Sensation Re Le Roi Mine

Severe Blow to British Columbia Mining Market in London.

Ore Values Are Overestimated—Gross and Culpable Negligence Charged.

Under the caption "The Le Roi Fiasco" the B. C. Review (London) publishes the following:

"The cable sent out from the offices of the Le Roi Mining Company on Monday night has given another severe blow to the B. C. mining market, from which it will not soon recover. Our readers will remember that during the management of Mr. Bernard Macdonald we analyzed the monthly reports which he transmitted to his directors, and contended that the ore values were greatly overestimated, and that the actual profit the company earned was far smaller than the shareholders were led to suppose. Several months after the statement appeared in these columns our contention was found to be only too abundantly justified, and it was announced that an actual loss had been incurred in place of the estimated profit.

"For some months past the hopes of the shareholders have been raised by the announcement of monthly profits of ten to twelve thousand pounds. The illness of Mr. S. F. Parrish and the advent of Mr. Mackenzie, who temporarily assumed charge, has led to the discovery that owing to faulty sampling and assaying shipments have been overvalued to the extent of $335,000. His cablegram also announces news of equally grave importance to the shareholders, viz., that the ore from all the stopes shows an average value for the run of the mine of $8.17 a ton, and a shipment of 400 tons from the deepest workings, from which good expectations had been formed, only yielded $7.45 a ton.

"As it was definitely stated at the last annual meeting that only ore of $12 a ton or over could be profitably treated, it is obvious that the position of the mine is extremely serious. It is really inconceivable how a competent manager can have permitted this heavy loss to be incurred when exactly the same blunder had taken place previously. As our readers know, we have been unable to take as optimistic a view of this property as was held in other quarters, in spite of the announcements of substantial monthly profits, and, writing in our issue of March 12 last, and commenting on the cablegram reporting a profit of $58,000, we expressed a hope that it would be actually realized.

"There has evidently been gross and culpable negligence on the part of the assaying staff, for which the general management must be held responsible, but there is a strong feeling in the city among those who are acquainted with the directorial record of Sir Henry Tyler that a loss of so great a magnitude could not have occurred had the chairmanship been in stronger hands. It has been abundantly proved that the ore bodies at Rossland, once the richer ores at the surface has been stripped, cannot be profitably treated by smelting unless the ore is carefully handpicked, which adds considerably to the cost and leaves a large proportion of lower grade ore which can only be handled by some form of concentration. Two of his colleagues on the board, who have a practical knowledge of the district, are fully aware of this, and the experience of Le Roi No. 2, coupled with the previous losses at the Northport smelter, would, we should have thought, have been taken advantage of. Sir Henry Tyler evidently holds peculiar views both as to railway and mining enterprises, which in both cases have brought heavy losses to his shareholders. The company appears to urgently require a new chairman and a new general manager."

The following cables have been received from Mr. J. H. Mackenzie, the acting general manager, and Mr. A. J. McMillan, the managing director of the company:

"Shipped from the mine to the Northport smelter during the past month 3,720 tons of ore from all stopes which show the average value of the mine is $8.17 per ton; 486 tons shipped from the 1,350 feet level showed $7.45 per ton. No profit at all has been made for several months. The amount realized from the treatment of the furnace bottoms is $85,000. Owing to a faulty sampling and assaying, excessive valuation, $335,000 has been made in the assets. Four furnaces running. We are now shipping 200 tons of picked ore per day.—J. H. Mackenzie." "I have been here only three days, have not had time to thoroughly investigate. After further investigation and seeing S. F. Parrish, who is expected to arrive here towards the end of this week, I shall be able to better advise.—A. J. McMillan."

Referring also to Le Roi affairs, the Spokane Spokesman-Review publishes the following:

Manager S. F. Parrish has suddenly resigned from the management of the Le Roi mine at Rossland, and conditions there are badly demoralized.

Though Mr. Parrish tendered his resignation on May 13, the fact of it has been kept a secret. A short time before Manager Parrish left the employ of the company, a big portion of the working force at the mine was laid off and the output reduced from 700 tons a day to about 100 tons a day. When operations will again be commenced on an extensive scale no one seems to know except the London directors, and the mining men of Rossland anxiously await news.

The resignation of Manager Parrish followed the brief term of service of John H. Mackenzie, who served as temporary manager while Mr. Parrish was sick here. Mr. Mackenzie was manager of the mine prior to the employment of Mr. Parrish, 15 months ago. Mr. Mackenzie went to the mine during the early part of April, at the request of the London stockholders and made an inspection. He sampled the mine.

Following his examinations, the Westminster Gazette of London announced that the profits of the company had been overestimated about $350,000 through bad sampling. The ores have been sampled at the time until recently, when a large sampler was put in at the Northport smelter.

Who will succeed Mr. Parrish or what the future of the mine is can not be learned. At present it is under the management of A. J. McMillan, the managing director, who has been the foreman.

