Hall Mines and The Athabasca

Further Capital Voted to Improve the Great Nelson Property.

Shareholders Take No Stock in the Rumors of Mismanagement.

From the London Financial News.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Hall Mines, Limited, was held yesterday, at Winchester House, E. C., for the purpose of considering a resolution increasing the capital of the company. Sir Joseph W. Trutch, K. C. M. G. (chairman of the company), presided.

The secretary (Mr. A. E. Ashley) having read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said: I have now to move that the resolution set forth in the notice calling the meeting, which has just been read by the secretary, be passed. The statement which the directors have circulated with this notice appears to me—and I believe you will all have found it so—so clear in conveying to you the facts upon which we have found it necessary to come to you to-day to consider the resolution, that I feel it would be superfluous for me to enlarge on that statement. I could only reiterate and elaborate what is so clearly set before you there, and you would not thank me for detaining you by such reiteration. The main points that I would call your attention to in placing the resolution before you are that, as is stated in the notice, your board of directors found it requisite in order to carry on our business that we should obtain more capital. We came to the conclusion that the best way to obtain that capital was by the issue of debentures; but when we placed those debentures before the shareholders we did not find so much encouragement as we had hoped for, and we were told that in order to ensure these debentures being taken up we should have to make them convertible into ordinary shares. Therefore we have to call you together that you may put us in the position of increasing the capital of the company in order to carry out that measure. The objects for which we desire to obtain this additional capital have been already communicated to you, at the last general meeting in December, both by myself and, more in detail, by the report from Mr. Hardman, a scientific gentleman whom we sent out to report on the mine. It is necessary that the development of the mine, in order to render the property more productive, should be pushed on ahead of stoping work. That is one of the main purposes for which we have asked you to assist us in obtaining additional capital. Next we find it requisite that we should satisfy the requirements of our bank by reducing the overdraft which stands to our debit, so as to bring it down within the amount for which the bank holds security. These are the two main objects for which we sought to obtain additional capital. Further than that, I might refer to the desire that we entertain whenever a favorable opportunity occurs—that is to say, when we become more thoroughly satisfied than we are to-day of the extent and duration of our mine—to put up electrical plant, which would very much reduce the cost of working the mine and the smelter. We are advised, and we believe, that by the expenditure of £10,000 to £12,000 we can reduce the cost of power both at the smelter and at the mine to such an extent that within two years we shall have been repaid in the reduced cost of working the whole of the disbursement which we shall be called upon to make in putting up these works; but, until from the further progress of the development work we are satisfied of the permanence and productiveness of the mine, we do not propose to enter into such expenditure. I really do not know that I can usefully say anything more, further than that if any shareholder would like to have any additional information or explanation on any matter, I shall be pleased to endeavor to give him a satisfactory answer. I now beg to move: "That the capital of the company be increased to £350,000,000 by the creation of 50,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each, and that the said new ordinary shares be issued or disposed of to such persons on such terms and conditions, in all respects and at such times, as the directors think fit."

Mr. Robert Day seconded the resolution.

Mr. T. Poultney Griffin said he should like to ask one question before the resolution was put. He happened to be in British Columbia in July last, being very much interested in an adjoining property, and he visited the Hall Mines and the smelter on the very day that Lord and Lady Aberdeen went over the property, and the general impression conveyed to him at the time was that they had a very extensive smelter and very little profitable work doing. (Hear, hear.) There was a large quantity of low-grade country ore coming from the mine, but it was not carefully picked, and consequently the result, after passing the smelter, did not show sufficient profit to pay the cost of working. The general impression in the neighborhood was that they had a very valuable property, but that it was sadly mismanaged. (Hear, hear.) He should like to know, therefore, whether the management at the mine was the same now as it was in July last, and whether any instructions had been sent out that more care should be taken in selecting the ore sent to the smelter.

