THE CITY'S LIBRARY.

What It Most Needs to Augment Its Present Usefulness.

Mining Works in Demand — An Attractive "Recent Additions" List.

Great was the disappointment of Librarian Henry Goward when he saw by the Colonist yesterday morning that the appropriation for the library during 1899-1900 would not be increased to the $2,000 originally spoken of, $1,000 being barely sufficient to keep the institution running in the old traditional grooves, paying salaries but allowing nothing for the extension or development of higher aims of the institution.

At present there are more people availing themselves of the library's advantages than ever before, yet Mr. Goward has no assistant, is required to spend 10 hours of each and every day on duty, and has yet to enjoy his first holiday in four long years.

There has latterly been a desire expressed that the library should be kept open on Sundays as well as week-days, the argument advanced in behalf of this proposition being that healthful and profitable entertainment would thereby be afforded many young men who at present find the Sundays hanging heavily on their hands, and who are sometimes led into mischief—Satan still finding something for idle hands to do.

Of course, it is quite out of the question to think of a Sunday opening of the library unless assistance is to be provided the librarian, and it is possible that there are other ways in which the necessary expenditure might be made to greater general advantage.

For example, alterations are urgently needed to the library room, in the direction of better light being provided, both day and night, and increased space being made available. There is also urgent need of more space, more light and more heat in the reading room, and there should be some room provided for use as a reading room by the ladies, who are at present compelled to trespass upon the privacy of the library itself.

Victoria's library is on the whole one of the best in the province, and although the appropriations do not permit of more than a very few volumes being added annually, those few have been and are being selected with the greatest care and judgment. The 30 volumes of Chambers' Journals that have lately been added to the shelves, have been in great demand, and just now Rudyard Kipling's serious illness has created a call for his works that cannot be kept pace with.

With the male patrons of the library, Kipling has for some time past ranked second choice in popularity, as demonstrated by the calls of borrowers. Strange to say, perhaps, it is for Marie Corelli that the greatest number of readers inquire, her unique and interesting novels being no sooner returned to the shelves than they are hurried out again, and those who ask for and read one Corelli volume never fail to come back for each and all of its companions.

Besant is a third favorite among the male readers, while the works of Rosa Nouchette Carey and Mrs. Henry Wood appear to be most in demand among the distinctly feminine readers. The issue of fiction as compared to standard works of biography, science, travel, etc., is about four to one, and here it is to be seen that the majority of the reading population who use the library, look upon it as a means of entertainment rather than of instruction.

Quite recently a collection of 125 volumes has been added to the shelves, fiction of course predominating. The gems of the collection are, however, some 20 small science volumes, illustrated and dealing with special studies in a plain and understandable fashion. Each of these works is presented as a "story," the series including: The Story of the Solar System (Chambers); of Primitive Man (E. Clodd); of Geographical Discovery (Jacobs); of Religions (Rev. Mr. Price); of The Potter (Burns); of a Piece of Coal (Martin); of Electricity (Munro); of Extinct Civilization (Anderson); of Life in the Seas (Hickson); of the Chemical Elements (Muir); of the Forest and Stream (Rodway); of the Plants (Grant Allan); of The Earth (Seeley); of The Cotton Plant (Wilkinson); of Photography (Story); of the British Coinage (Rawlings); of The Weather (Chambers); of The Earth's Atmosphere (Archibald); of The Stars (Chambers); and of Germ Life—Bacteria (Conn).