The reports of the big profits in Le Roi caused a big boom in the stock in London last winter, and numerous telegraphic reports were sent of the big profits being made.

Dr. Price's CREAM Baking Powder

FOR FIFTY YEARS A FAVORITE

Always makes the perfect biscuit, cake and bread.

Price Baking Powder Co.

CHICAGO, U. S. A.

STORMING THE HEIGHTS ABOUT TALIENWAN BAY

In a Desperate Night Attack Japanese Sweep the Russians From Their Entrenchments After a Stubborn Resistance.

Tokio, May 27.—(Noon.)—The Japanese army swept the Russians from Kinchou yesterday morning at dawn, and in a desperate night attack stormed the almost impregnable position of the Russians on Nanshan Hill, west of Talienwan. The battle raged in the hills all the night and fragments of telegrams from the Japanese headquarters report that the engagement is still in progress and the Japanese are still pursuing the Russians south from Nanshan, at the head of Talienwan bay. The Russians had made elaborate preparations to check the Japanese movements out on the Liaotung peninsula towards Port Arthur. They had fortified the high ground on the south shore of Talienwan bay; their works extended to the east and the west. The extreme Russian right was at Hushanghao and the extreme left at Nanshan Hill. This hill was the strongest part of the line; a series of batteries, strongly emplaced, crowned its crest, while rifle pits extended around its sides. Mines had been placed lower down on the hill, and around the base, on the northern and eastern sides, were stretched well-made wire entanglements. Another line of defences also were stretched with wire entanglements, extending from Yenchiatoung, near the head of Talienwan bay due north of Liuchiatein, which lies south of Kinchou. A strong Russian force was posted at Kinchou. It consisted of infantry and artillery. The Japanese first occupied the line of hills to the east of Kinchou. Their position had formed an almost perfect right angle, showing its southern front to Talienwan and its western front to Kinchou. Chouliehan village was the apex of this angle; the extreme right of the Japanese line rested at Chenchatien, which is almost due north of Chiulichan, while the extreme left was at Chaitsibio, a village due east of Chiulichan. Back of this angle the attacking force assembled in complete security.

OPENED FIRE SATURDAY.

The Russians apparently tried to draw the Japanese attack last Saturday, for their batteries opened fire slowly on the enemy on that day. The Japanese, however, refused to be drawn into an attack until the positions of the Russians, their guns and their strength had been fully developed. To this end the Japanese began a series of careful actions, their officers working their way close enough to the Russian positions to draw the enemy's fire. They thus secured fragments of shells for the purpose of ascertaining the calibre of the Russian guns. They discovered that the batteries on Nanshan Hill included four howitzers of about 15 centimetres calibre, 10 old-style cannon of between 9 and 15 centimetres and two quick-firing guns of 12 centimetres. The Japanese discovered also a number of large emplacements, but they did not learn the number of guns contained therein. These emplacements faced to the north and the east. The guns fired by the Russians developed a range of 8,500 metres. Eight heavy guns posted on the Russian right in the vicinity of Hushantao, also were discovered, and another strong Russian position developed by these reconnaissances was on another hill southwest of Nanshan Hill, where the Russians had a series of shelter trenches.

RUSSIAN POSITIONS.

On the shore of Talienwan bay, close to the head of the bay, the Russians had established a series of positions. Here were set up the searchlights, which lightly played over the Japanese angle in the hills to the northeast. Further reconnaissances developed the fact that west of Liuchiatien the Russians had no defences. Extending to the northward from Liuchiatien, to the west coast of the Liaotung peninsula, there were no defences whatever except the force routed at Kinchou. This gap in the defence was

A FATAL DEFECT

in the Russian position, and when it was perceived the Japanese extended their right to the north and east, enveloping Kinchou and the Russian extreme right. The Japanese left also was extended to Wangchiatung, on the shore of Talienwan bay, and the centre moved forward. Wednesday morning at half-past five the Japanese attacked Kinchou, and for three hours they had

AN ARTILLERY DUEL

with the batteries on Nanshan hill. The Russian gunners searched the Japanese lines with their fire, but failed to inflict much damage. The battle was resumed at dawn on Thursday. Three Japanese gunboats then entered Kinchau bay, and in co-operation with the artillery on shore, shelled the Russian position on Nanshan hill.

GUNBOAT ASSISTS.

A Russian gunboat in Talienwan bay steamed close to the shore and shelled the Japanese front. From dawn the batteries on both sides hammered away at each other. At an early hour the Japanese infantry moved forward, and at twenty minutes past five on Thursday morning they entered Kinchou, the Russians retiring to the south. The fighting continued into Thursday night, the Japanese pressing to the south and

STORMING NANSHAN HILL.

They followed the retreating Russians through the southern hills. The reports received here fail to cover the events on the Russian right. It is probable, however, that the Russians have abandoned these positions. No information is given concerning losses, they probably were heavy on both sides. The Russian resistance at Nanshan hill was stubborn. The Japanese made a series of assaults before the Russians finally yielded the position.

