The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY-THIRD YEAR — THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1900. — VOLUME XLIII.

Kitchener's Hard Task

Difficult Work Before Him in Crushing Boer Guerilla Warfare.

Proclamation Issued Inviting the Burghers to Surrender Voluntarily.

Colonel Otter Points With Pride to the Record of His Regiment.

London, Dec. 27.—The paucity and obscurity of the despatches from South Africa give rise to renewed anxiety. Apparently the disturbed area of Cape Colony extends further south than it did last December, and Lord Kitchener does not appear to have had much success as yet in driving back the invaders.

The War Office had received no news last evening of the reported capture of Yeomanry near Britstown.

A Burgherdorp despatch has a mysterious reference to "An unfortunate mistaking of the enemy for Brabant's Horse," which resulted in the sounding of "cease firing," and enabled the Boers to occupy all the commanding positions, the British retiring from a difficult predicament.

General Clements' success against the Boers at Magaliesberg region is also doubtful, the last despatch reporting "it was considered advisable not to force the Boers from their positions."

The British press continues in the main optimistic, but the condition of affairs brings home the enormous difficulties that will face Lord Kitchener in patrolling and policing such immense tracts of country, even when the Boers shall have been finally subdued.

The Daily Mail, which makes a strong appeal to the government to "face the facts and send Lord Kitchener more troops," says, "There is a real risk in being lulled to sleep by carefully censured messages."

Lord Kitchener, according to a despatch from Johannesburg, has issued a proclamation dated Pretoria, December 20, announcing that burghers who voluntarily surrender will be allowed to live with their families in the government laagers until such time as guerilla warfare has sufficiently abated to admit of their returning in safety to their homes. The proclamation also promises that all property and stock brought in at the time of surrender will be respected and paid for if requisitioned by the military authorities.

Montreal, Dec. 26.—Word has been received in this city that Wilfrid Dougall, nephew of John Dougall, Editor of the Witness, has been seriously wounded in South Africa, having had his eyesight destroyed and nose injured. He went to Africa with the second contingent.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—Colonel Otter, interviewed today regarding charges made against him of too strict discipline while in Africa, said: "I have nothing to excuse, nothing to defend. I did what I thought to be my duty without fear and without hesitation, and the regiment came through in a very high state of efficiency and with a splendid record."

Wellington, N. Z., Dec. 27.—The sixth contingent of New Zealanders, 200 strong, half being Maoris, will sail for South Africa in three weeks.

RE-EQUIPPING ROAD.

Philadelphia & Reading Getting New Cars and Engines Built.

Philadelphia, Dec. 26.—In pursuance of its plan to reequip its road, the Philadelphia & Reading Railway Company has let contracts which in the aggregate amount to over $22,500,000. Two thousand and thirty new cars have been ordered, a large proportion of them of the pressed steel class that have lately come into use. Forty-five locomotives are to be built, 34 of them being for freight traffic and 10 for the passenger service.

A PIOUS FRAUD.

Pretended He Had Been Scalped by Esquimaux in the Rockies.

Paris, Dec. 26.—The appeal court has confirmed the sentence of four years' imprisonment imposed on a swindler named Goffray, who posed in clerical circles here in April last as the "Cardinal Bishop of Washington," soliciting funds to convert the young Indians of New Mexico. Several times Goffray succeeded in celebrating mass, and once was nearly arrested on the point of celebrating mass at Strasburg. Finally he appeared at Montilamert, in the department of Drome, where he lectured to the trappist monks on his terrible adventures in the Rockies, where he said he had been scalped by the Indians while preaching the Gospel to them. The fraud was discovered by Goffray pretending that the Indians of the Rocky Mountains were Esquimaux.

DENIES RUMOR.

Mr. Shaughnessy Says There Is No Combination of C. P. R. and Other Roads.