Other useful and instructive works that have lately found a place on the shelves are: "Problems of the Far East" (Hon. G. R. Curzon); "Four Famous Soldiers" (Holmes); "Three Martyrs of the Nineteenth Century" (Miss Charles); "Thomas Chalmers" (Mrs. Oliphant); "Hansalund" (Robinson); "In the Bight of Benin" (Dawson); "The Faiths of the People" (Malloy); "From World to Cloister" (Bernard); and "The Fads of an Old Physician" (Dr. Keith); other lighter reading being found among the following: "Swiss Family Robinson" (which of course has to be periodically renewed); "The Lamplighter" (Miss Cumming); "Kronstadt" and "The Phantom Army" (Max Pemberton); "Quo Vadis"; "Twice Told Tales" (Nathaniel Hawthorne); "The Lilac Sunbonnet" and "The Men of the Moss Hags" (Crockett); "Father Stafford," "Simon Dale," "The God in the Car," and "The Heart of the Princess Orsa" (Anthony Hope); "The Tramp Abroad" (Mark Twain); "The Girl at Cabhurst" (Stockton); "Tom Brown at Rugby" (Hughes); "The Guinea Stamp" (Annie S. Swan); "Thaddeus of Warsaw" (Jane Porter); "A Choice of Evils" (Mrs. Alexander); "The Maid of Kiland," "Highland Cousins," "Kilmeny," and "Briseis" (Black); "In the Fire of the Forge" (George Ebers); "Oriole's Daughter" and "A March in the Ranks" (J. Fothergill); "A London Legend" (Justin McCarthy); "Ishmael" and "London Pride" (Braddon); "Pacific Tales" (Louis Becke); "The Birthright" (Hocking); "In Spite of Fate" (Silas Hocking); "Denounced" (Bloundette-Burton); "The Knight of the Lion" (13th century romance); "Dartmoor Idyllis" and "The Broom Squire" (Baring-Gould); "Monsieur Violet" (Marryat); "The Old, Old Story" (Rosa Nouchette Carey); "A Boyar of the Terrible" (Whishaw); "A House in Bloomsbury" (Mrs. Oliphant); "The Grey Man" (Crockett); "The Tragedy of the Korosko" (Conan Doyle); "Plain Living" (Boldrewood); "The Wandering Jew" (Robert Buchanan); "Ghostly Tales" (Countess Munster); "Prisoners of Conscience" (Barr); "Shrewsbury" (Weyman); "Outlaws of the Marshes" (Lord Hamilton); "City of Refuge" (Besant); "Phra the Phoenecian" (E. L. Arnold); "Peter Ghisteri" and "Love in Idleness" (Marion Crawford); "For the Right" (Franvos); "The White House by the Sea" (Miss B. Edwards); "Rome" (Zola); "Christine of the Hills" (Max Pemberton); "The Choir Invisible" (Allemn); "Giving Honor" (Wetherell); "Daniel" and "Perleycross" (Blackmore); "One of the Broken Brigade" (Wolley); "Helbeck of Bannesdale" (Mrs. H. Ward); "The Mills of the Gods" (Hardy); "Wanda and the Masarenos" (Ouida); "Mohawks" (Braddon); "The Caxtons," "What Will He Do With It," and "The Last of the Barons" (Lytton); "Old Curiosity Shop" and "Little Dorrit" (Dickens); "Legends From River and Mountain" (Carmen Sylvia); "Jan, an Afrikander" (Howarth); "The Master Builder" (Ibsen); "Recollections of My Childhood Days" (Alcott); and "Red Rowans" (Mrs. Steel).

What the library needs most just at the present time in the way of books is modern and practical works on metallurgy and mining. These are in great demand, and cannot be had.

TAXATION OF MORTGAGES.

Quebec Moving to Have the Money Lenders Contribute to Provincial Revenue.

The problem of the taxation of mortgages is now before the Quebec legislature, which either has not heard of or sees no virtue in the new British Columbia scheme to avoid dual taxation by freeing the money lender instead of the mortgaged land from taxation. The following despatch will be read with interest here:

"Quebec, February 17.—The taxation of mortgages was the chief topic of discussion in the legislative assembly today. Dr. Cotton, the new member for Missisquoi, began it, when he moved the second reading of the bill, the principle of which has before been advocated in the legislature. Many of the farms in his district, he said, were mortgaged, and still the farmer had to pay the taxes on the whole value of the real estate, which was really owned by the mortgagee. The interest on farm mortgages had not been reduced in the same proportion as in other financial undertakings. The financial men of Montreal asked for a reduction of taxation, and he thought the farmers were entitled to the same, and that the men who were drawing revenues from interest should pay a share of the taxes. He saw by the papers that the Sherbrooke board of trade had asked their members to oppose the bill, but he hoped Mr. Panneton would not do this.

"Hon. H. T. Duffy bore out all that had been said by the member for Missisquoi. At present real estate paid all the taxation. He considered that moveable property or money should be taxed as well. This law had been brought in before, but it applied to cities as well, and it had been pointed out that there were certain objections to its operation in cities. Now, the intention of the bill was that it applied to rural districts only. He saw no reason for the board of trade at Sherbrooke to oppose the bill. It did not affect their city at all. He could not see why land should bear all the taxation. For instance, if a young man started out with $500 and bought a farm worth $2,000, he must pay interest on $1,500 and besides pay the taxes on the whole $2,000.

"Hon. L. P. Pelletier enquired whether this bill would apply to existing mortgages.

"Hon. Mr. Duffy thought that in its present form it did, but if it was thought necessary in committee that portion could be changed. The principle of the bill was a proper one. The mortgagee should pay his share of the taxation. He would oppose the bill if the mortgager had to pay the tax, but it would not be so. If he made a special arrangement with the mortgagee that was his own business. He was not bound to do so. He thought that as a general rule this would not be done."

