THE FISHERIES OF THE FAR NORTH

An Interesting Report to Dept. By Officer Hans Helgesen of Port Essington.

CONDITIONS ON THE UPPER SKEENA

Indians Found to be Constructing Barricades Which Retarded Spawning Operations.

Fishery Officer Hans Helgeson, of Port Essington, has made to the fisheries department at Ottawa a picturesque report of his work and observations during a visit of inspection of the Babine lake and tributaries, and the head waters of the Skeena river, during last fishing season. He says:

As frequent rumors came to the office that rivers and streams in the upper country were barricaded, and that salmon were prevented from reaching their natural spawning grounds, I left Port Essington in company with Mr. Nordschow, fishery officer, the 6th of September on the steamer Hazelton, for Hazelton town, on upper Skeena, where we arrived on the 9th, distance 180 miles. After engaging an Indian and horses, we left Hazelton for Babine lake on the 12th and reached Babine village on the 14th, distance 65 miles.

Chief George being away, the next in command was Ato. On the 15th we borrowed a little canoe, and hired two men and started down Babine river seven miles, where we found two barricades half a mile apart, in full swing fishing, and crowds of Indians could be seen on the banks.

The Barricades

were constructed of an immense quantity of materials, and on scientific principles. There were posts driven into the bed of the river, which is 200 feet wide, and from two to four feet deep, and running swiftly at the intervals of 6 or 8 feet. Then sloping braces well bedded in the bottom and fastened to the top of posts, then strong stringers all the way on top and bottom, in front of posts, then panel beautifully made of slats woven together with bark set in front of all. These were set firmly into the bottom and reaching 4 feet above the water. This made a magnificent fence which not a single fish could get through.

On the upper side of dam were placed 12 big traps or fish bins. Opposite holes made in the panels for fish to enter the traps, prepared with slides to open and shut, and if the traps did not have a sufficient quantity of fish in them, when the women wanted more fish on the bank, the men would take their canoe poles, wade out in a line and strike the water, making a noise which could fill the traps in a moment, then shut the slides down, take a canoe on each side of bin, raise the false bottom, by some contrivance so as to elevate the fish, then load up canoes with gaff hooks.

I found Chief Atio at the lower barricade. He is an old man and does not know English, but had provided a good interpreter. I informed him that I was sent by the government to destroy and remove all barricades and any other obstructions that prevent the salmon from getting up to their natural spawning grounds, and I gave him to understand that the barricades must be removed immediately. And at intervals during the conversation I explained the fishery laws and regulations, that they must not use barricades and only fish one-third the channel with their nets or any other contrivance, that they must observe the close season, they must not sell fish as they had done in the past, but only take enough for themselves and their families, and must not kill more fish than they use and not waste any.

Indian Rights

The chief advanced many points and some of them were well taken. He said they have had an indisputable right for all time in the past, that if it was taken away the old people would starve, that by selling salmon they could always get iktahs, and he wanted to know to what extent the government would support them. He thought it unfair to forbid them selling fish when the cannerymen sold all theirs, and I had to promise him to tell the government to compel the canners to let more fish come up the rivers, as some years they did not get enough; that the canners destroyed more spawn than they; that formerly he could not see the water below his barricade for fish; that they were forced out on the beach, but latterly they had diminished, little by little every year. I met all his arguments in a prompt manner, and set back those who showed a spirit of resistance, by telling them that they had committed a gross breach of the law, that they had put barricades this year notwithstanding the inspector had by letter forbid them to do so, and that if they resist and do not destroy the barricades nothing will save them from punishment or imprisonment.

At that a goodly number went and worked away in the cold ice water, chopping and breaking it down. After about two hours when they could stand it no longer they came up to me and demanded that the government should pay for taking it out, and no amount of threats and persuasion could get them at it again; and to end all the talk and to get the remainder of it out, I had to hire six Indians who took out the last stick. What was dry of the upper works they took on shore for fire wood, the rest they let go with the current. Some of the fish bins they dragged to shore. Although it was the last of the season when we came there, the barricades were still fishing, and about 500 of 600 sockeyes had been landed that day, from each trap, and those fish must have been principally females, as they showed an uncommon amount of spawn when cleaned.

