Enquiry as to Use of Weirs

Evidence Taken By Commission Regarding Fishing on Cowichan River.

Mayor Makes Objection to Personnel of Some Presiding at Investigation.

The commission appointed to investigate the matter of illegal fishing in the Cowichan and other Island rivers convened at the Council chambers yesterday afternoon, when two or three old hands at fishing on the Cowichan river told what they knew of the matter. The evidence of the two principal witnesses, Mr. Geo. Langley and Mr. J. McKaye, of the Lands and Works department, was strongly against interference with the Indian custom of using weirs, and Senator Templeman, the chairman, stated that this was the line followed by most of those who came forward by evidence at Duncan, and this included men who had fished on the river for the last twenty-five years.

At the opening of the inquiry, Mayor Hayward objected to the personnel of some members of the commission, Mr. Vowell, because he held and had expressed himself very strongly in favor of maintaining the weirs and that the Indians had a right to do so, also Mr. Inspector Sword, whose negligence in enforcing the fishery regulations was the principal reason for holding the inquiry. To have these two gentlemen act as judges in this mattter was most improper, and he protested against any finding they would make.

Answering a remark of Mr. Vowell's, His Worship said that he had not often been charged with being a new-comer. He had been here for 41 years. But what the speaker objected to was that Mr. Vowell had made up his mind about the matter. He had called on Mr. Vowell some time ago about this question and had been given a very brusque answer.

Mr. Mann said that there were people who bought trout from Indians, and this was the gravamen of the charge. But it seemed the commission had no power to investigate this phase of the subject, and it would be well for this point to be brought to the attention of the minister.

Senator Templeman stated that he had not expected to be met with such a quibble as the constitution of the commission. They had been appointed to take evidence only, and were in no sense to act as judges. The evidence as taken would be forwarded to the department, and with the minister would rest the duty of saying what was the right thing to do.

His Worship recited the facts leading up to the interest which the Tourist association had taken in the question of weirs in the Cowichan river. Unless something were done, in a few years this river would be valueless as a fishing ground. While at Duncan in the spring he had found that the Indians were doing all manner of illegal fishing. He had sent a city detective to look into the matter, and his report bore this all out to the letter. The action of the department seemed to warrant the assertion that the local officials of the Department of Fisheries were determined to see that nothing was done to enforce the laws at Cowichan. Mr. Sword had been repeatedly told of what was going on, but he had paid no attention. A telegram had then been sent the department, but it had resulted in no action until finally, after repeatedly telegraphing, the minister had almost kicked Mr. Sword out of his office at New Westminster, and he had come down to Victoria. This $15 a month man, who was employed at the mouth of the Cowichan, was not allowed any traveling expenses and visited a portion of the river but once a week. They had been informed by wealthy tourists that they felt so indignant at what was going on that they felt like telegraphing other fishermen in the Old Country who were following them to keep away, as it was useless to come here and expect to get any good fishing. He understood that not only was illegal fishing winked at, but officials had been ordered not to remove obstructions. Weirs had been removed in every other river in the Dominion, and he could not understand why the government deliberately shut their eyes to the depletion of the rivers on this Island. The fishing, particularly on the Cowichan, was one of the most valuable assets the Island possessed, and its destruction meant immense loss to Victoria and every portion of the Island. It was true that logging had and would do some damage to the fishing, but that was only an additional reason why proper means should be taken to conserve the salmon and trout in the streams. The value of the trout fishing was very great and would every year become greater. In Scotland thousands of pounds were annually paid for fishing privileges. He could not see why Victoria should sit still while a few Indians were allowed to destroy such a valuable public heritage. If the Indians required fish for food, it would pay the department better to purchase salmon from the vast quantities caught in the Gulf and give it to the Indians.

The Mayor then put in the report of Detective Palmer as to the illegal fishing which he found carried out at Duncan and vicinity, also a petition signed by many residents of that place, asking that the department investigate the subject.

Senator Templeman pointed out that all of those signing the petition and whose evidence the commission had taken were utterly opposed to the idea of prohibiting the Indians from using weirs.

Mr. Ashdown Green was unable to give evidence, but a letter written by him was read, in which he entirely disapproved of the proposal to interfere with the Indians.

G. Langley then gave evidence. He had fished on the Cowichan for 25 years and never found weirs interfered with the fishing. He knew from his own knowledge that pound and a half to two pounds passed through weirs, and even larger. He found weirs closed when they should be supposed to be open. He had made seven trips up and down the river. There was plenty of room for three or four pound fish to pass if the weirs were kept clear. Any larger fish would be absolutely stopped. There was always plenty of fishing in Cowichan lake until the past two years, when no doubt the increase of the fish ermen had caused a decrease in the number of fish. The posts are driven into the bottom of the stream, and the wicker works of them is laid against these posts. Bait fishing at the mouth of the river also was a cause of depletion, and was illegal. There were nine weirs in 1901, but a few years ago there were only three on the whole river. Had never seen illegal netting on the stream, nor had he seen any traps. He had no knowledge of trout fishing at nights by Indian boys, although they did a good business in the sale of trout to people in and above Duncan. He had seen steelheads going up the river above the weirs. The Indians spear dog salmon and steelheads at the weirs. They used salmon roe to catch the trout they sold in the market. He had seen this frequently at Quamichan.