SIR WILFRID'S GLIB TALK.

He Was Very Superior About Treaty Making in Sir John Macdonald's Day.

From the Winnipeg Telegram.

The Canadian commissioners are leaving Washington without having concluded a treaty. The statement that the joint high commission is to meet again in August, is merely so as to let the commissioners down as easily as possible. If after six months of negotiation, at a time when Anglo-American enthusiasm afforded a singularly favorable opportunity for negotiation, the commissioners could accomplish nothing, what are they likely to be able to do in August? When Sir John Macdonald assisted in negotiating the Washington treaty in 1871, the negotiations took only a fraction over three months; and the difficulties of negotiation were then very much greater, owing to there being a strong anti-British feeling in the States, and the consideration of Canadian matters being complicated by the simultaneous negotiation of vexed Imperial matters such as the Alabama claims. The contrast shows the difference in the calibre of the negotiators. The failure of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues is the more significant when his boasts before he came into power are recalled. That the differences between Canada and the States remained unsettled, he used to attribute to the fact that a Conservative government was in power. The Conservatives, he contended, were hostile and offensive to the United States, and were not sincere in their attempts to obtain a settlement. If given power, he would, by his sunny ways, soon secure a settlement, and obtain reciprocity into the bargain. As he stated in his celebrated Chicago Record interview:

"Some years ago, when considerable friction had been created by the North Atlantic fishery troubles, I took the opportunity to say that the question should be adjusted in a friendly manner, becoming an enlightened and friendly people, by the simple process of give and take, and I do not now see why an arrangement should not be made."

He announced his intention of throwing all the matters in dispute into one pot, and quickly and finally disposing of them. But now he has had the opportunity, he has been supplicating at Washington for six months and has settled nothing. What is the matter with that method of give and take which he thought so simple? If he has failed, he has largely himself to thank for that failure. His whole course as a public man has been to encourage the American politicians to believe that Canada's contentions were unreasonable, and that he was so friendly to the United States as to be ready to concede anything they chose to ask. The American diplomats have, no doubt, met his presentation of Canada's case with his own arguments against it; and have insisted on terms which Sir Wilfrid Laurier, now he bears the responsibility of power, knows he dare not recommend for the acceptance of the people of Canada. By his bungling tariff changes, he also gave voluntarily to the United States many favors which he might have traded off with them for counter-concessions. He also tied his hands, so far as reciprocity negotiations are concerned, by his socalled British preferential tariff provisions. Those provisions secure for Canada no preference in the British market; but prevented Canada from trading with the United States. Sir Wilfrid Laurier could not now give the United States reciprocity with Canada, without depriving Britain of the preference he has given her in the Canadian market, and, thereby, completely stultifying himself. It has been apparent for some time that Sir Wilfrid Laurier would accomplish nothing, and was simply humiliating Canada by hanging round the American capital begging for any old treaty rather than come back confessing failure. He had far better have come back long ago and attended to his ministerial duties at Ottawa; instead of taking the extraordinary course of calling the ministers to New York and holding cabinet councils in a foreign country. But Conservatives have refrained from criticizing him, so long as there was any possibility of his securing something, for the patriotic reason that they would not imperil negotiations of national and Imperial importance to promote party ends. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has had the fairest possible treatment from his political opponents in this matter; and he cannot say that he has failed because he has been embarrassed by the course of the opposition. But now he has at last returned with what is practically a confession of failure, it is the duty of his opponents to point out how an unprecedently favorable opportunity for negotiating a satisfactory treaty has been sacrificed as the result of his imprudence and incompetency.

MONEY IN SALMON.

Eastern Syndicate Expects to Make Close on a Million the First Season—To Salt Humpbacks.

Additional Details as to the intentions of the Pacific American Fisheries Co., incorporated in New Jersey on Thursday, appear in the Associated Press despatches to the Sound papers. This is the corporation on whose behalf options were secured a few weeks ago on the fish traps in the lower Sound, in the neighborhood of Blaine. The New York report of the incorporation proceeds:

"It is the intention of the company to extend its business and to absorb other concerns in the salmon canning business in different localities. Upon the present organization it is estimated the net earnings of the company will be $826,420, or over 18 per cent. on the common stock, after paying the 8 per cent. dividends on preferred stock.

"The company will engage in the foreign shipping of sea foods from American waters. The company has acquired an option for a site for a new central cannery at Fairhaven, Wash., which, when built, will be the largest in the world. In addition a large fleet of steamers, boats and scows has been secured, as have been the properties and plants of the Island Canning Company at Friday Harbor, and the Anacortes Packing Company, at Anacortes, Wash."

