The Colonist.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 16, 1892.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE DELAY.

In every city on both sides of the continent the authorities are earnestly and emphatically exhorted to "clean up." They are expected to take every possible precaution against the cholera. And the greater number of them are alive to the importance of the crisis. They are doing all in their power to make the disease harmless if it should unfortunately visit their respective cities. What is the Corporation of Victoria doing to prepare for the advent of the dread visitor? Nothing whatever. In fact, the city is now in a worse condition, from a sanitary point of view, than it has been for years. The scavengers declare that they cannot go on with their work for want of some means of disposing of the city's filth. The City Council have met several times since they have received notification from the scavangers, but nothing has been done to facilitate their necessary work. The Councillors seem to be paralyzed, as far as attending to the city's sanitary requirements is concerned. The city is without a Health Officer, and they have allowed it to remain in that condition. This, too, at a time when the services of such an official are urgently needed. Such apathy and neglect are inexcusable. A Health Officer should have been appointed as soon as it was found that the departure of Dr. Milne for the East left the position vacant, and the Council should not have allowed a day to pass without taking measures to make the scavanging of the city rapid and thorough. This is no time for hesitatation and delay.

We trust that the Council, at its meeting to-night, will take up Alderman Humber's motion to appoint a committee to confer with the Government for the purpose of providing ways and means to meet an invasion of the cholera. The Government would, we are quite sure, promptly and energetically respond to such an application, and the citizens would feel assured that the work would be done immediately and well if the Provincial authorities should come to the city's aid.

A FALSE ALARM.

The Times has begun to cry out before the Corporation, which it has taken under its wing, is hurt. The Mayor has received a statement of the city's indebtedness to the Government, and the Times immediately raises an outcry as if the sheriff was at the door of the City hall. The Government, as far as we can learn, has no intention of proceeding against the city.

If the inspiror of the Times had read the Amendment to the Health Rules he would have found that "the preliminary steps under the rules of the Government which are necessary before instructing the sheriff to make a levy on real property on the Assessment roll, etc.," have not been taken. The third section of the Amendment provides that the "preliminary step" shall be taken on the third Monday in each month, commencing with the month of August, 1892. Well, the third Monday of August was suffered to pass without the "step" being taken, and the third Monday of September has not yet arrived. We are very sure that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council has not designated any other day in which it shall be taken. So our contemporary can make itself easy. There is no fear of the Sheriff making the levy yet awhile, and no fear of his ever doing so if the Corporation shows any disposition to pay what it owes the Government when it is able. It will be a disappointment to our contemporary that it has not been able to get up a new cry against the Government. Its industry and its perseverence would be commendable if they were exercised in a good cause. It seems a pity to see such good qualities wasted in so profitless a work as the manufacture of grievances, out of the worst possible material.

ARE ANGLO-SAXONS RETROGRADING.

The interest taken in the boxing match between Sullivan and Corbett was a mystery to some and a cause of grief to others. Thoughtful, quiet people could not understand how so many persons, who are neither bad nor unintelligent, should get excited over a fight between two athletes whom the greater number of them had never seen. Serious men who believe that the human race is improving, that it is becoming more refined and more intellectual are grieved that a contest between two human animals should make such a stir in all English-speaking communities. The eagerness with which news of the fight was expected and the fierce pleasure taken in reading all details of the brutal encounter cause them to doubt whether men have become really civilized after all, and makes them sceptical as to the improvability of the human race.

They are tempted to think that all refinement is only skin deep and if you scratch the ordinary civilized man at all hard, unmistakable traces of the original savage will be found. They also fear that under unfavorable circumstances the veneer of civilization will be torn off the most polished of nations, and it will become what it was a thousand years or so ago.

Good people too are grieved to observe what they consider the low moral tone of Christian communities in which heroes are made of such men as John L. Sullivan, and every detail, not only of the fights in which they engage, but their personal history and habits, are eagerly sought after and read with avidity. They think that the humanizing and elevating influence of Christianity should long ere this have educated men into a distaste of and contempt for the fierce and coarse excitement of the prize ring and an abhorrence of all the brutal sports of uncivilized or partially civilized men.