Montreal, Dec. 26.—Mr. Shaughnessy, president of the C. P. R., says there is absolutely no truth in the story from Kingston that the C. P. R. is negotiating for the purchase of the Kingston & Pembroke railway. Referring to the story from New York that a combination of extensive railway interests in the Western States is on the tapis, which will result in the Canadian Pacific, Northern Pacific, Great Northern, Erie, and Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railways being operated in harmony as a transcontinental line between Vancouver and New York, Mr. Shaughnessy said:

"While there is the very best of feeling between all the roads mentioned and the Canadian Pacific, there is no combination of any kind. The roads mentioned may work more harmoniously in the future than in the past, as it is their intention to do so, but there is no truth in the story of a combination for a new transcontinental railway."

BANQUE VILLE MARIE.

Liquidators Have Redeemed a Large Number of the Bills.

Montreal, Dec. 26.—The liquidators of the defunct Banque Ville Marie have already redeemed $250,000 of the bank's bills, though according to the government statement only $260,000 was supposed to be in circulation.

MILLIONAIRE CATTLEMAN.

A. H. Pierce of Texas Leaves His Riches Behind Him.

Galveston, Texas, Dec. 26.—A. H. Pierce, the richest cattleman in Texas, died to-day at Pierce Station. He was many times a millionaire, with widespread interests in Texas.

COLONIAL VOLUNTEERS.

Newfoundland Will Enrol a Force in the New Year.

St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 26.—The governor, Sir Henry Edward McCallum, is arranging for the formation of a colonial volunteer force, to consist of eight companies of rifles, totalling 600 men. It is proposed to establish the force after the beginning of the new year. The government, it is understood, is ready to provide the necessary funds. This force will be exclusive of the naval reserves, the members of which have already been enrolled from among the fishermen around the coast. The volunteers will be recruited from the larger towns. The movement is very popular.

Vancouver's Many Robberies

Christmas Night Burglars Reaped a Harvest in the Terminal City.

Many Complaints of Stores and Residences Being Broken Into.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, Dec. 26.—The burglars were busy on Christmas night. The most serious robberies were Wood's book and stationery store and Page Ponsford's furnishing store. The burglars first entered Wood's store.

A more memorandum of the missing goods has not yet been made, but the loss is thought to have been serious, many important papers having been stolen. Among the articles was a pair of strong scissors, which they employed to open the window leading into Chapman's furnishing store. Once in this store they helped themselves to goods worth $500 in value.

Besides the above robberies, four houses were entered last night, but the booty secured was insignificant.

The residence of W. J. Bowser, who is spending the winter with Mrs. Bowser in California, was one of the most recent residences visited by burglars, who took their time and turned out every drawer and closet in the house. It is not yet known what articles the thieves took away. Entrance was secured through the pantry window, and on the shelf next to the pantry window was the mark of a man's muddy boot.

The police persist in clinging to the theory that the burglary was the work of boys. In this connection the government official who reported some time ago to the police that he saw a footpad in the act of holding up a citizen on the corner of Robson and Thurlow streets, stated this morning that he saw this man on the night of the attempted hold-up very plainly, as he was close to the electric light. On Christmas eve he saw the same man as large as life, sauntering up Granville street with his soft fedora pulled down over his eyes. The informant of the Colonist correspondent walked hastily ahead of the footpad, and slipped into a store with the idea of telephoning the police, but on looking around, the footpad, who had been behind him a moment before, had disappeared.

The city is infested at the present time with crooks that have been moved on from Seattle and Spokane and they are making a house to house canvas for money and meals in the west end. In this way they learn the lay of the ground, the houses that are not occupied and occasionally manage to strike a lonely pedestrian whom they hold up.

Lewis & Sills' store, Mount Pleasant, has been broken into and $250 taken from the till.

THE FATHER OF LACROSSE

Dr. George Beers of Montreal Has Passed from the Scene.

Montreal, Dec. 26.—Dr. W. G. Beers, one of the best known dentists in Canada, is dead, aged 57.

Dr. Beers was the father of the modern game of lacrosse and a well-known writer on sporting topics. He took the two first Canadian lacrosse teams to England.