Blaine, March 2.—Blaine is to enjoy her full share of the prosperity that is already beginning to spread itself over the entire Northwest. The salmon canneries at this point are prepared to put up a quarter of a million cases of salmon during the season. The offal, which heretofore has been wasted, will this year be manufactured into fish oil and fertilizer in a plant erected last fall and spring. The fertilizer people have made contracts with the various canneries to take all waste fish.

Several trap fishermen who sold to the Chicago syndicate announce their intention of salting and curing humpbacks, which fish will run in great numbers this year. The humpies are a finely flavored, light-colored salmon, excellent for salting, but, on account of the color, an inferior fish for canning purposes. If the plan succeeds, the humpback product will be a considerable item to be added to the already enormous output of the lower Sound fisheries. It is pretty definitely understood, too, that the new syndicate will come into possession of the Blaine cannery, which they will enlarge very considerably.

MRS. JARRET SPEAKS

She Tells What Dodd's Kidney Pills Did for Her.

Two Years of Suffering Ended in a Couple of Weeks—Other Medicines Had Failed to Relieve Her—Dodd's Kidney Pills Cured Her.

Montreal, March 3.—Dodd's Kidney Pills are doing a wonderful work in the Canadian metropolis this winter. Never a day passes that does not see the report of some victim of Kidney Disease having been cured by them.

Old and young, male and female, are singing the praises of this popular medicine. The latest to tell her fellow-sufferers what Dodd's Kidney Pills have done for her is Mrs. J. Jarret, No. 5 Monnick street.

Mrs. Jarret writes as follows: "I have been troubled with Female Weakness for the past two years. I have tried medicines without number, but without receiving any benefit, until I began the use of Dodd's Kidney Pills.

"I took several boxes of this grand remedy and am now entirely cured.

"You may pubuish this if you see fit, so as to help others who may be suffering as I did."

Now, if a lady buys a certain make of shoes, which prove serviceable and fully worth their price, she recommends that make to her friends, and her recommendation is sufficient to induce them to buy the same style for themselves.

It is exactly the same with regard to medicine. Dodd's Kidney Pills having cured so many ladies, are recommended by them to their sister sufferers, who know that the recommendations are to be fully relied upon. When they require a medicine to this kind, they use Dodd's Kidney Pills, the best they can procure.

Dodd's Kidney Pills are sold by all druggists at fifty cents a box; six boxes $2.50, or sent by mail, on receipt of price, by The Dodds Medicine Co., Limited, Toronto.

CANADIAN FISH COMBINE.

Company Organized to Control the Fish Business in Eastern Provinces.

Toronto, March 4.—Application will be made at the coming session of the Dominion parliament for the incorporation of the Dominion Fish Company. This will correspond with the fish combine in the United States, and will control the whole fish business of the Eastern provinces. Over 100 companies or plants of greater or less magnitude are operating on the upper lakes, while a total of 3,000 men are actively employed in fishing. Last August an agreement was arrived at between most of these by which the price was to be maintained for the advantage of the fish men. This is said to have worked well and to have given encouragement to the companies to pursue their organization. An arrangement has already been effected between the American and Canadian companies prohibiting underselling.

Andrew Spence is said to be the only missionary-cyclist in the world. He travels in California, where he has met with remarkable success in his work.

THE RED AND WHITE.

Champion Footballers Celebrate Their Victories as Guests of Their Vice-President.

An Evening of Good Comradeship Where the Spirit of Sport Reigned Supreme.

Conviviality and Good Comradeship were the twin fairies presiding over the thoroughly charming dinner which Vice-president H. D. Helmcken gave last evening to the victorious Rugby Football Club, at his hospitable home on Belleville street. The party was of just the proper size—neither too large nor too small; the dinner was an exquisite one; and the decorations of the dining room were a dream of loveliness, the central feature of which was a monument of choicest floral treasures, the white of the stately lily mingling with the rich red of the camelia to pay silent yet eloquent homage to the heroes of the occasion.

The club red and white were also plentifully utilized in the other ornate decorations of table and room, while immediately in front of the host and chairman was placed the massive and magnificent McKechnie challenge cup, which after once rewarding the prowess of Vancouver and twice being captured by the erstwhile invincible Hornets, has now come for a season to the capital. It is a masterpiece of the silversmith's art, standing 2.6 or perhaps three feet in height, ingeniously designed; and elaborately chased and finished—worthy indeed to be symbolic of hard-bought victory.