RUSSIANS RETREAT.

The Russians abandoned this hill at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, retreating toward Nanquanling, where, it is understood, a second line of defences exists. The Russians may rally at this line of defences unless they have been disordered by the defeats at Kinchau and Nanshan. The Russians had a series of mines planted at Tatangchan station on the railroad, which were exploded. The station was destroyed. The Japanese forces were under fire for sixteen hours. The general staff here has received telegrams from the commanders commending the bravery and fortitude of their men.

SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.

5 p.m.—Subsequent reports received here indicate that the storming of the Nanshan hill yesterday was a bloody affair. The Japanese centered their fire on the Russian batteries, in which work they were aided by four gunboats from Kinchou bay. They succeeded in silencing many of the enemy's guns. The Japanese made a series of rushes but they were in vain. The deadly rifle and cannon fire of the enemy checked them repeatedly. Finally, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the Japanese reformed and stormed the crest of the hill. The Russians held to their position doggedly, and it was 7 o'clock in the evening before the Japanese finally gained possession of the ridge.

JAPANESE OFFICER SPEAKS.

A Japanese officer of high rank made the following statement to the correspondent of the Associated Press: "The Japanese in attacking Kinchou and Nanshan hill had to fight against great odds. The Russians were in full command of the strategical advantages afforded by nature, and these advantages were augmented by the newest inventions for defence. The forts of Nanshan hill were armed with heavy guns. The Japanese had only field guns, heavy guns being unavailable on account of the difficulties of transportation. Our army deserves great credit for having driven the Russians from this stronghold. It was a feat previously considered to have been impossible. Our losses have been heavy, but we have overcome the strongest point barring our way to the investment of Port Arthur."

BRAVE JAPANESE.

Chicago, May 27.—A special to the Daily News from Tokio says: "The Japanese fought bravely for sixteen hours yesterday under an extremely heavy fire before clearing the Russians from the southern heights after a brave resistance. The Muscovites made several attempts to retake the hill, but, after much loss of life, retired finally from the narrowest part of the peninsula, which had been held so long."

AN EXHAUSTING FIGHT.

A Chefoo despatch says: "Considerable delay is expected before the Japanese will follow up their reported victory on the narrowest part of the Kinchau isthmus. The fighting which preceded the fall of Kinchau must have been exhausting, and the ensuing pursuit must have left the Mikado's troops in no condition for a quick descent on General Stoessel's second line of defence. On the left flank the Russians are protected by the foreshore of Kinchau bay, on the right by the fortifications of Dalny, while their main position is strongly fortified by a series of batteries. The Japanese thus will be compelled not only to make a frontal attack, but to encounter the fire of many guns advantageously placed. Japan announces that the entire coast of the Liaotung peninsula lying south of a line between Pitsewo, in the east, and Pulantien on the west, is in a state of effective blockade by the Japanese navy. The blockade will be maintained.

AS TO BLOCKADES.

The United States always has maintained that a proclamation of ideal blockade of an extensive coast not supported by the actual presence of a naval power competent to force its simultaneous, constant and effective operation on every point of such coast is illegal throughout its whole extent, even for ports which may be in actual blockade. The government blockade proclamation by Japan throws the burden of proof of vessels attempting to run the blockade.

Sunlight Soap brightens and cleanses everything it washes. Quite as good for cleaning household utensils as washing clothes. 127

London, May 27.—A despatch to the Central News from Harbin says the Japanese losses during the fighting on the Kinchau isthmus are said to be twelve thousand men killed and wounded. It is said that these figures have been confirmed by an official despatch.

Fought to a Draw.

Toledo, Ohio, May 28.—Willie Fitzgerald, of Brooklyn, and Fred Douglass, of Georgia, fought ten rounds to a draw here last night.

Willie Gibbs, of Philadelphia, easily defeated Kid Groff, of this city, in a three-round preliminary.

Omaha Breaks a Record.

Omaha, Neb., May 28.—For the second time within a month the world's record for five men a team at ten pins has been broken by the Omaha team. The old record was 3,217, held by an Erie, Pa., team. The first Omaha record was 3,222, and last night the same team bowled a total of 3,260. The record for a single game by five men was also established at 1,166, the previous highest score being 1,164, also held by the Erie team.

Match at Nanaimo.

Nanaimo, May 28.—(Special.)—After an absence of twelve years from his home town, Dan McLeod, the wrestler, arrived here tonight and met a local miner, Bob Swanson, whom he undertook to throw five times in an hour. Principally because Swanson was a better man than McLeod expected, the latter lost the match, only throwing Swanson three times in 17½, 19 and 16½ minutes, respectively. During the first ten minutes Dan, who was too fat to be in the best condition, tested his man's powers and then got down to work. Swanson's enormous strength broke every hold, and the first fall was not gained until Dan, with one of his lightning dashes, secured a crotch and half Nelson. After that it was hard work all the way, McLeod being forced to take the defensive much of the time. Swanson showed remarkable quickness. This was his first encounter of any importance and he surprised McLeod and everybody else.