Fish by the Million

The banks of the Babine river have a lovely appearance at this place and a most wonderful sight met our eyes when we beheld the immense array of dried salmon. On either side, there were no less than 16 houses 30x7x8 feet filled with salmon from the top down so low that one had to stoop to get into them, and also an immense quantity of racks, filled up outside. If the latter had stood close together they would have covered acres and acres of ground, and though it was impossible to form an estimate, we judged it to be nearly three-quarters of a million of fish at those two barricades, all killed before they had spawned, and though the whole tribe had been working for six weeks and a half it was a wonder that so much salmon could be massed together in that time.

On the 20th we made Tiltitcha or Parce river. This stream also comes in from the west. They had quit fishing, and we only found two old women home, only one family had fish there. The man had gone to Babine village with a canoe load of dried salmon. They had piled the rest of their fish together, and these amounted in bulk to the equal of three cords of wood. We demolished their barricade and came away.

On the 21st we reached Fifteen Mile river and found it deserted; nearly all the fish had been removed, though I counted over 2,000 left on a couple of racks. We destroyed the barricades and as usual took their trail in order to see what there was above. We soon came to a permanent dam; a big cotton wood tree had been felled across the river, well pinned up behind with rocks; in front were stakes and brush, with a

Multitude of Dead Fish

in front of it. The dam was nearly as tight as a bottle, and forbid even a single fish to get through, though there were quite a quantity of fish above it, which had no doubt gotten over the dam in a higher state of water, and like in the other two streams there were thousands of sockeyes below that could not get up well, amid a horrible stench. We chopped out the log, pulling the brush on shore, and cleared the centre of the channel for a space of 30 feet, then made a bonfire of a big lot of panels and baskets.

The spawning grounds on these rivers extend for a half or three-quarters of a mile from their mouth, and were almost covered with spawn, and about two-thirds of it doing well; also there are splendid spawning grounds from opposite Babine village, running down the river for about two miles and a half, with beautiful bars in the middle of the river, all made in to hills and hollows by the sockeye spawning and only in one instance on the last named streams did we find a bar where the spawn had perished, on account of the water having left it dry.

On the 22nd we reached Beaver river. At the head of the lake we found a barricade a mile up stream still fishing, but no people there. This river is about 100 feet wide 8 feet deep, and mud bottom. The salmon go through it and enter Bear creek ten miles up, where they spawn. There were two contrivances with which the fish were caught. In this barricade of

A Peculiar Kind

a tunnel was made 6 feet wide, nicely fitted into the wall of the barricade, and narrowed down to 1 foot in 12. Then tunnels one foot wide joined one which lead into a bin 40 feet above the dam, where fish had accumulated. The other had a similar mouth and a small tunnel reached up stream a similar distance, fastened to stakes with ropes at intervals. We demolished the bin and tunnel fish, then pulled up the rope. Here we found that the small tunnel was securely closed at its end. It was wedged full of live sockeyes. They could not turn nor could they get back. We cut and pointed everything and let the fish go, and had a fearful job getting all the deep panels and posts out of the sticky bottom.

Branded Salmon

On the 20th we left Babine and reached Hazelton on the 28th. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Loring, Indian agent there, for valuable information as to the names and localities of Indian villages, etc. There are 2,951 Indians in his district. Mr. Loring kindly gave me a salmon caught at Kiskigas, which is branded on both sides with the letter W. or M. The Indians caught several of them this year for the first time. It created quite an excitement among them, as the brand was so strikingly clear before the fish were cut. They called it government salmon. Where did it come from? Can it be that the United States officials branded salmon when they branded seals on Pribiloff islands?