The chairman and senior vice, Mr. Helmcken, had at his right hand last evening Captain A. T. Goward and at his left the associate vice-president, Sir Henry Crease, while twenty-five or thirty representatives of athletic young manhood surrounded the generous board, the Hornets and Vancouver sending their regrets with their congratulations. The formalities of the occasion were in the hopeless minority—for sociability was the keynote of the occasion—yet of course there was some little speech making, and advantage was taken of the opportunity to honor with all due patriotism the rulers of our country and the mighty empire of which it forms a part. The complete toast list was:

"Her Majesty the Queen"—Proposed by the chairman.

"The Governor-General of Canada and the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia"—Proposed by Sir Henry Crease.

"The Victoria Rugby Football Club"—Proposed by Vice-president Helmcken, and acknowledged by Capt. Goward.

"Kindred Sports"—Proposed by Mr. C. H. Gibbons, and acknowledged by Mr. J. M. Miller and Mr. Bullock.

"The Press"—Proposed by Mr. E. E. Billinghurst and acknowledged by Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Macrae.

"The Ladies"—Proposed by Mr. Alexis Martin and acknowledged for his fair friends by Mr. Langley.

"Our Host"—Proposed by Sir Henry Crease.

The short and crisp speech of the club captain elicited the fact that not only have the Victoria Rugby Football Club emerged champions from the season's battles, with a record of 136 points to nil—a record never even approached before in Canada or on Pacific Coast—but also with the indebtedness discharged and a balance of perhaps half a hundred dollars still in the treasury.

Such a combination of sporting and financial success it would indeed be hard to eclipse, and that the club intend to maintain it next season is amply evidenced not only by the present form of the champions but by the fact that a supplementary team is even now looming upon the athletic horizon, to bear the red and white to further triumphs, and such a team as never has been seen before.

But of this Harry and Sir Henry will have more to say later on.

The unqualified success of the jolly evening was not alone due, however, to the hospitable host. Mrs. Helmcken and the Misses Goodwin share with him the honors and the thanks of the appreciative guests.

SHIPS AND SHIPPING.

Steamer Tees Leaves for the North—The Seattle-Humboldt Schedule.

Steamer Amur is due from the North on Monday. She will sail again on Wednesday.

The Canadian-Australian steamer Warimoo sailed from Wellington, New Zealand, for Victoria on Thursday.

The steamer Tees sailed for Skagway last evening, not full of freight or passengers, but with a satisfactory load. The freight included 25 tons of hay for the Victoria & Yukon Trading Company, and supplies and outfits for the parties aboard en route to the Atlin country. The list of passengers booked by the C. P. N. Co. up till late in the afternoon was as follows: Mr. Williscroft and wife, A. Ruthford, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Williscroft, F. E. Beer, Mr. Marymont, S. H. Plum, Mr. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Crompton, F. C. Frye, M. Armstrong, A. Vinnett, L. Whitmore and Mr. Ward and wife.

AN EXPERT'S VIEWS.

A New Brunswicker's Opinion on the West Coast Ore—The City Water.

"My opinion is that the mines of the West Coast will compare favorably with anything in the province, especially their richness in copper, and it is not unlikely that considerable gold will be found with the copper together with some free gold." Such was Mr. William F. Best's expert opinion, as formed from samples of ore which have come under his analytical tests. He is a chemist and assayer educated in Germany, who has recently come from New Brunswick, where he has lived for fourteen years. During part of this time he served in an official position, being analyst in murder cases where poison had been administered. His laboratory on the second flat of the Board of Trade building is complete with instruments of the finest kind, one of which a Colonist reporter looked through being capable of magnifying 1,280 diameters, capable of showing 30,000 lines to the inch.

Speaking further of the West Coast mines Mr. Best said from specimens that have been brought under his observation he thinks it is extremely likely that antimony and molybdenum will be found in considerable quantities on the coast, as also mica and asbestos. These metals are very valuable, especially where the shipping facilities are as easy as they are on the West Coast.

Since establishing here Mr. Best has examined a sample of mineral water from up the coast, which he was much impressed with, and believes that some day it will be utilized for medicinal purposes.

Another sample of water that he analyzed came from Beaver lake, the city water supply, which he found to be full of life but containing no disease germs. In course of conversation Mr. Best remarked that it was his opinion that the city water should be examined occasionally for objectionable matter is apt to find its way into it at any time. This rule, he stated, is followed in most other cities.

DIVORCE GRANTED.

Mr. J. L. Penny Successful in His Application to the Supreme Court.

