it. I have been there, and as Minister of Agriculture tonight you have before you, and you have come to honour, a real rancher. There are men in this room, and I might refer to my good old friend Mr. Campbell Sweeney, of the Bank of Montreal, who knows I am a rancher from the ground up, and a cowboy, gentlemen. ("Bravo.") It is not often you honour a cowboy in London, but such is the case tonight, and I am very proud indeed. As I said, British Columbia is far and above all the rest. We have silver and gold and copper, and zinc and lead and coal, and iron and wheat, gentlemen. We have land that will grow wheat. Now, you take the last three—wheat, iron, and coal—and that in itself, gentlemen, is the making of a nation. (Hear, hear.) And you notice that when wheat and iron are all right the country is prosperous. (Hear, hear.)

"What does this mean? I tell you what it means. It means to me that if there is anything greater or more patriotic than an Imperialist, I and the people of British Columbia want to be that. (Cheers.) We are the right sort. (Hear, hear.) And I want to state this here and publicly, that we are prepared to do anything that will advance the interest of and make this great and glorious country what is has been in centuries past, and greater if it is possible. I well remember a few years ago in the Boer War a great and patriotic man, and a great Canadian by adoption, Lord Stratchona, raised a regiment at his own expense to go and fight the battles of this country.

"In my little section we could only send twenty-five men, and believe me you could have got all the people in that colony to go and fight the battles of this great and glorious country. (Cheers.) I want to impress on you that we are patriotic and loyal to the Crown first and foremost, and what more do you want of British Columbia? (Cheers.) When I spoke of the wealth of British Columbia, I stopped at the minerals. But that is not the only thing we have in British Columbia. We have timber—the greatest in the world, gentlemen. The timber propositions of British Columbia are the greatest and the best in the world today. And we have salmon, gentlemen. That needs no sowing, but just the reaping. It means millions of dollars annually. We have the greatest deep-water fishing in the world, and it is just waiting for gentlemen like yourselves to come there and make yourselves rich. Not that you need it—(laughter)—but you will help develop one of the greatest colonies in the world. And there it is, the great deep-water fishing of British Columbia. There are millions in it. There are millions in the timber industries, and not the least of these is the fruit industry of British Columbia. A few years ago, when I was in Okanagan, you could not buy an apple, they were so scarce. And last year British Columbia's revenue from apples alone was over two million dollars. And we had only just begun to grow apples. We grow peaches, pears, plums, prunes, apricots, and all the small fruits to perfection, and believe me, in my opinion as Minister of Agriculture, the fruit industry of British Columbia is going to exceed all other industries of that great province. There are millions of trees being planted, and we are trying to cater for this market. We are trying to grow the kind of apples that you will pay a shilling each for. That is what you want here, the best—and the best is none too good for you people. (Laughter.) This is not the time or place to make a lengthy speech, but I wish to say to you that the industries of British Columbia are gaining ground every day. Ten years ago we had a population of 178,000 people, including the Japanese, Chinese, and the Indians. And when his Grace was there many years before that, my next-door neighbor was 23 miles off. I travelled a hundred miles to meet his Grace, and he passed by on the steamboat, and he went right to my home to visit the estates which Lord Aberdeen afterwards bought—the Goldstream Ranch. He was the first Governor, gentlemen, who ever visited the interior of British Columbia, and we marked it up that his Grace has visted that part of Okanagan, and it has given it a tone that we have always been proud of. (Laughter.)

"I want to impress it upon you, gentlemen, that the best land we had in that part of the country could have been bought at a dollar an acre. Today, gentlemen, it is worth, as my good old friend Mr. Campbell Sweeney and others round this board who have been in close touch with the industries of that section of the country know, from $150 to $500 an acre, and it will pay 10 per cent. on it. (Hear, hear.)

"Now I am speaking of my own practical knowledge. The Government of British Columbia two years ago hired and paid the best men they could get in the States of Washington and Oregon, which are supposed to be the head-quarters of fruit-growing to come to lecture for us. Professor Lake, the head of the State Horticultural Department of Oregon, one of the best States of the Union, said that the fruit land was worth all they could get for it, and it was difficult indeed to make the price too high, and he named a man, and told us where he lived, who had ten acres of orchard, twelve years old, and had refused $100,000 for that ten acres. Well, I was not quite satisfied. I thought he was drawing on his imagination, or that he had made a mistake, and after the lecture I said, 'Professor Lake, have you made a mistake?' He said, 'No, I have not, Mr. Ellison. I don't know where So-and-so could go where he could invest his money better and safer and be surer of ten per cent. than he could in that self-same orchard.' I tell you British Columbia has come into competition with Oregon and Washington, and the great fruit-growing sections of America. I want to induce more of you to come to British Columbia, or to send your sons and daughters.