Dr. Beers was a man of many parts. He founded the first dental journal in Canada, and while practising his profession found time to do a great deal of writing on various topics, especially field sports. He wrote the first book on lacrosse, and made the first attempt to reduce the game to a set of rules. As an eloquent speaker he was noted, and a patriotic Canadian speech made by him before the Dental Convention in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1888, showing the United States the real progress Canada was making, did so much to dispel the lingering hope of annexation in the United States that it was printed in pamphlet form and was hailed with delight by Canadians. He assisted in the founding of the famous Victoria Rifles of Montreal, organizing No. 6 Co. out of the Beaver Lacrosse Club. He was a native Canadian, born in Montreal in 1843, and was at the top of his profession, being dean of the Quebec Provincial Dental College, and professor of dental pathology at McGill University.

Recruiting For African Police

Col. Benson Has Not as Yet Received Any Word From Ottawa.

Local Militia Authorities Know Only What They Saw in Papers.

That a fourth lot of Canadians are now wanted for South Africa, as appeared among the Christmas morning despatches of the Colonist, formed the warlike topic of many conversations on that day of peace. The despatch itself was but a meagre one, 1,000 Canadians at five shillings a day, made up its details, but they occasioned many a complacent inference to the fitness of the race and especially of it western representatives for the warfare of the kopje and the veldt.

Last evening Col. Benson, the commanding officer in this district, was seen by a representative of the Colonist, but as yet he had no official information to give out. From the despatch that he had seen in the Colonist he had inferred that it was mounted infantry, or practically mounted police that was wanted, and that when the day for recruiting should arrive, qualifications similar to those for the Strathcona Horse would be required. To know how to handle a horse and a rifle, and if possible a little knowledge of the manual would be pre-requisite to the novice. Already, the colonel added he had received a number of telegrams from men who were desirous of offering their services to Queen and country, and others had seen him personally upon the subject, but if any instructions had been issued to the heads of the different military districts, his being the farthest away, would be the last to hand, and as yet they had not arrived. He considered that a very large quota of the force could easily be supplied from British Columbia.

Over at the old Marine Hospital barracks, restlessness has ruled among the men. When volunteers were last asked for the company had to a man wanted to go, and desired to do so as a unit. Their disappointment at being left behind was very keen, but it in nowise affects their enthusiasm at the prospect of time in desiring to see some active service. The time of their service in garrison has now about elapsed, the enlistment being but for a year, and though re-enlistment is said to have been got under way at Halifax, no orders to proceed with it have yet reached here.

Colonel Benson when asked as to the chance of this company being accepted for Transvaal service, replied that he could say nothing, as he had not yet received instructions and had no information beyond the despatches of the local press.

CHRISTMAS FIRE.

Decorations in Window of Cochrane's Drug Store Make a Bright Blaze.

The fire laddies, like all the other good people who were keeping Christmas, had just begun to think of the day's great dinner, when dang, dang, and then another dang, and the big bell brought them all out in the mad hot foot for Box 21. This alarm is right down in the business portion of the city, being at the corner of Yates and Broad streets, and a good many anxious faces looked out of the windows to see, if possible, where the fire could be. Chief Deasy, who had but a few hours before stepped off the San Francisco steamer on his return from a well-deserved holiday, was quickly at the spot, and with him the chemical and wagons. The fire was in John Cochrane's drug store, on the corner of Yates and Douglas streets, but before the racing fire-fighters got there Mr. A. E. Morett, who is a clerk with Mr. Cochrane, and a few outsiders had smothered it out. But from the open drug store doorway the volumes of smoke rolled out almost as black and thick as they were pouring from the steam fire engine down on the corner of Broad and Yates streets. And so the fires were dampened, the bubbling charge in the chemical, whose hose had been laid into the shop, but whose services were not required, was turned down into the gutter, and the boys jogged back, disgusted with the mud and dirt that was all they got for the run.