From information received I found it necessary to make a journey to Morricetown, 30 miles up the Bulkley river, and when the heavy rain that lasted for days had abated we left Hazelton on the 4th of October and reached Morricetown, an Indian village, situated on the west bank of the Bulkley river, on the 5th. This is a beautiful stream, 140 miles long, fully as large as the Babine; one of its branches heads within a few miles of Babine lake; its other two branches run in a southerly direction, and heads towards the Ootsa country. It has numerous lakes, and was formerly one of the greatest propagation branches of the Skeena, but I found that the farmers of the valley told the truth when they said that of late years the Indians were determined not to let a single salmon pass them. At Morricetown we found only half a dozen Indians, and about a score of old women, who evidently knew our purpose as they

Gave Us Hail Columbia

On examining the canyon I found it about 250 yards long, the narrowest part 1 foot wide, and from the numerous paths, stagings, ladders, etc., I could judge that the canyon during the fishing season was lined with Indians, hooking and catching salmon by every conceivable contrivance. They even shove out a long pole with a rope through the end of it, from one side to a crevice on the other side, bend on the trap or basket, haul it to the other side, lower it down, and when a sufficient quantity of salmon enter, they haul it back; every salmon that comes up that foaming boiling cauldron goes into the little eddies for rest, and every eddy is filled with contrivances for his capture, but if indeed some of the fish are lucky enough to escape the multitude of hooks and traps in the canyon

A Worse Fate Awaits

them at the falls immediately above, where they are in low water during fishing season by all accounts, 14 feet high. Behind the falls is an array of various kinds of traps and baskets. The salmon keeps on jumping incessantly to get up, and falls back into the baskets. Thus only a very few fish get up the river to the lake, and I could see no other way to remedy the evil in that narrow place where the salmon is entirely at the mercy of the Indians, so by the authority of sub-section 16, clause 5, chap. 51, and others in the Fisheries act, I placed a notice above the falls and another at the lower end of the canyon, which strictly forbids fishing of any kind for a distance of 300 yards. I might have excluded surface fly fishing but there are no sportsmen in that vicinity.

I beg to draw your attention to the necessity of spending about $500 to blast out two shelves of rocks on the west side of the canyon, in the Bulkley river; the water would then form a more uniform grade so that the fish could get up and replenish this noble river and lake.

We left Hazelton on the 10th and reached Copper River on the 12th. This is also a river of considerable magnitude, and enters into the Skeena from the east, three miles below the canyon. One of its forks heads close to the Tolquo, the other runs north, and ends at the head of Kethijukla river, and is about 70 miles long, and has no less than four lakes of various sizes.

A Death-Dealing Dam

Formerly Copper river was counted among the great salmon streams of the Skeena, until 15 years ago, when a slide came down from the mountain with a tremendous rock in it, some 10 miles up from its mouth, which formed a dam that made it impossible for the salmon to get up.

A prospector, Mr. F. Allen, and others who have been there recently, told me the dam is 20 feet high, that in front of it was a mass of dead fish, enough to pollute the air in the whole neighborhood. On the lakes above are numerous salmon houses deserted long ago. Mr. Allen said that 500 or 600 dollars would blast the rock and clear away the dam.

In view of the great necessity of replenishing the salmon in the two above-mentioned rivers, you cannot too strongly recommend the expenditure for clearing out the obstructions.

Sale of Dried Salmon

The Indians do not only catch and cure salmon for their own use, but herd it up every year for sale and barter. It is a sort of legal tender amongst them—10 salmon for a dollar and so many for a blanket. They sell dried salmon to packers and miners, to all those that haul with dog sleighs, in every part of the upper country during winter, and to merchants; every storekeeper that I asked told me that they handled more or less every year. The Babine post had an order from Stuarts lake for 9,000 dried salmon.

As I mentioned before, there are about 3,000 Indians in Mr. Noring's district, and we can reckon safely on three to a family, which makes 1,000 families, and I have it from good authority that with dried and fresh salmon, it takes 1,000 fish to supply a family during one year, so that it takes a million of fish to supply the Indians in that district, besides what they sell, to say nothing about the multitude of dogs that number nearly as many, and are continuously fed on dried salmon, and every fish almost without an exception is killed before it is spawned, and when we take into consideration that nearly every salmon stream in the country is barricaded and that this has gone on for years and years, is it not then a great wonder that there are any fish at all left?