The Chairman: I may answer that question at once. Of course, the instructions are that all care should be taken not to send down ore that will not realize 15 oz. of silver to the ton, which it has been found by experience is sufficient to more than pay all the smelting expenses. The ore that has been taken out of late is certainly of a lower grade than we used to work, and much of it comes from the development work which is being carried on. Of course, it is difficult at times to discern accurately what is and what is not payable ore. As it is taken out it all has to come to the surface, but you may depend upon it that the management, whether here or at Nelson, is not likely to bring down the mountain any ore that will not repay the cost of transit and smelting. With regard to what the last speaker had heard at Nelson as to the mismanagement of the mine, I may say it is not the first time we have heard of this talk. All I can say is we shall be glad to avail ourselves of any specific information that anybody can give us as to where the management is bad, and in what respect it can be improved. We have said this before, but up to the present time, though many complaints have reached us, there has not been a single suggestion or any practical improvement that could be carried out either at the mine or at the smelter. We cannot, therefore, merely because we are told generally that the property is badly managed, satisfy ourselves that it is so. We know perfectly well that there are influences in and around Nelson that are leading to that being made, so to speak, a popular cry; but we cannot be guided by that, and I can only repeat that if you can give us some practical suggestion, or state in some practical way what is wrong, we shall be very glad indeed to act upon such information.

Mr. Dean Shelton said that he happened to visit Nelson about the same time as Mr. Griffin, and he could truthfully endorse every word that gentleman said as to the ore that was being brought down.

The Chairman, in reply to the last speaker, said that he could only refer him to the report of the impartial scientific man who had been sent out last year to examine the mine, and who stated that it was one of the best managed mines in the Colony. His report had been in the hands of the shareholders, and he did not think it was necessary to do more than refer them to the statements made in that report. With regard to the completion of the shaft, the superintendent's letter of March 7, which had already been circulated to the shareholders, gave them every information.

Mr. Day said that he would like to answer the statement made by one of the speakers that the ore coming down from the mine was not payable. As a matter of fact, they had made a profit every month, and a good profit.

In reply to other questions the Chairman said that it was true that, although they had made a profit of £5,000 for the four months to the end of January, that was after defraying all expenses and allowing for depreciation, and so far as the accounts to the end of February had been audited in the office—they had not been passed by their auditor yet—he might say that between October 1 and the end of February, taking into account what they had paid for development work, and what they had written off for depreciation of plant and buildings, the total profit had been between £12,000 and £13,000, and the net profit had been over £12,000 a month. He would also remind the shareholders that they had an interest in other properties in the same neighborhood, which were at present being prospected and although there was no definite information that could be given, he could say that the prospect in some of these was very favorable. In one property they had discovered a streak of gold quartz that seemed very likely to turn out a payable stroke. They had also options on other properties which were likely to yield payable quantites of copper. Another important point which had been touched on by one of the speakers was that they were able to use their smelter for the purpose of treating the ore from surrounding properties, and they looked forward to considerable profits from that source. As to the issue of debentures, he might say that there had already been applied for debentures to the amount of £24,450. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. P. Schweder said he was very glad to hear that authoritative statement, as it effectually disposed of many idle stories that were being circulated about the debenture issue.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried, with two dissentients, and the proceeding terminated.

BAZAAR AND FANCY FAIR.

St. John's Church Ladies Will Hold Their Annual Sale and Entertainment on Wednesday.

The ladies of St. John's will hold their annual bazaar and fancy fair in the A. O. U. W. hall, Yates street, on Wednesday next, May 10. The bazaar will be opened at 3 o'clock by Mrs. McInes. There will be various amusements during the afternoon and evening, and a promenade concert under the direction of Dr. Robertson. The ladies having prepared a number of beautiful fancy articles, dainty little children's dresses, ladies' fancy and kitchen aprons, etc., extend a hearty welcome to the public, and trust they will give them their kind support.

Bantly's band has been engaged for both afternoon and evening.

KNIGHTS TO MEET.

Grand Lodge of British Columbia to Be in Session Here Next Week.

The Knights of Pythias of the province will gather in Victoria next week for the tenth annual convention of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, which opens for business in Pythian hall on Tuesday morning at 9. A reception committee composed of Past Chancellors A. E. Greenwood, Thomas Gold, E. J. Wall and F. Leroy, appointed by Victoria and Far West lodges, have completed arrangements for the entertainment of the visiting knights, which includes a drive around the city on Wednesday and a banquet in Pythian hall on Wednesday evening. The banquet will be under the management of Mr. E. E. Leeson, of the Hotel Victoria. It is expected that the business will be completed in two days.

The lodges that will be represented are Far West, Wellington, Granville, Nanaimo, Phoenix, Royal Rathbone, Damon, Langley, Benevolence, Granite, Victoria, Coldstream, Crusader, Primrose, Rossland, New Denver, Trail, Sandon, Nelson and Revelstoke.