We think that these good people are discouraged and pained without sufficient cause. The progress of civilization and enlightenment is necessarily slow. Men's habits and tastes and ambitions are not changed in a day or a year, or even a century. The character of a nation or a race cannot be easily or rapidly modified. All must admit that a change for the better—very much for the better—has taken place within a century or so. Cruel sports, such as bull-baiting, cock-fighting, dog-fighting are not so common or so respectable as they used to be. Even the prize fight has become disreputable, and very many of those who are pleased to see and to hear about pugilistic encounters are ashamed to confess that they feel an interest in so savage and so degrading a sport. So general is the feeling that such exhibitions are demoralizing and in every way bad in their influence on the community, that laws have been made to suppress them and to punish those who take part in them either as spectators or as principals. Does not the enactment of those laws prove that prize-fighting is offensive to the moral sense and to the good taste of a majority of the communities in which they are in force? And is it not evident that that majority is gradually becoming, year by year, greater and greater. Are not the laws against prize fighting one sign among many, that the practice will, like many other barbarous ones in which our ancestors took delight, fall into disuse, and are we not warranted in believing that the time is not very far distant when decent and tolerably well educated people will wonder how whole communities of the Anglo-Saxon race could, in the Year of Grace, 1892, become excited over a fight between two pugilists who had nothing to recommend them to the notice and the esteem of their contemporaries but their physical courage and their brute strength? We are decidedly of that opinion. There are thousands upon thousands, even now, who cannot understand why it is, or how it is that people get excited over a prize fight. How will it be half a century after this?

It must not be forgotten, too, that there are men who countenance prize fights on principle, and who maintain that the professors of the manly art of self-defense should be encouraged. These men think that our race is becoming effeminate, that too many of us indulge in "sickly sentiment" and that the British people will become a nation of milksops if the savage is wholly eliminated from their constitution and character. As the world is constituted, they say, the hardy, or, if you like, the "brutal," virtues are still required. The last resort in national disputes is still, and must for an indefinite time longer be, physical force. The nation that will not or cannot fight will be sure to go to the wall. Is it wise, then, they say, to preach against and legislate against habits and institutions which keep alive the combative instinct and educate men to be good fighters and to take a pride in fighting?

This is the other side of the question, and to many there appears to be much reason in it. Perhaps there is, but, nevertheless, we believe that all efforts to keep the prize ring respectable and in working order will eventually fail. Prize-fighting is, we are satisfied, bound to become a relic of a past, a less refined, and a less happyage, and a John L. Sullivan will, in a generation or two, become an impossibility.

THE PREMIER'S HEALTH.

A good deal has been said and written of late about Sir John Abbott's health and about the probability of his continuing in office. We give below what he says about it himself, and we do not think that it will be at all hard for the reader to see what the Premier wished the Conservative party and the people of Canada generally, to infer from his exceedingly clear and very frank statement. To a representative of the Montreal Gazette, Sir John Abbott, a little more than a week ago, said:

"My general health is fairly good; but I do not seem to recover from my weakness or regain my capacity for mental work. I took a trip down the gulf with my son. It lasted 10 days and it would have lasted longer only, when we reached Tadousac, we were informed of the Metropolitan mills having been burned down and that put a stop to the trip. My general health was benefitted by the excursion and the exercise it involved, but I do not think that my capacity for mental or sedentary work was at all improved; but rather the reverse. The least discussion or even ordinary conversation for any length of time not only fatigues me, but produces extreme weakness."

This paragraph is printed within quotation marks, and the words are evidently those which the Premier used. If he had said that he intended to resign soon because he did not feel fit to perform the duties of Leader of the Government he could have hardly expressed himself more plainly. There is not the shadow of a doubt that the Premier intended that statement to be an informal announcement of determination to withdraw from the Government, and perhaps to retire altogether from public life in the near future. The discussion, therefore, as to who shall be his successor is neither premature nor indelicate. The First Minister has himself given his party warning, and in taking steps to select the next Premier they are clearly acting according to his forcibly expressed desire. We, for our part, cannot see why there should be any delay in coming to a conclusion on this important point. Sir John Thompson is so clearly entitled to the position, and so well qualified to occupy it, that, if he is willing to accept it, it should be offered to him as soon as Sir John Abbott has in terms declared his intention to resign.