Job Goes A-Begging

I also beg to inform you that I was unable to engage a special fishery officer for the Upper Skeena at the conditions you offered, and it would do no good; it would be like throwing so much money away as there are three active men wanted, as I have already stated, and they will have their hands full, and it should be done this winter when powder, provisions, etc., could be brought in with sleighs on the ice; it would be a great pity to allow those two rivers to be barren for another year.

To show how the Indians feel about losing their barricades, I beg to call your attention to what occurred at Babine. I was asked to attend a meeting of Indians, when I was informed by one who claimed to own the barricades that if he had been present when the barricades were destroyed they would not have been touched; that unless the government sends him $600 before the fish run next summer the barricades would surely be constructed again, though he should die for it. This he repeated several times and I had to promise him that I would tell the government so. This is the prevailing spirit amongst them, as they all wanted more or less in lieu of their barricades.

I therefore beg to suggest that three guardians be appointed for the following places next season:

One for Babine, one for Hazelton, and one for the Skeena below Hazelton, and they should be good active men, who could ride a horse, pole a canoe up stream, and move about quickly as they will each of them have over a hundred miles to travel. Men that can fill such positions cannot be got cheaply.

The waters of the Skeena, Kispiax, Blackwater, Kitmangar and Nass rivers are all barricaded every year in a shameful manner, and the guardian of the upper Skeena should be retained longer in the season, and be sent round to such places as it is the best time of the year for traveling, and the Indians are all fishing. By so doing much good could be effected, and much evil prevented.

SPENCER'S BUY THE WILLIAM'S BLOCK

Big Dry Goods Firm Prepares For an Extension of Business.

Owing to the heavy demand on their already extensive space, Messrs. D. Spencer, Limited, have purchased the Williams block, consisting of the large four-storey brick building on Broad street, which will be connected with their store. The price is not obtainable, but it is understood the consideration was somewhere in the neighborhood of $25,000. Messrs. P. R. Brown, Limited, of 30 Broad street, negotiated the sale.

Some four years ago the property was on the market for approximately $16,000 or $17,000; and that it has now been sold at this increased figure is taken to indicate that the status of real estate in the business section is advancing.

Mr. Chris Spencer was yesterday afternoon interviewed by a Colonist reporter and he said: "Expansion of business and believing the same to be an excellent investment are the two reasons that prompted Spencer Limited to purchase the Williams block. We shall utilize the back portion of the property, which adjoins our premises. It will be used for the manufactory department. For the present no attempt will be made to disturb the tenants now in occupation, as we do not need the front portion of the block."

Mr. Spencer added that the members of his firm are convinced that downtown realty is due for a sharp advance within the next year or so, and this was one of the primary reasons that caused them to acquire the Williams block. Victoria realty, especially business property at present prices, is considered one of the best class of investments, and the firm continues to show its great faith in the future growth of the business of the city by adding to its already large holdings.

REAL ESTATE AGENT COMMITTED FOR TRIAL

Alfred Williams Will Go Before Higher Court on Two Charges of Fraud.

THE PRELIMINARY HEARING YESTERDAY

Prosecution Claims Note Was Tampered With and Alleges Fraud.

(From Friday's Daily.)