The damage was light—say $250—and all confined to one part of the store, viz., the Douglas street window. This, like the other one looking out on Yates street, had been filled with Christmas goods and decorations, the basis of which was white cotton wool. Some of this had been twisted, too, around the gas fixtures. In one of these there appeared to have been a slight leak, for as Mr. Morett touched off the Auer burner the flame rushed downward, catching the cotton fleece, and in a moment the whole window was in a blaze. The clerk tried to get the fire hall by telephone, and someone else rang in an alarm, after which, with coats and jackets, they smothered and beat the fire out, in spite of the intensity that celluloid combs and other fancies added to its flames. In addition to the slight loss, it is Mr. Cochrane's good fortune in this instance not to have had his general stock disturbed, or his business interrupted. The loss is covered by insurance.

AUSTRALIAN CABINET.

Sir W. J. Lyne Advises That Mr. Barton Be Called Upon by the Governor.

Sydney, N. S. W., Dec. 24.—Sir William John Lyne, premier of New South Wales, who was recently requested by the Earl of Hopetoun governor-general of the commonwealth of Australia, to form the first federal ministry, has declined the task. He has advised Lord Hopetoun to summon Mr. Edmund Barton, who was leader of the Federal convention during its sessions in Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne in 1897 and 1898.

Mr. Barton was formerly attorney-general of New South Wales.

POLE-CAREW'S CAPTURE.

He Meets With His Match on Returning to England.

London, Dec. 24.—General Reginald Pole-Carew, who has returned from South Africa, will marry Lady Beatrice Frances Elizabeth (elder daughter of the Marquis or Ormonde.

WHY HE RESIGNED.

Mr. Corby Says Ill-Health Is the Only Reason.

Toronto, Dec. 26—Harry Corby, M. P., has given out a statement supplementary to the letter announcing his intention to resign his seat when the house meets. He says his resignation was not to provide Mr. Foster with a seat, but that his only reason for dropping out was ill-health. The riding had never been represented by an outsider, and there were many men in it capable of filling the seat with great satisfaction to the people.

CZAR QUITE WELL.

Minister of the Interior Says He Is Restored to Health.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 26.—The Russian minister of the interior, M. Sipiagunne, who arrived to-day from Lividia, where Emperor Nicholas is convalescing, asserts that the Czar is now completely restored.

Discussing A Surrender

Dewet and Steyn Would Like to Make Terms for Rebels.

Boers Are Being Repulsed at the Varions Points They Attack.

Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, Dec. 26.—There are renewed but unconfirmed rumors here that Gen. Dewet, President Steyn and Gen. Haasbroek have had a conference and offered to surrender, provided the colonial rebels shall not be punished, and the leaders, including themselves, are not deported.

London, Dec. 27.—The following despatch has been received from Lord Kitchener:

"Pretoria, Dec. 26.—Knox, with Barker, Pilcher and White, is engaged with Dewet's force, holding a position in the neighborhood of Lew Kop. Dewet hopes to break through and get south again.

"The Boers' eastern column in Cape Colony is apparently headed by our troops about Reitspoortspruit.

"The Boers' western column is reported to have gone north in two portions, one towards Prieska and the other through Steinburgh. They are being followed up."

The following despatch from General Kitchener was received from Pretoria under today's (Thursday) date:

"Yesterday 200 Boers attacked a small police post near Bottsburg. The police gallantly drove them off before reinforcements from Johannesburg arrived. The Boers damaged the mining machinery in the neighborhood.

"The Boers attacked Utrecht at 2 o'clock this morning and were driven off.

"The Boers held up a train three miles west of Pan and were driven off.

"The eastern force of the Boers in Cape Colony was headed yesterday and driven in the direction of Vredesdalt.

"The western force is still being driven north through Streydenburg."

London, Dec. 27.—The Evening Standard today says it understands that the squadron of Yeomanry which, as announced in a despatch from Capetown yesterday, was entrapped and captured by the Boers whom tacy were following from Britstown, were released after the men had been relieved of their horses and other equipments.

Ten of the Yeomanry, the paper adds, were wounded.

Capetown, Dec. 27.—A small party of Boers attacked Burgherdorp on December 24th. They were repulsed after heavy fighting.

The Boers are active, and skirmishes in several places have been reported.

Burgherdorp, Cape Colony, Dec. 26.—Col. Grenfell continues in touch with Kruitzinger's cammand of 700 men, who are carrying off the British prisoners.