The Colombes Races.

Paris, May 28.—W. K. Vanderbilt's Bright won the Steeple Chase Club's prize of $1,000 at the Colombes races today.

BRIGHT OUTLOOK FOR THE CARIBOO

Mr. John Hopp of Slough Creek Company is Confident of Field's Wealth.

All who are interested in Cariboo mining will be glad to learn that the work of development work on the Slough Creek Company's property is most satisfactory. Mr. John Hopp, manager for the company, is at present visiting the city, and speaks very hopefully of the future of deep-level mining in Cariboo in general, and of his property in particular. It is generally understood that in order to work Cariboo "deep" to advantage a great deal of preliminary work is required and a considerable outlay of capital is necessary, and this constitutes the chief obstacle to the development of this branch of the mining industry. To achieve success requires a great deal of patience, a quality not always possessed by the investor, but success, when attained, may, and probably will, mean splendid profits on the money laid out. The Slough Creek Company, which is an English concern, owns several miles of the creek, and there is very little doubt of the richness of the gravel. Indeed recent work there has shown that the gravel of the lower level contains gold in considerable quantities. Mr. Hopp, who is greatly interested in his work, was kind enough to explain to a Colonist reporter who called upon him, the scope of the work done on the property. At first an effort was made to reach the old bed of the stream by vertical shafts, but owing to the heavy flow of water this was found to be hardly practicable, and a shaft was then sunk clear of the old water course and a drive put in at a level below that of the deep bed of the creek. From this drive upraises have been made into the gravel lying above and its value has been demonstrated. The accomplishment of this work has occupied a long time. Many difficulties have had to be overcome, but the work has now reached a stage at which success is in sight, and in the near future the Slough creek property should be paying dividends.

Speaking of the outlook in Cariboo generally, Mr. Hopp expressed great confidence in the future of the mining industry. The big hydraulic companies, he said, are in good shape, and the output of gold from this source should increase rapidly each season. The splendid results already achieved by the Cariboo Consolidated should be great news for all interested in the old gold field.

Mr. Hopp has especial faith in deep-level mining in the Cariboo, basing his opinion on his own experiences there and upon the history of placer fields in other parts of the world. When the immensely rich character of the old diggings is considered, it is clear that if the lower beds of these famous creeks carry anything like the gold found nearer the surface, there are great times ahead for the Cariboo. And there is no reason why this should not be the case.

Canadian Fair A Great Success

Attendance Over One Thousand Daily and Good Business Done.

Everybody Delighted at Splendid Results of the Patriotic Undertaking.

Last evening the successful fair held under the auspices of the ladies of Victoria, and managed by the King's Daughters, came to a close amidst congratulations on all hands over the excellent showing made. It was an exposition of the products of Canadian soil, Canadian forests, Canadian factories and Canadian brains, and was to the last degree interesting and successful.

The average attendance since the opening of the fair last Monday was more than 1,000 a day. Concerts and other entertainments were given in the evenings and were well patronized. That given last evening was largely helped by members of the naval forces, and was highly enjoyable to the large audience which crowded the hall. Too much credit cannot be given to those who were responsible for those pleasing results. Everything from commencement to finish of the fair was satisfactory, and Victorians are looking forward now to the fair being made a regular annual fixture. Of its success no doubt whatever can be entertained.

The congratulations of the citizens are due in generous measure to the King's Daughters, who have so effectually proved their capability of preparing a popular entertainment. As an advertising medium nothing better could possibly have been devised. All the firms which took part have benefited by added popularity for their manufactures, and not one of them regrets the efforts made to display its wares to the public. Very generous distribution of samples of the goods was made, and there are few homes in Victoria and neighborhood which have not enjoyed the opportunity of obtaining free specimens of fine goods. The ladies in attendance at the various booths looked rather tired last evening, and no wonder, for they have been working like Trojans all the week.

The results of the judging for the popular and successful sales ladies was as follows: Miss Bell and Miss Wootton tied for first place, and Miss Grace Lang was third. Miss Lang would have been first, but unfortunately for her the signal to close sales was given just as she was about to conclude a $5 purchase with a gentleman, and this amount would have placed her at the head of the poll. The voting was very keen.

The fair closed last evening about 11 o'clock. The exhibits that remain will be removed probably tomorrow.

Amongst the displays not hitherto mentioned and which deserve special notice for their excellence is the Columbia Milling Company's display of flour. The enterprising company had a cooking stove in their booth and an expert cook who prepared for the delectation of the visitors delicious biscuit and cakes made from the Columbia Mills flour. These, with tea, seemed to take the fancy of the public immensely. Comments upon the excellence of the flour were unanimously favorable.