"You will find British Columbia is the place to come to. We often call it God's country, because we have all a man could require to live in peace, prosperity, and happiness. What more does a man want? I tell you the people of British Columbia are a contented people. Ten years ago the population of British Columbia was 178,000, and the revenue one million five hundred thousand dollars. Next year is the year of the census to be taken by the Dominion Government, and we expect to have the very large population of 400,000. This is hardly more than one of those little boroughs round this great city, and our revenue this year will be eight million six hundred thousand dollars. Can you do anything like that in this great and historical country? No, it is impossible for you to do it. And still we are only at the beginning of things in British Columbia. We spent six million eight hundred thousand dollars in public works last year, and still we have a surplus, owing to the able and judicious and conservative way in which the McBride government have administered the affairs of the country since 1903. (Cheers.)

"Men like the Hon. Mr. Turner, the Hon. John Robson, the Hon. Theodore Davey, the Hon. F. Vernon, and the Hon. D. M. Eberts, who is now Speaker of the House, had faith in that country, and it is through them, gentlemen, that the country stands as it does today, because they had faith in the country and they opened up the great mining countries of British Columbia with railways; and the present Government, the McBride Government, came into power, and they said, 'There is nothing for it but to raise the taxes and to meet this million of of dollars.' And they did so, and the people growled as you growl; but there are two things you will never get away from—taxation and debt, gentlemen. (Laughter.) But, as I say, these railways were subsidized, and the Government at the present day is reaping the benefit of them. The investing public had faith in the country, and there are the right people in the right place and British Columbia is safe. You put your money in the country, and that is one of the things that has helped to make British Columbia what it is today—the most prosperous colony in the Empire. My good friend Mr. Wilkinson reminds me of what our surplus is today. Would you believe that a young country like this is lending to the banks—lending six million dollars? That is only the beginning, and, by the way, we have reduced taxation twice. We are not, like you people, raising it. Come over there and get out of the wet. By the way, I have seen more rain in the last six months than I have seen in nearly forty years. Mr. Wilkinson has drawn my attention to what are the educational facilities of British Columbia. I will tell you what they are. They are the best, the freest in the world, gentlemen, and we aim for the best and nothing but the best. We are up to date in British Columbia, and if you don't believe me come and see for yourselves. But three years ago the Government of British Columbia? set aside two million acres of land to endow a university and appointed a number of educationists of Canada to select a site. That has been done, and their report was handed in a few months ago, and it said: 'It is to be at or near the great city of Vancouver.' Now, many of you have heard of Vancouver. (Laughter.) It is the terminus of that great railway, the greatest, and best modern railway and most successful railway in the world, and the most successful transportation company, the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Canadian corporation in which some of you have been fortunate enough to put your money, and I am sure you have never regretted it, gentlemen. But, by the way, it is not the only corporation that is trying to get to the coast of British Columbia. The Dominion Government have seen fit to subsidize and help to build the railway known as the Grand Trunk Pacific. This is an old and successful corporation, and they are going to Prince Rupert. The British Columbia Government, the McBride Government, last year appealed to the country on the railway policy. They were opposed to subsidzing or assisting any railroads, in any way, shape, or form, for six years. They said, "If a railroad comes to British Columbia, it must come on its own merits.' It semed to be about the best thing to say. But if you are growing, and your pants get too smal, you have to get bigger ones. (Laughter.) Now we are prepared to assist this company, the Canadian Northern Company, one of the greatest and most up-to-date companies in the world, and we assisted them and guaranteed the interest of the bonds on $35,000 a mile to traverse British Columbia. I can assure you that the resources of British Columbia have only just been scratched over, and I wish to tell you here that the mines of the great Cariboo country will be brought in touch by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway—the greatest gold-producing country in the world. It will require hydraulics and water power to work it, but the output of gold will be greater than it has ever been, and in saying that I am not drawing on the imagination in the least, because today it costs from four to six cents a lb. to put freight into the country, and when railways are built they will put it there for one-sixth. I am here tonight to invite each and every one of you to come or to send that which makes the Empire great. I am here pleading almost as a parson that your souls should be saved, for you to come out of the wet, where you get a hundred days' sunshine. Can you imagine such a country. A hundred days without rain. It is true we have to irrigate a large portion of British Columbia to grow this fruit, but on Vancouver Island and the lower Fraser you don't have to irrigate to produce this great and glorious fruit. I wish to thank you. I could talk to you all night, but I hope I have said sufficient, and I hope some of you will give me a chance of reciprocating your great kindness in coming here tonight and doing me and British Columbia the great honor you have." (Cheers.)