Mr. Mann was a dry fly fisher. Two years ago he fished a great deal in the Cowichan. He had noticed a great diminution in the fishing, particularly this year. At the Sahtlam weir he had seen Indians spearing and dipping for salmon and the Indians had told him that they caught trout also. He had been told that there was a trap here, but had not seen it, because it was removed during the day. It was illegal to take trout by any other means than by angling. In most of the other provinces the use of these fascines had been put a stop to. The reason was that Americans came there and paid large sums for fishing rights. It was found that trout which once had been stopped from ascending their streams next year were known to pass that stream by and ascend another stream. The weirs unduly obstructed the fish ascending the streams and the ultimate result was bound to be the turning of the fish not only from the Cowichan river, but from every other stream on the Island. The spawning beds are not so much in the river as in the streamlets which run into the river. He had not personal knowledge of other illegal fishing than that of spearing and netting in connection with the weirs. Cowichan lake must of necessity suffer from the presence of the weirs. He (as well as others, had caught sea trout in Quamichan lake, which showed that they must have come up the small stream which had been dammed by the Indians. He had been warned off the reserve at Duncan by the Indian constable, who had stated that since the Victoria people had undertaken to interfere with their weirs, they were not going to permit white men on their reserve. This was very important, as it meant no pheasant shooting or anything else on the Indian lands.

Mr. McKaye said the weirs did not interfere with the fishing. There was always space at both sides of the weir. He had fished on the Cowichan since 1883 and had lived at Duncan for many years. Some years he had good luck and other years he had not. He had carefully watched the Indians and had never known of illegal fishing except taking fish once with a drift net. He had never seen an Indian take a trout out of the weir. Some of the boys caught a few small trout with bait, but it was not so that much was done in the way of selling trout. It was a fact that you could not buy trout when you want it. The Indians would catch anything that came along, although the Indians used the dog salmon for food. He had caught salmon above Duncan which must have come up from the salt water past the weirs in about a day, as the sea lice were still in the fish's gills, and these were never known to remain on the fish longer than a few days at the most. He had had fairly good luck this year; in fact, quite as well as other years. The weirs were never put down until the water was sufficiently low to permit of their seeing the gravel the whole way across. The big run of salmon was in the spring and winter, when the water was high and the weirs were not in place.

Mr. Galbraith, fisheries inspector, thought that the weirs obstructed the passage of salmon going up tne river. He had seen many spent steelheads stopped at the weir at Duncans. The weirs did more harm to the fish descending the river; this referred to steelheads. One of the principal injuries the weirs did was the bad impression it gave to visitors, and this meant loss of money to the province. The weirs delayed everything that came along. Trout could be seen trying to bore their way past these obstructions. He had cut illegal nets out of the stream as late as last April. He had been fishing in the stream nine years and found each succeeding year about half what it was the previous year. He did not think that the weirs were to blame for all of this; but the seine netting at the mouth of the river had much to do with it. All kinds of small fish, young trout and salmon, were hauled out on the bank and left to rot. This destroyed thousands of trout. He had no personal knowledge of the trade in trout the Indians are said to catch at the weirs. Mrs. Rowbottom and Mr. Leather had complained that Indians dammed the creek running out of Quamichan lake, and then netted the fish at night. He thought that many of the settlers were afraid to appear as witnesses to prosecute, on account of the vengeance of the Indians. It would be a mistake to put a stop to the weirs altogether. If a space of 30 feet were left open in the main channel from Friday until Sunday night, it would allow plenty of fish to pass up, and for the spent ones to drop down stream. He was sure the weirs obstructed the fish. He did not agree with Messrs. Langley and McKaye. Unless the river were nursed the fishing would very soon be a thing of the past. He had studied pisciculture for 40 years, and thought his suggestions as to opening the weirs for four nights and to strictly enforce the law about taking immature fish would be a remedy. The size of trout to be taken should be limited to eight inches.

W. Bickford, as a delegate from the Sporting club, asked for an extension of the season for trout fishing from the April and to be kept open for two weeks later than at present. This would prevent the taking of the trout when spawning in the spring. He thought the weirs would prove detrimental but had no personal knowledge.

Senator Templeman read from Mr. Prince's report to show that this had been approved and was now one of the regulations.

The commission then adjourned until Monday next.

FOREST FIRES ROUND KASLO

Railway Track Burned For Three Miles—Blue Ridge Threatened.