Nice line of Baby Carriages, at Weiler Bros., with wood or wire wheels.

CRIME IN CANADA.

We have received from Ottawa a blue-book containing the criminal statistics of the Dominion for the year ended 30th September, 1891. The information it contains is valuable to all who take an interest in the moral condition of the people of this Dominion. We are glad to see that the statistics show that there was less crime committed in the Dominion as a whole in 1891 than there was in 1890. In nearly all the provinces there has been a decrease in the number of convictions.

British Columbia, we are sorry to say, stands at the head of the list which shows the number of convictions. In 1890, the convictions were 19·75 in the 10,000 inhabitants, in 1891 the proportion was only 14·85 in the 10,000. In Ontario, the convictions were 10·14 in the 10,000 in 1890; in 1891 the number was 9·67. In Quebec there has been a slight increase. In 1890 there were 1,220 convictions, in 1891 the number was 1,356, being respectively 8·28 and 9.11 in the 10,000.

There were, last year, 5,988 persons charged with indictable offences in the whole Dominion. Of this number 1,952 were discharged and 3,964 convicted. This gives 8.20 convictions in the 10,000 inhabitants. The report says, in explanation, that in the "Indictable offences are included all cases tried by competent magistrates with the consent of the accused (whether acquitted or convicted) in accordance with the Acts respecting "Speedy Trials," "Summary Trials by Consent," and "Juvenile Offenders, Chapters 176, 177 and 178, Revised Statutes of Canada."

We see by the report that, as might be expected, the women of Canada are far less prone to commit crimes than the men. Of the 3,964 persons convicted of indictable offences, only 282 were females, or 7.1 per cent. The persons convicted under 16 years of age were 615, or 15.5 per cent. of the whole.

Canadian criminals do not appear to be a highly educated class, as many as 919 were unable to read or write, and the education of 2,752 of the convicted persons is described as "elementary." As many as 77 are described as having received a superior education, and although they formed only two per cent. of those convicted, they were two per cent. too many. The education that does not convince the student that he is a fool to take to bad ways, and the fact of his committing a crime is proof not only of moral derangement but of intellectual defectiveness, is not worth being called education.

There were not many total abstainers among the persons convicted of crime in the Dominion last year. Of the 3,964 persons convicted of crime, 2,088 used liquor moderately, and 1,706 immoderately. This leaves only 178 persons unaccounted for, and these, we presume, were teetotalers.

The towns furnished 77.7 per cent. of the criminals, and the country 22.3 per cent. There were 3,522 persons convicted for a first time, 235 for a second time, and 207 for a third time and over.

To judge by the sentences the greate number of the crimes were not very serious. Seven persons were sentenced to death, two to imprisonment for life, 119 for five years in the penitentiary and over, 299 for two years and under five, 184 to one year and less than two, 1,916 to gaol for less than one year, 571 to option of a fine, and sentence was deferred or the prisoners were bound to keep the peace in 665 cases.

There has also been a slight decrease in the number of convictions by justices of the peace out of sessions throughout the Dominion. In 1891 the convictions for drunkenness, assault and battery, vagrancy, breaches of municipal laws, etc., were 33,451 in 1890, the convictions for the same offences were 34,606. The greatest decrease has been in Ontario, but in Quebec there has been a small increase of summary convictions. The prerogative of pardon was, 1891 exercised in 120 cases; in 1890 157 persons were pardoned.

GENERAL PREPARATIONS.