The Fairbanks Manufacturing Company also deserve special mention for their excellent display of soaps and washing powders, being the famous Gold Dust products. The firm's booth was one of the most attractive in the whole fair, a feature being the fairy lake illuminated with electrics and floating on its surface cakes of the Fairy Soap bearing little Union Jacks. Fine art pictures framed and ready for framing were given away to consumers of the Fairbanks soaps, also samples of the Gold Dust products and books illustrating the Gold Dust twins at work and at play in rhyme. The exhibits of the Fairbanks Company included Gold Dust washing powder, Fairy floating toilet soap, glycerine tar soap, sanitary soap, Santa Claus laundry soap and scouring soap.

Owing to the demand on space only a passing reference was made to the beautiful and attractive exhibit made by the Price Preserving Company of this city in the exhibition. The exhibit was in two sections. The show of British Columbia fruits preserved in their natural state in large show jars, brought exclamations of surprise from the ladies who saw them, praise being bestowed on the firm in a very liberal manner, but it was the confectionery department that was the scene of excitement. During the week part of the Price Preserving Company's machinery and plant has been transferred to the Assembly hall, and several branches of the confectionery manufacture have been demonstrated there. Mr. F. Popham, Mr. Price's foreman, has delighted the young and old by the clever manner in which he has illustrated the art of making fine candies. Rolled out himself, in the room set apart for the exhibit, was a large furnace fitted with bunsen burners, copper pans, in which the sugar was boiled to the degree required, which was an electric motor, from which the confections came by the thousands, proving that Victoria has one of the most up-to-date candy plants in the Dominion. From the time the exhibition was opened until the close the space was crowded, samples were distributed, and there is no doubt that this firm's goods will become universally popular. It seems regrettable that Victorians do not give a more liberal support to local industries, the goods manufactured in this city being equal to anything imported. Mr. Price assured the reporter that if the confectionery consumed in this city was made locally it would give employment to about 350 boys and girls. Without a fair measure of encouragement from the citizens and merchants this will never become the city it ought, but with the support accorded that local manufacturers deserve, it will continue to prosper and find employment for the growing boys and girls of Victoria.

The notorious Princess Radziwill, who was imprisoned some time ago in Cape Colony for forging the signature of the late Cecil Rhodes, has been living for some time in Paris under the name of Mme. Wyunowski, and has again got into trouble. All her belongings in the small Hotel de Marigny, where she had taken up her abode, have been seized by the hotel proprietor, and the princess was turned into the street, where she would have been obliged to spend the night if a woman journalist, whom she had been assisting recently in the capacity of secretary, had not lent her ten francs.

SMELLS DO MOVE.

That odors move with the air or diffuse through it like gases and do not pass through it in waves, as sounds do, or in swiftly moving particles like the radium emanations, seems to be conclusively shown by recent experiments on the propagation of scents through small tubes. In such tubes there can be no general motion of the air and the rate of travel of an odor is extremely slow. That of ammonia took over two hours to get through a tube a yard and a half long. The presence of the ammonia could be detected chemically at about the same time that its smell was noticed. It seemed to make little difference in the speed whether the tube was held horizontally or vertically, or whether the odor moved up or down.

ECHOES FROM DREAMLAND.

WEIRD IMAGININGS AND UNCANNY PRESENCES.

By "D.W.H."

—ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Those green-robed senators of mighty woods,
Tall oaks, branch-charmed by the earliest stars,
Dream, and so remain all night without a stir.

—Keats.

I met a friend the other day who believes implicitly in dreams. "You may say what you choose in an effort to disturb my belief," he said, with emphasis, "but I know what I have experienced, and my opinion is not to be shaken by ridicule or undermined by an obstinate refusal to investigate. All my life, at least since I have been old enough to remember, I have been a dreamer. I have dreamed at night, and I have had day dreams. I have gone to bed and have fallen asleep. In a short time I have been startled by a sound as if a cannon had been fired near my ear. Then I have seen a struggling mass of men locked in deadly grapple. I have heard the rattle of musketry, the clashing of swords, the shouts of combatants and the cries of wounded and dying."

"Welsh rarebit?" I ventured to suggest, timidly.

"No, no," I never eat such indigestible stuff."

"A few schooners of beer?"

"No, I never drink beer."

"Well, then a story of carnage read before you sank to sleep."