Alfred Williams, real estate agent, was committed for trial yesterday on two charges of obtaining money under false pretenses, by Magistrate Hall in the city police court, and will elect for a speedy trial on both. The first charge alleges that $800 had been obtained from Frederick Hodgson by false pretenses on November 21, 1904; the second charge was of obtaining $300 from Hodgson by false pretenses on November 10, 1904. The evidence in the first case was heard on Monday and the defence called no witnesses. Mr. Robertson addressed the court, asking that the charge be dismissed and said Hodgson, the prosecutor made a business of lending money on notes, and, it was reasonable to believe, the note for $800 was issued to Williams in the usual way. If the deeds for the Waddington alley property were to be given as security the note was of no utility. Hodgson, moreover, had been paid his interest regularly, and it was a very high rate of interest. Mr. C. J. Prior for the prosecution reviewed the evidence and held it was sufficient to warrant the accused being committed for trial. The magistrate, summing up the evidence, said the principal witness had stated he loaned accused $800 on the understanding from accused that Mr. Peirson held a mortgage on the Waddington alley property and that Peirson wanted to raise money on the mortgage and the deeds would be deposited with the prosecutor as security. The case resolved itself into the matter of whether the statement by accused was true or false, as to whether there was a mortgage on the property and Mr. Peirson wanted to raise money on it. In the evidence it was stated Hodgson told Peirson he had been unable to get the deeds and Peirson had then replied; "I thought you had the deeds all the time." Then Peirson had said Williams was supposed to buy the property and give the deeds as security, and later he had said Williams had never owned the property. This evidence, which had been uncontradicted, went to establish a prima facie case against the accused. He committed accused for trial.

Mr. C. J. Prior in introducing the second charge said it was of obtaining $300 with intent to defraud. The money was procured from Hodgson for T. H. Matthews, a contractor, and Hodgson was introduced to Matthews as the man who would loan the money. Next day a note was given Hodgson for $312, the $12 being for interest for one month. Matthews had repudiated the note when it fell due, claiming he had never signed a note for the sum, but that which he signed was for $100. The case against accused was that the amount had been raised or the signature to the note had been forged.

Frederick Hodgson, the first witness called, said accused came to him to secure the loan for Matthews and later introduced the contractor to him. He paid the money in cash on November 10, 1904 to Mr. Williams. He went to collect it when it became due but had been unable to do so, though he had received payments at regular intervals on account of interest. Hodgson ultimately went to see Matthews who denied there was any note for $312 against him. The note was still unpaid.

To Mr. Robertson, for accused, Hodgson said this note had been the first transaction of the kind he had entered. He was satisfied to lend the money with Matthews as security. Accused had nothing to do with the note beyond obtaining the loan upon it and endorsing the note, though he had not insisted that accused endorse the note. He knew Williams made a practice of securing loans and he had trusted him. When he loaned the money he had no suspicion of accused. Matthews had acknowledged signing a note for $100 and the note was for $312.

"In other words, said Mr. Robertson, "you claim accused raised the note?"

Mr. Prior objected to this question.

Hodgson, continuing his evidence under cross-examination said he went to see Mr. Peirson after his conversation with Matthews regarding the repudiated note to show Peirson the man he was working hand in hand with was not the man he was supposed to be.

"You practically told Mr. Peirson that Mr. Williams was a forger?" said Mr. Robertson.

Hodgson said he didn't think he had acted unfairly; he couldn't tell by inspecting the note whether it had been tampered with.

Thos. M. Matthews, next witness, said he had a money trasaction with Hodgson and Williams and had signed a note for $100. He remarked at the time the note seemed to be made out in pencil, and accused said it was in indelible pencil. He signed it, but had never signed a note for $312.

Mr. Prior, for prosecution, said he wanted permission to endeavor to show that accused had been guilty of previous fraudulent transactions in connection with the witness, and quoted authorities to support his request.

Magistrate Hall decided to permit the introduction of such evidence, but Mr. Prior said he would withhold it until the case was tried before a higher court.

Mr. Matthews said he had never seen the note for $312 before. He wrote specimens of his signature to be compared with that on the note.

To Mr. Robertson, witness said he had known Williams previous to the meeting with Hodgson and had agreed to back the note of Williams, although he had asked Williams why he had not issued the note himself, to which Williams had replied he did not want Hodgson to know he was getting the money. The amount mentioned was $100 and the interest was not referred to.

"According to your own story," said Mr. Robertson, "you entered into an agreement to do up Mr. Hodgson?"

"No," replied witness, "I did not?"

"You were understood to be the borrower to deceive Hodgson?" said Mr. Robertson.

"Williams said to me before Hodgson," said witness, "this is the man I'm getting the money from.