We find that, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the city authorities are taking precautions against the cholera. They see what a fearful responsibility they incur if they allow the cities under their authority to remain in an unsanitary condition. The corporations of Quebec and Montreal are acting with promptitude and vigor, both with respect to the isolation and disinfection of ships and immigrants, and the cleaning of streets and lanes and backyards. Toronto is on its guard, and is determined not to be taken by surprise, The Mail of that city says:

The fate that has overtaken Hamburg is a warning to all cities. No one who has the interests of the city he lives in at heart can read the deplorable story of the dead and dying in that German port and of the sad lack of proper means for dealing with the victims of the epidemic prevailing there, without experiencing a strong desire to do all that in him lies to make his own city clean and healthy. The fault at Hamburg appears to have been that its authorities were not ready for the disease when circumstances brought it into their borders.

Detroit has established a quarantine and has also gone into the work of cleansing.

The people of San Francisco are alive to the danger with which they are threatened.

The Chronicle, of that city, does not think that the people should rest satisfied with what the authorities are doing for them. It believes that all should join in the work of making the city clean. It says:

All the efforts of the municipal authorities—Board of Health, Board of Supervisors, Superintendent of Streets, police and all—to cleanse the city and make it thoroughly resistant to the cholera will be of little practical benefit unless they be aided and supplemented by personal and individual efforts in the same direction. Nor will it be enough that each one mind his own business in this matter. He must mind his neighbor's business as well, and appoint himself a committee on foul odors, no matter whence they emanate

Portland has been exhorted to "clean up," and it is acting upon the sound and earnest advice it has received.

Everywhere, except in Victoria, the necessity of making the cities cholera proof is recognized. Here the city authorities are apathetic, and require to be "prodded" before they have recourse to even the ordinary means of preserving the public health. They seem to be converted to a fatalism worse than Turkish. "Kismit" seems to be their motto. "What is to be will be, and there is no use fighting against fate," is apparently the principal article of their creed. Those who believe in the reign of law, and in the duty of rational beings to use every means available to avert danger, should try to rouse our civic authorities out of their fatalistic doze.

A CAUTION.

We see in newspapers and magazines directions respecting what it is proper for persons exposed to a visitation of the cholera to eat and drink. There is a general impression that brandy is a good thing to keep away the cholera, and also to cure it when it does come. The idea is that it is hard to take too much brandy, both when the cholera is near and when it has come. This is not the opinion of Mr. Cyrus Edson, who has a paper on the cholera in the North American Review. He says:

It is well here to say a word about liquor. Many people believe that brandy, if taken freely enough, will save them from cholera. That brandy has its uses I would be the last to deny, but, assuredly, one of these is not drinking it all the time when there is an epidemic of cholera to the fore. To those who have this idea it is far more dangerous than the disease, and for this reason: The one thing necessary is to keep the health as perfect as possible. Now everyone knows that constant drinking weakens the person who drinks and deranges the stomach, and that weakness and disordered digestion invite disease.

The warning is timely. Those who take frequent nips of brandy to fortify them against the cholera should know that they are doing what is weakening them, and making them less able to resist an attack of cholera instead of making themselves stronger and less liable to take the disease. It should never be forgotten that stimulants no more strengthen the body than frequent cuts of the whip strengthen the horse.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

There are still many sealers in Behring Sea. Some have been seized and deprived of their liberty by the Russian authorities, and there is no knowing how many more may have fallen into their clutches. Would it not be well to use the proper means to find out what truth there is in the rumors that are afloat, so that before the cold weather sets in relief may be sent to those who have fallen into the hands of the Russians? Men exposed to the severity of a Siberian winter and to the hardships of life in a Siberian seaport will be in a condition truly pitiable. That many of them will die of starvation, ill-treatment and exposure may be regarded as certain. Detention or imprisonment in Petropaulovski for even a few months means misery to them all and sure death to many. They ought to be rescued while rescue is possible.

THE YOUNGEST CITY.

To the Editor:—Last evening Mr. Thomas Norquay received a letter from the educational department in Victoria, stating that the Government would make the usual grant towards the school here, pay the teachers salary and also $40 towards the preliminary expenses, but all other expenses incurred during the present scholastic year must be borne by the parents or the people. The letter also asked that three trustees be elected at once, and that they communicate with the department through their secretary forthwith.