Kaslo, B. C., Aug. 8.—(Special.)—Kaslo is literally surrounded by raging bush fires, which are sweeping down the mountain side from three different directions. One fire is within three miles of the city limits, just behind the cemetery. The air is thick with smoke and falling ashes. The worst fire is seven miles away at the Blue Ridge mine, and fears are entertained for the safety of the mine. Every preparations is made for fighting the flames. The Kaslo & Slocan railway track is burned for three miles. A relief train was sent out from Sandon to get the passengers.

HOSPITAL GARDEN FETE.

Worthy Object for Which It Is to Be Held.

The annual garden party in aid of the working fund, Women's Auxiliary society, Provincial Royal Jubilee hospital, is fixed to take place this year at the Douglas gardens, Belleville street, on Wednesday, August 20, from 3 to 10 p.m. The fete is under the kind patronage of the Commander-in-Chief and Mrs. Bickford, Col. Grant, R. E., and Mrs. Grant, His Worship the Mayor, the President and Executive Committee Women's Auxiliary Society and the President and Board of Directors, Provincial Royal Jubilee Hospital. The Daughters of Pity will take their usual prominent and helpful part in the management, thereby insuring the success of the entertainment.

The special object this year is to provide funds to complete payment on the sterilizing apparatus, which is about being installed at the hospital by the Women's Auxiliary, and which has been a most long-felt need.

The kindness and patronage of the public is solicited for the occasion, and all members and friends of the society are begged to contribute either cake, sandwiches, home-made candy, choice cut flowers (for button-holes), or small articles for the fish-pond. Further particulars will appear later.

FISHING TRIP.

Steamer Trader Now Carrying a Party North.

Nanaimo, Aug. 8.—(Special)—Steamer Trader called here this evening and will remain until the morning, when she proceeds to Comox for coal and thence North. She has on board Admiral Ross, Sir Richard Musgrave and Mr. Forbes G. Vernon, who have, for a six-weeks' charter of the steamer for a fishing expedition.

NEW FAIRVIEW CORPORATION

Favorable Reports on Stemwinder—Rich Strike on Third Level.

A local firm of mining brokers have just received the following from Major A. Megraw, J. P., Beaverdell, B.C., says the Toronto Mail and Empire:

"Regarding times in Fairview, I must say that it was a most pleasing thing to me to find the people there is such a thoroughly confident and satisfied frame of mind. The settled conviction there now is 'a dead sure thing,' and the people who are saying it are acting as if they believed it, for they are putting money into new buildings and the general extension of their business. I was all over and through the Stemwinder, and can only say that I have no change to make in what I said in former letters regarding the outlook, except that things are looking even better now that I had expected. The cyanide plant is already at work on the second grade concentrates and is working like a charm. It has a capacity of 20 tons of these concentrates, each batch of which takes 48 hours to run through. A car load of the first grade of concentrates has already been shipped to the Everett smelter, and they place the average value of this first grades of concentrates at over $700 per ton. That third level on the Stemwinder is simply a wonder. There is clean ore all the way across the ledge, which is 30 feet at the point where they are stopeing out with their baby drills. These drills, operated by only three men, are breaking down about 200 tons per day, and the roof of the stope looks more like the ceiling of a large church than anything else that I can compare it to. What impressed me more than anything else was the changed character of the quartz in this stope. It has changed to that bluish grey shade which is so characteristic of the best paying ore of this country, and I have every reason to believe that this means that they are now into a big pay chute. If they should quit milling ore from the first and second level and run the mill for about 10 days from this third level chute that I speak of, I would not be surprised to hear of their getting a clean-up that would surprise us all, for I saw specimens that came up in the car from this point that showed free gold all over. I don't know what the financial position of the company is, as far as ready money is concerned, but from what I saw, I don't think they will need much more outside cash, for those precipitation tanks of Ostenbung's in the cyanide plant look as if there will soon be bullion enough around these to see them out of all their troubles. Russell looked happy and contented, and was most kind in according me every opportunity to see all there was to be seen."

A. A. Davidson, former president of the Fairview corporation, has issued the following circular to the shareholders of the New Fairview corporation:

"I strongly advise the shareholders at large of the above corporation to hold their stock and sell no shares under any consideration at anything like the prevailing prices.

"I have lately received reliable information from Fairview stating that the above company has been mining for some time back very rich ore from the Stemwinder, but that the management are keeping the matter quiet apparently for purposes detrimental to the shareholders at large.

"My object in writing this is that, as a large shareholder, I do not wish to see a majority of the stock gobbled up from the shareholders at large by a few shareholders who have been given the inside information before correct reports shall be given out by the management, as the present market price is but a fraction of the actual value of the stock.

"I have no hesitation in saying—and my statement will be verified before long, as it will be impossible for the management to keep the matter quiet much longer—that the Stemwinder is now proving one of the richest and best mines in British Columbia, or in Canada, and if regular reports (provided they were true reports) had been issued by the management, the shares would undoubtedly be in demand at 25 cents each at the present time. Therefore those shareholders at large who dispose of their shares now will regret it.—A. A. DAVIDSON, former president late Fairview Corporation, Limited."

