BUSINESS PROSPECTS.

We think it almost a pity that our Board of Trade when it decided to adopt a less comprehensive title did not also recommend somewhat less discursive annual reports. The title of the institution is now local, but its field is still provincial. It deals with many matters that properly come within the province of the provincial government, such as mining in general, agriculture and immigration, interests which are now, whatever may have been the case in the past, under the supervision of the proper authorities. If the Board has lost confidence in the government, a violent wrench must have been given its machinery. Nevertheless, it is easy to criticise. The contents of the report are in some respects interesting, are no doubt of value, and would be perused with avidity if it were not the season for light reading.

The Times gives its readers the document in full to-day. To those who do not feel equal to the task of devouring the whole thing and digesting it in a cool place, we may say that it shows all the industries of the province to be in a fairly healthy condition. Mining is advancing, if not literally by leaps and bounds, certainly in a satisfactory manner, considering the difficulties that have been encountered. There has been a decline in the prices of silver and lead, with a sympathetic, if not entirely satisfactory, decrease in smelter charges. The probability is that there will always be periods of discouragement in the history of this industry, as in every other to which man has applied his hand since he was condemned to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. The American smelter trust is the enemy of the British Columbia silver-lead miner, not because he is a British Columbian, but because it suits his purpose to limit production and to keep up the price "of that which he produces." The state of Colorado is proceeding against the combine and asking for its dissolution because it is applying the same screw to that state as it has been to this province. The evil is an exceedingly difficult one to remove. If it be possible to find a remedy it will be the duty of the Dominion government to apply it and there is no doubt that government will do all in its power to restore stability by overcoming the influence of that powerful trust. On this Island the prospects for great activity in the mining industry are excellent, as we all know who read the papers. The smelter of Crofton will soon be blown in, while that near Ladysmith is in course of construction. Mount Sicker, it is claimed (not by the report) is a veritable heap of treasure, its base and its sides being dotted with prospects which, if half of them develop into shippers, will make this district one of the richest on the continent. There is still a conflict of opinion in regard to our iron deposits. The Minister of Mines is not as hopeful as we would expect one of his sanguine temperament to be on this subject. He threw cold water on the enthusiasm of the board yesterday as he did on one of his optimistic followers in the House last session. Perhaps the views of the Colonel are merely a reflection of those of his able mineralogist, who is said to be exceedingly doubtful as to the value of many of our alleged mineral deposits. We have before us the annual report of the Minister of Mines. We were under the impression that the question of the value of our iron deposits was generally considered to be one for the most serious consideration of the department. Here is the amount of space that is given to it in a work of about 320 pages: "It has to be recorded that, as yet, very little iron ore, as such, has been mined in the province. There have been a few experimental shipments made and a considerable amount of development work carried on, but from the very nature of things iron ore to be handled at all necessitates an iron blast furnace to treat it, which is, as yet, not an accomplished fact in British Columbia, and will not be until sufficient development has been done to fully establish both the quantity and quality of ore supply to justify its erection. The statistics show that 5,746 tons of ore were shipped, which, as before stated, were used for experimental purposes or as a flux in smelting other ores." The foregoing seems to indicate that our contemporary and the Voters' League, which asserted and maintained that the battleship Oregon was built at the yards of the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, with British Columbia iron ore, and that it was proposed to build the Nebraska, another battleship, at Seattle, with the same material, went off at half cock. But this is a digression. We shall leave the Mineralogist in the hands of the Association, hoping that it may induce him to present something more definite in his next annual.

There is nothing new in connection with the placer mining industry. It is simply "plotting along." It is not by any means a back number, and is liable to treat the world to a surprise any day. It is one of the industries which develops in unsuspected places in a vast territory such as that of British Columbia.

The fishing industry, to be in harmony with the mood of some of its sisters, is also approaching a crisis in its career. That is also a matter in which there have been no new developments. The canners claim their business existence depends upon permission to take fish in traps. Their position seems reasonable, and it is hard to see how the Dominion government can longer refuse to place our fishermen in a position to complete effectively with their business rivals on the other side of the water. We note a movement among our deep cousins which proves they have lost none of their cuteness in the development of counter-demonstrations or feints. It is announced prominently in the newspapers that traps in Alaskan waters are to be destroyed by the United States government as deterimental to the industry. If the government of the State of Washington were to order the removal of all, or even a part, of the traps under its jurisdiction, then there might be reason to urge the Dominion authorities to bestow more consideration upon the subject before acceding to the wishes of the British Columbia canners.

The lumber industry was not in a prosperous state during the year 1901. There has been a revival during the present year, however, according to all accounts. The correspondents at Vancouver have reported the establishment of several of the largest shingle mills in the world. They are more up-to-date in their "data" than the Victoria Board of Trade.