Mr. Sidney Lamert proposed "Bankers and Banking of Great Britain and Canada," and coupled with it the names of Mr. Campbell Sweeney and Mr. H. H. Hambling, who afterwards responded.

Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., proposed "Fruit-Farming and Agriculture in British Columbia." He said he remembered the time when British Columbia was spoken of as a sea of mountains and was not supposed to have any agricultural land at all, or very little of it. Now they knew there were millions of acres of fertile land capable of providing happy homes for any number of people who might like to come there. At the present time the country had to import a great deal of the farm produce which it consumed, but he was sure the time was not far distant when it would be a large exporter of such produce. He coupled with the toast the names of Mr. H. B. Thomson, M.P.P. for Victoria, and Mr. W. R. Pooley, of Kelowna.

Mr. Thomson, in replying, said that for some time to come they expected and fully anticipated that the great markets on the North-West and Manitoba would take all the apples they could raise in British Columbia. Their object in exhibiting their fruit in the various districts throughout England was to encourage Britishers to go to British Columbia to go into the fruit-growing industry. There had been considerable talk and quite a lot of articles in the newspapers in connection with the American invasion of Canada, and they in British Columbia felt it was only right and proper for them to put the possibilities of their own little portion of Canada away on the Pacific Coast before the British people. (Cheers.)

Mr. W. R. Pooley also replied.

Mr. W. H. Hamilton Hoare, in proposing "The Province of British Columbia and the Agent-General," said he gathered from what they had heard that night that British Columbia was was about the biggest asset that this counry had got in its colonial Empire. He gathered that as a mountainous country Switzerland was not in it. He gathered that as a river country France was not in it. He gathered that the right sort of men with the right sort of capital had only to go out there to make their fortune and its fortune.

Mr. J. H. Turner, in replying, referred to the financial difficulties which the Government had to face in earlier years in opening up the country. They were successful, however, and British Columbia was now practically the key for Europe to the trade of the great Pacific. He pointed out what a great market for Canadian wheat was being opened up by the acquisition on the part of the Chinese of a taste for wheaten flour.

The Hon. Price Ellison proposed "The British Columbia Development Association." He said he wished to emphasize to them that they owed the success of fruit-growing to the Development Association's enterprise, and to the companies who had come in and demonstrated that fruit-growing was a commercial success. The development and success of fruit-growing in British Columbia, and particularly in the dry belt was due to that company, who had brought water to the dry wastes which would not produce a spear of grass before. (Cheers.)

Mr. Ernest Collins, the Chairman of the Association, in replying, said that their shareholders were being taken by a circuitous route into the land of promise. The shareholders had 5 per cent. tacked on to their capital each year, and he thought, generally, they were perfectly well satisfied with what had been done. He briefly reviewed the operations of the Association in British Columbia.

Admiral the Hon. Sir Edmund Fremantle proposed "The Great Railways of Canada." He spoke of the progressive policy of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and said that in the Grand Trunk Pacific we should have another line crossing the Rockies and bringing us from one extreme of Canada to the other. It was of the greatest importance from a naval point of view to consider the Pacific, and anything which added to our communications with the Pacific would be of the greatest advantage in the future.

Mr. Harvey, representing the British Columbia Electric Railway, replied.

Sir Thomas Barclay proposed "The Press," and the toast was responded to by Mr. Arthur Eliot, of "Vanity Fair," and Mr. D. O. Croal, of the Financial News.

Before the company separated Mr. Frank Brighten proposed the health of Mr. Wilkinson, which was drunk with much enthusiasm.

SUIT IS SERIOUS

U. S. District Attorney Wise Speaks of Action Brought Agains Alleged Steamship Combine

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—In reply to the complaint filed yesterday by the federal government against thirteen of the principal trans-atlantic steamship lines and twelve of their officers, Vice-President A. S. Franklin, of the International Mercantile Marine Company, one of the defendants, intimated that the suit was a friendly one, in the nature of an act in equity, and brought to determine what rights the companies had in co-operating to regulate their business.