Kruitzinger has abandoned his Maxims and carts.

An attempt of the 9th Lancers to turn Kruitzinger's flank at Plaisterheuvel on December 24th resulted in eight casualties among the Lancers, including Lord Frederick Blackwood, who was wounded.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

Barometer at 5 p.m.—Corrected.....30.34

WEEKLY WEATHER SYNOPSIS.

Meteorological Office,
Victoria, Dec. 19 to 25.

The week opened with a continuance of the southeast gale prevailing at the close of the previous week. A low barometer area was centred in this district and on the Washington coast; the pressure increased for a brief period, but fell again very rapidly in advance of another ocean storm, which developed off Vancouver Island, causing strong southeast winds, with gusts of 50 miles hourly velocity. The barometer remained low on Thursday over nearly the whole of the Pacific Slope; the storm area also crossed the Rocky mountains and traversed the Territories and Manitoba, the pressure at Swift Current falling to the abnormally low point of 28.94 inches, with an hourly wind velocity of 32 miles. On Friday the barometer rose again on this coast, and by Saturday a high area covered nearly the whole of the province, the winds shifting to the south and southwest, and the weather continuing mild, with moderate rainfall. On Sunday a slight depression appeared off Vancouver Island, which, however, passed to the north and centred in Cariboo, a high barometer covering the Northwest and causing fair and cold weather there. On Monday night a fresh disturbance appeared on the Washington coast, causing unsettled and rainy weather during the whole of Tuesday. The week altogether has been unsettled, and in some respects unseasonable, but the rain has not been excessive, and moderate temperatures have been general.

Victoria reports 7 hours and 30 minutes bright sunshine registered, 2 days being completely clouded. The highest temperature was 55, on the 20th; the lowest 30.1 on the 22nd; and the rainfall was 1.27 inches.

New Westminster reports rain 2.35 inches; highest temperature 52, on the 19th; lowest 34, on the 22nd, and light frost.

Kamloops reports rain .01 inch; highest temperature 48, on the 19th and 20th; lowest 24, on the 24th.

German Dance.—The German ladies of the city held their first dance at A. O. U. W. hall last night. There were about 30 couples present and an enjoyable evening was spent. Mrs. Herburger and Miss Willie were the committee in charge of the entertainment.

After Dewet In Ladybrand

British Are Pressing the Boer Leader Says Telegram from Maseru.

Another Squadron of Yeomanry Reported Captured by the Boers.

Maseru, Dec. 25.—The British are pressing Commandant Dewet in the Ladybrand district.

Capetown, Dec. 26.—A squadron of Yeomanry, which has been following the Boers from Britstown, is reported to have been entrapped. There were several casualties, it is said, and the remainder of the force was captured.

General Kitchener has left Naaupoort and gone northwards. The rapid concentration of troops in the disturbed districts, through the personal energy of General Kitchener, has allayed the loyal uneasiness.

Funchal, Island of Maderia, Dec. 26.—The steamer Canada ,with Lord Roberts on board, arrived here last evening, receiving a salute of nineteen guns on entering the port. This morning Lord Roberts was tendered an official reception by the authorities, and at noon he proceeded to Gibraltar.

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—Lieut.-Colonel Lessard, commanding the Royal Canadian Dragoons, mentions the name of Lieut. H. E. W. Turner, Lieut. H. Z. C. Cockburn, Acting-Sergt. Holland, Lieut. Morrison, Pte. N. J. Builders and Pte. Kingsley for conspicuous gallantry at engagements near Belfast on November 6th and 7th. Colonel Lessard says the Canadian guns were nearly captured, the enemy at one time being only about 50 yards from them, but the gallantry of the above mentioned troopers saved them.

The B. C. men spent a pleasant day in the city yesterday and left for home in the afternoon.

Toronto, Dec. 26.—The receptions to the returning volunteers are reported from many points in Ontario today. In London the entire city turned out to greet Colonel Buchan and men.