There has been no change in the situation in regard to railways. It is self-evident that the legislation passed by the government in 1901 did not result in the construction of any new roads. The sections that have been built were built in spite of the opposition of the Ministers. Colonel Prior stated in the House during the course of the late session that he believed Mackenzie & Mann would build the Great Northern under the terms laid down by the government. At the meeting of the Board of Trade yesterday he expressed his doubts about it. Privately he is reported to have no doubt at all. He admits that he handed out a gold brick to the people of Victoria when he said in his appeal to the electorate that the contract he made his platform was a bona fide one, and that he would resign in case its terms were not fulfilled to the letter. The Board of Trade gave the Colonel its moral support in that campaign. It will support him again and be buncoed by him in just the same way if the occasion arises. Hence it does not command the confidence of the community to the extent it would if it kept itself aloof from such questionable alliances. The Board must bear a very large share of responsibility for the continuation in power of a government which possesses not the confidence of the people and can pass no legislation which will be of benefit to the province.

Attention is drawn in the report to the change that is slowly taking place in the business situation. The relations between the East and West are becoming more intimate with the opening up of improved means of communication. Goods not produced in the province are finding their way into the hands of consumers by a more direct route than formerly. This consummation was inevitable. And there is only one way to meet the situation. We must accommodate ourselves to the new conditions by devoting more attention to industries which are indigenous to the province. More than that, we cannot accomplish much by preaching about the iniquity of not patronizing home industries. Those industries must be made in all respects worthy of patronage. As long as there is such a discrepancy between the prices of commodities in the East as compared with commodities in the West as to be more than offset by the cost of transportation, etc., large quantities of goods will be brought in. We have no more right to dictate to small purchasers where they shall deal than we have to step in and tell the merchant that he shall not purchase his stock in other countries if he finds it to his advantage to do so. We have not reached that stage of protection yet.

As to immigration, we are afraid British Columbia will not fill up very rapidly with an agricultural class until the prairie lands are more thickly settled. The majority of people prefer land all ready for the plough, even with the severity of the climate, to the toil and expense of clearing in a heavily timbered country. Fortunes are being made in a few years on the great wheat lands. Our turn will come and a superior class of agriculturists with it, we may rest assured. People who make fortunes will not linger long upon the prairies. They will prefer life in a more genial clime. In the meantime we suppose there is nothing for us to do but to make the best of the situation by clearing all obstacles from the path of agriculturists who evince a desire to settle among us. We hope the repeated urgings of the Board of Trade will have a wholesome effect upon the government and that in the course of time its officers will be able to tell would-be settlers just where it is possible for them to put their foot upon soil that is not held by speculators.

KEEPING US UNDER.

What confirmed pessimists the London correspondents of the Associated Press are upon all subjects relating to Great Britain and colonies, and how gloriously optimistic they become when they are dealing with questions in which the United States is interested. We are told to-day that the federation of Newfoundland is utterly out of the question, although the Premier of the elder colony is of the opinion that it will not be long until the Confederation shall be properly and symmetrically rounded out. A few days ago we were informed it was impossible that anything tangible could result from the Colonial Conference. There were too many diverse interests to be considered. The Premier and the Chancellor of the Exchequer were as firm as adamant in their opposition to the demands of the Colonials, while the Premiers themselves were as far asunder as the poles in their ideas as to the first steps necessary towards the consolidation of the Empire. As a matter of fact, the Colonials made no demands whatever, and inasmuch as it is announced that an agreement has been reached as to the first move to be made in the direction of a closer union through the establishment of a fast and frequent steamship service across the Atlantic and the Pacific, we should judge that the Prime Ministers had at least one view in common after all. Perhaps there are others. Let us wait until the conference is over and see. If Salisbury and Hicks-Beach were obstacles, which is doubtful, they have been, or are about to be, removed.

Our troubles are not over in South Africa either, according to the same veracious authorities. The Boers not only refuse to take the oath (the greater, and one would think the more bitter, part of them, those who kept up the fight till the last ditch, have already taken it), but they are likely to indulge in a little war on their own account. Those who refused to surrender desire to chastize those who surrendered, as well as those who refused to fight at all. Then the British will become involved in the controversy, and the last condition of that convulsive country will be worse than the first. Then our doubts are raised as to the genuineness of these reports by others from another source. The war is not to cease. South Africa has been invaded already by the commercial and industrial hosts of Uncle Same and the decadent British are crying for quarter. Steamship companies are being organized in New York for the purpose of carrying goods and machinery of all kinds to the conquered territory. Look at the matter in any way you please and it is apparent that there is sore trouble in store for Great Britain in South Africa. She is not to be allowed to reap a rich harvest from her newly-opened fields. Perhaps it might have been judicious for our cousins to have put their commercial war off until the other had been finally settled. These conditions appear to be but a sample of the situation in all quarters of the globe as far as the British Empire is concerned. Perhaps it is the settled policy of the Associated Press to "bear" us out of business. Stories of lynchings and burnings, of chasing of criminals with bloodhounds and not running them down, of American diplomats losing green golden crowns presented to them by Sultans, and other diplomats who have been so wise as to choose Americans wives being selected to fill the most important positions in this moribund old empire, of Chinese appealing to the young but philanthropic and generous giant nation of the west to step in and drive all the eastern bullies from her violated territory, which is denied by a power in a position to know what it is talking about—such tales varied to suit the occasion would make more acceptable reading for Canadians than a lot of stuff we have but to glance at in order to understand that it is all a work of the imagination.