"The suit speaks for itself," said District Attorney Wise tonight, when shown Mr. Franklin's reply, "and was brought by the government in all seriousness to obtain the relief asked for in the petition."

In this petition the government seeks an order from the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, restraining the defendants from entering at or clearing their vessels from any American ports while they continue to remain in an alleged illegal agreement to restrain trade, known as the Atlantic conference and entered into at London on February 5, 1908.

MONTREAL, Jan. 5.—That the Sherman anti-trust law cannot be effective in Canada or as regards Canadian companies is the opinion of Montreal steamship officials interested in the announcement from New York that the companies comprising the Atlantic conference are made defendants in a suit brought by the United States government. An official of the Allan Line, one of the companies named, said today: "In my opinion this is merely a friendly suit, brought in equity by the government to test its jurisdiction. It has none so far as we are concerned." Officials of the Canadian Pacific Company, also named as a defendant, denied the existence of grounds for action.

NO PRICE CUTTING

President of Independent Steel Company Contradicts Rumors Connected With Resignation

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Jan. 5.—Because of many assertions that the resignation of William E. Corey as president of the United States Steel Corporation will be followed by price concessions in the steel trade in order to attract more business, President Charles S. Price, of the Cambria Steel Company, one of the strong independent steel institutions, today issued a statement upholding Elbert H. Gary in his reported attitude toward price cutting.

The statement says: "Judge Gary has been consistently against a policy of cutting prices, because it unsettles business, and consequently labor conditions, and in no wise contributes to an increase of orders. The facts are, as gleaned by our agents from all parts of the country, that the consumer does not want lower prices, appreciating that steel prices have not been high. All that he wants is to be assured that if he places an order, his competitor will not get a lower price.

"I do not look for any reduction in prices of steel products and as no organization, or gentlemen's agreement even, exists, there could be no concerted action taken at the dinner next week at the Waldorf-Astoria, or at any other time. At these dinners, only an interchange of views is held. A cut in prices would have no permanent effect in stimulating business. It has been tried too often, resulting only in bringing in a few orders, for immediate need, that would have been placed in a few days or weeks at any rate."

ALASKA RAILWAYS

Refusal of Interstate Commerce Commission to Assume Jurisdiction Upheld by Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The refusal of the Interstate Commerce Commission to assume jurisdiction over the railways of Alaska, was sustained today by the supreme court of the District of Columbia.

The opinion was handed down by Justice Barnard in a case instituted by the Humboldt Steamship Company of California, which sought a mandamus to compel the commission to exercise jurisdiction over Alaskan railroads.

Last June, it was held by the commission that the law did not confer upon the body jurisdiction over Alaska railways, and without definite statutory authority it would be presumption to undertake the regulation of the railroads of the territory; in other words, that if congress had intended that the commission should exercise authority over the Alaskan carriers it would have said so in definite terms. The steamship company through petition to the supreme court of the District of Columbia, attempted to force the commission to compel the Alaskan railroads to file rates, schedules and annual report with the commission.

Justice Barnard declares that had the commission assumed the right to hear the complainants' petition, "no one could successfully question their right to do so."

Baby's Life Crushed Out.

ALTOONA, Jan. 5. — Johnson Thurston, weighing about 250 pounds, stepped on an icy sidewalk and in falling crushed a perambulator in which an eight-months-old infant was riding. The child was instantly killed.

Methodist Church Burned.

KINGSTON, Ont., Jan. 7.— Fire last night destroyed the Methodist church at Odessa with a loss of $20,000, partially insured. The fire started from a defective chimney and a heavy wind hastened its spread. The building was erected in 1869.

Escape From Mine

SYDNEY, N.S., Jan. 5.—The two deputy managers, Purchase and Ferguson, who were missing and reported killed in the explosion in No. 3 mine of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Co. on Tuesday morning, emerged safely last evening after having travelled several miles of the workings. They state that there is no fire in the pit nor has there been any. The force of the explosion extended to a comparatively small section on the south side only. Big falls of stone have interrupted the progress of the searching party for the bodies of six men who lost their lives. In fact No. 4 landing is completely closed.