"No, I never read in bed and I never read horrid stories at any time. I can attribute the dreams to no indiscretion of mine. As you are aware, I am a temperate man in all things. I seldom drink and never smoke. I never indulge in late suppers, yet I have these imaginings and they often come true. Listen to what happened four years ago, the 9th of this same merry month of May. I went to bed soon after a very light dinner and tried to sleep, but couldn't. I closed my eyes; I counted from one to one hundred, and then ran over the same numbers backward. I counted five hundred sheep as they leaped over a precipice. I tossed from side to side. No use! Every time that I closed my eyes they would fly open and I stared into an abyss of darkness. I turned on the light, left the bed and paced the floor with the measured tread of a sentry. I was wider awake than before. I rubbed myself from top to toe with a heavy brush until my flesh tingled. All to no purpose. Then I returned to bed, put out the light and gazed again into the darkness. Presently, I saw—as clearly as I ever saw anything in my life—a luminous figure appear at the foot of the bed. It was that of a woman. She was clad in white. A strange earthy odor pervaded the apartment and the air, which before had been pleasantly warm, became cold. The figure's face was averted at first, but presently the woman turned slowly around and then I saw the face. It was ghastly white, and bore an expression of acute anguish and despair. I recognized it at once. It was that of a young woman who resided in California. Only shortly before I had had a letter from her. In the letter she did not complain of being ill. She wrote in a most cheerful spirit and spoke of visiting Victoria at and yet here she stood before me clad in white and wearing the face of a dead person. I found my speech at once.

"Laura!" I cried. "What does this mean? Tell me."

The figure shook its head and faded slowly away. Then all was dark once more. I fell asleep and slept till morning. But in my sleep I witnessed a death-scene. I saw a young girl lying upon a bed, pale and worn with suffering, and apparently dying. At the bedside stood weeping friends. I tried to speak, but could not utter a word and gradually the scene faded from view and I dreamed no more. In the morning I received this telegram from San Jose, California, dated the evening before:

"Laura died tonight—pneumonia."

"What do you make of all this, my friend? Do you still say that there is nothing in dreams?" the gentleman concluded.

I knew a woman once who owned a well-thumbed dream-book. She would retire overnight and in the morning her first duty was to consult her precious book for divination. It was at San Francisco, and I dined at her house with several other young fellows. Nearly every morning Mrs. Yellowhammer (such was her name) would relate one or more dreams and book would be produced and we would all pore over it together and resolved to have some fun at our credulous landlady's expense. She had a husband, of whom she was a boarder in her house, and who had gone to the Sierra Nevada mountains to search of gold and silver. We tipped the house maid to secure the dream-book, which we did one afternoon and gave to a boarder named Skinner. He copied a few of the most available explanations and returned the book in about an hour's time.

The next morning at breakfast, amid a deathlike silence, Skinner remarked casually that he had had a queer dream overnight. The landlady produced the book and begged to be told the dream so that she might find the solution.

"Well," said Skinner, "I dreamed that I saw a hole full of wriggling snakes."

The landlady (reading from the book)—"To dream of a snake means that you are going to have heaps of gold. You are to be congratulated, Mr. Skinner."

Skinner, continuing—"And I dreamed that I saw a cat climbing a brick wall."

The laudlady (reading from the book) "To dream of a cat climbing a board fence is good luck, but if she climbs a brick wall it means a robbery. Gentlemen, fasten your windows and lock your doors tonight."

Skinner—"Then I thought that I saw a tall, fair man, with a long hook nose and a slight limp carrying a basket with a cabbage in it and blowing his nose in a red silk handkerchief."

The laudlady—"Dear, dear! But that is the worst kind of luck. It means—it means—let me see—yes! It means an elopement. It means more—it's a sign of family trouble. The basket and the cabbage spell woe, and the nose and the red handkerchief are awful. If the handkerchief had been white, there would have been some hope. But red is the color of disaster and spells misery to some family not far off."

"Awful, terrible, horrible!" we all ejaculated.

"Yes," continued the wicked wretch Skinner, with as much expression in his mischievous face as one would expect to find in a basedrum or a pine board, "I saw that same fair man throw down the basket and the cabbage and run swiftly away."

"That settles it," cried Mrs. Yellowhammer, after a brief pause during which she anxiously consulted the oracle, and rising from her seat at the head of the table she shrieked: "The tall man with a hook nose and limp is my husband and he has bolted—bolted with some young woman—left his own loving wife and taken up with a trollope," and she burst into a flood of hysterical tears.

"The deceitful housemaid, who also waited on table, led her sympathetically away, and for some minutes shrieks, interspersed with wild peals of laughter, were heard from Mrs. Yellowhammer's apartment.

"At the next meal the landlady did not appear, and we were told that she had taken passage on a steamboat and gone in search of her erring husband to secure evidence to be used in a suit for divorce entitled "Yellowhammer vs. Yellowhammer" with a female whose identity was unknown as co-respondent. The outcome of the affair I never learned, as I left the house and the city before the indignant fair one returned from the quest.

"The story I am about to relate was told me by a gentleman of unimpeachable veracity and integrity. He is now a resident of Victoria, although at the time of the startling occurrence he resided in England. I had intended to tell the story in my own language, as the public has been pleased to extol my style of expression, but after reading the paper I am struck with the rare descriptive powers of the narrator. An attempt to improve it would be gilding refined gold. So I have resolved to give it as it was given me, without the slightest change, nor shall I spoil the story by any comments of my own:

"Knowing me as you do, perhaps you would hardly believe it were I to tell you that the speaker has been as nearly as possible a murderer, but such is nevertheless actually the case. I have many times told the incident, and can at this period of time even afford to laugh over it, but at the time it occurred it was no laughing matter to me I assure you.

