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No Trouble Anticipated

Officials of Victoria Terminal Railway Deny Reports of Litigation.

Must Have Market Building By March 1—Coast-Kootenay Road.

Messrs. Hendry and Wood, of the Victoria Terminal Railway, called upon the Colonist yesterday with regard to an article which appeared in this paper yesterday morning in which it was stated that their company's notice to the city, that they would require the use of the whole market building for the use of the railway from March 1, might lead to litigation. Both gentlemen deprecated the inference, drawn by the Colonist from current and reliable reports, that any difficulty could possibly arise between their company and the city.

Said Mr. Hendry: "We are not looking for, nor do we anticipate, any legal difficulty with the city. The company, in acquiring the market building, disturb the fire department and will give ample notice of any intention of so doing so as not to embarrass the city in any way.

"It is necessary that we should have possession of the building just at this time so that we may be enabled to extend our line to connect with the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway, and thus fulfil an essential part of our contract.

"The officials of our company are also thoroughly satisfied that when the proper time comes they will be able to satisfy the City Council that the steamer Victorian, notwithstanding the adverse criticism of interested individuals, will be a vessel that will fulfil in every respect the conditions of our agreement with the city."

Mr. Hendry further stated that the Victoria Terminal railway and its Mainland connections would be in running order by May 1, and that the Victoria, Vancouver & Eastern railway would be built in the very near future, giving Victoria a direct competitive route to the Kootenay.

F. F. D.

A Strange Story of a Strange Man By D. W. H.

Late in the fall of 1859 there came to Victoria from the Puget Sound country a tall, dark, spare man, of about 40 years—clean-shaven, well-spoken, with the bearing and manners of one who had seen better days—for when I first met him he was illy-dressed, while his breath gave forth a strong odor of alcohol. It did not take me long to discover that the new-comer was a man of great ability, deep learning and strong common sense. His grasp of Old Country politics and social life was great, and his knowledge of languages marvelous. Writing now after the lapse of so many years I cannot recall a language, living or dead, with which he was unfamiliar. Even when in his cups—which was often, alas!—his conversation was of a charming and engaging character. He had been everywhere, seen everything, knew everybody who was worth while knowing, and was a perpatetic encyclopaedia of men and events. He spoke of Lord Palmerston and Lord Lytton, Disraeli and Gladstone as a native son of Victoria may refer in after life to chums and classmates at the High School of the present day.

"Mr. F. F. Davis," with "Carlton Club," in the lower left-hand corner in small script, were engraved on the card he handed me when he introduced himself. Afterwards, when he came to send fugitive bits of poetry and forceful articles of prose to the press, he wrote over the initials "F. F. D." and as "F. F. D." he was soon more frequently referred to than as Mr. Davis.

As we became better acquainted I discovered that he was very secretive about his past; but from observations he let slip at times I concluded that he had been at Eton; that he was educated for the church, had left it for the bar, and the bar for newspaper work; that he came to America in consequence of some difficulty in England; that he had latterly turned his hand to any kind of work which would yield him food and liquor; that he came to Puget Sound in 1858, and that he had been glad to cook in a logging camp at Port Blakeley for his "grub" and whiskey. But "to whom related or by whom begot" I never learned.

Of a gentle, kindly disposition, even when under "the influence," I never knew him to say an ill word or do an ungentlemanly act. He was always on hand to assist a fellow-being in trouble. If an accident occurred, "F. F. D.'s" presence seemed indispensable in bearing the injured person to the hospital. If a poor man or woman lay ill (there were no trained nurses in those days), "F. F. D.'s" services as nurse were always freely given, and many a pioneer's death-bed was made happy by the ministering attention and the prayers of "F. F. D." to the Throne of Grace for mercy to the passing soul. Poor fellow! I have often thought how strange that this waif, this stray, this bit of flotsam and jetsam which the social sea had brought to wreck and cast on our rock-girt shore, this extraordinary being who had fallen from a high estate in the Motherland, where he undoubtedly associated with the brightest and best—I say it often occurred to me to ask why he who was ever willing and anxious to help others, this man whose life was a daily sacrifice in the service of humanity, could do nothing to help himself? He often said that he believed in the efficacy of prayer.