The Toronto members of the Royal Canadians who returned with Colonel Otter, reached home in ample time for the Christmas dinner and festivities, as did in fact those from all save the most distant parts of Ontario. The reception given them in Toronto was hearty, but largely informal, no attempt being made to devote the day to it as in the case of the men first returning. There were, however, many thousands at and about Union station between 9 and 10 o'clock.

Colonel Otter received a warm welcome. Large crowds had gathered in armories awaiting the arrival of the soldiers, where they were to receive a formal welcome and dismissal. The short route march was thickly lined with spectators and the crowds at the armories were in a joyous mood and cheered enthusiastically when Otter and his men entered. The mayor read a civic address of congratulation to Otter. Colonel Buchan was not present, having gone on to London.

FRENCH FIGHT CHINESE.

Severe Loss Inflicted on a Roving Band of Regulars and Boxers.

Pekin, Dec. 25.—The French report encountering twenty-five thousand Chinese and Capturing five flags and a number of guns and inflicting a great loss, thirty-five miles south of here. The report is generally discredited.

According to the rumor the French did not suffer any losses themselves. It is believed, however, that the French probably met a roving band, which was dispersed, a number of the Chinese being butchered.

Li Hung Chang says that he is satisfied the story is false.

Rev. Mr. Kelly, a Presbyterian missionary, has reported to Minister Conger the burning by Boxers of nineteen Catholic Christians. He says(however, that this information has been derived entirely from Chinese sources. The Japanese, who have jurisdiction over that territory, will investigate the report.

The preliminary joint note was delivered to the Chinese today

Paris, Dec. 26.—A despatch to the Havas agency from Pekin, dated December 25th, says the detachment of French troops, commanded by General Bailloud, was recently attacked by Chinese regulars and Boxers south of Pao Ting Fu. The punitive expedition took the village after a lively combat. Many cannon and a quantity of provisions and ammunition were secured.

On account of the hostile attitude of the population General Bailloud burned the village and other villages in the neighborhood. The Chinese loss was 1,000 men. General Bailloud's force sustained no loss. Christian Chinese families have been maltreated by the Chinese regulars.

Berlin, Dec. 26.—Field Marshal Count von Waldersee says in a despatch from Pekin, dated Monday, December 24th:

"The French troops encountered on December 23rd east of Choceal, between Pekin and Pao Ting Fu, a Chinese force numbering 2,500 men with artillery. The Chinese fled in the direction of Kuan Hsian. They suffered losses and left behind them five standards and four cannon. The Chinese probably consisted of the united remnants of a body already dispersed."

KIDNAPPED HER SON.

Mrs. Miller's Efforts to Secure Possession of Her Young Son.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 27.—A sensational kidnapping, involving the family of ex-Senator W. H. Miller, occurred this afternoon and led to a hot chase a few minutes later across the state to overtake the wife of Samuel D. Miller, son of W. H. Miller, who was supposed to be flying to New York with her stolen son. Miller and his wife have lived in New York for several years, and last summer he came west to go into his father's office. His wife stayed in New York. Last Friday she came here to demand possession of her seven-year-old son, whom the father had brought west with him and who was living with him at the grandfather's house. The husband and wife had a consultation at the wife's apartments in the Denison and she agreed that if the boy was allowed to be sent to her daily with the nurse she would not attempt to kidnap him. This afternoon the boy and the nurse called on Mrs. Miller at the Denison. She sent the nurse out to get a check cashed, and while the governess was gone, ordered a carriage and made arrangements to leave. When the governess returned Mrs. Miller announced that they were going for a drive and they started in a closed carriage toward the depot. The German governess suspecting foul play, jumped out of the carriage, ran to a telephone to notify the father.

Mrs. Miller immediately ordered the carriage driven to Brightwood, and when the two Millers arrived at the Union station there was no trace of the woman and boy. Two hours later they received information which led them to believe that Mrs. Miller intended to take the Big Four accommodation train at Brightwood and then take the Knickerbocker train at Anderson or Muncie. At 6:20 o'clock the two Millers started on the Knickerbocker to overtake Mrs. Miller before she got out of the state. Mrs. Miller was Miss Helen Karcher of Pottstown, Pa. Samuel Miller first met her nine years ago at Washington, when his father was president Harrison's attorney-general. They married a year later.