On receipt of this letter the people met in the school house and elected Messrs. Wm. Goodwin, George T. Kane and Thomas Norquay as the school trustees, and they in their turn selected Thomas Norquay to be secretary. The meeting then adjourned. This morning the school trustees met and held their first session, when the secretary was instructed to procure the necessary addition to the scholars comfort which the decision of the Government had now rendered possible.

There are at present 17 children in regular attendance at the school started by the parents, and they can now boast of being the first school district formed on Kootenay Lake, yet the youngest, but the largest city with the largest population.

At 2 p.m., to-day, the fine steamer Nelson arrived with 150 excursionists from Nelson and all Kootenay Lake points, to attend a dance and enjoy other social events which are to take place here, this evening. The Galena arrived later with 60 visitors. A committee attended to receive the visitors, and showed them the chief points of interest and by this it was supper time. The party split up for this purpose, all the hotels being patronized about equally, as the proprietors are all well known hosts.

Dancing commenced at 8 o'clock and was merrily kept up till 4.30 next morning. Couples took part including many married persons, but the young men and maidens were largely in the majority. A piano, violin and violincello, gracefully accompanied the dancers and, altogether, they had a most enjoyable time. All went on board at 5 o'clock, thoroughly happy, and wishing that Kaslo City was their home.

Next week other entertainment will be given, and it is pretty evident that Kaslo means to keep up her reputation for hospitality as well as business.

Kaslo City, B.C., Sept. 2, 1892.

Local Option.

This term should be applied to the choice every intelligent person has between Burdock Blood Bitters, the natural and certain remedy for dyspepsia, biliousness, constipation, headache, and bad blood, and the various imitations offered by unscrupulous parties as being "just as good." There is nothing else as good as B. B. B. It is an honest medicine and has made remarkable cures right in our own town.

For Over Fifty Years.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children when teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhœa. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind

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NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Amateur Pugilists at Vancouver—Fire at the Michigan Lumber Mills—Heavy Losses.

Another Claim Against the Steamer Bushmills—A Threatened Newspaper Libel.

(Special to the Colonist).

VANCOUVER.

Vancouver, Sept. 8.—Mrs. J. Z. Hall died, this morning.

Ten to one was offered and taken, before the battle, here last night.

F. E. Cockburn, aged 16, died yesterday.

Two longshoreman, on the receipt of the news of the prize fight, quarrelled on the merits of the men, and, in a ring in the C. P.R. freight shed, fought for half an hour, when Lewis was knocked out.

The new lodge of Highbinders will open their temple on Dupont street, to-morrow. Preparations are being made for a high old time in Chinatown.

The Michigan Lumber Company's mill, on False Creek, was destroyed by fire at six o'clock, this morning. Total loss is $6,000; insurance $5,500. The origin of the fire is unknown. The workmen lost all their tools, valued at about $1,500 in all. A number of fixings for the new C.P.R. freight shed were destroyed. The fire is supposed to have originated in a back room, and from there to have communicated to the drying room.

Local Manager Dowling, of the C. P. R. Telegraph Co., wears a broad smile to-day. Everybody is congratulating him on the splendid bulletin service in connection with yesterday's prize fight. The bulletins were posted at the Hotel Vancouver, on an average of 4½ minutes after each round in New Orleans.

Baggage Master R. Robinson, J. Harris and J. Fagan, of the C. P. R., left to-day to meet the Empress at the Outer wharf.

Vancouver, Sept. 9.—The Empress of China arrived at this port at 5:30 this afternoon.

The Michigan Lumber Company will build their sash and door factory at once.

Rev. Father Van Nevel, D.D.G.P., visited Vancouver Council, Y.M.I., last evening.

The exposure of a World reporter has driven the star crook, Hammond, from a settlement six miles from Port Haney. The States are too hot for him, and he is trying to work Canada.

The steamer Barbara Boscowitz arrived to-day from the North with 5,000 cases of salmon.