"Then," said I, "why do you not try a dose of the soul-remedy you are so ready to prescribe for others?"

"Boy," he replied, "you wouldn't understand should I tell you. I am past praying for."

"Nonsense," I said; "if you talk in that way you will make me think you are the Wandering Jew who smote Christ, and whom tradition says is doomed to walk the earth till the Second Coming. Seriously, you do not get an idea of hopelessness from the Bible, to which you so frequently refer in your writings and speech."

"No; but I have it from an innate sense—a consciousness, the existence of which I cannot explain. I am trying to forget myself, and I live in hope that on the Day of Judgment I shall be forgotten, overlooked, and that my name will never be called! With me I hope death will end all. Let us change the subject."

And this strange man's mind would carry him back to the days of his childhood, through his college course, his social successes in London, thence across the Continent to the Holy Land, through Egypt and India, China and Japan—relating as he sped on from country to country incidents which no traveler had ever recorded and scenes which no painter had ever pictured. Ah! an evening with "F. F. D." was an intellectual treat; and while I almost despised the "good man in ruins" for his misuse of the talents his Maker had given him, the admiration I conceived for his knowledge, his intellect, and his rare descriptive and colloquial powers, and his gentle demeanor, overbore every other feeling, I could only sit and listen to the words of wisdom of this modern Gamaliel and wonder how with all his advantages and knowledge he had sunk so low.

It was deemed a pity that a mind so gifted as that of "F. F. D." could not be turned to some useful account, and many efforts were made to reform him; but they all came to naught. He was intensely proud and would accept nothing by way of charity. But, strange to say, he never refused liquor or declined a treat at the bar; although offer him warm clothing, a pair of shoes or money to buy a meal, and he would bridle up, declare that he had been insulted, and stalk off with an air of offended dignity.

"Do you take me for a beggar?" he asked a gentleman who once dropped a coin into his hand.

"No, certainly not," replied the donor; "I merely want you to drink my health."

"You will understand," said "F. F. D." "that if I keep this money I shall not spend it for food or clothing. It goes for whiskey, or here it is back."

"That is the understanding," said the other. "I shall be disappointed, indeed angry, if you do not drink it up."

"That's all right, then. Thank you kindly for your consideration. I shal drink your very good health," and off he posted to the Ship Inn to slake his unslakable thirst.

"F. F. D." was the terror of the barkeepers of that day.

"He takes such a blooming horn when I hands him the bottle," said one of the Bonifaces, "that I thinks he's going to have a footbawth. If 'ewere any other man but 'F. F. D.' I'd give him back his money and take back the grog. But, you sees, we all pities the old man and lets him have his bawth in peace. We makes it up on the next man who takes a smaller glass, doncherknow, or we puts a little more water in the bottle to even up things."

Have you not often seen, gentle reader, people who were so poor that they could not buy a meal or keep themselves and children decently clad, yet were able to get all the liquor necessary to keep them in an almost constant condition of inebriety? It is also one of the incongruities of life that a man who will crave a treat and sink his manhood to procure a dram will be ready to knock you down if you offer him food. The gifted "F. F. D." belonged to this class. It was not degradation in him to take money for soul-poison, but it was a mortal insult to offer him the means to fill his stomach or clothe his back.

One gusty afternoon in 1860 I was enjoying a walk along the edge of the bluff that overlooks the water of the Straits at the foot of Beacon Hill. Presently I saw the well-known figure of the gifted "F. F. D." coming briskly along the trail where now runs the circular road. As he drew near I saw that he was "fou," as the Scotch say; but his face was as clear as the sunlight, and his mind bright and unclouded.

"Some day," he began, "I shall write a poem on the grandeur of this charming spot—the surf beating on the shore, the whitecaps dancing on the water, the grand old mountains whose vestal-white pinnacles stand like sentinels to guard the entrance to the Sound. Beautiful, lovely beyond description! The mountains remind me of the Himalayas, but I prefer these to the Alps. Don't you?"

I had never seen the Alps, but I replied: "They are much finer. The Alps are not to be mentioned in the same breath with the Olympian range."