The present Grand Lodge officers are: James Haddow, G. C.; W. D. Mearns, G. V. C.; J. W. Graham, G. Prel.; E. Pferdner, G. K. R. S.; E. E. Leeson, G. M. of Ex.; J. L. Brown, G. M. at A.; Ed. V. Goulet, G. I. G.; Robert Sample, G. O. G. H. J. Anstie, S. R.; T. Ackerman, S. R.; and J. E. Evans, T. P. G. C.

Besides these officers there will be 23 representatives in attendance as follows: No. 1, D. T. Barnhard; 2, D. Griffith and James McMillan; 3, James Irvine; 4, George Johnstone and Robert Rivers; 6, William Wolz; 7, G. W. DeBeck; 8, John Little; 13, John McDonald; 14, John P. Struthers; 15, R. S. Henderson; 16, A. Ferguson; 17, J. J. Randolph and E. P. Nathan; 18, no representatives; 19, H. Hoffmeister; 20, G. D. Brown; 21, A. G. Creelman; 22, C. F. Nelson; 23, N. Binns; 24, W. T. Williams; 25, W. J. Thompson; 26, J. G. Allen.

A WISE DOG.

Sir: An instance of canine intelligence, bordering on reason, took place the other day. My paper, having been mutilated, I spoke to the cocker spaniel, as I lifted the paper: "Now, Sappho, you musn't tear the paper." Her head went on one side, the speaking eyes seemed to say: "All right, Governor, it shan't occur again." Next morning my daughter witnessed a novelty, for Sappho, my dog, seeing the approach of another friend rose and laid herself squarely over the paper, there remaining immovable, notwithstanding the blandishments and caresses of tother doggie to induce her rising to discuss the news between them. C. F. MOORE.

A Change To the Utopia

The Geo. E. Starr Will Retire This Week From Sound Route.

Schr. Umbrina Arrives Home—Delayed Cargo of Cannery Supplies.

A change is to be made in the schedule for the steamer George E. Starr, which it is hoped will be an improvement on the service now being given. Commencing to-morrow, she will leave Seattle at 8:30 a. m., the time the Kingston used to leave Tacoma. She should arrive here at 5 in the afternoon. She will leave again in the evening for the Sound. On Friday next she will be replaced by the steamer Utopia, which is better able to handle the freight. Yesterday the freighter Oscar brought over a full load of delayed N. P. R. freight.

DELAYED CARGO.

Cannery Supplies That Will Be Too Late for This Season's Use.

The bark Drumlanrig, which was dismantled in a storm off the river La Plate some weeks ago, and was compelled to run into Montevideo for repairs, was to have resumed her voyage on the 25th of last month. This will not leave her due here for another couple of months, the time of arrival being altogether beyond the season when her cargo was to be used. Her cargo, which is consigned to Robert Ward & Co., Ltd., is pretty nearly all cannery supplies, of which she carries a very large load. Had no misfortune overtaken her, these would have been used this spring, but now, it is said, all will have to be held over until next year.

THE STARR'S BURDEN.

List of Passengers and Freight Landing by the Sound Steamer.

It was about 1:30 a. m. when the mail steamer George E. Starr, due from the Sound at 4:15 p. m. yesterday, drifted into Victoria, with the following:

Passengers—W. H. Harris and wife, Mrs. F. W. Foster, W. E. Sutton, N. Hansen, Z. Chemter, Jno. Olsen, F. B. Lozier, H. Allan, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Hogan, J. C. Shores, Mrs. Shores, Mrs. Hoblet, Jno. Bennett, Jno. Hopp, Sam. Hills, P. Vanterpill, C. H. Thompson, A. McQueen, H. J. Shaw, Steve Brinker, Mrs. E. J. Gray, Miss Hastings, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Singer, Geo. Gardiner and wife, F. M. Black, Mrs. Bergman, Miss King.

Consignees—S. Leiser & Co., Henderson Bros., Brackman & Ker, D. H. Ross & Co., Nicholles & Renouf, B. C. Furniture Co., Colonist P. & P. Co., T. R. Cusack, T. N. Hibben & Co., L. Gonnason & Co., Weller Bros., J. R. Clancey, W. C. Grant, J. Piercy & Co., Order Victoria, F. C. Davidge & Co.

CITY OF SEATTLE IN.

With Forty Passengers From the North She will Spend Sunday at Victoria.