The application of Mr. John L. Penny for a divorce from his wife Catherine Penny was yesterday granted by Mr. Justice Walkem, after a trial lasting less than half an hour. The case was undefended, neither Mrs. Penny or the co-respondent, W. H. Bainbridge, being represented. There was but one witness, the plaintiff, but he produced affidavits in support of his application. His evidence was to the effect that he was married at Lincoln, England, in 1888 and he and his wife lived together until January, 1898. At that time he was superintendent of a mine at Alberni of which Bainbridge was the managing director. Hearing his wife's name mentioned in connection with that of Bainbridge, he went to Seattle where she was visiting and found that she had gone to Hot Springs, Wash., and was there registered under an assumed name. Going to Hot Springs he learned that a man and woman who had been staying at the hotel for ten days and who answered the description of Bainbridge and Mrs. Penny, had registered as Mr. and Mrs. Berkley and were living as man and wife.

Affidavits of the hotel proprietor and hotel clerk at Hot Springs were read. They swore that the photos of Bainbridge and Mrs. Penny, which accompanied the affidavits, were the photos of the man and woman who had registered as Mr. and Mrs. Berkley.

The decree will be made absolute in six months.

Mr. W. H. Langley appeared for the plaintiff.

WEST COAST MINES.

Seattleite Tells of the Properties on Clayoquot Sound.

Secretary Frank Olson, of the Board of Public Works, returned yesterday from a trip to Clayoquot Sound, where he is interested in several mining groups, says the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. He was accompanied by V. R. Pierson and H. G. Stolting. Speaking of this little known district Mr. Olson said yesterday:

"Clayoquot Sound bids fair to become the richest mining district on the west side of Vancouver Island. It is a number of small rivers and inlets ramifying into one, and the wild, rugged country about is strongly mineralized. There is a preponderance of copper, gold and iron the proportion of silver being small. The first discovery was made about three years ago.

"There are two trading stores on the Sound and a small Indian village of the Clayoquot tribe. The white settlers and miners number about 200. On the dozen or more groups of mines assessments work has been steadily kept up. On the Seattle group, on Bear River, considerable work has been done. Several mines have been shipping ore during last year. It is sent mostly to Victoria, though sometimes it goes to Everett or Tacoma. Such ore as goes to Victoria is taken by the agent of the Swansea Company of Wales, who ships it around the Horn in crude form to Swansea. He only handles ore running over 13 per cent copper. That from Clayoquot runs for the most between 8 and 30 per cent.

"Our properties are the Helga and Good Hope. They are located on Trout River and Disappointment Inlet. The Helga is made up of four claims of low grade ore. The ledge is from 30 to 100 feet wide and can be traced along for almost 3,000 feet. The claims are large ones, 1,500 by 1,500 feet. This is not shipping ore and will require a mill on the ground. We have let a contract for a 25-foot tunnel. This ore can be quarried out.

"The Good Hope group has six claims. It is concentrating ore, running high in gold and silver. We have let contracts for a tunnel 24 feet, and two shafts, one 66 and the other 25 feet."

RUSSIANS AT PORT ARTHUR.

Thirty-Six Thousand Soldiers to Be Mobilized at the New Post.

The news printed to the effect that Russia is hurrying troops into Port Arthur is significant of pending events in the Orient.

Russia already had 15,000 men at Port Arthur and 8,000 at Talienwan, besides a garrison of several thousand at Now-Chwang.

Now comes the announcement of the arrival at Port Arthur of 9,000 troops, with 25,000 more on the way.

When this military movement is complete Russia will have at Port Arthur nearly 60,000 veteran troops.

In addition Russia has mobilized a fleet of 19 warships at Port Arthur, carrying 6,229 men and 400 heavy guns. This fleet consists of 1 battleship, 7 protected cruisers and 11 smaller cruisers, gunboats and a transport.

This is a tremendous military and naval force under the circumstances. If it means any thing it means nothing less than preparation for the occupation of Pekin by the European powers, with the certainty Russia is not to have the smallest voice in the control of affairs under the new regime.

On Nov. 16, 1898, it was announced semi-officially at St. Petersburg, Russia had concluded another secret treaty with China, by the terms of which the Chinese government agreed to employ Russian troops alone for the defense of the Chinese coast. Under the terms of this treaty the Russian commander-in-chief at Port Arthur is to send troops into any part of China at any time upon the request of the Dowager Empress.

As far as reported China has made no similar agreement with any of the other European powers interested in the Orient.

If Russia has engaged to supply troops for the defense of China the present military activity at Port Arthur is evidence that the time is rapidly approaching when the troops will be needed.

Any attempt by Russia to maintain exclusive privileges under the secret treaty made in November will open up an entirely new question. It will be then that Great Britain, Germany and Japan must decide whether their own spheres of influence shall be protected by armed interference or whether China shall be completely Russianized to the exclusion of all Europe.

THE FONTENOY MINE.

The First Issue of 50,000 Shares Taken Up in Two Hours Time.