"I am glad that you agree with me," he replied, with a mischievous smile, for he knew I merely wished to please him. "Do you know, I always feel sad when I come to this particular spot. Do you see why? Because just year a fine young fellow was drowned there. He was the only son of Dr. Evans, of the Wesleyan missions in this colony. He was alone when he shot a duck. It fell into the water just where you see the waves dashing over that low rock. He unclothed and swam out to get the bird. He got it. We found his naked body, his hand still grasping the duck, the next morning, rolling in the surf. Poor, Eddie; he was a bright lad, and I was coaching him for the university when he died. How deeply I felt for the dear old doctor and his aged wife. Eddie's fate made me think of my own boy's sad end."

"Yes," I said, "your boy. How did he die?"

"Boy—whose boy? I said nothing about a boy, did I?" and he strode off towards town.

Once I said to him: "'F. F. D.,' if I had had your chance in life——"

"Yes," he interrupted, "I know what you are going to say. Everybody says it. If you had had my chance you would have made better use of it. But would you? How do you know? Suppose you had had money, position, influential friends—everything that goes to make a man happy and respected—and you met a woman—one whom you thought was an angel—and married her and she turned out to be a devil, a monster, and through her you had lost your soul—what would you have done? Could you have been better than I am?"

I said nothing, and we never returned to the subject.

As time wore on this unfortunate man sank lower and lower. Rum held him in a firmer grasp, and by and bye he was never sober. He might go hungry, but he never wanted a dram. His clothes were in tatters, and his sockless feet protruded through his boots, but there was always the wherewithal to procure drink. One day a visitor to the cemetery on Quadra street discovered "F. F. D." lying on a grave, slowly bleeding to death. He had cut the veins of one of his wrists after writing on scraps of paper loving messages to his few friends. Hon. Dr. Helmcken was sent for, and the unfortunate man was sent to the hospital in due course. In a few weeks he was out again, thoroughly sobered, but not for long. In a day or two he was seen reeling along the streets, muttering to himself. His reason was tottering. He soon lost his memory of faces and names. He wrote the most arrant nonsense. His splendid intellect was hopelessly wrecked. All his vast knowledge—the rich store of information which he had acquired—became a mass of incoherency.

One morning he entered the bar of John Gordon (now McKay (now Peter Steele's) on Bastion Square and ordered a glass of rum, which he carried into the back room to drink, as was supposed, at his leisure. An hour later a man entered the back room, and there lay at all that remained of "F. F. D."—distorted and drawn, as one witness described it, his heels touching his head as if he were a bent bow. He had mixed strychnine with his drink.

And so miserably perished this cultured, amiable English gentleman, the erstwhile companion of noblemen and statesmen, who under other circumstances might have risen to a position of usefulness, but when the final roll is called great eminence in his own land. Let us hope that when the final roll is called he will not be overlooked, for he was good to the poor and friendless. He divided his last crust, and gave from his meagre stock of clothing that others more wretched than himself might live. If his sins were many, his suffering was great, and his charity was bounded only by his want of means.

Some weeks after Dean (now Bishop) Cridge had read the beautiful burial service of the Church of England over the dead man, and the long grass had come up and early spring flowers were blooming on the lonely grave, a man delivered to Chief of Police Bowden a rough pine box containing the earthly effects of the late "F. F. D." The "effects" consisted of a few rags of clothing, a master mason's apron, a long tress of auburn hair, a hymn book and a Bible. Mr. Bowden, who was skilled in Masonic lore, said that he found evidence that the dead man was a thirty-third degree Mason, and that he had once been master of a "swell" English lodge—a position to which no man who was not very high socially and wealthy could attain. He had suffered privation and distress, but the foolish pride which had kept him from accepting charity had prevented him from making a disclosure that would have raised up powerful friends and insured permanent relief. In the Bible, the 23rd Psalm, beginning "The Lord is my Shepherd," and in the hymn book that grand song of Cardinal Newman, "Lead, Kindly Light," were marked and scored and underlined with red ink.

May we not hope that when poor "F. F. D." reached the Better Land he found the "Shepherd" waiting him, and that the "Kindly Light" illuminated his path to a nobler and higher state of existence?

A CHINESE FETE.

Dress Rehearsal Will Be Held at Victoria Theatre Tonight.