The rejuvenated City of Seattle arrived at the outer wharf at 11:30 last night, and after waiting until 12:45 for a customs officer—while the passengers freely expressed their opinion of the slowness of the town—was finally permitted to disembark her forty odd passengers from the north, all of whom will perforce spend the day here while the steamer undergoes inspection. The most interesting among the arrivals, and the latest out from Dawson, is Miss Howard, a business-like citizen of the Klondike capital, who left there on April 9 alone—save for her five dogs and their driver—on a flying trip through to San Francisco and return. Just before she left orders had been issued by Consul Ogilvie for the abandonment of the disputed water front strip.

"There have been just as good profits made this year at Dawson as last," she says, "only with less fuss about it. Of course there will be nothing doing now until after the thaw comes. Fires are about the only relaxation of the town. They've been getting about four a day on an average lately, but none of them amounted to much."

Miss Howard is probably the very last to come out until navigation—and even she had to make the latter part of her journey by shore detours. The other passengers ticketed to Victoria by the Seattle are: L. King, M. Banjoin, P. Martin, D. King, Mrs. H. Guthrie, G. W. Ross and John Newman.

Skagway is highly interested just now in a strike of gold made on Minnie Creek only four miles from the town.

GOLD ON PORCUPINE.

Two Prospectors Reach Skagway With a Sack of Nuggets From the District.

A Skagway paper received by the Tees yesterday says: "On Sunday morning A. G. Myers and Adolph Hochgesang, two hardy and experienced prospectors, returned from Calhoon creek, a tributary to the Porcupine, bringing with them a sack of gold nuggets taken from their claim after four days' work on the rim rock, causing considerable excitement. The men are perfectly reliable, and are experienced miners working in both Colorado and Montana. They located claims in company with Mr. Joe Martin and Tim Vogel of Haines, last fall on both Porcupine and Calhoon rivers, and jointly own placer claims of 80 acres on both streams. Six weeks ago they left Haines for the purpose of commencing development work on their claims. Owing to the great depth of snow, and high water, they decided to commence operations on Calhoon creek. After great effort they succeeded in uncovering at a depth of 9 feet the edge of the rim rock on this claim and followed the surface towards the bed of the river for four days with astonishing success they succeeded in obtaining $1.50 to the pan of coarse gold. The dip of the rim rock runs toward the center of the river and is composed of slate of an irregular shape and marked with a rough surface, and its creased seams holding deposits of gold. The location of this claim is on Calhoon creek, about two miles above its mouth, where it empties into the Porcupine four miles above Discovery claim on the Porcupine. In describing the country, they say that plenty of claims equally as good as their own will soon be developed, and are satisfied that many undiscovered claims can be had, including both placer and quartz.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE UNITY OF CHRISTENDOM.

To the Editor: As the annual special intercessions for the reunion of all Christians of the above association draws nigh, permit me to lay before your readers the objects of this society. In 1857 an association was formed in London, Eng., under the above title by members both of the clergy and laity of the Roman Catholic, Greek and Anglican Communions. It is hoped and believed that many however widely separated at present in their religious convictions, who deplore the grievous scandal to unbelievers, and the hindrance to the promotion of truth and holiness among Christians caused by the unhappy divisions existing amongst those who profess to have "One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism," will recognize the consequent duty of joining their intercessions to the Redeemer's dying prayer, "that they all may be one in Us, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." In joining the association no one is understood as thereby expressing an opinion on any matter which may be deemed a point of controversy, or on any religious question except that the object of the association is desirable. They are not asked to compromise any principles which they rightly or wrongly hold dear. They are simply asked to unite for the promotion of a high and holy end, in reliance on the promise of our Divine Lord, that "whatsoever we shall ask in prayer, believing, we shall receive," and that "if two of you agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father who is in heaven." The daily use of a short form of prayer, together with one "Our Father"—for the intention of the association—is the only obligation incurred by those who join it. There is no entrance fee or subscription of any kind required, in order that membership shall involve no obligation but prayer, and that those whom God hath "chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom' 'may not be hindered from joining the association. It 's hoped, however, that all, whether members or not, who wish well to the objects of the association and are able to contribute, will give according to their means to defray the necessary expenditure as the work of the association includes a large correspondence both at home and abroad. Following is the programme of the special nine days' prayer for the reunion of all Christians set for this year from May 12 to 21 inclusive: May 12, for faith in the power of prayer; 13, for cessation of all prejudices and bitterness; 14, for all Christians everywhere, 15, for the Bishops of the Catholic Church; 16, for the Roman Communion; 17, for the Eastern Communion; 18, for the Anglican Communion; 19, for all Christians who have the Apostolic ministry; 20, for all Christians without the Apostolic ministry; 21, for the reunion of Christendom. Having been appointed a local secretary of the association for British Columbia I would be pleased to receive the name of any person of any Christian body desirous of joining the association.