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Geological Survey at Ottawa wants to be shaken up a little. Mining men complain to us of the difficulty they have in getting determinations of rocks and mineral specimens made at Ottawa by the department. We know there is good cause for this complaint and it should be remedied. The United States Geological Survey has been of incalculable benefit to the mining industry, by the excellent manner in which it has fulfilled this part of its work, and the Canadian department should certainly be expected to give the same assistance without the objections and red tape that mining men find associated with their efforts to take advantage of the information which could be supplied by the department.—Revelstoke Herald.

OIL TEMPERED DRILLS.

"It is a very rare thing for an oil-tempered drill to break and it wears much better than a water-tempered one," says a writer in the Mining Scientific Press. "The most serviceable slack tub I found to be a common five gallon oil can, with the top left as a flap or cover to throw down and smother the flame in case the oil ignites from the hot steel. If the vessel is left open, the ignition, if it does occur, is of little consequence, like that of coal tar: but with a partially close tub or tank can, the accumulated gases are liable to produce 'fireworks.' There is really no necessity for such inconvenience, however, as the proper heat for plunging the steel—a bright red—is a little below the point necessary to flash the oil. I do not use more than five inches in the bottom of the can. The better the oil becomes the better are the results. The consumption of oil is small, principally due to that portion sticking to the drills on withdrawal. Plunging in loose dirt afterwards will clean them.

RESCUED THE DOG.

Being a Tale of the Desperate Adventures of Two Mariners.

This is a tale of two mariners—also a dog. The tale concerns all, chiefly the mariners, who, as a result of their connection with the incident, have been recommended for the medal of the Royal Humane society by Capt. J. G. Cox, Lloyd's agent, who was a witness of the occurrence. Capt. Ohlson, of the good ship Brodick Castle, has been residing at Victoria since his vessel reached port from Hongkong many weeks ago, and Capt. Lewis, overlooker for the firm of Hind, Rolph & Co., came from San Francisco to superintend the repairs to the ship Emily Reed. The two became friendly, and a few days ago made an excursion to North Saanich, where some friends were camping. They were standing on the wharf amusing themselves by throwing sticks into the water, while a sheep dog stood by wagging what little tail it had, but not attempting to jump in after the sticks.

"I won'er if he can swim?" asked Capt. Lewis. "I don't know," said Capt. Ohlson—and they continued throwing the sticks.

Suddenly there was a feminine scream, a splash, and the dog was struggling in the water—it could not swim. Capt. Ohlson and Capt. Lewis did not stand doing the Alphouse-Gaston act—oh, no—both threw their coats aside and sprang to the rescue. There was excitement galore as the two dripping shipmasters, with a greater exterior dampness than they had known for some time, brought the drowning dog ashore. Capt. Cox, as became the surveyor for Lloyd's, made a marine survey of the dog, which he passed satisfactorily, minus the damaged rudder, which Capt. Lewis had maltreated in the effort to land the animal. However, all the campers and mariners who witnessed the brave rescue voted the two mariners heroes, and the mail is already carrying the recommendations to the Royal Humane society that each be given a medal—and if the leather trust does not raise prices, it is said that both will get medals.

CREATED A DISTURBANCE

Marine From H. M. S. Grafton Tries to Kick in Door of Esquimalt Residence.

Pte. Alfred Young, R. M. A. of H. M. S. Grafton, was charged with wilful damage to the door of Archibald Muir, of Esquimalt road, in the Provincial Police court yesterday morning, and was fined $20 and $12 damages, or in default two months' imprisonment. It was all due to a drunken orgy of Pte. Young, who got very drunk last Saturday night and early on Sunday morning he went to the residence of Archibald Muir, on the Esquimalt road. He proceeded to kick in the door, notwithstanding the protests of Muir, who said there was a sick woman in the house. Young said he didn't care, and continued to kick the door. There was quite a disturbance amidst which Muir's wife, who had been crying, left the house in her nightdress, and attempted to climb the fence to go to a neighbor's house. Muir lifted her from the fence and laid her on the grass. Then he returned to where the marine was kicking in the door to further remonstrate with the soldier. Young then attacked Muir, who ran, with Young following him, out of the front gate. Muir threw a stone at the marine and missed him. Muir then went to call a neighbor, and meanwhile a hack with Mr. Pooley in it, came on the scene. They went to speak to the marine, who threatened to shoot and caused them to retire. Then another hack arrived with some marines. They followed Messrs. Pooley from the scene though, and left the marine. Beaney, a neighbor of Muir, arrived then and Young attacked him, but Beaney retired. The hack with the marines in it returned soon afterwards, and after knocking Young down and kicking him a couple of times, they lifted him into the hack, and took him off. Muir's wife during the attack was much excited, and calling to him to leave the marine. Muir went on board the Grafton on Monday and Young, who said he was sorry, offered to settle for the damage done to the door. Magistrate Hall lectured the offender, whom he said should regard himself fortunate that such a light charge was entered against him, and that he escaped, for some men might have shot him under the circumstances. Young paid the fine and damages.