There will be a full dress rehearsal for the coming production of "A Chinese Fete," which is being given by the Victoria Amateur Dramatic Comany under the direction of Mrs. H. D. Helmcken, instead of "San Toy," which was intended to be produced. "A Chinese Fete," which is similar in scope and has as bright music as "San Toy" will be played tomorrow and Saturday evenings and Saturday matinee and on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

ONTARIO HOUSE.

Legislature Will Open Session on March 1.

Toronto, Feb. 18.—Ontario legislature called to meet March 1.

FRENCH PLANTER SLAVE DEALERS

Blacks Who Escaped to British Subject's Plantation Carried Back By Force.

Steamer Aorangi brought news from the New Hebrides of how French planters had enslaved blacks employed on their plantations. A settler on Epi issued a mortal insult to offer him the means to fill his stomach or clothe his back.

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Elect Delegates This Evening

Victoria's Representation at Mining Convention to Be Fixed To-night.

Brief History of a Movement Which Has Culminated In Success.

Tonight at the City hall the members of the local branch of the British Columbia Mining Association will meet for the purpose of electing delegates to the convention which is to be held in Victoria on Wednesday night.

It is hoped that the attendance at this evening's meeting will be very large, as the matter which will engage attention is one of the most important which has ever mated in British Columbia for many years—the formation of a huge association which will embrace in its membership all in the province interested in the success of the mining industry, strive for the betterment of conditions affecting the welfare of that industry, and, generally, take such steps as are calculated to develop its growth and development on lines which will ensure its prosperous progress.

A little history of the movement which will resolve itself into definite action at tonight's meeting in Victoria, preliminary to the convention on Wednesday next, will be of interest at this time. The idea of the formation of such an organization was born of a conversation held in the reading room of the Hotel Driard only a few weeks ago. A party of Atlin miners had come down from the Atlin district with the object of completing organization of the mining interests represented in that district, so that conditions in Atlin might be freed from alleged legislative disabilities on the presentation of a strong case to the government, backed up by the strength of a solid local organization.

It was only by a co-incidence that Mr. J. B. Hobson, who is now president of the British Columbia Mining Association, happened to be in the city; and he met in a casual way the men from Atlin, and learned from them the object of their visit to Victoria.

"Why, that's a good thing! Why should not all interested in the mining industry in the province unite and form an association provincial in its scope?" remarked Mr. Hobson. And with the utterance of that remark, the British Columbia Mining Association, to the convention of which Victoria will tonight elect delegates, was born. Mr. Hobson explained the great success which had attended the formation of an all-state organization in California; the idea to take similar action in British Columbia was taken up with enthusiasm, and, as a result, public meetings were held in the Board of Trade rooms and definite steps taken to proceed with the consummation of a scheme which was admitted on all sides to be a splendid one.

A preliminary meeting was held on January 14, when a committee was appointed to draw up a report to be presented to a public meeting on the following day, January 15, a large and representative public meeting was held at the Board of Trade building, attended by numbers of working miners, mine managers, merchants, members of the legislature, professional men and others, who realized that the welfare of the mining industry means the welfare of the province. The chairman, Mr. Hobson, explained fully the objects of the new association. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, and it was realized that at length a means had been found which would ensure an uplifting of the mining industry from its present depression to a position of prosperous expansion.

The meeting recognized that owing to the spontaneous nature of the new scheme, no opportunity had been afforded to secure the co-operation of the people throughout the province, and it was decided to call a general convention, to be held in Victoria on February 25, when delegates from all districts would be able to attend and formulate a permanent organization.

The proposed association is not an untried experiment. Some years ago the mine owners of California found they had themselves hampered with a lot of unjust legislative conditions. A few individuals met together to discuss the situation and devise a remedy, and they started the California Miners' Association for the purpose. The idea was grasped immediately by the working miners, the mine owners, the merchants, farmers and others, and the result was that within a very short time the association succeeded in obtaining all the remedial legislation they required and the mining industry of the state increased by leaps and bounds, and brought prosperity to all other industries also.

