West Coast Needs Boa

Board Of Trade Commitee Presents Report Urging Need Of Better Boat.

Harbor Commissioners Will Move Subject Of Animated Discussion.

The most important matter considered at the special meeting of the Board of Trade last evening was the report upon the steamboat communication between Victoria and the West Coast, submitted by a special committee. The report recommended an appeal to the Dominion government for liberal assistance based principally upon the development which would follow on the institution of an improved service.

A synopsis of the proposed bill relating to the appointment of harbor commissioners was also taken up, the discussion wandering off into the labyrinths of this much-debated measure.

The president, Mr. L. McQuade, convened the meeting shortly after eight, the attendance only presenting a narrow margin over the necessary quorum.

Mr. C. H. Lugrin gave notice of the following motion:

Whereas there are numerous settlements along the coast of British Columbia, the progress and prosperity of which are retarded by reason of the limited means of communication available to the settlers;

And whereas, also there are numerous localities where settlements might be established, if the settlers could be assured of better facilities of communication than now exist;

And whereas, the trade of the existing settlements does not warrant any steamship owners in putting on a more frequent service than is at present given;

Therefore, resolved that in the opinion of this board it is incumbent upon the provincial and federal governments to take into consideration the best means of providing better facilities of communication than are now available to the above mentioned settlement and localities fit for settlement;

Further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the federal and provincial governments, the British Columbia Senators and Members of the House of Commons, and the representatives of the several provincial constituencies in the development of the business of the coast.

The committee appointed to look into the question of better transportation facilities for points on the West Coast brought in the following report:

Your committee beg to submit the following report upon the steamboat communication between Victoria and West Coast of Vancouver Island.

In connection with this question, your committee interviewed Senator Templeman, George Riley, Esq., M. P., Captain Troup, Captain Townsend of the Queen City, and many mining men and others who are in the habit of traveling between Victoria and the West Coast or who have interests there.

Your committee are of opinion that the officers in command of the Queen City have endeavored to carry on the service so as to give the best accommodation possible with the means at their disposal, and in consultation with Captain Troup, your committee found every willingness to discuss the desired improvement in the service.

There is undoubtedly much dissatisfaction, however, with the service provided by the Queen City, and a general desire that a larger and faster steamer should be provided, if possible.

In view of the known mineral deposits on the West Coast and the development which is now proceeding, your committee cannot too strongly urge that it is of paramount importance to the trade of Victoria that the means of communication should be convenient and frequent and to this end your committee is of opinion that a larger and faster steamer than the Queen City is necessary.

It has been pointed out to your committee that the present shipments to and from the West Coast would not in themselves justify the use of a more expensive steamer than the Queen City, excepting for occasional trips and that a steamship company cannot be expected to carry on a service entirely at their own risk which is likely to leave a loss, although the improved service may be of very great indirect benefit to Victoria and the West Coast.

Your committee would urge that the development of the country by means of steamship lines is as worthy of the support of the Dominion government as its development by means of railways, and that it may often be that the results are even greater in proportion to the financial aid given. Your committee are of opinion that the Victoria Board of Trade would be justified in urging the Dominion government to give liberal assistance to the steamboat service between Victoria and the West Coast, both on account of the difficulties connected with the service, and on account of the important developments which may be expected to follow. The route in question is 350 miles in length, and for the greater part of the distance it is exposed to the Pacific ocean and subject to very severe weather. During last summer there were four trips per month of which one was extended to Cape Scott, and on all trips the mails were carried.

On each long trip 53 calls were made and on the shorter trips 30 calls.

The Cape Scott trips occupy on the average 7½ days, and the shorter trips 3½ to 4 days.

By the terms of confederation, the Dominion government undertakes to maintain a regular service between Victoria and San Francisco, and 20 years ago this service cost by way of subsidy $17,640 per annum, but only $5,000 is now required for this service.

Your committee think that this fact might well be urged upon the Dominion government as a further justification for an increased subsidy to the West Coast service inasmuch as it can also be shown that assistance is necessary for the development of the West Coast of Vancouver Island, and that with such assistance and an improved service, there is every reason to believe that there will be a marked increase in trade and population.

Extensive copper deposits are known to exist at many points on the West Coast from Sooke at the south end of the Island to Quatsino at the north. Very considerable development work is now being carried on and regular shipments of copper ore are being made from Quatsino, while trial shipments have been made from other points with most encouraging results. On the Alberni Canal there are not only copper mines in process of development but we are informed that arrangements have been made to work the extensive iron ore deposits, which have been found there.