"It happened many years ago, in the winter of 66 or or '67, I think, but the actual date is not of much consequence. The facts, at all events, are well impressed on my memory. My wife and I had not long been married; in fact, I had just got comfortably settled down in our little suburban villa (people always start married life in a suburban villa, you know) when a series of very impudent burglaries took place in our immediate neighborhood, and up to the present had quite eluded all the police efforts to bring the delinquents to justice.

"Now, my wife is naturally a timid woman; but her fear of burglars was her predominating weakness; therefore, it is not to be wondered at that these burglaries made her very nervous and unsettled. A beggar could not come to the door at night but she was sure he had designs, and only asked alms as a pretext of ascertaining the run of the house or any other information he might be able to glean. More than once about this time have I been rudely awakened in the "wee sma' hours" with the assurance that there was some one on the premises, and on a cold winter night or early morning it is trying to even a good tempered man (and I trust I am such), having to prowl all over the house in search of imaginary intruders. But we are off "all things come to he who waits," and you will presently see there was no exception in our case.

"We had been entertaining some old friends that evening, and consequently were rather later than usual in retiring. I invariably made a practice of myself locking up en route, and on the night in question had the misfortune to break the bolt on the bath room window, while fastening it. Of course, there was no remedy at that late hour, so in place of locking the door, as usual, I simply left it on the latch and placed the back of a chair, tilted on end, under the knob outside, so that on anyone opening the door from the outside, the chair would fall backwards, and, being a light sleeper, the noise would be almost sure to rouse me. I need hardly say, I did not mention a word of the proceedings to the "Missus," otherwise there would have been no bed for me that night, but rather imagine I should have had the questionable pleasure of propping the door up with my own person, in place of with a chair.

"Well, all went on smoothly until somewhere about 2 a. m., when I was conscious of hearing the window being tampered with and, after listening for a moment or two, decided to investigate. So, slipping quietly out of bed, I cautiously felt my way in the dark on to the landing, and a few seconds later found myself at the bathroom door. Sure enough, there was someone moving in the room, so, taking my stand at the side of the door, I waited till such time as our friend chose to come out, when, in all probability, he would trip over the chair; then would be my time for action.

"It is curious, even in such moments, how one's thoughts will wander to trivial things, and I must confess that while standing shivering that cold December morning, waiting the course of events, I was mentally cogitating how much space my little adventure would occupy in the next evening's paper, and since there would not be half a column devoted to "Desperate Encounter with a Burglar—Heroic Capture," etc., but at this point my soliloquy was broken short by the door being slowly opened, and, as I anticipated, the fellow's foot caught the chair, as it fell backwards, and over he went, dropping his dark lantern in surprise, which went spinning down the stairs. Before he could recover himself I was on top of him and hung on to his throat like a veritable bull-dog, determined to do or die. How it would all have ended I should not like to say, but fortunately at this point I awoke to find the whole affair of the burglars had been a hideous nightmare, and that I was struggling with my wife, whose throat I was holding in a merciless grasp. However, it was stern reality I had now to deal with in all conscience, so springing out of bed and striking a light I lost no time in putting forth my best endeavors to resuscitate my poor spouse. I can hardly, even yet, think of the next half hour without a shudder. She was quite black in the face and at first I thought her dead, but after a time I was successful in slowly bringing her round and with all reverence I can say never did I offer up a more thankful prayer than on that occasion. It was days before my wife was able to be about again, and I can assure you the marks of my fingers remained on her neck for weeks, as a memorial of my unconscious violence. If she had died appearances would have looked very much against me, indeed I much question whether I should have been here to tell the tale, as only a few weeks previous our joint lives had been insured for a considerable amount, and I think you will agree that fact alone would have been enough to have proved to an English jury that there was motive for the crime, and anything I could have said to vindicate my case would have had very little effect. Now, every tale should be adorned with a moral, and in the present case I would solemnly warn all my hearers to let late and hearty suppers severely alone, and especially would I warn them against lobster salad, which was the primary cause of my "unenviable experience."

Successfully Launched.—At high tide yesterday the fine new steam launch built by J. Goodwin especially for service on Victoria Arm for the accommodation of those who wish to visit the Gorge by the waterway, was successfully launched. She is a very beautiful little craft and judging from her fine lines and the way she sits the water should prove very speedy. She is expected to be ready for service by June 20th.

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VOL. XLVI., NO. 5

Dominion News Notes

Investigating Alien Employme On the Grand Trunk Proceeds.

Crowds of the Starving Italie Laborers Walking the Streets of Montreal.