GABRIEL-HITT.

Pretty Wedding at St. Saviour's Church on Wednesday Evening.

The pretty little church of St. Saviour's, Victoria West, was the scene on Wednesday evening of the marriage of Mr. William Wilmot Gabriel and Miss Sarah Catherine Hitt. Rev. W. D. Barber officiated, the wedding taking place beneath a wedding bell, which was a prominent feature of the beautiful decorations, arranged for the occasion by the friends of the bride and groom. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. T. G. Hitt, and was attended by the Misses W. Fraser, Lovell and W. Gabriel. She wore a becoming costume of cream strah silk, trimmed with pearls and chiffon, and a veil and orange blossoms, and carried a bouquet of roses, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Johnston. The bridesmaids wore dresses of blue voile, trimmed with passmentrie, and black picture hats, and carried bouquets of pink sweet peas and carnations. The groom was supported by Messrs. T. McDowell, R. Johnston and F. Hitt. The full choir was present and rendered appropriate music, the wedding march being played by Mr. Andrews. A reception was held in the evening at the residence of Mr. C. Hitt, when the friends of the couple gathered to extend their congratulations and good wishes. Many handsome presents testified to the popularity of the newly-married couple. They left by the Charmer yesterday morning for the Mainland, where the honeymoon will be spent.

POLLARD OPERA COMPANY.

"An American Millionaire" and "The Geisha" Among the Operas.

The Pollard Opera company, which scored so marked a success in the city a few weeks ago, will commence a return engagement of one full week's duration on Monday evening next. The piece selected for the opening programme is one which has never been played before in Canada, by name, "The American Millionaire." The plot, one of impersonation, is by no means new, but the music of the play is bright and catchy, and the action simply teems with opportunities for that quaint and fancy by-play which proved one of the greatest charms of those clever children on their former visit. The play was produced with enormous success for the first time in America on Sunday evening last at the Grand Opera house, Seattle. The large audience declared itself well pleased with the whole performance, and laughter loud and long, and ringing encores were the order of the evening. The piece is much lighter than any presented here before, "The Gaiety Girl" excepted. The action is constantly breaking into solos, duets, choruses and dancing turns, and these things are just what may be expected to be of the best interest to the average audience.

In conclusion, it may interest their admirers in this city to hear that Daphne and Willie Pollard are both exceptionally well fitted in this play. The piece has several song and dance specialties, and with Fred Pollard sings the popular "Please Let Me Sleep," early in the evening, while Willie has a companion song to "Tickle Me," which is in no way behind its predecessor.

"An American Millionaire" will hold the boards for Monday and Tuesday evenings. On Wednesday evening "The Geisha" will be presented, to be followed on Thursday and Friday evenings by "A Gaiety Girl" and "On Town," respectively. The bill for Saturday evening and for the two special matinees (on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons) will be announced later.

TO WIND UP.

Woollen Mills Company Is Highly Capitalized.

Montreal, Aug. 8.—Application has been made to the Supreme court for a winding-up order for the Canadian Woollen Mills company. The company has a capitalization of $2,000,000, of which $1,100,000 is common stock, $400,000 preferred stock and $600,000 first mortgage bonds. The John Manville company, of New York, control the bond issue and are large shareholders of the common and preferred stock. It is explained that the company's capitalization has been found too great and the present method is being used to reduce it. The operations of the mill will be continued and trade creditors will not be affected.

DOHERTYS WIN AGAIN.

Beat Ward and Davis in Tennis Doubles

New York, Aug. 8.—In the international lawn tennis double today, the Doherty brothers, of England, defeated Ward and Davis, the United States players.

LONGITUDE BEGINS & ENDS

The Quaint Side of Greenwich Observatory—History Of Its Beginning.

From London Daily Leader.

Of all the curious things connected with Greenwich Observatory, perhaps the most curious is the fact that so little is known about it by the general public. It is one of the places which conscientious country cousins sometimes set down in their programmes when they come to London on a visit, but they are usually put off by the sheer inability to find out anything about it after they have arrived in town. Not that they could get very much farther even if they wanted to, for the place is remorselessly closed in the face of all visitors, and a trip to Greenwich-park (which is worth while taking for its own sake) would show them no more than the exterior of the building and the big clock on the wall of the porter's lodge.

It is not that they have dark and mysterious secrets in the observatory, but they are busy men there, they have little space to waste in their operations, and the instruments are so delicate and so valuable that the risk of exposing them to the eccentricities of the careless casual tourist is considered too great. Still, there seems no reason why an occasional afternoon might not be set aside for small and carefully conducted parties to be led through the observatory by a competent guide.