It is necessary for your committee to report in detail how very much the development of the Coast must be retarded unless a thoroughly comfortable and expeditious steamboat service is provided. The present subsidy is only $2400 per annum, which covers the carriage of the mails and in their interviews with Senator Templeman and Mr. Riley your committee urged that a much increased subsidy should be granted by the Dominion government.

Your committee are pleased to be able to report that both Senator Templeman and Mr. Riley promised to give this request their careful consideration.

Your committee would point out that much delay and inconvenience is often caused on the West Coast trips owing to insufficient lighting of the approaches to many of the ports of call and that much better time could be made if landings could be made with safety both by night and day.

Your committee would suggest that the Dominion government should be urged to give this matter their consideration and that, in particular, lights should be provided at the following points without delay:

Entrance Island—Quatsino Sound.
Lookout Island—Kyuquot.
Estevan Point—Hesquiot.

J. J. SHALLCROSS.
SIMON LEISER.
S. J. PITTS.

In the discussion of the report, Mr. Shallcross stated that the Tees had recently made the round trip to Cape Scott in five days.

Mr. Richard Hall, M. P. P., suggested that some of the boats of the C. P. N. could call at West Coast points on their up trip to the North, taking the inside course on the return. This could be arranged to introduce two trips a month to the more important localities on the West Coast of the Island.

Mr. Lugrin referred to the fact that the Tees was now on the run, and that much satisfaction would be given if she were continued on the route.

Mr. Simon Leiser observed that the Tees was only temporarily on the route.

Mr. Shallcross explained that the Tees was not on the route when the report was prepared.

Mr. Lugrin moved, and Mr. Seabrook seconded, that the report be adopted, subject to the above explanation by Mr. Shallcross, and this carried.

A synopsis of the draft bill on the appointment of harbor commissioners was then presented.

Letters were read from Lindley Crease and S. J. Pitts regreting their inability to be present, and containing an expression of their views on harbor commissioners. Mr. Crease wrote urging that the following questions be fully discussed:

1. Will the city be benefited by the appointment of harbor commissioners?
2. Does the prevailing condition of affairs warrant the commencement of works of a costly nature?
3. If so, how are the funds to be provided?
4. If the construction of works on a large scale are not immediately contemplated, has the time arrived to provide for the creation of an authority with full powers to take the work in hand as soon as thought expedient?
5. How can the decision as to the time of commencement and the nature of the work be secured, directly or indirectly, to the citizens of Victoria?

Mr. S. J. Pitts wrote to the effect that whilst "heartily endorsing the creation of a board of harbor commissioners, with ample powers necessary to facilitate the judicious management and improvements of both the inner and outer harbors of this port, still he wished it to be clearly understood that he by no means approved or endorsed all the provisions contained in many clauses of the bill of which a synopsis had been prepared."

Mr. Lugrin handed in a draft bill purporting to be on the lines of the Montreal and Quebec harbor boards.

Mr. Fraser inquired as to the origin of this draft bill?

Mr. Lugrin stated that he had received it from Mr. Kingham at the last meeting.

Mr. Higgins considered that the bill was most inaccurate and the preface contained a gross libel upon the position of Victoria harbor.

Mr. Mason moved, and Mr. Higgins seconded, that the report of the special committee be received and laid upon the table for the consideration of the members of the board.

Mr. Higgins argued that the draft bill should be rejected on the ground that the preamble specifying the limits of the harbor was misleading, and other inaccuracies. He objected to the high salaries to the commissioners and the power given to them to levy rates. The present civic taxation was growing apace. He understood that there were only five members of the Voters' League present when it was decided to draft a harbor bill on "Montreal lines."

The motion carried, Mr. Fraser being the only dissentient.

It was moved by Mr. Shallcross and seconded by Mr. Higgins, "that this board is of opinion that further information is required before it can approve of harbor commissioners with powers upon the lines set forth in the synopsis laid before the board this evening."

Mr. Kingham contended that the motion was out of order, as the board had already committed itself by favoring the creation of harbor commissioners on certain conditions.

Mr. A. Henderson also considered that it would be inconsistent to undo what had been adopted at the last meeting.

Mr. C. F. Todd moved in amendment that the draft bill for the appointment of harbor commissioners be printed and mailed to each member of the board for consideration at an adjourned meeting.

Mr. Shallcross considered that it was essential to ascertain further details as to the condition of the inner harbor. He took exception to the high salaries allowed the commissioners. He referred to Mr. Kingham and Mr. Sorby as being concerned in the drafting of the bill, and this brought Mr. Kingham to his feet in strenuous denial.