"You were a party to a conspiracy to get money from Hodgson?" asked counsel.

Mr. Prior objected to this question being put. He said there was not a charge made of conspiracy.

Mr. Robertson replied: "There may be a charge of conspiracy before long."

Witness said everything had been straightforward regarding getting the note. He had read it when it was given to him and noticed that it was for $100. He saw no reference to interest. The note was brought to him at a house he was building on Yates street and he had taken it into a cottage alongside where pen and ink was loaned. He had remarked that it was written with pencil, but when Williams said it was in indelible pencil he thought everything proper. He supposed the handwriting of the text of the note was that of accused. He identified a number of notes he had signed for Williams. They were mostly for $100, but there was one for $200. He had been in the habit of obtaining money through the agency of Williams, and he identified a note he had signed for Robert Matherson. He would have been equally willing to lend his signature to a note for $300 for Williams as for $100.

The note in question, which was placed in evidence with other notes, was handed to witness and he said that although part of the signature looked like his it was not written by him.

"Will you swear that is not your signature?" asked Mr. Robertson. "I swear I never signed that note," replied witness.

"It looks like your signature?" said Mr. Robertson.

"Yes, very much," replied witness.

"Will you swear that is not your signature to the note?" asked counsel.

"Yes," replied witness, "The reason I go by is that I've never seen that note.

"In other words that's a forgery?" said Mr. Robertson.

"You may class it anyway you please," replied witness.

Continuing his evidence, witness said, when Hodgson had called upon him to ask why the note was not paid, he had replied he knew nothing about the note, and that the one he had signed was for $100. Hodgson had fumed when he denied it was his signature to the note. He had gone to Williams about the matter. The first he heard of suggested criminal proceedings was three months ago, but he had not thought Hodgson would take the threatened proceedings. Then he had heard of Williams' arrest. He did not know why Williams should raise the note.

The defence did not call any witnesses and accused when asked if he wished to make a statement, said he had nothing to say. He was then committed for trial also on the second charge.

JOHN ALEXANDER DOWIE'S TROUBLES

Apostle of Zion Starts For Chicago to Confront Church Leaders.

Mexico City, April 5.—John Alexander Dowie, first apostle of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion, tonight started for Chicago, where he will confront the church leaders who have revolted against him. In an interview today, Dowie reviewed the history of his church. His table held many telegrams of loyal assurance from England and the United States and offers of financial aid if required. Dowie said the trouble came to a climax as a result in part of his Mexican undertakings. His wife and son agreed with those who made objections. He added that his son, although not a bad man, did not walk in his, (Dowie's) ways.

Dowie warmly refuted the charge that he had been extravagant and declared that he owned today the majority of shares in the Zion City bank, and he declared that when the accounts would be adjusted he would have a goodly balance to his credit.

Regarding the Charge of Tyranny

he remarked that like all business employers, he did not, and would not tolerate incompetency.

He said he was a sincere monogamist and had not contemplated introducing polygamy into his Mexican colonies. Dowie expressed confidence in the loyalty of the great mass of his adherents.

Chicago, Ills., April 5.—John Alexander Dowie's allegd domestic tyranny was laid bare before 250 overseers, elders, deacons, deaconesses and teachers, at a meeting here tonight. Nearly every officer of the church addressed the meeting, which lasted five hours, without intermission. Mrs. Jane Dowie, wife of the deposed "first apostle" told in detail Dowie's conduct towards her during the past two years. Mrs. Dowie related her husband's alleged efforts to convert her to the idea of plural marriage. It was to further his plans for polygamy, she declared, that he had developed the "Paradise plantation project" to be carried out in Mexico.

THE MINERS' STRIKE.

Situation in Soft Coal Mining Fields Assuming a Normal Aspect.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 5.—Gradually the situation in the soft coal mining fields is assuming a normal aspect. Forty-three of the mines of the Pittsburg coal companies were in operation today and at the adjournment of the district convention here today it is expected that it will be but a few days more when all the mines in this district will be running.