The steamer Cepilano arrived, this morning, with 350 tons of sandstone, the first from the new Haddington Island quarries. It will be used for curbstones on the streets when paved with bituminous rock. Some months ago, the city notified the street railway company that they would be required to lay the track on certain streets with a flat rail The company has not yet purchased the flat rails, and as Contractor McGillivray will have bituminous rock here in a week, and be ready to start operations, the rails, which would have to be brought round the Horn, could not possibly be here before April next.

WESTMINSTER.

New Westminster, Sept. 8.—Samuel Ash, while working on a pile driver at the Burnsett Mills last evening, was thrown to the ground and sustained a fracture of the hip.

An old Spaniard, named Jesus Rodriguez, was struck by a runaway horse to-day and had several ribs crushed.

The Board of Works is about to issue orders that all trap doors in the sidewalk not properly constructed shall be nailed up.

Richard Henwood got six months to-day for an aggravated assault on the boatswain of the steamer Bushmills.

H. G. Mathies, of the Pythian Herald, of Seattle, is in town, arranging for the accommodation of Knights here during the carnival. The Premier will, he says, bring an excursion over, calling at all the Sound cities.

After deducting expenses in connection with his lecture on "Pioneer Days in British Columbia," Rev. E. Robson, yesterday, mailed a draft for the amount of the proceeds—$43—to the relief committee of St. Johns, Newfoundland.

The Sehl-Hastie-Erskine Company, of Victoria, to-day, put in a claim for $2,200 against the Bushmills, for damage to her cargo. Myers Gray, who is acting for the owners, telegraphed to Victoria to have bonds put up there for the release of the vessel. She will probably be released to-morrow.

Salmon averaged sixty to the boat last night, with a somewhat larger proportion of red fish. Bergoff froze 15,000 pounds of white salmon yesterday, and 12,000 pounds to-day.

Duncan Box has instructed Corbould & McColl to take proceedings against the Vancouver Telegram for libel, unless statements made about Box in the report of last Saturday's lacrosse match are retracted.

New Westminster, Sept. 9.—A Cariboo half-breed, sent to jail six months ago, for supplying liquor to Indians and "being unlawfully drunk and yelling on the highway," completed his sentence to-day on the first charge, and was released on habeas corpus by Justice McCreight, who could not find a penalty for the latter charge.

Captain Irving promises a daily steamer between Victoria and here during celebration week, at a single fare for the round trip.

A boy named George McKee found a railway torpedo on the track yesterday at Port Moody and tried to break it with a stone. The torpedo exploded mangling his left hand frightfully and cutting his face in several places. George was brought to town for repairs.

The injunction restraining Messrs. Rowling from cutting the Brunette dam was today dissolved by Justice Creight. Costs were reserved.

The steamer Princess Louise, on her way up the river from Victoria, this morning ran ashore during a fog, on a sand bar opposite Ladner's Landing. She will probably get afloat this evening, when the tide will be high.

Hunters have never been so numerous or game so scarce as this season. Only a few score braces of grouse have been marketed so far. The supply, however, will be larger when the Indians get to work.

The Marshal of the Admiralty Court, Victoria, telegraphed to-day to Sheriff Armstrong to release the Bushmills, and the vessel was set free about noon. She is expected to leave for Nanaimo to-morrow morning.

NANAIMO.

Nanaimo, Sept. 8.—The health officers, Mayor Haslem and E. M. Garwood, solicitor, held a meeting this afternoon to consider the advisability of taking legal proceedings against Captain Couth and Mr. Loyd, now held as suspects. Nothing definite was done.

A new lodge of Good Templars was instituted here. Rev. A. E. Green, assisted by the members of Onward lodge performed the ceremony. The new lodge will be known as Raybould lodge, No. 53, in honor of the late W. Raybould. It begins with 36 charter members.

The Minister of Militia, Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, and General Herbert, arrived on the Quadra this afternoon and were met by Mr. Gordon, M.P., Mayor Haslam, Collector Smith, S. M. Robins and others. The party inspected the old Bastion primative fort, the Government buildings, etc., and left for the North this afternoon.