Mr. Shallcross then entered into a close criticism of the draft bill, citing the following figures:

Appropriations for Victoria inner harbor for year ending June 30, as follows: 1901—$3,640.91, dredging; $13,044.77, rock dredging.
1900—$5,292.
1899—Nil.
1898—Nil.
1897—$3,462.20.
1896—$5,541.01.
1895—$9,974.65.
1894—$9,954.60.
1893—$6,004.16.
1892—$6,192.31.
Total—$68,106.61—average for 10 years, $6,310.66.

Outer harbor:
1894—$11,870.48.
1893—$11,655.05.
1892—$1,178.23.
Total—$24,703.76.

Outer and Inner harbors, 10 years—$87,810.37.

Further information was required and he favored the appointment of commissioners with limited powers.

Mr. Kingham wound up the debate with an expression of opinion that the board had digressed, and endeavored to prove his contention by reading the correspondence of the board in relation to harbor commissioners.

Mr. Todd's amendment was then put and carried by a vote of eight to five.

The meeting adjourned subject to the call of the chair.

A RUSSIAN DECREE.

Praising World-Famous Tonic.

By decree of the Russian Government, medical and health authorities, after subjecting Vin Mariani (Tonic Wine) to most vigorous test and analysis, the medical council thoroughly approved of same, and authorized its entry into Russia.

The Paris Academy of Medicine and sciences gave the name Vin Mariani to Mons. Mariani's preparation in honor of his valuable labors and achievement.

Vin Mariani has written endorsements from more than 8,000 Canadian and American physicians. It is the most popularly used Tonic-Stimulant in Hospitals Public and Religious Institutions. It is largely employed by Ministers, Lawyers, Singers, Orators, Actors, Members of Parliament, etc., etc. Never has anything been so highly and so justly praised as the Ideal French Tonic, Vin Mariani.

VICTORIA WEST A. D. C.

The Victoria West Dramatic Club Held Last Rehearsal.

The Victoria West Amateur Dramatic Society held their last full dress rehearsal of the drama entitled "Borderland," last night, and it went off without a hitch, and all the performers proved that the right parts had been alloted to them. A splendid production of this thrilling piece is a foregone conclusion. Thursday and Friday, the 3rd and 4th of next month, are the dates set for the production of the above-mentioned piece, and the club feels confident that those who attend will be fully satisfied that they have had their money's worth. The comical farce, "A Kiss in the Dark," will be given as a curtain-raiser.

An ordinary gas jet, consuming five cubic feet of gas per hour, uses up four times as much atmospheric air as a human being consumes in the same time.

See our Government street window display of brooms and brushes. This is the time of year when everything has a clean sweep: you can do the sweeping better if you have a good broom. Try Weiler's brooms, etc.

Message To Mislead Men

Notification Sent From Fernie to the Miners at Nanaimo.

Bad Business and Epidemic of La Grippe Causes Much Gloom.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nanaimo, March 30.—The following official telegram from T. B. Craig, secretary of the Fernie Union to T. J. Hauton, secretary of the Nanaimo Union, both of the Western Federation of Miners, was received this evening:

"No settlement in sight. Tell men not to move."

The latter sentence refers to the fact that a number of men proposed leaving Ladysmith and Nanaimo for the Crow's Nest as soon as the troubles there are over.

The third week of the Ladysmith trouble sees no change in the situation and the hope expressed during its earlier portion that it would not conclude without some effort being made to put an end to the deadlock existing has borne no fruit. The business men have held one or two meetings, but have not arrived at any decision of their future course nor have they resolved upon a collective effort in the form of an appeal to either or both of the principals. There has been some talk among the men of sending a deputation to Mr. Dunsmuir, and this possibly will be the next development. The matter was discussed at length at a mass meeting held Saturday afternoon, but no very definite arrangement was reached. Strict secrecy was observed, and so far no reliable information has leaked out.

Meanwhile the town is steadily emptying itself, and the full meaning of the situation is being borne in on those who remain. The disposition to enjoy the period of idleness which was so very noticeable during the early days of the dispute has disappeared, and dullness and gloom have settled over the place which makes the atmosphere somewhat depressing to the visitor. The preparations to close the mines are too marked to be overlooked, and are necessarily taken into account by the population who are engaged in the endless and unprofitable task of sizing up the situation day after day and extracting less and less comfort from the process.