Among the curiosities of the place, a leading part must be assigned to its history, for it was founded by, of all people, the dissolute and worthless Charles II., not in any freakish movement either, but out of a sheer desire to confer a benefit on navigators. The first Astronomer Royal was appointed "to apply himself with the most exact care and diligence to the Rectifying the Tables of the Motions of the Heavens and the Places of the Fixed Stars in order to find out the so much desired Longitude at sea, for the perfecting of the Art of Navigation." And here is another element of surprise, for the average man looks upon Greenwich Observatory as a place where scientific men simply "observe" the heavens in the interest of abstract science and make discoveries of new stars. Far from it. It is purely practical and business-like institution, with its main object still the furtherance of navigation. Discoveries are left for people with leisure to discover.

The credit assigned to Charles II. however, stops at the point mentioned. The Rev. Isaac Flamsteed, the first astronomer Royal, was appointed, but his salary was fixed at only £100 a year, and he had to provide himself with his own tools. It is true he was given a site in Greenwich-park, whereon to put up an observatory. With a bit of luck he got the bricks and metal from Tilbury Fort, across the river, a broken down gatehouse at the Tower provided the wood, and the cost of building was obtained from the sale of some damaged Government stores. It will be 226 years exactly on July 10 since Mr. Flamsteed entered on residence. He was his own staff, and made a living by taking in pupils. His successor Halley (at the same salary) was made a captain in the Royal Navy in order to provide him with a decent income, and the third holder of the office, Bradley, was appointed to a sinecure rectory and vicarage in Monmouthshire. It is, in fact, only since Sir George Airy's time that things have been done on a proper scale, but Airy was a typical head of a Government department and a man with whom "system" was almost a craze.

That big clock on the porter's lodge is commonly supposed by the inhabitants of Greenwich to be the soul of Greenwich Observatory, and one admiring passer-by may occasionally be heard telling another that "that is the clock that sets the time for the whole world." The idea is pardonable, and after all it is not so very far out. The real centre of the world's time is only a few yards away, the Transit room, in which is the telescope the axis of which marks "Longitude Nought," in other words the meridian of Greenwich. Why this spot became one of such authority is a story with which many ramifications. First as to the time on shore. There is, of course, a local time everywhere, but as in any part of England the greatest difference is under half an hour, the railway companies decided to stick to the standard time over all their systems. At first in the railway stations the clocks used to show both local time and "railway time," but people soon settled down to the standard time. In America things were at first more awkward, as there is a difference of four hours between East and West, but it was decided to adopt the Greenwich standard and make a difference of an hour for every fifteen degrees of longitude. Most of the countries of Europe have adopted the same plan, though there is a confusing standard called "Mid-European time," invented for the bewilderment of travellers. In France they use Greenwich time, but call it by another name, and in Ireland they have Irish time, which is calculated from Dublin.

As to Greenwich standard on sea, the immense lead in navigation which England obtained, the making of charts and maps which resulted from it, the extensive trade with colonies and other distant lands, all continued to make the meridian of Greenwich practically the only one possible for all countries. Sentimental people have fought hard for a host of other places, but have had to give way in the face of general utility and convenience.

Of course since the days of the Merry Monarch the observatory has grown immensely. The original building put up by Flamsteed is still there, and the Board of Visitors, which assembles on the first Saturday in June to hear the Astronomer-Royal's report and be refreshed with chocolate and cracknels (the traditional menu) meets in the octagon room which is its characteristic feature, and which everyone who has visited Greenwich Park must remember. There is now an elaborate array of buildings, all splendidly fitted with the latest and most perfect instruments for their several purposes. Here, for instance, are the rooms in which hundreds of chronometers for use at sea are put through their tests. The books, by the way, in which the particulars of these chronometers are entered, are full of details on which the imagination can feed, for they record instruments connected with many famous disasters at sea. There is also, it must not be forgotten, a meteorological department at the observatory, and a magnetic department, in both of which many interesting things are to be noted. At one time the intensity of earth-currents of electricity was determined in the magnetic room, but the construction of the South London Electric Railway almost entirely prevented this. By the way, there is another story connected with this railway. It is said that after a visit paid by the superintendent of the magnetic department at the observatory to the generating station of the electric railway at Stockwell things went wrong for several days whenever he was present in his own department. The mischief was traced to his umbrella, which had been turned into a magnet by the visit to Stockwell. Another story of the meteorological department is connected with some experiments which the superintendent was making in the matter of rainfall and evaporation. Every day he was wont to place in the open air a shallow dish containing a given quantity of water. His calculations were somewhat upset later on when he found that a family of sparrows were in the habit of using this for bathing and drinking purposes.

BLOWN UP.

Load of Nitro-Glycerine Explodes and Kills Two Men.

Bradford, Pa., Aug. 8.—Joseph Gilson, 44 years old, and Oscar Bergeval, both of Bradford, were instantly killed near here today about 10 a.m., by the explosion of a load of nitro-glycerine. There were 40 ten-quart cans of the explosive in the wagon, and the team of horses and the wagon also went up with the flash of fire that accompanied the explosion. A hole was torn in the ground eight feet deep and twenty feet across. Trees were blown down and a large boulder was carried 300 yards and driven deep into the earth. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

EMPEROR SAILS AWAY.