KILLED ON CHRISTMAS.

Railway Train Strikes Two Men—Wife Dies of Shock.

Bryan, Ohio, Dec. 26—Wayne Corwell, aged 45, and Charles Conan, aged 21, left here last night for Blakeslee, where they were to attend a Christmas dance. In crossing the Wabash railway track near that place they were struck by a passenger train, and both instantly killed. The shock caused the death of Mrs. Conan.

SEIZE U. S. EXHIBITS.

Government Property Placed Under Embargo For Freight Claims.

Paris, Dec. 24.—Thirty cars, forming part of the United States government exhibit at the recent Paris exposition, were suddenly laid under embargo today at Havre, the railroad company declining to surrender them, pending payment of a claim of 5,100 francs. This extraordinary action, seriously delaying the departure of the United States auxiliary cruiser Prairie from Havre for New York with the government exhibits, was made the subject of a formal protest to the French government by United States Ambassador Porter. The company bases its claim on demurrage charges on freight in the cars when the goods were brought to the exposition. Some time ago the claim was submitted, and Major Brackett, secretary of the United States commission, investigated it and concluded that it had no foundation, as some cars charged against the United States government never contained official exhibits, while others were utilized by private exhibitors, and were, not, therefore, chargeable to the United States. Major Brackett thereupon endeavored to secure a settlement, but without avail. The matter dragged along through the summer, the secretary of the United States commission repeatedly expressing willingness to settle any just claim against the United States. The company left the case in an unsatisfactory condition, and finally embargoed the cars. When Major Brackett was informed by the United States again at Havre, he was wired directions to pay to the company 500 francs in the presence of legal authorities, and at the same time to enter a claim against the company for 10,000 francs as damages for obstruction and delay.

CHRISTMAS VISITORS.

Mr. Coleman's House Plundered by Burglars in Spite of Chinese Guard.

Vancouver, Dec. 24.—The residence of George Coleman was broken into last night. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman are in California spending the Christmas holidays, and the Chinese cook was guarding the house. The burglars held the cook up with a revolver and filled three large sacks with plunder.

William Crickmay died this morning, from a complication of diseases. He was a very prominent citizen in the early days, and did much to help the young city of Vancouver along. Mr. Crickmay had resided in Vancouver for 13 years. He was an Englishman by birth.

VENEZUELA REVOLT.

A Government Force Sent Against Perazo.

Curacoa, Dutch Guiana, Dec. 24.—Celestina Peraza, formerly secretary general of President Castro, of Venezuela, has revolted against the Venezuela government. A force of 2,500 Venezuelan troops under General Aristides Fando, has been sent against Perazo.

THE FRENCH SHORE.

Newfoundland Will Await Action by Imperial Authorities.

St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 24.—The colonial cabinet has decided to await action by the Imperial government before determining upon a policy with respect to the renewal of the French shore modus vivendi, when it expires next Monday. The initiative will lie with Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, who must either make another treaty with France or call upon the colony to renew the modus vivendi. Should the latter course be adopted by Mr. Chamberlain the colony's opportunity will come, for by the refusing to renew Mr. Bond will force Mr. Chamberlain into an impossible position or be able to dictate ample concessions.

ARBITRATION.

Coal Company and Employees Settling Their Difficulties.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Dec. 26.—The board of arbitration, consisting of T. D. Nichols, representing the miners; Cornelius Cronin, representing the company; and Prof. Griffith, superintendent of public schools of Nanticoke, have arbitrated the differences existing between the Kingston Coal Company and its 1,500 employees, and both sides have signed a paper to abide by the result. The arbitrators decided that in future each car of coal mined should consist of 103 cubic feet of coal. The petition of the men that Thomas Morgan, one of the foremen, be discharged, will be arbitrated to-morrow.

Not Yet Answered

Chinese Have Not Made Reply to the Joint Note of Powers.

Spanish Minister Fears Its Discussion Will Drag Over a Year.

German and French Troops Sent to Investigate Reports of Burning.