The feeling of depression already mentioned extends to Nanaimo where the month drawing to a close has been one of the worst from a business stand point for many years. This results in part from the closing down of the Extension mines as the Ladysmith pay day was only less important to Nanaimo storekeepers than the Nanaimo pay day, and in part from the cessation of operations here in February which resulted in a pay sheet based upon an output of about 6,000 tons of coal, scarcely a fifth of the usual quantity. To add to the general gloom an epidemic of grippe has swept the city, entering almost every home, reducing the working force in the mines, and affecting proportionately every other activity. There is scarcely a business house which is not understaffed, the benches at the public schools are almost half vacant, and an occasional procession to the cemetery up the hill tells that not all the victims escaped with merely the discomforts and inconveniences of a few days' sickness.

The humors of a case of conjugal infelicity which found its way into the police court have caused some little amusement locally. One Sulli, an Italian residing at Ladysmith, married a sixteen-year-old girl recently, who on her decked with gold chains and jewelery to the limit of his purse. A day or two ago the bride eloped with a Don Juan, of her own nationality, named Rossi, and the couple put up at the Globe hotel here where they were found by the infuriated husband, who, by the way, was more concerned about the loss of his trinkets than the loss of the girl herself. With the aid of the police he managed to get his goods and chattels back and also to have his hated rival locked up. Then he devoted himself to his lady fair with such success that she consented to return to his roof. Meanwhile, Rossi was languishing in jail and liked it very little. When he appeared in the court room he astonished the magistrate by asking him who was going to pay him his $0.50 a day for lost time. He was promptly assured that his lost time might amount to five years without compensation. Eventually he was discharged on promising to restrict his affections to eligible ladies.

The Ladysmith Leader announces that it has suspended publication until the termination of the present troubles. It is feared that the Leader is only the first of a number of business houses which will close their doors in quick succession unless work is rapidly resumed.

STRIKING CLERK FINED.

Winnipeg Magistrate Makes C. P. R. Employee Pay for Foolishness.

Winnipeg, March 30.—After hearing further evidence in the case of William F. Grundy, one of the striking C. P. R. freight clerks, at the court this morning, Magistrate Baker found the defendant guilty of unlawfully deserting his employment, and sentenced him to pay the costs of the court.

A charge against Mrs. Mary Ada de Gerlais, of Oak Point, of attempting to poison her husband, Francis de Gerlais, heard before Magistrate Wilson at St. Lawrence, has been dismissed.

HON. SIFTON IN LONDON.

Montreal, March 30.—The Star's London cable says: "Hon. Clifford Sifton, Canadian minister of the interior, arrived today in London. The Alaska commission, which is to hold its sittings in London, is not expected to meet for some months yet. Mr. Sifton has been instructed to assist the Foreign Office in preparing the British case to go before the tribunal.

"It is announced that the example of the Morgan trust has lead the Cunard and Allan lines to enter into a working arrangement to make passenger tickets interchangeable for return from New York and Boston by Cunard line, and from Montreal and Quebec by the Allan line in summer, and from St. John and Halifax in winter. The arrangement applies to both saloon and second cabin passengers."

WANT TO RE-ELECT DIAZ.

Mexico City, March 30.—Largely attended mass meetings are being held in various states of the republic to promote the candidacy of President Diaz for re-election. At meetings held in Chihuahua, Colima, Vera Cruz and other cities, resolutions were unanimously adopted commending his administration and asking that he accept the candidacy again.

FIGHTING IN DOMINGO.

Cape Haytien, Hayti, March 30.—A serious engagement took place Saturday between the Dominican government troops and the revolutionary forces at Juan Calvo, near the town of Bajabon. The losses on the government side were 20 killed and 42 wounded, while the revolutionists lost five killed and 11 wounded. The telegraph line is interrupted beyond Cotui. It is rumored here that the government troops have surrounded the capital, Santo Domingo and that a battle is imminent.

BOOK REVIEWS.

"Lovely Mary," by Alice Hegan Rice.

(Published by W. Briggs, Toronto.)

Everyone who had the good fortune to read "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" will welcome this new work by the same efficient author. Just as last year's book was brimful of charming pathos and naive gaiety, so "Lovely Mary" brings before us the fact that the milk of human kindness is no rare thing among the ultra poor. The reader cannot help but rejoice that tender hearted but withal wilful Mary was transplanted from the cold, cheerless and loveless "Home" to the spot already familiarized, the dirty, ramshackle Cabbage Patch. There Mary finds in whimsical Mrs. Wiggs a wondrous mother heart, and in Miss Hazy a clinging soul who greatly needed a strong support. Some readers may find objection to a slight vein of vulgarity in books dealing with the class here depicted, but we must take folk as they are, and any seeming roughness of expression is natural and at the same time swamped in those many noble traits which the very poorest educated or uneducated are ever found to possess. The tests that Mary endured were indeed very chastening fires, but she comes through all, thoroughly tested and not found wanting. It is to be hoped that Alice Hegan Rice will not stay her pen, but will give the many who find delight in books of such naturalness to life another gem in the near future. Florence Shinn was happily secured for the illustrations of "Lovely Mary." Her place is recognized as an illustrator, and the book is all the richer possession for her work.