HAROLD BURNETT,

THE SOUND SERVICE.

Sir: It becomes apparent that if any steps are to be taken to secure improvement in the Victoria-Seattle steamboat service, they must be taken by Victorians. The interest taken by the steamship company appears to be as mild as the feeling arising under the influence of platonic affection of the purest type. The fact that with the old tub now on the route they can gross $500 to $600 per day on an outlay of less than $250, probably tends to prevent any strenuous effort; and the restraining influence is strengthened by the further fact that the cost of chartering a suitable steamer would only leave a reasonable margin of profit, based on the experience of the past, that Victorians will take without complaint or resentment any treatment accorded them, doubtless accounts for the keeping of the City of Seattle on the Alaska run. Victorians have for years given very profitable business to the Northern Pacific, and must be highly gratified at the method the company has adopted in the present instance of showing an interest in our welfare.

In the meantime, the unfortunates whom necessity compels to travel between Victoria and Seattle have to pass through an experience of filth and misery, wretchedness and degradation, in which existence is only rendered possible by the fact that the officials on the steamer are efficient, courteous and attentive.

A prompt, effectual and greatly needed remedy would be a notification from our importers that until the service is placed on a proper basis no freights will be routed via Great Northern or Northern Pacific, and that existing routings will be cancelled so far as possible. The railway wants the Victoria business, and are going to give a service that will take it—no worse and no better—so that action would be a matter of hours, not days, after receipt of the notification.

R. T. ELLIOTT.

Regular Meeting—The regular monthly meeting of the J. B. A. A. will be held this evening, when several new members will be elected.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

CURE

Sick Headache and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing

SICK

Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured

HEAD

Ache they would be almost priceless to those who suffer from this distressing complaint; but fortunately their goodness does not end here, and those who once try them will find these little pills valuable in so many ways that they will not be willing to do without them. But after all sick head

ACHE

is the bane of so many lives that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not.

Carter's Little Liver Pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills make a dose. They are strictly vegetable and do not gripe or purge, but by their gentle action please all who use them. In vials at 25 cents; five for $1. Sold by druggists everywhere, or sent by mail.

CARTER MEDICINE CO., New York.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.

CATCHES OF COAST SEALERS.

The Umbrina Returns With Fair Profits for Her Spring Expedition.

Yesterday saw the return to port of the sealing schooner Umbrina, which has a total of 441 skins to show for her spring expedition. Her trip had been barren of unusual incidents, Captain Macdonald's report being summarized in the observation: "Fine weather, but few seals—they've gone north." The Umbrina just prior to her home-coming, and when she was making the run down the Island coast to land her native hunters at Ahouset, reported a number of the fleet that still are out, these including the following: The Penelope, spoken on April 13, with 240 skins; the Ainoka, four days later, with 308; the Arietes, on April 24, with 363; and the Otto, April 26, with 714—it was blowing a gale when this vessel was spoken, and her master may have been misunderstood. Captain Macdonald took his report for 714, but one of the crew understood it as 314. The Viva when spoken had 402 skins, and the Dora Sieward, which is now in Clayoquot, 318.

NAVIES COMPARED.

How the Rest of the World Would Look Lined Up Against the British.

Just at the present moment the war bugles are not heard in their full blast, so we will take a breathing space and look around us, and examine the strength of our possible enemies.

The figures given below represent the number of men in the armies of the principal powers when on a peace footing, and though in most cases these numbers would of course be possible of great expansion in case of hostilities, the figures as they stand may nevertheless be taken as forming a unit of comparison:

	Officers and men.
Russia (in Europe)	791,802
Germany	585,440
France	546,044
Austria-Hungary	358,627
Italy	231,355
Great Britain and Ireland	163,569

Germany and France are therefore equal, theoretically, but on a war footing the German army would reach close on 3,000,000, as against 2,500,000 French; Russia (in Europe) being a close third with 2,455,000, while Austria-Hungary could in such event put 1,872,200 men in the field, Italy 1,268,300, and Great Britain and Ireland 369,700.