With a view to overcoming obstacles, and securing for the mining industry the support which it deserves, it is proposed to form a large and representative association of miners, mine owners, merchants, bankers, farmers and professional men, none of whom in any case may be directly or indirectly interested in the mining industry. By this means, and apparently only by this means, can relief be secured for the industry and such favorable legislation as will restore confidence in foreign capitalists. If we can make our mining industry prosper, every other industry in the province will naturally and necessarily share in such prosperity. The present depression of nearly all such other industries is the natural and necessary result of the depression in mining. It is believed that the successful organization of the British Columbia Mining Association will ensure better conditions for the mining industry and thereby restore confidence in the magnificent mineral resources of this province.

At the meeting this evening in the City hall, 20 delegates to the convention will be elected. Vancouver is sending the same number, it having been decided at a recent meeting to limit the number of delegates from the two Coast cities to 20. This was done to remove any impression which might exist in the upper country that the convention was to be dominated by Coast influence.

At this evening's meeting, also, some consideration will of necessity be given to the question of the proper reception and entertainment of the visitors. The importance of the big convention bids fair to exceed the expectations of those most optimistic regarding the movement. Much attention is being paid to the scheme by the press of the entire province; and the wide publicity which has been given the announcement of the date and purposes of the convention ensures a very large and representative attendance.

There is a feeling in the city that the occasion of the convention will be one of sufficient importance to warrant an effort being put forth by Victoria to mark in some special way its recognition of the honor which has been done the city, in choosing it as the permanent headquarters of the association, and the circumstance that benefits of an incalculable degree to the whole province will flow from its organization and proper management.

The various public bodies of the city have already signified their intention of heartily co-operating in the task of the reception and reception to the visitors most hearty. What particular forms of entertainment will be arranged during the stay of the delegates may be discussed this evening, but it has been suggested that it would be eminently fitting and appropriate to arrange for excursions to points on the Island where mining development is in progress, and for an attractive exhibit showing the various resources of Vancouver Island—mineral specimens, etc., etc., forming the larger part.

COAL IN ATLIN.

Vancouver, Feb. 19.—(Special.)—Murdock McKay arrived from Atlin today with the statement that he had struck the biggest seam of coal ever uncovered in America on Thaltan creek, ten miles from Telegraph creek. The coal is well defined for several miles, and is pronounced of the highest quality. McKay has staked out 2,600 acres and is forming a company to work it.

MARRIED A CHINAMAN.

Comely English Girl Wedded to Mongolian Rancher.

Edith Burnett, a tall, comely English girl, and John Toy, a Chinese rancher, of Yakima, were joined in wedlock last night by Rev. H. D. Brown, at his home, 502 Third avenue North, says the Post Intelligencer of yesterday. The couple left in a carriage for the St. James' Hotel immediately after the ceremony and intend returning today to North Yakima, where, according to their statement, they will live.

From assertions made by acquaintances and from the actions of the woman herself, the marriage has the appearance of a business transaction on the part of both man and wife. Before uttering the words which would make her a wife, Edith Burnett called the minister aside, showed him a note for a large amount of money, signed to her by Toy, and asked if it was good.

KLONDIKE RAILWAY.

Dawson Wants to Be the Terminus.

Vancouver, Feb. 19.—(Special.)—Mr. Christie, who is largely interested in the Klondike Mines railway with Mr. Hawkins, the promotor, states that Dawson is anxious to have the terminal of the line in that city, and Mr. Hawkins is at present in Dawson trying to arrange matters. Making Dawson the terminus means that a very expensive bridge will have to be built across the Klondike. The railway was going by Dawson on the lower ground, which would have enabled the road to get as much business at less expense. It is quite likely, however, that Dawson will bonus the road for the privilege of enjoying the name and results of being a railway terminus.

BIBLE SOCIETY.

Montreal, Feb. 19.—A conference of representatives of the British and Foreign Bible Society, took place here today, at which it was decided to observe Sunday, March 6th, 1904, as Bible Society throughout Canada and Newfoundland, and to raise a thank offering of at least $50,000 to aid the parent society in translating and circulating the Bible throughout the world.

Got Two Months.—Mrs. McDonald, who was convicted of stealing jewelry, as stated in yesterday's Colonist, from a house on Quadra street, was sentenced to two month's imprisonment in Magistrate Hall in the police court yesterday morning.