The Week At The City Hall

Opening Up of Craigflower Road Figures Large in Aldermanic Eye.

Early Commencement of Sewerage Extension a Boon to Laboring Men.

A resume of the happenings of the week affecting matters municipal, must give first place to the important decision given by Judge Drake affecting Craigflower road. The judgment, which throws the thoroughfare open to the public, and expresses an opposite view to that held by the city, as represented by the Council, is held by some of the aldermen to have resulted because of a small technical fault in the wording of the bylaw. A phrase in the original draft included the words "Craigflower road closed by bylaw," etc. By a typewriter's omission the word "by" was left out in the final official copy, and an opening thus left for criticism regarding the intent of the act, which has led to it being quashed. Property owners who are affected by the recent judgment are much elated because of the fact that Mr. Justice Drake holds that they must be compensated for any land expropriated by the city in the exercise of its powers. When the case was before Mr. Justice Walkem some considerable time ago, he took a similar position, claiming that it was quite clear that property owners who had been injured ought to be compensated by the city. Mr. Justice Drake makes the recommendation that the amounts should be fixed by arbitration and the property owners interested are not going to lose any time in pressing their case against the city. They claim that in all fairness to them, the city can take no other attitude than one of willingness to pay them for damage to property if it tresspasses that the road must now be opened to the general public as a city thoroughfare. The matter is bound to engender much likely debate at the council board, and there is a prospect of the ball being started rolling merrily once again at tomorrow evening's meeting.

SEWERAGE EXTENSION.

A decision of particular importance to the citizens of Victoria was reached at a meeting of the Streets, Sewers and Bridges' committee of the council held on Friday evening—a determination being reached to proceed at once with the large work of sewerage extension as sanctioned by the ratepayers, who authorized the borrowing of a quarter of a million of money for the purpose. Ever since the passing of the bylaw, City Engineer Topp has been busy preparing plans for the big undertaking; and on Friday evening he made his report to the council. The news that a start will at once be made will be very good tidings to the laboring men of the city, as they will be assured of constant work for many months. The big job will be pushed as vigorously as possible, and employment given to all able-bodied men who care to apply. An impression has been prevalent that there are a large number of men out of work in Victoria at the present time. Those who are in position to best judge of the matter say they do not believe it will be found that any very great number of men are idle, and that this will be established when the work in the sewerage extension is undertaken. It is likely that work will be started in the Southern portion of the city, as a commencement and gradually extended to embrace the other districts—which include Spring Ridge and the Work Estate. The sum of $4,000 will be expended immediately in purchasing pipes.

GENERAL STREET WORK.

Some few weeks ago the council made a new departure in connection with the system of handling the numerous requests for street improvement work which are constantly flowing in from all portions of the city. The usual procedure was to refer each individual request in the first instance to the Streets, Sewers and Bridges' committee, where it would be considered and discussed, and then passed on to the city engineer for report. The latter was then required to make a recommendation to the council, which that body proceeded to pass on to the Streets, Sewers and Bridges' committee for action. This was a very roundabout war of determining a small matter, so the council decided to have the requests go into the hands of the city engineer at once, he to make periodical recommendations for street improvement work, up to the sum of $5,000, which might be most pressing, in his judgment. Mr. Topp presented his first report under the new system on Friday evening last and, with a few minor alterations, it was adopted by the council. About $4,000 will be expended in street improvement in various parts of the city at once, that portion of Pandora street, between Blanchard and Douglas being included.

MINOR MATTERS.

The council has not as yet taken any action towards carrying out the recommendation of the Board of Management of the Victoria Agricultural Society that two of that body should be placed on the newly-determined-upon executive committee in whose hands will be placed the task of managing the society's affairs during the current year. The matter will probably be taken up at tomorrow evening's meeting of the council.

At last Monday evening's meeting of the aldermanic board the startling information was conveyed in a report from the sanitary inspector that the owners of dairy cows had refused to comply with the provisions of the new Dairy Regulation Bylaw, though notified to do so. The city solicitor was instructed to take whatever action might be necessary to secure the enforcement of the act. It is contended in some quarters that the bylaw cannot be enforced. The courts will in all probability be called upon to settle the point.

C. P. R. FAST SERVCE.

London, Ont., March 30.—A special train from Toronto to Windsor station, over the C. P. R., Saturday, made the run of 228 miles in four hours and three minutes, or an average of 57 miles an hour, the fastest time on record between those two points. In seasons the train attained a speed of 72 miles an hour.