Reported Invasion of the Mar toba Lumber Market By U. S. Firm Denied.

Montreal, May 31.—Judge Winchest resumed the inquiry into the questi of the employment of Americans by t Grand Trunk Pacific this morning. E gene P. Quirk was the only witne heard this morning, who declared i had been refused employment by t Grand Trunk Pacific. Although sixt eight years old, he was fully qualifie as an engineer and had been engage at over two hundred dollars per mont by other companies. Regarding the en ployment of American engineers, J. I Stephens, engineer in charge, said t morning that he had never offered an inducement to Americans to apply fo position on the new railway, but mai ly their ability prompted him to emplo ing them. Mr. Stephens said there we four engineers in all who had come t the Grand Trunk Pacific from the Santa F railway. Regarding himself he said M Hays wrote to him inviting him to com to Montreal, but offered him nothing but after he had had a conversatio with Mr. Hays he decided to accep the position of engineer in chief o the surveys. He said he was employe by the Grand Trunk but was paid b the Grand Trunk Pacific. Judge Winchester will examine Mr. Hays and Mr Wainwright tomorrow, after which h will proceed to North Bay, Winnipe and Edmonton.

CROWDS OF DESTITUTE.

It is estimated that there are at the present time at least 1,000 Italian wandering around the streets of Montreal who are in destitute circumstances. Most of them came out to Canada expecting to secure work on the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, and, of course, have been disappointed. For some time the past the Italian consul has been engaged in furnishing these men with bread enough to keep life in their bodies, but the secretary's funds have at last run out and they are unable to do anything more. An appeal was made to the mayor this morning and he replied that the city was not in a position to do anything to relieve these men, and so private charity will have to step in. In the meantime word is to be sent to Italy describing the conditions of affairs so that no more Italians will be allowed to leave for Canada unless they are wanted.

THE LABOR SITUATION.

The local labor situation remains about the same, the master bookbinders, three in number, who have dismissed men out on strike, have shown no intention of surrendering. The union is now contemplating calling out all its members in all the shops in Montreal. The master stonemasons says that unless the men who went out on strike on Saturday return to work at once they will lock out all the men in their employ, which will mean that several thousand will be rendered idle.

DR. CAMPBELL DEAD.

Dr. R. Campbell, one of Montreal's best known physicians, is dead of one of the effects of a fall. The son of Dr. F. W. Campbell, dean of the medical faculty of Bishop's College.

At a meeting of Ingot Lodge, P. W. A., tonight it was decided that if a strike of ten employees of the Dominion Iron & Steel Company tomorrow morning on account of the refusal of the company to increase their wages. The company claims that it is paying as high a wage as any industrial concern in Eastern Canada and offered to arbitrate, but the P. W. A. refused.

STATIONARY CARS.

Toronto, May 31.—The board of control has decided to prosecute the Toronto Railway Company for maintaining a nuisance by keeping its cars standing on certain streets instead of placing them elsewhere when not in use.

BRICKMAKERS' STRIKE.

The striking brickmakers have agreed to waive recognition of the union if the employers will grant them an increase of wages.

Judge Ferguson, of the High Court of Justice of Ontario, is dead.

HON. M. BERNIER.

St Hyacinthe, Que., May 31.—Yesterday afternoon while the Hon. M. Bernier was on his way to the railway station to take the train to Ottawa, he was stricken with a slight attack of apoplexy. This morning he was reported to be feeling much better but will have to take a rest for a few days.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

Winnipeg, May 31.—A Vancouver paper published an article recently stating that the Menze Lumber Co., Minneapolis, proposed opening a retail lumber yard in Winnipeg for the purpose of doing away with the cost of the middlemen and thus furnishing keener competition for Canadian dealers, and as Menze company were manufacturers on a large scale and on account of the absence of duty the interests of British Columbia mill men would be injured for the trade in the Northwest Territory and Manitoba. J. F. Foss, who is manager for the Menze company, when seen regarding these statements, stated that they were unauthorized, and that his firm had no intention of opening retail yards here. They were in the wholesale and jobbing business in Winnipeg. He characterized many of the statements made in the Coast papers as being wantonly injurious and incorrect, and that they had a particular tendency towards the agitation for want of duty. So far as his firm was concerned, it handled as much Canadian lumber as the majority of Canadian firms, although its headquarters were in Minneapolis.

J. S. Ewart, K. C., announces his retirement from law to devote himself to literature. He will spend the next few months in the Parliament library at Ottawa.

The formal opening of Regina's new water works system was celebrated yesterday when Mayor H. W. Laird, the aldermen and contractors were present. The first sod was turned by Mayor Laird and a bottle of champagne was broken by Mrs. Laird. The system will cost upwards of $100,000 and the pipe line will be seven miles long. The immense reservoir will contain about 80,000,000 gallons of water.

A pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, Quebec, from Manitoba, will leave June 16th.