NEW LUMBER RAILWAY.

Victoria Lumber Company Building From Point on Ladysmith Bay.

Mr. Sam Erb, foreman of the Victoria Lumber Company's establishment at Chemainus, and Mr. Fry, C. E., took a gang of men up to the point on Ladysmith bay from which it is proposed to build a line of railway into the timber limits owned by the company. West of the line of the E. & N. The first work to be done will be the construction of a siding near the waterfront, from which point the remainder of the line will be laid to the camps. It is proposed to build in connection with the railway a wharf 400 or 500 feet long into Oyster harbor. From this wharf the logs will be shipped down to the mills at Chemainus. If the weather remains as good as at present it is expected that the work of constructing the railway will be completed by the end of the coming spring. The timber limits of the Victoria Lumber Company at the spot mentioned contain millions of feet of the finest timber. The line of railway comes to the shore about 2½ miles North of Ladysmith.

Provincial Constable D. McKinnon has resigned from the Ladysmith police force. His successor will be appointed immediately.

The millmen of Ladysmith have formed a union, and prices will in future be slightly higher. They attended in a body in Mr. Dillon's office this morning and in a short time the necessary documents were sealed and delivered and sent in for registration.—Ladysmith Leader.

EPIDEMIC OF BURGLARIES

Germania Saloon Entered and Cash Register Pilfered—Two Women Arrested.

Within the past few days there has been an epidemic of thefts and burglaries. The Germania saloon was entered on Tuesday night and the cash register pilfered of $16 or $17. The thieves entered the saloon by breaking in over the transom and forcing a couple of doors. The saloon is owned by W. Thiemson. The thieves have not been captured.

Yesterday about noon a woman of the town, known as Irene, was arrested, charged with stealing $14 from the room of a teamster. He had gone to his room to rest and was lying asleep on his bed when the woman entered. He woke and saw her in the room, and when she left he found $14 missing. She was arrested on suspicion of stealing the money.

Mrs. McDonald, who has been rooming on Quadra street, was also arrested yesterday, charged with the theft of jewelry from another house, two blocks away from her room on Quadra street. Mrs. McDonald's husband went away on Tuesday, and yesterday morning she went to look for other rooms. She was looking through a room at Miss Simpson's residence, No. 52 Quadra, and after she left the place a gold watch, two gold chains and a locket were missing. Suspicion attached to Mrs. McDonald, and she was arrested. Search showed the jewelry hidden in her clothes.

Frank Moore and George Stone, the two thieves who plundered a number of places from Chinatown to Oak Bay, are also alleged to be guilty of at least one hold-up incident. During January a Chinese domestic employed at the McTavish restaurant, was sent on his errand, and was going down Church Hill, when a man stepped out from a gateway and put a revolver in his face. John, being a wise Chinaman, threw up his hands, and another man stepped out and went through his pockets. They got 55 cents—it was all the Chinaman had. They returned the purse, and gave the Chinaman a nickel, appropriating the four bits.

Sergt. of Provincial Police Frank Murray and Provincial Constable Cox left for New Westminster last night with Gallagher and Farrel, the two sailors of the ship Ancona, who so brutally assaulted Otto Haas at the Globe hotel at Esquimalt, and were sentenced to two and a half years' imprisonment in the penitentiary by the court. It is not generally known that the two sailors endeavored to create a mutiny on board the Ancona during the voyage North from San Francisco to William Head, where the vessel was quarantined. The assault for which they were sent to prison took place a few days after their release from quarantine.

ABUSED FATHER DAMIEN'S MEMORY

Agitation For Dismissal of Museum Curator at Honolulu On Those Grounds.

According to advices received from Honolulu by the steamer Aorangi, local authorities are trying to secure the discharge of Professor Wm. D. Brigham from the position of superintendent of the Bishop Museum. Abuse of the memory of the late Father Damien is the cause. The principal charges against Professor Brigham are the violent controversy that was waged between the late Robert Louis Stevenson and Dr. C. M. Hyde, regarding the moral and other conduct of the late Catholic priest while at the leper settlement on the island of Molokai. Despite Stevenson's earnest and able defence of the late priest, there are many of the old residents of the Hawaiian Islands who do not accord to Father Damien the halo of a saint. In fact, they declare him to have been the reverse of saintly. Professor Brigham appears to be one of this number.