A UNIQUE COMBINATION.

Mr. Joseph Martin has been talking politics to the Rossland Miner and has said some things about the Dunsmuir government that it was fully expected by every person who has followed Mr. Martin's British Columbia career he would say sooner or later. He abused the government to his heart's content. The fact that the government was kept in power by the Martin vote during all of last session does not make any difference. Mr. Martin glories in eccentricities and inconsistencies. He was, only a few weeks ago, the apologist of the Dunsmuir government; he enunciated its policy on several important questions; he came to its aid on every occasion when it was closely pressed, and was at all times its faithful adviser, counsellor and friend. Now he says the Dunsmuir government is no good and ought to be defeated. The corner thus turned was a sharp one, but not too sharp for the gentleman from Vancouver. Mr. Tracy cannot double on his tracks any quicker than Mr. Martin. The Premier seems to be the only member of the government for whom Mr. Martin has any love left and he will probably try to retain the confidence of Mr. Dunsmuir—as long as it suits his purpose to keep a string on that gentleman. Mr. Dunsmuir and Mr. Martin believe each is "using" the other for his own particular ends. It is altogether a very sorrowful spectacle.

OUR SALMON.

Nearly all British Columbians know a salmon when they see him, and are aware in a vague way that he is an important factor in one of our most important industries. Some have a grievance against him because they allege he is of a different disposition from his brethren in other waters, and refuses to "take a fly." The following article from the Toronto Globe contains some more information about our chief food fish which should be interesting to every resident of the province:

Although the salmon run of the Pacific coast is a peculiarly attractive as well as a commercially important event, it has remained for the present decade to give accurate scientific information as to the leading events in the life history of this important food fish. It is only in recent years that the duration of its life has been accurately determined, and that the fact has been fully established that the fish ascending the river to spawn never return alive to the ocean. The results of several years' investigation by Clondsley Rutter, assistant to the United States Fish Commission, are published in The Popular Science Monthly, and they give a complete record of the life history of the Pacifis salmon, a fish differing slightly in structure, but widely in habits, from the salmon of the Atlantic. The great swarms of fish which make their way up the rivers of the Pacific coast, at first resisting both the flow and ebb of the tides, but gradually ascending into the shallow streams, are doomed to die in the fulfillment of the purpose that impels their migration. They have ceased to feed. Their alimentary organs are shrunken and atrophied. They live but to propagate their kind. Their eggs are laid in the shallow waters, in hollows scooped by the fish in the bottoms of streams, generally where the current is rapid. There is the usual large proportion devored by other fish that wait for them, but a few, comparatively, escape by finding a lodgment in the gravel and sand. As the average product of a salmon is 6,000 eggs there is abundant provision against destruction.

After the eggs are deposited and fertilized the progress of disintegration among the salmon is rapid. Their fins and tails become worn and broken through continuous violent contact with the bottom of the streams where they lie. Fungus attacks the skin and sometimes destroys the eyes, while parasites fasten on the gills. The shrivelled alimentary duct is attacked by parasites. If one of a pair dies the other takes up with a new mate. Often before death the skin is worn from the body in many places. There is no disposition to return again to salt water, nor is it probable they would revive if they did so. Where salmon have spawned in small streams some have returned far enough to be found dying in brackish water. It is fully established that all salmon of the genus Oncorhynchus die after spawning once. This should not prejudice anyone against salmon as a food fish, for it is taken for canning when in perfect condition, prepared for a long journey up stream and for a life of several months without food.