Courtesies Exchanged Between Germans and Russians.

Reval, Russia, Aug. 8.—The German Imperial yacht Hohenzollern, with Emperor William on board, sailed for Wisby, Sweden, this afternoon. During their stay here the Czar and Emperor were constantly together, and the intercourse was of the most cordial character. Count von Bulow and Count Lamsdorff also were in prolonged conferences. Before his departure, the German Emperor conferred the Red Eagle on a number of Russian officials and naval officers.

The Czar presented his portrait to Count von Bulow, and conferred the Alexandrenevsky order on Count von Alversleben, the German ambassador to Russia.

Canadian Waterways

Minister of Public Works Sees Strong Necessity For Improving Them.

What Mr. Tarte Learned on His Recent Trip on the Great Lakes.

Dominion Revenue For Month of July Shows a Large Increase.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 8.—Hon. J. Israel Tarte returned today from Parry Sound after a month's trip of inspection of towns and harbors of the Great Lakes and an investigation of the Georgian Bay canal route. The Minister of Public Works was greatly impressed with the possibilities of Canadian waterways with reference to the transportation of Canadian trade by these means. He thinks that the St. Lawrence and other Canadian routes should be better lighted and equipped and greatly admires the United States waterways for this reason. Mr. Tarte is of the opinion that the people of Canada will have to hustle and spend money if they want to be in a position to compete with the United States route for the trade of the American continent. He is in favor of a general deepening of the harbors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence route as well as those of seaport towns.

The Canada Gazette, issued today, on account of tomorrow being a holiday, has financial returns of Dominion for July. The amount of revenue received for the month was $4,272,587, compared with $3,800,367 for July last year, or an increase of $472,220. There was an increase in all the branches of the service.

QUEEN'S GOOD WORK.

Assisting Soldiers' and Sailors' Family Association.

London, Aug. 8.—The Queen, looking particularly well, presided today at a meeting of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families association at Queen's hall. The announcement was made that Lucas Tooth, the Australian, who presented $50,000 to the King for the hospital fund, had given the Queen a similar sum, which Her Majesty desired to devote to the work of the association, and that the Queen's appeal in January had brought in $1,500,000, making the total public subscriptions to the association during and since the war, $5,500,000. Large crowds gathered on the route to and from the palace and warmly cheered the Queen.

THOS. ALSOP DEAD.

A Respected Victorian of Years Ago Passes Away at London, Eng.

News was received here yesterday of the death in London, Eng., of Thomas Alsop, of the old firm of Alsop & Mason, the predecessors of the present B. C. Land & Investment Agency.

The late Mr. Alsop arrived in this province in 1862, and shortly afterwards started business in the real estate line in a small wooden shack that occupied the present site of the premises of the B. C. Land & Investment company, on Government street. Mr. Alsop is remembered even at that time as being a very careful attentive business man, so much so that even Saturday afternoons used to find him at his office.

He afterwards visited Cariboo, but was again in business here in the same line in the latter sixties. About 1874 the late H. S. Mason joined him in the real estate business, which they conducted until it was purchased about 15 years ago by the B. C. Land & Investment Agency. About 1884 Mr. Alsop returned to England, where he has resided ever since.

Mr. Alsop was a thorough gentleman of strict business integrity, and one whose word was in all cases as good as his bond. By his uniform straightforwardness he won the confidence of all with whom he had business dealings, and was instrumental in building up a business reputation for the firm which in no small measure has lived after him.

AFTER MANY YEARS.

Miss Marie Woods Married to Agent of Buffalo Bill's Show.

On Monday last at San Francisco Miss Marie Woods, vocalist, who has been heard on a number of occasions at the Savoy in this city, and at Vancouver, was united in marriage to Mr. Louis Sells Barrett, special agent of Buffalo Bill's show. The San Francisco Examiner says of the wedding:

The culmination of a romance begun 14 years ago took place yesterday afternoon, when Miss Marie Wood, a well-known vocalist, and Louis Sells Barrett, special agent of Buffalo Bill's show, were united in marriage.

They met 14 years ago in Stockton, and an attachment sprung up which time could not destroy. After the lapse of years Mr. Barrett returned to the Coast last week for the first time since the beginning of the romantic episode and immediately looked up his sweetheart. He proposed at once and the young lady consented.

The bride is a very handsome blonde, well and favorably known in theatrical and musical circles.

After a short honeymoon trip to Stockton the happy couple will go East.

The wedding ceremony was conducted by the Rev. C. J. E. Haterius, pastor of the Lutherian Ebenezer church.

The Bugaboo San Juan

Immense Deposits of Magnetite Iron on the Jordan River.

Assays Prove the Ore to Be 68 Per Cent Pure Iron.