Last week a party of nine consisting of two of whom were Catholics, visited the Bishop Museum. Professor Brigham took particular interest in the party and escorted them about the institution. The party happened to pause before the bust of the late Father Damien. "Who is this?" inquired one of the visitors.

"Oh, that is Father Damien, a Catholic priest who used to be at the leper settlement," Professor Brigham is reported to have replied, "and a bigger rascal never lived."

This announcement caused quite a sensation among the visitors. Professor Brigham is reported to have added shock to surprise by relating some of the charges of immorality that have been made against the late prelate. According to the impression that Professor Brigham is reported to have given his visitors, instead of being the upright, religious leader of the unfortunate lepers, Father Damien was a most immoral man. Not only was he charged by Professor Brigham with indulging in improper conduct with the sisters of the settlement, but he was alleged further to have extended his amours to the natives, and even carried his license to such bounds as to consort with women openly. Of course, with the disease. Evidence of such immoral conduct, declared Professor Brigham, were to be found in the number of Japanese who still survive. They, Father Damien did finally contract the disease and die of it, is a known fact.

The remarks made by Professor Brigham were made known to the local Catholic mission. The news caused indignation prevailed. The memory of no other man in the Hawaiian Islands is so revered as is that of the late priest. The trustees of the Bishop Museum and Kamehameha School, which are the largest institutions of the kingdom of the islands, where native children are educated, are asking for the removal of Professor Brigham. At present, his statements regarding Father Damien, with the single exception that he had died of the leprosy, were pronounced to be false. The matter is now under consideration by the trustees.

"What's the matter, Bill? You look kind o' weatherbeaten this morning." "That's exactly what I am. I bet $5 it would rain yesterday, and it didn't."—Chicago Tribune.

TO STRENGTHEN HOME FLEET.

Admiralty Announces Important Reorganization in Navy.

London, Feb. 19.—The Admiralty announces an important re-organization of the home fleet, under the separate command of Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur K. Wilson, who will relinquish his command of the Channel squadron in May. It is understood that, owing to the increase of Germany's Baltic and North Sea naval power, the Government has decided to largely strengthen the home fleet.

Lord Chas. Beresford's appointment to succeed Vice-Admiral Wilson in command of the Channel squadron is also officially announced.

RESIST GENDARMES.

French Peasants Oppose Closing of Religious Schools.

Paris, Feb. 19.—There was a revival today of the religious disturbances which characterized the closing of the Congregationist schools in Brittany last summer. The nuns have re-opened their schools at the village of Saint Meen near Lesneven. The police commissary, accompanied by gendarmes, proceeded to serve the order to close the schools. When he arrived the church bell sounded and 300 peasants gathered yelling "Death to the commissary." Showers of stones greeted the gendarmes, who, however, forced their way through the crowd and into the school. The commissary read the order to the Lady Superior, who promised to depart within a week.

TRANS-CANADA ROAD.

Mr. Talbot Makes a Speech in Vancouver.

Vancouver, Feb. 19.—(Special.)—O. E. Talbot, one of the promoters of the Trans-Canada railway spoke before the Board of Trade tonight. He said the British Columbia Government promised the road 2,000 acres of land a mile for 100 miles in British Columbia, provided the company got the grant they were asking for from the Dominion Government. The Board will give moral support to the projected road by resolutions to the Dominion and Provincial Governments.

Victoria Driving Company Ltd.

New Organization to Promote Horse Racing In This City.

Incorporation Will Be Secured and the Work Started Immediately.

An enthusiastic meeting of the promoters of the newly organized Victoria Driving Company was held at the rooms of the Tourist Association last evening when the preliminary steps were taken to have the club incorporated. The rooms were crowded to its capacity and the launching of the association was effected under the most favorable auspices. The Driving Association has been organized with the primary object of encouraging all things in connection with horse racing in this city, and is intended to act as a helper to the Agricultural Association. It is not intended to confine membership to those directly interested in horses, but to include all who have the welfare of the city at heart. In this way much valuable assistance will be given the Agricultural Association in the public holding annual fairs in this city. The first work to be undertaken will be the placing of the Driving park track in first-class shape. With this idea in view, the club ask the hearty co-operation and support of all citizens.