The eggs require about fifty days to hatch, and the immature fry continue to absorb the attached mass of yolk for three or four weeks. If at this time they are put into salt water they die. Before the fry are two inches long they begin their migration toward the sea. Their progress is slower than the current of the rivers in which they have been observed. They lie at the bottom during the day, except where the water is muddy, and are carried by the current during the night. Although abundant they are not eaten by other fish to any noticeable extent. They are generally four or five months old when they reach salt water. Some remain after the winter and spring migrations, feeding on insects in quiet pools, and taking anglers' fly like trout. The habits of the adults in salt water are not known, but the duration of their stay has been ascertained with considerable accuracy. In May, 1896, 5,000 young salmon, two and a half inches long, were marked by cutting off the adipose fin, and released in the Clackamas river, a tributary of the Columbia. The eggs from which they were hatched had been spawned in September, 1895. During the summer of 1898, a little more than two years after the marking, and less than three years after the spawning, 375 of them were taken in the Columbia, and five in the Sacramenta river, California. A few more were taken in the Columbia and the Sacramento in 1899, and also in 1900. The marked salmon taken in 1898 varied in weight from 10 to 57 pounds. This indicates the spawning age of the salmon. As these marked fry had been spawned in California, their return to the Columbia, in which they were deposited, was due, no doubt, to the proximity of their ocean feeding bed to the mouth of that river. The return of the salmon to the river in which they have been deposited as fry is capable of a simple explanation. They never go far from its mouth. It is almost disappointing that scientific observation has given this most remarkable fish so simple a life history.

BRIGHT PROSPECTS.

In the course of his last budget speech Finance Minister Fielding warned the people of Canada it was unreasonable to expect that the phenomenal expansion of trade which has developed in the country during the past half dozen years could go on much longer without at least some slight check. He thought we were then on the crest of the wave and that the good ship was about to glide gently but temporarily into a slight depression. That was a timely reminder to the business community to be cautious in its dealings. Our present Finance Minister has taken the teachings of the history of the country to heart. He realises there is nothing to lose by being on the safe side of the fence. A man once occupied his chair who told the people he had found the royal route to progress and prosperity, advised them to clap on all sail and take advantage of the steady breeze he was about to raise by means of his artificial stimulants. His advice was taken with disastrous results, followed by a great many lean years. We have had about seven years of plenty in Canada, for which we ought to be thankful. The prospects at present are that our prosperous period is not by any means at an end. The more optimistic are confident that it is merely beginning. Unless there be a serious mishap through the workings of adverse elements, the probabilities are that the expectations of the sanguine will be realized. The fields in the great farming districts are rapidly whitening for the harvest. The crops in the Northwest are in better condition than they were last year, and there is a larger acreage planted. Unless there be a disaster the largest yield that has been will shortly be taken from those fertile prairie lands. The fame of the country was established last year. What will the effect be upon the world if millions of bushels of the finest wheat that can be produced be added to the record of that year? There are thousands of agriculturists waiting for confirmation of the reports of the fertility of the soil and the adaptability of the climate to the purposes of man. The rush was great last year. This year there will practically be an invasion. The transportation companies will be unable to handle the business. There will be a congestion in all directions. The C. P. R. has added thousands of cars and engines to its rolling stock. The Canadian Northern will do its share. But the combination will not effectively meet the requirements of the situation. The problems of climate and of products have been solved, but the greatest difficulty of all has yet to be overcome—that of transportation. The progress of the Northwest henceforward will be limited by the adequacy of the means of transportation. Nor will branch lines from the present through systems meet the requirements of the situation. There are limitations to the capacity of even such a strong corporation and well-built line as the C. P. R. The territory is so vast that there will in time be a field for the operations of probably half a dozen transcontinental lines.

So we find that what was at one time considered a great desert, a place to be shunned by man because of the severity of its climate, is the foundation of our unparalleled material prosperity. Its future is so promising that it seems perfectly safe to assume that instead of being on the point of plunging from the crest of the wave of progress we have yet to be carried a long way forward. Last year our foreign trade was over four hundred millions of dollars. It will probably pass the half billion mark before there is a check. As we have said, a great deal depends upon the harvest of the present year. Another good yield will establish confidence in the country.

While there is a depression in one of the great industries of British Columbia, it is satisfactory to note that our farmers share with their brethren of all other portions of the Dominion in the good times with which the century has begun. Visitors from Ontario report that agriculture was never in such a flourishing condition as at present. The effect of American restrictive legislation, disastrous at first, has proved beneficial in the end. Permanent markets in Great Britain aided by scientific operations have emancipated the tillers of the soil. There is but one story from one end of the Dominion to the other. Mortgages are being paid off, houses and barns with all modern improvements are being erected, and comfort and hope have succeeded privation and doubt. And we have only begun to grow.

The sentence pronounced upon Editor McAdams, of the Sandon Paystreak, it seems to us, is unduly severe. We do not know but the courts would have upheld their dignity more effectually by ignoring entirely the vaporings of a newspawer without position or influence, and which, if its limited constituency be possessed of the average common sense of British Columbians, is probably regarded more as a weekly joke than as an institution with a serious purpose in view. McAdams's criticism was illegitimate and outrageous. There was no justification whatever except the somewhat deliberate procedure of the courts, for which in the case the defendant set up as justification for his attack, the lawyers, it seems, were responsible. The courts do not hold themselves immune from reasonable criticism. They do not pretend to infallibility, we believe. But respect for the fountain of justice must be upheld. If judges be guilty of acts unworthy of their positions they can be called to account. If it were believed that the writings of McAdams were calculated to impair the confidence of the people in the courts, there was justification for the summons. We do not believe his utterance would have had any perceptible effect upon public opinion, and that it might have been as well to leave him alone. He would have passed from the scene like the rest of his kind if he had been ignored. Now he has become notorious and he may gain sympathy if it enters the minds of a class that there was a strain of vindictiveness in the sentence. It is an unprecedentedly serve one for these times, there is no doubt about that. Even among the lawyers there has been considerable comment upon the manner of the prisoner's arraignment.