J. McNab, inspector of fisheries, paid the city a visit, to-day.

The Green block, which was built last fall, having shown signs of collapsing, Architects Kelly and Hooper inspected it. They say there is no danger if it be strengthened by iron rods passing through it.

Frank Rossi, a miner at Wellington, has been arrested for assaulting W. Rafter. The men had been playing cards, when Rafter accused Rossi of cheating. Rossi sprang up and struck Rafter, knocking him down and jumping on his stomach. Rafter is in a very critical condition, and Rossi is held to await the results.

Arrived—Ships Ericsson and Alaska. Sailed—Empire, 'Frisco.

About thirty people witnessed a wrestling match between J. L. Cotton and J. Rickton, which took place back of J. Black's premises, yesterday. The stakes were $10 a side, and Cotton, being considerably heavier than his opponent, had no difficulty in winning. The other man was outmatched.

NELSON.

(From the Miner.)

Messrs. Perry, Grey & Davys are sending out a surveying party to Goat river, to survey timber limits, to-night, and the week following will have a party on Duncan river.

The drying kiln of the Nelson Saw Mill Company is now in working order, and on Monday last the first kiln-full of lumber was put through, when some of Nelson's foremost citizens indulged in the luxury of a Turkish bath.

Mr. Clute has taken the measurements necessary to enable the steamer Ainsworth to be registered. The owner of this boat is by no means sitting down, waiting for developments, but is using every means in his power to insure the boat running before long.

Captain Fitzstubbs and A. E. Hodgins returned from Nakusp on Thursday. After a careful examination of the trail it has been decided to commence work right away on the wagon road. This will be good news for those owning mines in Slocan, who intend to make shipments of ore, as this road will afford an easy and cheap route to Canadian smelters.

The first general meeting of the shareholders of the Slocan Trading & Navigation Company was held at Nelson, on Tuesday. The company was incorporated last winter, and of its $25,000 authorized capital $6,000 has been paid in and expended in the building of a steamboat to ply on Slocan lake. The hull of a 60-foot propellor was completed early in the summer, but, through the failure of the John Doty Engine Company, of Toronto, the machinery, which was contracted to be delivered in April, was not all shipped from Toronto until late in August. This delay has been a most expensive one to the company, the loss on the business that could have been done amounting to fully half the cost of the boat. The shareholders—all of whom do business at Nelson and New Denver—decided to put the machinery in the boat at once, and it will be running within a month if no more mishaps occur. When completed the boat will have cost nearly $10,000. The shareholders elected J. Fred Hume, John R. Cook, William McKinnon, James Delaney and John Houston, directors for the ensuing year. The directors elected J. Fred Hume, president; James Delaney, vice-president, and William McKinnon, secretary-treasurer.

The engineers have experienced considerable difficulty in getting a good grade into Nelson by way of "Boguistown" without running the line beyend Anderson Creek. The engineers' next undertaking will be to find out if a suitable grade cannot be found by running the line round the base of the hill across Cottonwood Smith Creek and cutting into the Columbia & Kootenay railway about a mile and a half below Nelson.

M. S. Davys returned from his trip to Illecillewaet on Monday. He says that things are quiet up there at present. Mr. Wrightman has bonded several claims in the district and is doing development work on the best of them. The Lanark is at present shut down. Most encouraging reports continue to be brought in from the Fish Creek district, R. E. Fishburn especially being confident that he has a good thing in that country.

Work on the Iroquois has uncovered a ledge about 16 feet wide and about 4 feet of high grade ore.

Messrs. Jevons and Ashworth have struck it rich while doing assessment work on a claim at Ainsworth.

A new bond has been taken on the Bluebird by Messrs. Burke and Garrison, Mr. Taylor buying out Mr. Coy's interest in the old bond.

Work is progressing on the Great Western and the Iron Hand, lately bonded by the London Mercantile Association, and indications point to the presence of an enormous body of ore on the Iron Hand.