No official returns of the German army are now published, and the estimate of 3,000,000 is therefore hypothetical. With 14.277 soldiers per 1,000 inhabitants in time of peace and 64.907 per 1,000 in time of war, France leads the way as a military nation, for she possesses the largest army in Europe in proportion to the number of inhabitants. Russia, in spite of her huge European population of 106,114,589, has on a peace footing only 7.463 per 1,000, and on a war footing 23.139 per 1,000. To this we may add that the Statesman's Year Book" for 1898 gives the population of the chief countries in Europe, as follows:

	Population.
Russia (in Europe)	106,114,589
Germany	52,279,915
Austria-Hungary	44,448,474
Great Britain and Ireland	40,000,000
France	38,517,975
Italy	31,290,490

Russia's army would probably prove the weakest in case of war, as she has an extensive frontier to be protected, necessitating many large fortified garrisons, and consequently thousands of soldiers, on the outbreak of hostilities, with a neighboring country but of little practical service.

We now turn to the navies of these powers. The armies of Europe are compared with difficulty, but the task is infinitely greater to compare the navies, seeing that there is no regular system of classification adopted. Again, it is a moot point whether a country is worst off which has good sailors and bad ships, or that which has bad sailors but good ships. The comparisons that are given below are of the number of ships and the number of men; but such statements cannot, of course, positively determine the absolute strength of the navies, which can only be got at by careful inquiry into the age and condition of the various ships. However, we must do our best with the material at our disposal.

I have attempted in this article to illustrate the effective strength of the powers, and it will be noticed in the table given below, based on a table that appeared in the Pall Mall Magazine, that the number of British and French ships is corrected to date:

	Great Britain.	France.	Russia.	Italy.	Germany.
Battleships, built	52	27	12	15	17
Now building	12	8	10	2	5
Cruisers, built	15	14	15	..	11
Now building	..	..	1	..	..
Cruisers, built	129	55	16	19	31
Now building	32	20	6	5	10
Torpedo boats, built	98	211	174	142	113
Now building	..	38	..	2	9
Torpedo vessels, built	35	13	17	15	2
Now building	..	2	..	..	..
Destroyers, built	50	..	1	..	..
Now building	46	8	28	1	1
Special ships, built	3	1	5	2	1
Now building	..	..	1	..	..
Total	472	397	286	203	200

The average displacement of the battleships of these powers is estimated to be:

	Tons.
Great Britain	11,345
Russia	10,326
Italy	9,875
France	9,725
Germany	6,698

Italy's two big battleships are the Italia, 15,407 tons, and the Lepanto, 15,549 tons. With the exception of these, the largest vessels of the European powers belong to what is called the Spencer programme (British), those of the Magnificent and Illustrious type, each vessel having a displacement of 14,900 tons. The two largest of the Russian fleet are the Rossia, 12,300 tons, and the Rurik, 10,933 tons. The value of the British fleet, including ships building, may be put in round figures at £97,000,000. An examination shows that the largest battleships at present under construction for the various navies are:

	Tons.
British—*Impalacable and two others	15,000
French—Bouvet and one other	12,012
Russian—Peresvyet and one other	12,674
German—Knoig Wilhelm and two others	10,875
Italian—Ammiraglio di Saint Bon and one other	9,645

*Since launched.

A writer in the Pall Mall Magazine says that if the value of the navy of the United Kingdom, as a collection of purely fighting machines, be taken as a 1,000, the other navies give the following figures:

United Kingdom	1,000
France	.....
Italy	.....
Russia	.....
Germany	.....
Austria-Hungary	.....

These facts and figures that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not. They are based on the latest information available, and may be taken as at least an approximate estimate of the position of the various powers in the matter of military and naval defence.

SEYMOUR HASTINGS O'DELL.

Victoria, B. C., May 4, 1899.

Claude Irving, of Duncan, is spending a few days at the Occidental, en route to Cariboo, where he proposes to engage in mining.

Mr. Sifton's Manifold Sins.

For Less Sir Hector Langevin Retired from Conservative Cabinet.

Manitoba Minister's Checquered Course Since He Outbid Martin.

From the Mail and Empire.