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The management of the C. P. R. thinks $25,000,000 sunk in the harbor of Halifax would be a good investment, not of C. P. R. money, of course, but of the wealth of the people of Canada. No doubt it would be. The C. P. R. is in a position to give good advice in regard to transportation matters. It is an expert. The probability is, however, that if the company considered it necessary to make improvements to the harbor of the eastern seaport it would be content with the expenditure of a smaller sum. And, speaking or harbors, we find in the trade and navigation returns of the Dominion for 1901 the following statistics of vessels entering and clearing at the principal seaports of Canada:

	Vessels.	Tons Register.
Montreal	444	1,060,962
Victoria	1,451	978,240
Halifax	1,062	820,438
Vancouver	602	490,964

The foregoing seems to indicate that a few millions might be spent on Victoria harbor with advantage to the Dominion generally. The tonnage of this port in 1902 will probably show a greater increase than that of any city in the Dominion, due to the marvellous development of trade with the Orient. It may be necessary, however, if we propose to keep pace with the "leaps and bounds" of our neighbors, to provide for the advent of the leviathans of the deep now upon the stocks of the shipbuilding yards of the world.

* * *

According to statistics published in The Engineering News, the iron ore production in the United States in 1901 amounted to 28,887,479 long tons, a gain of 1,334,318 tons over 1900. The total value of the ore mined in 1901 was $49,256,245, or a mean value of $1.71 per ton. In 1901 the red hematite mines contributed 83.10 per cent. of the total for the United States, with Minnesota the largest producer of this ore, and Michigan and Alabama following. The brown hematite mined amounted to 10.44 per cent. of the total output. The Lake Superior region produced 21,445,903 long tons in 1901, its maximum output. On December 31, 1901, the total stock of iron ore on hand at the mines was reported at 4,239,823 long tons, an increase of 14 per cent. over the 1900 total. The total imports of iron ore for 1901 were 966,950 long tons, valued at $1,659,273, or $1,72 per ton. This is an increase of 7.7 per cent. over the imports of 1900. Of this import 552,248 tons came from the Cuban iron ore deposits. During the year only 64,703 tons of ore were exported, nearly all going to Canadian blast furnaces.

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It is devoutly to be hoped that Hon. D. M. Eberts did not arrive in London too late to argue the case of the province before the Privy Council against that Jap who would be a voter. And also to think that there is a possibility of his being called home to attend the fishery conference at Ottawa before the case shall be called. It is rumored that the Attorney-General has not seen a thing in the streets of London since the day he arrived in the great metropolis. By day his head is buried in the prodigious tomes of a stupendous law library and by night he is immersed to the crown in the brief prepared by his own hand, and which none of the untrained legal minds of London can understand. We hope the opinions of Mr. Martin may fail to reach London. They might distract the mind of the Attorney-General and hasten his return. Then all would be lost and the electors of the province might be compelled to suffer the humiliation of going to the polls with a Jap.

PRIVILEGE OF THE BACK STAIRS.

Ottawa Citizen.

What passed between Sir Wilfrid and Secretary Chamberlain in the conference of these gentlemen in the latter's private room at the House of Commons are matters of confidence, but the Daily Mail mentions that Sir Wilfrid was accorded a rare privilege upon retiring. It says: "Mr. Chamberlain afterwards accompanied his visitor to the lobby. The Premier of Canada left by way of the private staircase into Palace yard, a privilege reserved to peers, as not being members of the House of Commons; but at the request of the colonial secretary it was relaxed in the case of Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

EDITOR M'ADAMS HEAVILY SENTENCED

COURT REQUIRES NINE MONTHS' SATISFACTION

Accused's Apology Was Not Accepted, and He Will Have Long Period of Imprisonment.

The case of William McAdams, editor and publisher of the Sandon Paystreak, who is charged with contempt of court, was called on before the Full court, consisting of the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Walkem and Mr. Justice Drake, this morning, and attracted a large attendance of members of the legal profession and the public generally.