A number of samples of ore from the Priest Lake country were brought to Nelson the other day by a prospector. The ore looks good and runs high, assays giving 1,300 ounces silver; and according to reports large bodies of it have been found.

For nearly a year the boys on the Lizzie C. have been pegging away at a tunnel through the hardest of rock. They are now nearing the place where they may expect to strike the lead. It is to be hoped they strike it soon, and strike it rich.

R. B. Dugan has struck it rich on 49 creek. He has struck the old bed of the stream. A layer of quicksand covers the paystreak, which he has contrived to get through for the first time, and although he has not yet reached bedrock, he took out 10 ounces of gold from the gravel below the quicksand, in an hour and a half. A lease has been applied for to work a stretch of ground above his claim, and a company will be formed to take hold of it.

KASLO.

(From the Hot Springs News.)

The Lucky Jim never looked so well as now, and its owners are confident that the bond will be taken up.

No new strikes of much importance have been made, this week, but the reports from each and every claim and mine are in the highest degree favorable.

T. E. Jefferson, of Spokane, has paid the balance of the money on his bond on a share in the Washington mine. He is now the owner of five-twelfths of that fine property.

Two representatives of the Kaslo-Kootenay Land Company (probably Messrs. Hendry and Ewen) will leave Victoria for Kaslo on the 3rd instant, arriving here about the 7th.

The prospectus is now out for the Kaslo Nugget, a newspaper to be started here under the management of G. M. Walters, of Spokane.

Ore is being packed steadily down from the Whitewater mine; about seven tons are now on the beach at Kaslo. Many other claims are prepared to ship ore, but most of them will wait for the wagon road and freight down on the snow.

Work is being vigorously pushed on the Bonanza King, one of the Noble 5 group. About 100 tons of ore are on the dump ready for shipment, but the owners are endeavoring more to develop systematically their property than to take out much ore at present.

Several shares in claims lying near big properties, though with no discovered leads on them, have recently been sold at pretty big prices. People are beginning to realize that mere location in such a wonderful mineral belt as we have here offers rich chances for speculation.

By next week the wagon road will be in full swing. E E. Coy is contracting to put it through, and all those who know his dash and energy have full faith in its being completed to Cody creek, at its junction with the South Fork of Carpenter creek, before the end of the year. The total length of the road will be about 31 miles. It will pass below all the great claims on the Slocan slope of the divide, except, of course, those on 4-Mile creek, and consequently all the ore can be brought into Kaslo on a steady down grade with only one handling.

VERNON.

(From the Vernon News.)

The townsite of Penticton is to be laid out at once. Mr. J. A. Coryell who will lay it out left for Vernon yesterday by boat.

The Silver Crown people are making preparations for pushing forward the work on their claims with additional force.

Camp Fairview has seen its ups and downs, and there is every confidence that a bright future awaits it. The financial difficulties attending development work by the Rattler Mining company were relieved on the transfer to the English syndicate. As a result of tests important deals have been made. The following are the purchases made by the syndicate: Brown Bear, Wynn M., Rattler and Ontario. The transfer was completed in Vernon on Wednesday, when between $40,000 and $50,000 were paid. Considerable surprise was caused that other mines were not bought at the same time, among them the Morning Star, the Stem Winder, the Ground Hog and the Silver Crown. The Stem Winder was the discovery claim, and on the Morning Star 200,000 tons of ore are said to be in sight.

FRENCH CREEK.

French Creek, Sept. 7.—Mr. James R. Anderson, Government statistician, visited the settlement on Saturday last, and made enquiries in regard to the agricultural prospects of the year. He expressed himself greatly pleased with his visit.

Some new ranches have been taken up lately, and report says that many more have been applied for.

The rain-fall for the month ending August 31 was .26 inches.

George Courteney is back in his old place in the C.P.R. office. His holiday was spent in Aberdeen, Wn.

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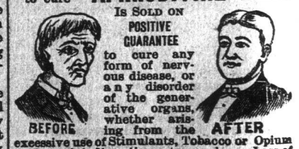

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