Newsy Budget From The Yukon

Railway To Be Constructed At Once Between Yukon River And Coal Creek.

White Pass Company Uses Much Wood For Their River Steamers.

C. R. Crobusier arrived at Rampart on January 17 from Fort Gibbon and reported that two men were frozen to death in the Tanana stampede. Another man was also badly frozen and both feet were amputated. The names of the men are not given.

The first reindeer, numbering thirteen, were received at Rampart on January 17. The deer were killed, being sleek and fat.

The White Pass company is having 16,000 cords of wood cut along the upper Yukon, between Dawson and White Horse, for the use of the company's fleet during the coming season. The company burns $100,000 worth of wood on its steamers annually, and has thirty-five wood camps between Dawson and White Horse.

A government expedition to survey creeks in and about the new mining districts of Arizona, Duncan and Clear will leave Dawson this week. Eight men will comprise the expedition and will be gone until some time in July.

The party is being equipped in Dawson and will work its way up to Stewart river, thence up the McQuesten and from the head of the McQuesten branch off into the three districts, working one at a time.

No grants have been issued for claims staked in the Watson and Doyle concessions when they were thrown open. Mandamus proceedings are being brought by the men who staked before the formal day of opening.

A railroad for the new Tanana gold fields is the latest enterprise. Falcon Joslin, of Dawson, is back of the scheme. He has telegraphed from the outside to his brother, John Joslin, telling of the scheme and asking for information about securing engineers here.

The idea is to build twenty miles of local road in the new camp, and to start the enterprise early. No details have been publicly announced here.

The Yukon Catholic for March has honored the memory of St. Patrick by appearing in green type. The front page has a fine two-column half-tone of Pope Leo XIII., with a sketch of his life.

Death in a terrible form threatened William McDonald, of the McDonald Iron Works recently. He was skating on the ice at the mouth of the Klondike river when he went through a hole and disappeared in the icy waters. By a mere chance he came to the surface at the hole and was able to clutch the ice. No one was near at the time, but after a trying struggle he pulled himself out.

CANNOT GET PROXIES.

Keene Forces Handicapped in Fight With Harriman.

New York, March 30.—A remarkable feature of the Southern Pacific fight has been the persistent refusal of the company's officials to furnish to Mr. Keene and his friends a complete list of the stockholders, with addresses.

T. J. Taylor & Co. have made, during the past ten days, frequent personal requests and written demands to secure a list sufficiently detailed to serve as a basis for the sending out of requests for proxies. Their failure led them to make a public request for proxies over the tickers of the news bureaus and in the columns of the newspapers.

In this request they stated explicitly that the litigation was not intended to force anything on the Southern Pacific Company, and regretted exceedingly that various mistaken ideas had gotten abroad with regard to their intentions in the premises.

GERMAN PRINCES.

Abandon Trip to Holy Land on Account of Cholera.

Cairo, March 31.—The German Crown Prince Frederick William and his brother, Prince Eitel, will leave tomorrow for Constantinople. Both the princes are in excellent health. They abandoned their intended visit to the Holy Land because of the reappearance of cholera at Damascus.

EXPANDING REVENUE.

Customs Returns Shows Continuance of Canada's Growing Time.

Toronto, March 31.—The Globe's Ottawa special says that the customs revenue of Canada continues to increase at an unprecedented rate. For nine months ending today, the increase in the revenue shows a gain of $3,106,621 over same period last year, for month of March the increase is $347,788.

RIVAL SITES FOR LIBRARY

Advantages of Both Being Vigorously Urged By Citizens.

The day after tomorrow sees the end of the Carnegie library site controversy, the ratepayers settling the matter with their votes at the polls. Advocates of each of the rival sites are losing no time in pushing the claims of their preference, as the numerous letters in the press testify. If the Man on the Street is competent to judge the outcome of the vote, the site on the corner of Yates and Blanchard streets will be the winner by a large majority. It has received the endorsement of the Trades and Labor Council and numerous architects in the city have spoken approvingly of the proposed location. Voting takes place at the City Hall between the hours of 9 a. m. and 7 p. m. Real estate owners have votes in each and every ward in which they own property. A. B. Fraser, sr., treasurer of the Tourist Association, who is acting as honorary secretary for the committee of citizens desirous of seeing the Yates street site selected, has issued the following circular to the ratepayers:

Victoria, B. C., March 31, 1903.

Fellow Citizen,—Your influence is respectfully requested in support of the selection of the centrally located lot at the corner of Yates and Blanchard streets, as a suitable site for the erection of the proposed Carnegie library.