Mr. McAdams, who was brought down from Sandon by Sheriff Tuck last night, did not have counsel to appear for him, although Mr. A. E. McPhillips, K. C., was present to assist him if necessary. McAdams is a nice-looking young man of about 26, tall, cleanshaven, with a clever face, not at all the sort of gentleman one would have expected to see as the writer of the red-hot articles that generally distinguish the Paystreak. He is a Canadian, although he has spent some time in the United States, and he has taken recently a prominent part in the municipal affairs of Sandon. He has been seeking to inaugurate there a new municipal water works and electric light system, and he claims that the present proceedings were initiated against him by a political rival, who is interested in the old waterworks at Sandon.

The attention of the deputy attorney-general was called to the article in the Paystreak complained of by the solicitors for J. F. Collum, defendant in the case of Clark v. Collum and another, otherwise known as the Arlington case, and proceedings were taken against McAdams, who was ordered to appear before the Supreme court in Victoria. McAdams did not appear, claiming that he had no money to pay for the journey, and he published another paragraph, commenting on the proceedings, in which he stated that the charge of contempt was probably all right as he certainly had the greatest contempt possible for the members of the British Columbia judiciary. Accordingly an order was sent to Sheriff Tuck, of the West Kootenay bailiwick, to "attach the person of Mr. McAdams and bring same" along to Victoria. In Sandon, where the young editor has evidently many supporters, he was given a send-off with musical honors. Last night he was lodged in the provincial pail, which action McAdams claims to have been wrong.

The article constituting the contempt was as follows:

"J. K. Clark's famous case against J. Frank Collum for commission on the Arlington deal has again been postponed—this time until next December. J. K. has now been twenty-eight moons trying to break into the British Columbia courts, but owing to Collum's pull cannot get his case heard, and it is evident that the courts intend to continue putting him off on one pretext or another until he dies or quits the game. . . We pride ourselves on our British fair play, but we maintain a string of judges who are corrupt, lazy, debauched and prejudiced and we permit them to conduct the business of the country in a manner that is simply outrageous. The two-handed gun man is a lessor danger to society than a corrupt judiciary."

The Deputy Attorney-General, Mr. McLean, put in copies of the Paystreak containing the above article and other comments on the judiciary, and quoted a case to show that the article contained matter contrary to the law. In the Arlington case the witness would come from the bailiwick in which the Paystreak was published, and the article was therefore a grave interference with the course of justice, because it would prejudice people against the defendant and also prejudice the community against the judge. If, in that case, the defendant should be successful the judge would be shorn of the influence with the jury which he ought to have. There could be no excuse for such conduct as that of McAdams, who had also gone out of his way to commit another contempt of court by abusing the judges as men.

Wm. McAdams then rose and addressed the Court. He said that he had received a notification from the deputy attorney-general to appear to answer a charge of contempt of court, but he could not come because he had no money. In the matter of the contempt for which he was there he had very little to say. He was not a lawyer, had never been in a court before, and understood very little about the proceedings of the court. He was a newspaper man by profession, and he wrote articles which he believed were largely a reflection of public opinion—he wrote things which were being said by people in the street. The press was the servant of the people, and in writing the article complained of he was probably in a heated state of mind and wrote what the people in Sandon were saying. The case in question had not yet been settled. Whether there was any "pull" in the case he was not prepared to say. He had no proofs to produce, and he knew little about the case. The parties to the case were Collum and Clark, the former a rich and the latter a poor man. Clark was a mining promoter by profession, and he was one of three men—the others being Collum and Adams—who put through the Arlington deal on the understanding that they should share the profits. Afterwards Adams and Collum refused to pay Clark anything. He knew nothing about the merits of the case, but it had been in the courts a long time, and Clark had put every cent he possessed into it, and had done all he could to get the case settled. Clark could not back out of the case because costs would be given against him, but he was so near to being "broke" that his family had to go away and stay with friends in Colorado. On two occasions the case had been adjourned, and he wished to point out that ——

The Chief Justice—That is not the point. You have charged in your paper that a party to an action had a pull with this court; that the court was corrupt, which is a criminal offence, for which you are liable to go to prison.

Mr. Justice Walkem—I remember one occasion on which an adjournment was made. It was asked for by counsel for one side and the other counsel consented. (To McAdams) But I do not suppose any judge cares what you say.

McAdams—Well, if I am not allowed to say what I think about the case I will just take my seat.

Mr. Justice Walkem—You want to show that there were several adjournments?

McAdams—That was my intention. I admit that the word "corrupt" was an expression I should not have used.

Mr. Justice Walkem—These adjournments and delays take place elsewhere as well as in British Columbia, in Montana, Washington and other places.

McAdams—The fact that they occur in other places does not justify British Columbia.

The Chief Justice—You are not brought here for saying that this court is dilatory, but for saying that someone had a pull with the court and that the court was corrupt. I want to know if all this is an apology, because, if so, I want to hear the apology in the clearest terms.

McAdams—I admit that I was wrong in saying the court was corrupt, and I consider that an apology is due.