Pekin, Dec. 26.—Rev. Mr. Kelly, the Presbyterian minister, who, as cabled to the Associated Press, has reported the burning of nineteen Catholic Christians, now says the number burned is 21, and adds that thousands of armed Chinese has been seen in the San Ho country. Mr. Conger has sent a copy of the communication to Field Marshal Count von Waldersee, and Japanese and German troops have been sent to investigate the reports.

The troops of the various nations celebrated Christmas in their own fashion, each force being interested in the doings of the others. The Germans today were reviewed on the occasion of the presentation of flags to two regiments.

No answer has been received to the joint note of the powers.

London, Dec. 26.—Mr. Conger takes a hopeful view of the situation, says the Pekin correspondent of the Morning Post wiring Monday, "and thinks that a settlement will be effected, but he declares that no one of the envoys will recognize the Empress Dowager officially, although all are aware that she has long exercised the supreme power. He believes that the crisis will result in the initiation of the reforms in China. Senor Decologan, the Spanish minister, fears that the discussion of the joint note after general acceptance, will extend for a year or more." It is rumored that numerous villages east of Pekin are combining to exterminate native Christians, several of whom have been burned in a local temple. Li Hung Chang is a trifle better.

It is asserted in Shanghai, according to a despatch to the Times, that Sheng is going to Pekin, having been appointed to assist in the negotiations.

WINNIPEG TO-DAY.

Western Men of the Returned Contingent Expected.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—(Special)—The Western troops will reach here at 10:15 to-morrow, and will receive a warm welcome. A public holiday has been promised by the mayor.

The residence of Mrs. Douglas Main, wife of Constable Main of the Mounted Police, was burned at Regina to-day. The husband is at present in the Yukon.

LIBERIA ELECTION.

President Resigns Because of Disapproval of Legislature.

Sierra Leone, West Coast of Africa, Dec. 26.—The president of Liberia, Mr. Coleman, resigned on December 11, owing to the disapproval of the legislature of his interior policy. Mr. G. W. Gibson, the secretary of state, was elected president by the legislature.

POLAR EXPLORERS.

Arctic and Antarctic Bid Against Each Other.

London, Dec. 26.—Mr. Evelyn Baldwin, the Arctic explorer who is arranging for the Baldwin-Ziegler exploration, has purchased the Esquimaux, the largest and staunchest of the whaling fleet, fitted her with modern appliances, and named her the America. The rival bidder was the British Antarctic expedition, whose organizers desired to secure the Esquimaux as a substitute ship.

CHEMAINUS NEWS.

Half a Dozen Ships Loading Lumber—School Closings.

Chemainus, Dec. 26.—Lumber continues to be the staple article of export from Chemainus. At present there are about half a dozen vessels being loaded here.

Early in the present month the Women's Auxiliary held a bazaar in aid of the Chemainus hospital, which proved a financial and social success, as $475 was obtained for the praiseworthy object. This amount speaks volumes for the liberality of the people of this settlement.

On Sunday, December 23, Rev. Mr. McEwen, superintendent of Baptist missions, preached acceptably to the Baptist congregation in the morning; and Rev. P. Evans preached in the evening to the Presbyterian people.

On Sunday, 30th instant, Rev. W. B. Allan is expected to conduct divine service in the Church of England.

The semi-annual review examination (oral and written) of the Chemainus school took place on the 21st instant. In addition to the work of the ordinary programme of studies, Miss Martha McBride recited "Lochinvar" and some of the juveniles gave poetical selections. The proceedings were brought to a close by the teacher, Mr. S. Moore, distributing Christmas cards.

The closing exercises in the Chemainus Landing public school, on the same date, were conducted by Mr. John W. King, B. A. The work was a test examination on the subjects of the prescribed limit table for the schools of British Columbia.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Baptist congregation gave a supper and sale of fancy articles in the hall on the evening of the 21st. An acceptable programme was presented, and the ladies received a goodly number of shekels.

A contingent of Chemainus people visited the Capital on the 24th and 25th, and spent Christmas Day with friends and acquaintances.