Mr. J. H. Greer occupied the chair. The first business was the reading of the draft constitution and articles of association of the club. These had been prepared by a committee appointed at the last meeting. The report was adopted as read.

The election of permanent officers was next in order for consideration, in order that the incorporation of the club might be proceeded with without delay. Mr. W. McKeon moved that Col. the Hon. E. G. Prior be elected honorary president of the association, and this was carried. Mr. Hanna moved that R. Hall, M.P.P., be elected honorary vice-president, and this carried, as did Dr. A. Hume as second vice. Dr. Frank Hall's name was proposed as president of the club and this received unanimous assent. Dr. Hamilton, M.S., vice-president; A. E. Wade, treasurer, and D. A. Upper, secretary, were the balance of the officers. It was decided on for the current year. Geo. Kinnie, R. H. Greer, J. Morris, W. J. Murphy, W. J. McKeon, Dr. S. F. Tolmie, M.S., R. C. Davies, and S. White were elected as a committee of management.

The chairman reported that about $300 had already been subscribed in $5 subscriptions, and the probabilities were that many would take a much larger number of shares if asked. The capital stock of the association has been fixed at $10,000.

The secretary and treasurer were authorized to attend to the immediate incorporation of the association. It was requested that all who have signed for shares will pay the amount to the secretary, Mr. Upper, forthwith, in order that the expenses of incorporation may be met promptly.

The chairman stated that it was intended to organize amateur races to take place at the Driving park on the 23rd of May, provided the track could be put in good shape by that time. Mr. Upper reported that it had been the intention of the Agricultural Society to hold a meet on the 22nd and 23rd of May, and it had been estimated that this would require about $2,000 in prizes. According to their plans, this would leave a balance of about $500 to the good. The matter had been handed over to the city, as the Agricultural Society was not in a position to handle the matter. The question was left in abeyance.

Hearty votes of thanks were tendered to J. W. Taylor and D. A. Upper, the former for his kindness in attending to the work of incorporation, and the latter for his generous offer to undertake the work pertaining to his office without remuneration. Another vote of thanks was tendered to the Tourist Association for the use of the rooms.

The promoters, meeting then adjourned, after which a meeting of the directors was held, when the following committees were struck:

Track—Messrs. Hamilton, White, Tolmie and McKeon.

Finance—Messrs. Wynne, Greer and Morris.

Printing and Advertising—Messrs. Hanna, Davies and D. A. Upper. The first named in each case being chairman of the committee.

The next meeting of the directors will be held as soon as the work of incorporation has been completed.

MACEDONIAN LEADER.

Arrests Will Not Stop the Avalanche.

Vienna, Feb. 19.—President Michaelovski of the Central Macedonian committee was arrested under order of Bulgarian Government on February 13, he has been interviewed in the prison at Sofia. He asserted that the arrest of the Macedonian leaders had not restrained the Macedonian avalanche and declared that the Bulgarian and Russian Macedonian question.

Black Hole Of Calcutta

Interesting Facts Regarding the Location of the Awful Death Chamber.

It Was Discovered By R. Roskell Bayne Formerly of Victoria.

In the course of his speech at the unveiling of the Holwell monument at Calcutta, Lord Curzon, viceroy of India, made the following reference to the late R. Roskell Bayne, M.R.I.B.A., C.E., a former resident of Victoria, having lived here from 1891 to 1901, dying in the latter year, and being buried at Ross Bay), the discoverer of the site of the famous "Black Hole" of Calcutta:

SITE OF THE "BLACK HOLE."

Nearly twenty years ago Mr. Roskell Bayne, of the East Indian railway, made a number of diggings and measurements, and I was fortunate enough when I came here to find a worthy successor to him and co-adjutor to myself in the person of Mr. G. R. Wilson, of the Indian Education Department, who had carried Mr. Bayne's enquiries a good deal further, cleared up some doubtful points, corrected some errors, and fixed with accuracy the exact site of the "Black Hole" and other features of the fort. All of these sites I set to work to commemorate while the knowledge was still fresh in our minds. Wherever the outer