The Chief Justice—If the defendant has nothing more to urge, the court will adjourn and will give judgment in half an hour.

On the court resuming, the Chief Justice said that the court found the defendant guilty, on his own admissions, of a serious contempt of court and of a scurrilous attack upon the court with a view to scandalizing the judiciary before the country. The statements in the article in question stabbed the court in its most vital parts, because it shook the confidence of the public in the administration of justice. The defendant appeared to be a man of some education and should have known better than to write such an article. Not satisfied with one offence, he had repeated it. His apology was worse than no apology, because he had limited it to one portion of the offence. His Honor thought the court would be very remiss if it allowed articles of the sort in question to pass unchallenged. He wished to remind McAdams that he was not going to be made a hero of, as there were no heroes in the jails of British Columbia.

The sentence of the court was that McAdams should go to the provincial jail of Victoria for nine months, and give four securities for $1,000 for his good conduct in future, otherwise he would receive an additional sentence of twelve months' imprisonment.

McAdams was then removed from the court, not being allowed to speak.

TALE OF CRUELTY.

Man and His Wife Met Death in Surf at Nome.

A tale of alleged cruelty is published in the Nome Nugget. As a direct result of the arbitrary orders of Capt. Howell, commanding at Fort St. Michael, it is charged that two persons—a man and his wife—met their deaths last fall in the angry surf of St. Michael Bay.

The story is, in substance, that these people, Bakke by name, were ordered peremptorily by Capt. Howell to leave the island. They did so, after the woman's tears and the man's prayers proved unavailing to secure them an hour's respite from the military mandate. Then they girded life preservers about them, got into a small boat and started for the mainland, twelve miles distant. A Behring sea storm was raging at the time, and Bakke and his wife pleaded in vain to be granted twenty-four hours, or until the storm abated; it was refused. Then they pleaded for an hour's delay in executing the officer's command. It, too, was refused. The couple embarked in their frail craft.

Sunday morning two weeks ago the body of the woman was discovered on the mainland, twelve miles from St. Michael. On the body was found $7,500. The body of Bakke has not yet been located, but it probably will be in a short time.

The ghastly find was made by two soldiers of the post. They reported it to United States Commissioner Merritt at St. Michael. An inquest was held, and the jury returned a verdict of "death by drowning."

MT. SICKER CAMP.

Opinion of a Well Known Expert—The Copper Canyon Property.

Among recent visitors to the Mt. Sicker camp was William Clarke, the well known mining engineer, who was very much struck with the appearance of the mines there. Mr. Clarke made an examination of the Copper Canyon property, which he describes as being one of the best prospects he has ever seen.

Mr. Clarke states that the situation of the Copper Canyon is particularly favorable for mining operations, and the work being done under the management of William Lewis will develop the property to the best advantage. The tunnel is in 150 feet, and the width of the ore body is about 30 feet, through which a vein of clean ore, from one to three feet wide, runs the whole length of the tunnel. There are about 200 tons of good ore on the dump.

Mr. Clarke states that the manager intends to sink a shaft on the property in order to drift on the ore body at lower levels. The rock formation of Mt. Sicker and Mt. Brenton is favorable, being the formation in which rich ore lives, and he has no doubt as to the value and permanency of the mines.

The ore bodies in the Copper Canyon are lenticular as in the Lenora and Tyee, and are likely to widen out as depth is attained, so that the prospective value of the property will increase with development.

It is satisfactory to learn that there has been a big demand for shares in the Copper Canyon, and the treasury of the company is in a condition to allow all necessary expenditure for some time to come.

DENIED USE OF MAILS.

Order Against Local Company Issued by U. S. Postmaster-General.

Instructions have been issued by the postmaster-generl, Washington, to postmasters in the United States ordering them not to issue money orders payable to the Preferred Tontine Mercantile Company, of Victoria, and to return all letters and advices, whether registered or not, to the company, its officers or agents. The notice reads: "It having been made to appear to the postmaster-general, upon evidence satisfavtory to him, that the Preferred Tontine Mercantile Company and its officers and agents as such at Victoria, B. C., are using the United States mails in the conduct of a scheme or device for obtaining money by means of false and fraudulent pretences, representations and promises, and for the distribution of prizes of unequal value by means of lot or chance, in violation of the act of Congress, entitled 'An Act to Amend Certain Sections of the Revised Statutes Relating to Lotteries and for Other Purposes,' approved September 19, 1890."

General Manager Cassell says that the business of the company has not been at all affected by the order, which is a month old, the only change necessitated being the use of the express companies instead of the mails. The head office of the company is in Kansas.

THEIR SERVICES APPRECIATED.

Arion Club Heartily Thanked By the Tourists' Association.