Let there be no mistake about the meaning of the fight in parliament over the Yukon scandals, which for months past have shocked Canada, and have disgraced us in the eyes of the civilized world. Sir Charles Tupper demands that the complaints of official corruption, of official robbery and claim-grabbing and of mismanagement generally, shall be thoroughly investigated by impartial men, capable of prosecuting such an enquiry. On the part of the Government the attitude is an attitude of stubborn resistance to this proposal. It is admitted by Mr. Sifton that the call he has made, through Mr. Ogilvie, upon other people to come forward with charges, and to tell him where the wrong is, has been futile. No doubt the Government must have known from the first that when it appointed one of its own officers to sit in judgment upon itself, and when it challenged outsiders to do the work of discovery which any other trustees of public or private interests would do on their own account, it was guilty of a sham—another hoax upon the people. Yet with this sham acknowledged it stands forth and declares that so far as it is concerned no effort shall be made to reach the truth, or to root out the evil.

Obviously the scandal is the result of the importation of the Sifton principle into Federal affairs. Mr. Sifton is above all things a practical politician with an eye to the main chance. His appearance in the Manitoba arena was the signal for an exhibition of hitherto unheard-of nepotism. The family seems to have been unloaded upon the treasury, and even the father of the Young Napoleon scored a snug berth. Taking Mr. Martin's place, Mr. Sifton inherited the school law, and became the political Protestant to manipulate that question in the West, while Tarte operated on the other lines in Quebec. Mr. Sifton solemnly declared at a public meeting that he never could, and never would, alter this sacred enactment, and on this pledge, which turned out to be untrue, carried the province in 1895. In 1896 he was still shouting "No Popery," but when the party won in June of that year a change came over the spirit of his dream. Joe Martin was a candidate for the Federal cabinet. So was Mr. Sifton. Mr. Martin could not change the law, whereas Sifton, seeing that he was in the local government, could. If Martin had been taken to Ottawa, Mr. Sifton would have remained a political Protestant, and would have adhered to the school legislation. On the other hand, if Sir Wilfrid would take Mr. Sifton instead of Mr. Martin, then Mr. Sifton would be able to see new light, and to change the law as Mr. Tarte required. Under these circumstances, Sir Wilfrid had to abandon Martin and to take Sifton. The knifing of Joe Martin, together with the abandonment of his principles, were the influences which carried Mr. Sifton into the Federal cabinet.

The coming to Ottawa was heralded by tremendous laudatory notices in the Western press. It turned out afterwards that Mr. Sifton had employed a gentleman to write these fulsome articles with himself as the hero. It also transpired that the writer had been rewarded with an appointment. At Ottawa Mr. Sifton posed as a moralist. His first work, which had been commenced before he reached the cabinet, was the prosecution of a number of bogus ballot-box stuffing cases that he professed to have discovered. For this work he received the money in advance, distributing it among lawyers who took the cases, the celebrated Mr. Wade being one, and Mr. Sifton's cousin, Mr. Clarke, being another. This exploit robbed us of $19,000, and although designed to blacken the Conservative party, all that it proved was that a Manitoba J. P. appointed to office by Mr. Greenway had been guilty of illegal acts. Then followed a curious exhibition in Saskatchewan. Two Liberals had run for the vacant seat, and the defeated candidate entered a protest against the victor, Mr. Davis, charging him with corruption. This was settled by arrangement made at Ottawa, under which, in return for a sum of money and for a promise that the defeated candidate should run next time, and that the patronage should be distributed by a committee of four party men, the case was abandoned. Thus was bribery compounded.

Meanwhile Mr. Sifton was reorganizing the Interior Department on a personal and political basis. The deputy Minister was deposed, and Mr. Stuart, a politician from Mr. Sifton's town, took his place. The Indian Commissioner was thrown aside and a political gentleman received his position. Then ensued a general raid upon the offices. Acting under instructions, the political associations formed patronage committees to distribute "the stuff." As a result of these Tammany creations the Western service was speedily transferred to the spoilsmen. For some unexplained reason a special assault was made upon all officers who had fought during the Northwest rebellion, and in their place persons who had been on Reil's s[illegible] were appointed. One of these patr[illegible] committees unhorsed the postm[illegible] Battleford. Two of its mem[illegible] ed, on affidavit, that the of[illegible] guilty of gross part[illegible] were prosecuted f[illegible] guilty, and sent[illegible] Mr. Sifton pro[illegible] immigration [illegible] politician [illegible] R. P[illegible] su[illegible] con[illegible] ciple, [illegible] party [illegible] wrongs [illegible] among [illegible] the press [illegible] able verdict, the Yukon carnival, and finally the resistance of independent enquiry—all these matters point to the conclusion that the honor of the country and the just administration of its possessions require that Mr. Sifton should withdraw from the Government. No Imperial Minister whose work had been declared by unprejudiced and not unfriendly observers to be a disgrace to the country would be tolerated in office for a day. Certainly no Canadian Minister whose operations cannot be submitted to the searchlight should be allowed to continue to administer a great and valuable trust. Sir Hector Langevin went out when it was declared that he had not been sufficiently watchful or sufficiently careful, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier was one of the men who urged that he should go. Let Sir Wilfrid quiet the public mind and restore the good name of Canada by setting aside the man whom he took in under such queer circumstances, whose system of political administration is so fruitful of evil, and whose work in the Yukon he is afraid to submit to impartial examination.