The citizens have accepted the library, and have voted a maintenance fee for its support, so there is now nothing left for the ratepayers to do but see that it is placed on the site where it will be of the greatest benefit to the greatest number.

We have the choice of only two sites. The centrally located one on the corner of Yates and Blanchard streets, and the one opposite the Post Office, where the Bridge Fruit store stands at present.

The bridge site is totally unsuited for a free library, as it is too far from the centre of the city. The view from the Post Office would be spoiled, and no doubt the building would be dwarfed by the high Post Office. We should urge that the city reserve that desirable piece of land for a "breathing spot" or small park, such as all up-to-date cities possess.

The Yates street, or Central site is at the junction of two of the widest streets in the city, and is easy of access to every car line.

Space will not permit of going into its other advantages, but we must all bear in mind that like the Post Office, when once the structure is erected it is there for ever more.

Trusting you will realize the importance of recording your vote and exercising your influence in favor of the Yates street site,

I am,

A. B. FRASER, SR.,
Hon. Sec. for the Committee.

X-RAYS TO PROTECT MINT FROM THIEVES.

To defeat the ingenious thieveries of mint employees the Japanese government will put each one under an X-ray examination daily.

In this novel use of the rays the "Yankees of the Orient" lead the world in the solution of a puzzling problem.

The immense amount of gold, silver and copper which goes into the country's coin demands the employment of hundreds of hands at the mint.

In spite of the most searching examination of the employees as they left the mint each evening large sums in precious metals and small coins were stolen annually, the workmen inventing all kinds of clever tricks to get past the inspectors with their booty.

A favorite method of concealment by the employees has been to swallow the gold or hide it in their mouths or ears. The small coin was easily taken into the stomach and then recovered by the use of an emetic. Where this was done the inspectors were entirely at a loss to detect the theft.

Now, however, this method of stealing will be impossible. An X-ray machine of exceptional power was recently composed at Philadelphia for the Japanese government, and this will be thoroughly tested at the principal mint in Tokio as soon as it can be got there.

If the experiments are successful, as the manufactureres claim they will be, others will be added, and every operator in the mints of the Flowery Kingdom will have their interior investigated by the device each working day.

More than this, the apparatus may be put to many important uses of a similar nature in Occidental countries. An X-ray examination would be valuable in searching criminals in police hands, and the inspection of gold and diamond miners, where they are now put through the hands of mere human inspectors.

The machine constructed for the Japanese authorities is one of the most powerful of its type and is known as a fifteen-inch Queen outfit. This means that it has an induction coil which will produce a 15-inch spark. Connected with it are a fluoroscope 7 inches by 9 inches and three X-ray tubes of different sizes.

The machine is operated by storage batteries so powerful that radiographs can be made showing the bony framework of the hand perfectly with but one or two seconds' exposure, while a reproduction of any part of the body can be made in less than two minutes.

Tests which have been made also show that any hard substance can be detected in any part of the body as quickly as the rays are thrown upon it. It will be used on the workmen as the warship throws its searchlight on a suspicious vessel, and it is calculated that of he has anything which does not belong to him concealed in any portion of the body the official can detect it in two or three minutes, as it will require no longer than this time to make a thorough examination.

A TRIP TO PORTUGAL.

Portsmouth, Eng., March 31.—The Royal yacht Victoria and Albert, with King Edward on board, sailed for Lisbon this morning. Royal salutes were fired and all warships dressed and manned ship as the yacht put to sea, escorted by two warships.

Queen Alexandra left yesterday for Copenhagen.

Copenhagen, March 31.—Queen Alexandra arrived here this evening from London. Her Majesty was received at the station by King Christian, the Dowager Empress of Russia and all the members of the Danish royal family.

REFORM FREE TRADE.

British Iron Manufacturers Advocate Closer Inter-Empire Relations.

London, March 31.—The British iron trade and American competition were the subjects of a conference of Iron and Steel Manufacturers held in London today with the object of considering how best to meet the competition of the United States. Ebenezer Parks, M. P., of Birmingham, who presided, advocated among other things, a reform of the present free trade system and closer trade relations within the Empire as a means of meeting the "American onslaught." A number of papers were read by the commissioners of the Iron Trade Association, who were sent to America, the general trend of which was in effect that the better part of the British iron and steel industry occupied an unassailable position, although, pending the development of the resources of Canada and other colonies, a period of serious competition and invasion from the United States is to be expected.

NOVITIATE BURNED.

Establishment Near St. Hyacinthe Goes Up in Smoke.