The following self-explanatory letter has been addressed to E. H. Russell, conductor of the Arion club:

E. H. Russell, Esq., Conductor Arion Club, Victoria, B. C.:

Dear Mr. Russell:—It is a great pleasure to me to convey to you the thanks of the Tourist Association for the valuable service you and your club rendered the association last night.

It is very gratifying to myself and the rest of the executive to remember with what readiness you generously placed the services of your talented members at our disposal, and if there were any further pleasure that could be derived from the success of the evening it would be in the fact that the large number of people who turned out to hear you and the band were evidently more than satisfied with the excellent entertainment provided for them.

I am, dear Mr. Russell, yours faithfully,

CHAS. HAYWARD,

Mayor and President of Tourist Association.

BOARD OF T
ANNUA

MINISTER OF M
SPEAKS

Election of Officers Pr
Annual Report-
Trap Ques

The annual general
C. Board of Trade
board's room, Bastion
afternoon, when the o
suing year were electe
report road and adopte
L. G. McQuade pres
lowing members of th
sent: Hon. E. G. Pr
Jos. Thomson, J. A. M
E. Blackwood, H. G.
W. L. Challoner, C.
Christie, S. J. Pitts,
A. Hinton, T. W. Patt
with, H. P. Bell, Jas.
kine, R. Seabrook, Al
Baxter, E. B. Marvin
W. T. Oliver, Hy. Croft
Capt. Clarke, G. H. B
Ald. McCandless, W. T
Ker, A. Robertson and
Mr. T. W. Paterson
the business of the me
up, to draw attention t
the railway committee,
death of Hon. B. W.
eulogizing the services
Pearse to the board a
ganizations, moved tha
should be instructed t
Pearse a suitable lette
on her husband's death.
S. J. Pitts seconded
which was carried nem.
A letter was read fro
of the Canadian Manu
ciation, of Toronto, ex
tation to the president
annual convention of th
be held in Halifax on A
The invitation was re
coming board.
The balloting for pres
follows: L. G. McQua
Croft, S; H. M. Grah
Ker and C. F. Todd
candidature.
Mr. McQuade, in tha
ing for electing him, sai
do his best for the objec
and expressed a hope
would be a little more re
tual in their attendance
of the board than they
the past year.
Mr. C. E. Todd was el
dent, with 20 votes, Mr.
9.
The following were elec
council: R. Seabrook,
less, D. R. Ker, J. A.
Oliver, T. W. Paterson,
M. Grahame, Hy. Croft,
L. Crease, G. H. Burns,
Jas. Thomson and Capt.
The following were elect
of arbitration: D. R. Ke
R. Seabrook, H. M.
Fraser, sr., S. G. Pitts,
Lindley Crease, Hy. Croft
J. M. Paterson and Capt
There was only one nom
position of secretary, th
worthy, who was accord
by resolution. Mr. Elwo
thanks.
The president nominate
and J. Forrester to be a
ensuing year, and the Ho
tice, Roland Machin and
were elected members of
trade.
The annual report was
follows:
To the Members of the Br
Board of Trade:
Gentlemen,—Before sub
formation usually cont
board's report, attention i
change in designation.
year 1865, when Vancouv
a Crown colony, that th
this institution resulted i
under the name of "Th
Commerce of Victoria,
and." In 1878, that wa
years after the union of
and and the Mainland of
bia, incorporation was effe
name of the British Colu
Trade. At that time th
although comprehensive w
rect, for there was no o
trade in the province. B
partial development of
sources of British Colum
followed by the building o
and cities, and there are
a dozen boards of trade
commercial interests of th
localities. For this reaso
cided to have a change in
tion of this institution and
in-council it will hereafter
"The Victoria, British Col
of Trade." It must be ad
is no further change, the
the aims of this board of
undisturbed.

MINING.

It is gratifying to note th
industry is steadily growin
ance. The value of the gol
per and lead produced in 19
to about $13,500,000, an in
proximately 35 per cent. o
that of the previous year.
remembered that ten yea
mines produced only $4,00
these metals. Last year's
duction resulted principally
outputs from the older mi
ments were made from two
perties. This is an indicatio
manence of the ore bodies
confirm the forecast that
development of British Col
in its initial stage. The pr
ernment mining returns a
annually and the latest is
to 31st December, 1901,
the exact figures for the firs
of the current year are n
But reports gathered from
show that the mineral pro
tinues to increase.

Vancouver Island

Mount Sicker has now prod
The principal shipments
been from the Lenora mine
ers are entitled to the highes
ation for the masterly wa
they have shown its possibi
ital being limited, progress
pendent on ore production.
advantage was the high cost
tation, due to frequent han
ore en route to the smelte
Sound. However, 26,000 ton
bed there, for which the retu
ed to $468,000. This gave
of $18 per ton, from which
deducted for cost of mini
smelting, etc., leaving a pro
000 for improvements. Th