IN THE HEIGHT OF FASHION.

A. A. Sandeman Explains His New System for Supplying the Neatest Creations of the Expert Tailor.

The familiar face and figure of Mr. A. A. Sandeman, who as a traveller has had many a good word to speak for Victoria, are again with the people of British Columbia's capital—while the owner of the face and form referred to is kept busy shaking hands and renewing past acquaintances. Mr. Sandeman is now a member of the R. Greene Manufacturing Company of London, one of the largest clothing manufacturing firms in the wide dominion. They are now reaching out for far western trade, and it is in this connection that Mr. Sandeman is here. Prefatory, he notes that the clothing business of Canada has recently taken a decided change, the public of today being decidedly averse to accepting such garments as in the past were quite acceptable as "ready mades." The "ready made" suit of to-day, it is demanded, shall be so perfect in fit and workmanship as not to be distinguishable in any way from the custom-made garments. And to meet this critical demand of the public, Mr. Sandeman's firm has very recently been obliged to establish an entirely new system and practically reorganize their immense factory, placing at the head of the working staff Mr. A. Christie—late foreman cutter and designer of one of the largest houses in New York city. Then a small army of skilled mechanics were engaged, the majority from the largest and most famous clothing establishments, and the system known as the Tract was adopted. By this system clothing is produced that is declared to be equal to the best custom-made. Under this system, twelve people compose each "set," and make coats from start to finish, producing a class of goods that could not be created by any other plan. Trousers, vests, overcoats, etc., follow on the same lines, each department or "set" having its separate sub-foremen, and the entire productions of the factory being in the highest style of the sartorial art. The Greene Company's goods will soon be on the market here, easily distinguishable by the trade mark "G" which each and every garment will bear. In introducing their lines the company will simply keep the public "posted" through the medium of the press on all the latest styles in gentlemen's garments in the leading centres, illustrating the descriptions with accurate cuts, supplementing the same by a judicious distribution of illustrated catalogues. Seeing these, the man who dresses well will know that in the G brand of clothing he can get a suit on the proper lines that will fit him, and which will be perfect in material and finish. It seems reasonable to suppose that among a people who wish to dress well and have at the same time enough sense to desire to have value for their money, nothing more should be necessary.

SPENCER AND SHAKESPEARE.

Rev. H. H. Gowen Concludes His Lecture Series With the Masterpieces of English Literature.

Rev. H. H. Gowen closed his interesting series of lectures on the masterpieces of English literature with his address on Shakespeare's "Hamlet," at St. Andrew's Presbyterian school last evening, the audience, although limited in numbers, being immensely appreciative—as it had been, indeed, on the previous evening.

In his Friday night talk on Spencer's "Fairie Queene," Rev. Mr. Gowen prefaced his remarks by giving a sketch of the development of English literature, showing the place of Elizabethean poetry in the history of the English language, its practical and positive character being emphasized. An outline was then given of the life of Edmund Spencer, his early poems, and the writing of the "Fairie Queene," while the author was acting as secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; followed by an account of his life in England until the year 1599, when he died—just three centuries ago.

"The Fairie Queene" was then considered, and as an allegory compared with Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." Its plan was described and the background of history from miserable, discontented Ireland of the time, and the Court of Elizabeth, the historical identification of a few of the character[illegible] being given, such as Sir Philip Sidney, Walter Raleigh and Lord Grey of [illegible] the lecturer then giving a sket[illegible] first book of the poem, work[illegible] significance of the allegory [illegible]

Dealing with Shakespe[illegible] of tragedy last night [illegible] remarks upon the [illegible] particular place [illegible] of Shakespe[illegible] the play [illegible] of the [illegible] play[illegible]