St. Hyacinthe, Que., March 30.—The brotherhood's novitiate, located in this city, was destroyed by fire this morning. The fire, which is supposed to have originated from an overheated furnace, was not discovered until it had obtained considerable headway. All the inmates were sleeping at the time, and were awakened by the smoke. They were compelled to use the fire escapes to save themselves, and to leave in their night clothes. The building was completed but recently, and was valued at $45,000. It was insured for $20,000.

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT.

Fernie, B. C., March 30.—The efforts of the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia, have at last prevailed. The Fernie strike has been declared off, and a contract for two years signed this evening between the company and the Western Federation of Miners at Fernie, and they will now return to work.

JOHN KEEN,
Chairman.

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EPPS'S COCOA
GIVING STRENGTH & VIGOUR.

Royal City News In Brief

Obsequies of the Late Duncan Munn Were Held Yesterday Afternoon.

Two Desperadoes Make Their Escape From Provincial Jail.

From Our Own Correspondent.

New Westminster, March 31.—This Tuesday afternoon the people of the Royal City are attending the obsequies of another respected citizen, whose death was the second rather unexpected event of the kind to occur within the week. This was Mr. Duncan Munn. The funeral was very large, being swelled by many Masons and Orangemen, the deceased having belonged to those orders. The services were conducted by the Presbyterian ritual.

Two long term prisoners escaped from the provincial jail early this morning. One cut a hole in his cell door, and with a key he had procured somehow he unlocked the padlock, slipped the bolts, and walked out. He then liberated his pal, and the two broke the lock on the street door and escaped. Guard O'Conner's, who was on duty, apparently knew nothing until about 5:30 o'clock, when he discovered them missing and aroused the warden. O'Connor is unable to get about well, being afflicted with creeping paralysis, and was designed night duty. The two men who escaped are bad eggs, both hailing from Vancouver. One, Clark, was serving two years for breaking jail, and the other, Jones, three years for stealing.

Last evening two young lads who were out on the river in a dugout canoe, had a narrow escape from drowning. They tried to paddle too close to the ferry steamer and were capsized by the wash. They clung to the bottom of the upturned canoe and were finally hauled aboard the ferry with a pike pole.

NORTHWEST LAND SALES.

Great Increase in Area and Price During Past Month—Nominations.

Winnipeg, March 31.—C. P. R. land sales for the month of March, 1903, were 184,139 acres for $782,948 for the month of March, 1902, the total was 101,069 acres for $333,852. The average price per acre in 1902 was $3.30 per acre, and in 1903, $4.25 per acre.

Canadian Northwest land sales for the past month were 24,780 acres for $130,850.

Today's nominations of candidates for the legislature included Premier Roblin for Dufferin's constituency; Hon. J. D. Cameron, Liberal, for South Winnipeg, and R. L. Richardson, as a political reform union candidate in Mountain, against ex-Premier Greenway.

GERMAN'S IDEA OF DEWEY'S SHIPS

Maneuvers Generally Childish And Result In Much Newspaper Glory

Berlin, March 30.—The Foreign Office here is fully satisfied with the explanations Admiral Dewey made to President Roosevelt regarding the interview with the admiral which appeared recently in a Newark, N. J., paper, and in which the German navy and the German Emperor were mentioned. No communication on the subject has passed between the Foreign Office and the German embassy at Washington, because the officials here from the beginning felt certain that if Admiral Dewey had been correctly reported, the government of the United States would do everything proper on its own initiative without any reminder from here.

Count von Reventlow, in the Tageblatt today, compares the German and American navies. He says Germany's first squadron is homogeneous and always ready for instant service. "It could," he adds, "smash Dewey's heterogeneous assemblage, which had not a single modern armored cruiser."

The Count regards the American manoeuvres as "generally childish" and as "always resulting in defeats of the hostile fleets, the naval commanders therefore gaining large newspaper glory."

Count von Reventlow refers to the "poor marksmanship of the West Indian fleet, to its insufficient number of officers and men, and the "low morale of the navy, as indicated by the numerous desertions," and says he believes "the United States will some day have a fine fleet, but she has not one yet."

It is doing things to excess that invites criticism. Liquor drinking is frowned on because it wrecks the lives and ruins the homes of a few, while the majority of people using a stimulant, do it in moderation, and suffer no evil results. It is the danger which lurks in drinking and gambling that crusaders would ward off. One man may be gifted with the power of self-control, while another is wholly lacking in it, and it is the havoc wrought by the latter which is responsible for the warfare on the saloon and the gaming table. It is a war, not in behalf of those who are able to take care of themselves, but in behalf of those who are not.—Spokesman-Review.

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