The Work of Development to Be Pushed to a Dividend Paying Basis.

The Fontenoy Mining and Milling Co., Ltd., whose head office is Victoria and the stock of which is largely held by Victorians, has been very successful in its flotation. Two weeks ago yesterday 50,000 shares were placed on the market at fifteen cents. This number was sold in two hours, and application made altogether for 160,000 shares. The stock is now quoted at twenty cents, with no sellers. The company property is situated at Camp McKinney, and consists of one mineral claim 1,500 feet square. It is about 1,500 feet distant from the famous Cariboo Camp McKinney Company's property, and the ledge which has made this mine one of the best dividend payers in British Columbia has been traced through the full length of the Fontenoy. On this claim are two ledges, one carrying base and the other free milling ore. The former is from 8 to 10 feet in width and the latter averages over six feet. The base ledge gives assay value from $8 to $160 per ton, while the free milling ore in the shaft already sunk averages $25 per ton. The mine has been opened up by three shafts of 85, 30 and 26 feet depth, with several cross and open cuts, amply proving the continuity of the ledges. For the purpose of hastening development, a steam hoisting plant will at once be placed in position, and it is expected that in three months' time a stamp mill and concentrating plant will be erected for the purpose of treating the free milling ore. Until the railway is completed to Camp McKinney, however, shipments from the base ledge will not be made. Without being optimistic the principal owners are satisfied that the present year will see the mine on a dividend paying basis. Adjoining the Fontenoy is the Waterloo fraction, where a shaft has been sunk one hundred feet away from the Fontenoy line, and on the Cariboo ledge. The owners of this property are also about to erect a steam hoisting plant.

The practical management of the Fontenoy is in the hands of Phil J. Hickey, who has had an experience of twenty-five years in the mines of Montana, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and for the past five years in British Columbia. He is at present the manager of the Minnesota and Sunshine mining companies near Sandon, and is largely interested in mines in West Kootenay and Yale, besides being the practical adviser of a number of Eastern American capitalists. Mr. Hickey has a high reputation as a successful mining man and those interested in the Fontenoy are to be congratulated in having the direction of its affairs in such capable hands. It too often happens that a good mine is rendered non-productive by the incapacity of its management, where under different treatment it could be made a profit earning property. The Fontenoy commences its career under auspicious conditions.

ANNUAL INSPECTION.

First Battalion to Be Inspected About April 15 by Col. Peters.

The district officer commanding has notified the officer commanding that the annual inspection of the First battalion, Fifth regiment, C. A., will take place on or about Saturday, April 15. Further notice will appear in the battalion orders.

The following is intended to give a general outline of the manner in which the annual inspection will be conducted by the district officer commanding:

Gun Drill—Groups for gun drill told off by C. O. and marched to guns by gun group commander, who takes charge. Each detachment will prepare for action, load and fire several rounds with different projectiles. The detachment will then be asked questions as to nature and weight of projectiles, etc., and other information connected with gun and carriage.

Company Drill—Each officer of a company will be called out to drill in turn. Should any mistakes be made, they are expected to give explanations and corrections. The average marks of the officers will be scored for company drill.

The company books will be carefully examined, especially the record of daily attendances at drill and service roll. The possession of other books or records which tend towards the efficiency of a company will go to increase of marks. Each officer will present for inspection what books he is supposed to have in his keeping by the orders of his commanding officer.

A battalion order calls the attention of officers commanding companies to Part I., para. 95, R. O., 1898, as follows: "The oath of allegiance prescribed to be taken by officers and men will be administered by the officer commanding the corps," etc.

In accordance with the above, officers commanding companies will notify the commanding officer when they have men for enlistment or re-enlistment, and arrangements will then be made for swearing them in.

Officers commanding companies will take care to see that all non-commissioned officers and gunners whose time has expired are re-enlisted at once, or granted their discharge.

In accordance with instructions from the district officer commanding re "dress" of officers, white collars will hereafter be worn with the frock. Such collars will be of the following pattern: Stand up, square corners and meeting in front, one-fourth inch to show above collar of frock to which they are to be attached.

Attention is also called to Part V., Sec. II., para. 18, R. and O., 1898, as follows: "Majors of garrison companies when employed as company officers on parade, or when at gun drill or practice, or when inspecting the armaments or magazines in their charge, are not to wear spurs or sabretaches."

A PURE GRAPE CREAM OF TARTAR POWDER

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER

Awarded Highest Honors, World's Fair Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair.

THE ALLANS' GREATEST.

Description of the Castilian Now at Halifax on Her First Trip.