Messrs. Bentley and McGregor will leave on the steamer Queen City this evening for San Juan, en route to the Bugaboo iron mines, or Jordan river, to carry on further development work with a view of obtaining their Crown grant to this valuable property, the ore of which has been shown to be rich. This mine has been examined by an English mining engineer, who has had over 20 years experience in Siberian mining, and in conversation with the owners he stated that he considered the Bugaboo the finest prospect he has seen. The ore body is 130 feet in width, and Bugaboo creek intersects it at right angles, exposing high grade ore on both sides of the creek. Nature has thus exposed more ore on this property than thousands of dollars worth of development work could possibly have done. The mountain rises steeply from the creek, and where any open cuts have been made high grade ore has been shown to exist for over a horizontal distance of 600 feet up to an elevation of 150 feet above the creek, while the bed of the creek is of solid magnetite.

Numerous samples of ore were taken by the expert, who made a thorough examination of the property on behalf of a London syndicate. The result of the assays made by him shows that the immense body of ore is practically free from impurities, and carries upwards of 68 per cent. of metallic iron.

Mr. Bently when asked for further information regarding the future value of the iron deposits on Bugaboo creek, said that in view of the fact that negotiations were pending with a powerful English company for the purchase of the property, his partners did not care to have anything further published regarding the property.

THE ISLAND MAGNET.

Another Well Known Mining Man Attracted by Local Possibilities.

Capt. J. R. Gifford, who recently resigned the management of the Hall Mines, Nelson, arrived from the Mainland last night, with Mrs. Gifford, and is registered at the Driard. Capt. Gifford will spend a couple of weeks on Vancouver Island, visiting the mines, the fame of which have penetrated even the rocky fastnesses of the Kootenays, and will then proceed to Lower California and Mexico, where he is commissioned to examine and report upon some copper properties. He will also investigate a recent find of free milling gold quartz on an island off the Mexican coast. His present intention is to return to Vancouver Island after fulfiling his engagement in the South.

MINING NOTES.

On Lockhart creek, the farthest point to which the galena belt of the Pine Bay district has been traced, considerable improvement has been effected on the trail, enabling the prospectors to use horses. "Joe" Noll is stripping the vein on the Primrose, and finds considerable fine looking galena. Hazzard & McLennan have two tunnels, respectively 35 and 40 feet long, on the Ottawa and St. Louis, and claim to have good values in gold, copper and galena. Their ledge is four feet wide.

The deal on the Ottawa group, on Springer creek has gone through. It is said to be upon the basis of $32,000, and the title of the property passes to T. A. Noble and A. W. Coleman, of Pittsburg. The affairs of the Ottawa were somewhat complicated, there being a second set of lessees between those who were developing the property and the owners. By the deal which has been put through, it is said that all parties make a good turn over.

The Nelson men who have undertaken the development of the Golden Crown property, on Springer creek, are meeting with every encouragement. They have a large ledge uncovered, the outcrop of which assays from 60 to 70 ounces silver, and have started to run a tunnel a little way down the hill to get depth on it.

The Transfer group on Springer creek, Nelson district, has been sold to Charles E. Dempster, of Rossland. The Transfer property was formerly held by a syndicate in which Sir Charles Tupper was the central figure. An application was made for a Crown grant for it, but the assessment work was not kept up and the ground was relocated. The present holders are said to have received $6,000 for it under the Dempster dicker.

It is reported on the authority of R. H. Parkinson, who owns the townsite of Hedley City, that the Standard Oil syndicate, who are operating the Nickel Plate mine near Camp Hedley, will shortly erect a stamp mill to treat the product of the mine.

According to a Shanghai despatch, a British syndicate has signed a contract with the Governor-General of Anwhei for the working of six iron mines in the province. The contract has been approved by the General Mining Bureau at Pekin.

LUCKY PROSPECTORS.

Find a Property Which Carries High Copper Values.

George A. M. Young and W. P. Sloan of Creston, B. C., have been successful in re-discovering the Adriot copper mine, for which such search has been made during the past three or four years.

The Adriot is not one of the lost mines of fabulous value, but is a property which is known to have carried some very high grade ore, although very little work was performed upon it. The Adriot was located in 1897, by a couple of prospectors, who did a number of assessments upon it. Although they frequently brought in samples of ore from their claims there was no one who was sufficiently interested in the district at that time to ascertain just where they were working. While the locaters of the Adriot were working the stories of the wonderful riches of the Klondike reached them, and they decided to try their luck in the North rather than wait for the opening of the new district in which they were located.

They evidently intended to return for they left their tools and everything else in the tunnels, where they were found by Messrs. Young and Sloan. The work they had done exposed a ledge which is variously estimated at from 30 to 60 feet. The value of this ore has not been determined, but there is a paystreak through the ledge about 12 inches wide, which carries almost solid ore. Samples from this were brought into Creston on Tuesday, and it does not require an assay to see that the ore will be very rich.

WILL FORFEIT CUP.

Railways Want to Cinch Oarsmen Going to Philadelphia.

Toronto, Aug. 8.—(Special.)—The Argonaut senior eight will not be on hand at the National regatta of the United States to be held at Worcester, on Saturday and will thereby forfeit the cup representing the American championship which they won last year at