Tribute To Mr. Chamberlain

LONDON, Jan. 5.—A striking tribute to Joseph Chamberlain as Empire builder was paid by Lord Strathcona at Birmingham yesterday, when he said that the Birmingham people must be very proud to have among them one who has done more to consolidate the dominions across the seas than any other man in Great Britain or the Empire. Representing Canada in England he knew nothing about their party politics, but he was glad to pay a tribute to such a statesman, and joined with them in the ardent wish that Joseph Chamberlain might be spared not only to the people of Birmingham, but to the Empire for many years. Lord Strathcona, speaking at the Mackinnon lecture, expressed the hope that in three years' time it might be possible to reach Quebec and Montreal in four and a half days and the Pacific coast in eight days.

MOUNTAIN LUMBERMEN SEEK CHANGED LAW

Claim Present Scale Is Not Fair To Them — Consideration Promised By Executive Of Province

President Lockman, of the Mountain Lumbermens' Association of the Kootenays, accompanied by Mr. F. J. Anstie, secretary of that influential organization, and Manager McCormack of the large mills at Golden, yesterday interviewed the provincial Executive as delegates from the Mountain Lumbermen's Association, with respect to the log scale to be used in connection with the prosecution of the timber industry to the east of the Cascades.

The well-known Doyle scale is at present in vogue and has been for some time past. In 1897, it will be remembered, legislation was adopted conferring upon the government power to adopt a uniform scale for British Columbia, and this scale was introduced in the territory east of the Cascades by an order-in-council passed in January, 1908.

It is now held by the lumbermen that, by reason of the smaller timber growth to the east of the Cascades, this scale is not fairly applicable, as it is with respect to the heavier timber of the sea-coast, and the present request of the lumbermen is in effect that the provincial scale be not enforced and that authority be given them to continue the use of the Doyle scale.

The interview with the government terminated with a promise by the representatives of the Mountain Lumbermen's Association that in the near future they will transmit to Victoria a concise statement supporting their application with an epitome of the evidence and argument offered in their interview with the Premier and his colleagues. This statement will be submitted to Chief Timber Inspector Andrew Haslam, and further action thereupon by the Executive will then be taken.

GOOD ROADS AGITATION

Vancouver Island's Interest In Carrying Out Of Pacific Highway Project

Interest in the Pacific Highway project, and generally in the good roads movement throughout the American continent, which is being fostered locally, not only by the Vancouver Island Development League but also by Mr. A. E. Todd, is being stimulated greatly by the widespread publicity which is being created. Illustrative of this is a budget of correspondence received by Mr. Todd, who is actively identifying himself with the agitation for the construction of a through Canadian highway. The Fort William board of trade writes that it has the matter under advisement, and has delegated a committee of its members to meet the four district representatives in the provincial parliament. From the Automobile Club of Southern California comes a communication pointing out that this club is for the entire coast, and offers to secure publication for any items of interest dealing with Vancouver Island which may be forwarded. The same club draws attention to the fact that the state legislature has guaranteed a bond issue of $18,000,000 for highways. The club describes the Pacific highway movement as a wonderfully good one, and expresses its desire to help along the cause.

Through the efforts of Mr. Todd, the Vancouver Island Development League has a large number of photos, showing Island roads, on exhibition at the Los Angeles Automobile Show, which is now in progress. These exhibits, it is anticipated, will draw renewed attention to the advantages of the Island from a tourist standpoint, and it is with this object in view that Mr. Todd is so actively identifying himself with all that will make for good roads throughout the North American continent

Wireless for Alaska

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—A supplemental estimate for an appropriation of $50,000 so as to provide for the construction and equipment of two wireless telegraph stations at the Pribyloff islands and Unalaska, was submitted to congress today by the war department. The extension of signal work is deemed necessary to increase the efficiency of the present Alaska cable and telegraph system.

For Pacific Coast Defence

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—A plea for more submarines and torpedo boats for the Pacific coast was made to President Taft today by a delegation of senators and representatives from the western coast states. After leaving the president's office, the members of the party appeared well pleased with the result of their conference, for Mr. Taft had told them that he would have the secretary of the navy give careful consideration to the question. While no exact estimate was made as to how many vessels of each class should be asked for at the present session of congress, it was said that the number of submarines was fixed tentatively at six and the number of torpedo boats at four to six.

Young Sammy Smith, the clever Quaker City lightweight, will not be able to fight again for a few weeks. He is suffering from a severe injury to one of his eyes, which he received during the battle with Jack Goodman several weeks ago. One of the arteries was ruptured, which he claims Goodman did by poking him with his thumb.