Halifax, March 3.—The monster new Allan liner Castilian, Capt. Barrett, arrived in port this afternoon on her maiden voyage from Liverpool, making the passage in the quick time of eight days. She has 11 cabin, 47 intermediate and 104 steerage passengers.

The Castilian is the largest vessel the company have yet built. She is 470 feet long, 53 feet 9 inches beam, and 36 feet deep, with a gross tonnage of 8,000 and a displacement of 14,850 tons. Her great beam gives a huge cargo capacity and at the same time enables the passenger saloons and staterooms to be more than usually spacious, while providing against undue rolling in a beam sea. The Castilian is schooner rigged with one funnel fourteen feet in diameter. While the foremast is of steel, the after one is of wood, and half way up is placed a compass, which, being thus fixed away from the hull and steel deck erections, may be relied upon as absolutely infallible—and therefore invaluable during thick weather. Her builders, Messrs. Workman & Clark, of Belfast, have adopted all the latest improvements in marine architecture. Thus there is a cellular double bottom extending the whole length of the ship. There are nine watertight bulkheads. The ship has a cold storage accommodation, a special refrigerating chamber being set apart for stores to be used by passengers on the voyage. As a passenger vessel the Castilian embraces all those improvements which Messrs. Allan's long experience for the North Atlantic passenger trade has suggested.

On her trial trip the Castilian developed a speed of over 15 knots, her performance being regarded as highly satisfactory both by owners and builders. Though at present she is the largest vessel in the Allan fleet, she will soon lose that distinction, as two larger passenger vessels of the very highest class are now approaching completion on the Clyde. These vessels are the Tunisian and Bavarian, each of which will be over 10,000 tons gross, and will mark a new epoch in the history of steam communication between this country and Canada. The Castilian is in command of Captain Barrett, late of the Parisian. He is the commodore captain of the Allan fleet and long and honorably has been before the public as a skilful and careful navigator.

CHEAP ATLANTIC TRAVEL.

Ten Pound Rate Offered by German Lloyds Even for Express Steamers.

London, March 3.—The Daily Mail announces that the North German Lloyd steamers have reduced the trans-Atlantic passage to £10 even for express steamers, which is the lowest rate the law allows for a passenger treated as a saloon passenger. If less were paid the passenger would be subject to medical inspection and not allowed to buy spirits and the like.

NAVAL ECONOMIES.

Three Thousand Men Off Strength of United States Service and Ships Out of Commission.

Washington, March 2.—The navy department put the big double turret monitors out of commission at the Norfolk navy yards yesterday, and it is said at the navy bureau that this step must be followed by other retrenchments, to the great detriment of the plans of the department.

The estimates submitted to congress based on the minimum requirements of the navy provided for 20,000 sailors but congress cut this down to 15,000. There are now 18,000 men in the service so that 3,000 of these must be dropped immediately. That means, according to the department officers, that a large part of the North Atlantic squadron must go out of commission.

The Asiatic squadron cannot be reduced in view of Dewey's necessities. Another difficulty is going to be the impossibility of putting into condition the new ships as they are turned over to the government by the builders, simply for want of men to man them.

THE POPE CONFIDENT.

Relying on Divine Miracle He Is Careless About the Doctors' Orders.

Rome, March 3.—3 a. m.—The latest from the vatican is that the Pope's temperature at midnight had risen several points. It appears that his disinclination to observe the recommendations of his physicians forms an obstacle in the way of prompt recovery. He has full confidence in his own strength, and does not readily acquiesce in their advice not to move.

During the afternoon he insisted on leaving his bed without assistance, and also read several telegrams. The rise in his temperature, which has given some anxiety, was probably caused in part in this way.

The doctors exclude everybody from his apartments except his personal attendants. The Pope said during the day: "It is a miracle of God that I am still alive, for he wishes to spare his church a terrible crisis at the present moment."

CULTIVATING CANADA.

New York Chamber of Commerce Moves for Better Trade Relations.

New York, March 2.—At the monthly meeting of the chamber of commerce resolutions were passed authorizing the committee on foreign commerce and revenue laws to take steps for the promotion of better trade relations between the United States and Canada.

SHOT HER BROTHER-IN-LAW.

Young Lady Returns from Buffalo Boarding School With Murder in Her Heart.

Marshall, Ill., March 2.—Miss Lillie Marium, a prominent young lady of this city, to-day shot and probably fatally wounded Wm. A. Vaughn, her brother-in-law. She had been attending college in Buffalo, N.Y., and returned home unexpectedly yesterday afternoon. She went direct to the office in her father's mill, where she found Vaughn, and fired twice before bystanders could interfere. Bad feeling had existed between them for some time. Miss Marium is now under arrest awaiting the result of the shooting.