Seven independent companies signed the scale today. Twenty-five hundred miners returned to work at Roscoe, Pa. while Irwin, Somerset and Johnston still remain threatening storm centres.

At Somerset today, several miners were injured by stones. All the mines of the Somerset Coal company are being run as usual. More men returned to work at Johnstown and several of the mines were reported in operation. All disturbances reported have been confined to the foreign element.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 5.—In the anthracite region the arbitration proposition made by the miners' representatives to the operators during the conference in New York today is regarded in varying lights by the different interests involved. Several operators expressed the belief that it will not be accepted.

The situation in the coal fields remains unchanged. Occasional disturbances are reported from various sections, but they are regarded as inconsequen-

VESUVIUS CAUSES ALARM.

Five Streams of Lava Threatening the Adjacent Country.

Naples, April 5.—The eruption of Mount Vesuvius is assuming alarming proportions. Five streams of burning lava are descending the mountain, threatening everything below. Roaring explosions are heard for twenty miles around.

The inhabitants of the small villages near the crater are escaping, while processions of villagers, carrying images of saints and madonnas and praying for a cessation of the eruption, are passing through the neighboring towns.

The smoke and ashes are carried so far that all Naples is sprinkled with cinders. The Neapolitans are not alarmed; in fact they are rather glad, saying that the new eruption of Vesuvius is in preparation for the arrival of King Edward, who left Marseilles April 3rd on the royal yacht Victoria and Albert, accompanied by Queen Alexandra, and who is expected here today.

THE MALIGNED REPORTER.

Newspaper Men Really Detest Scandal Stories; Public Demands Them.

"A common charge brought against the newspaper reporters is that they are heartless, that they revel in laying before the world the closely guarded secrets of individuals. It constantly happens that a reporter must do unpleasant things because others have been guilty of those violations of custom, law, or convention that make news. The opprobrium that belongs tothe real offender is not infrequently heaped upon the innocent newsgatherer. There is no work a reporter detests so much as that involving a social scandal, and there is no story that a large percentage of readers will devour more eagerly. There isn't a good reporter living who has not been guilty of that blackest, least forgivable of all journalistic crimes, 'throwing down' his newspaper to protect a helpless person innocently involved in a legitimate news story that is a matter of public record. On the whole, the newsgatherers are a tender-hearted folk and generous, and that which often passes for cynicism is an intense hatred and contempt for shams. If they appear susnicious it is because long experience has taught them that they must constantly guard against deception. There is no walk in life a good reporter is not compelled, sooner or later, to invade, and his position is the trying one of being compelled either to gain the confidence of or outwit those he meets there."—Hartley Davis in Everybody's Magazine.

A RACE IN RAILWAY BUILDING.

C. P. R. and Jim Hill in a Death Struggle in the Great West.

Under the caption "A Race In Railway Building," the Vancouver Province says: "There was a time in the history of Canada when the ablest and most aspiring of her children sought a larger field of opportunity than she could offer them, and the legislators in the parliament were alarmed at the rush to the United States. The rush of the country south of the border was in the nature of a migration in which the best brain and sinew of the Dominion were numbered. This was before the making of the West. Every department of the wide, arduous national life of the republic now bears the impress of that exodus from Canada. The native born of this country form no undistinguished portion of the citizens of the United States. In all branches of industry and commerce, in promoting the great enterprises which have made of the American republic a world power, Canadians have been among the guiding minds. They sit in her legislative halls and fill the chairs of her great seats of learning. They are numbered among her merchant princes and her most illustrious citizens.

But with the making of the West the migration ceased. The opportunities which the older provinces could not offer are found in newer Canada. Not only has the exodus discontinued, but many of those of the earlier generations, who marched south are marching northward again, they and their children. They are bringing with them the wealth and experience gained in a foreign land, but which will not be less valuable on that account to them and to this country. Many who are not disposed to make a second removal are sending capital for investment under conditions safer and more profitable than can be found elsewhere. Among those whose interest in Western Canada is making a stir on both sides of the border line is the great railway promoter and manager, President James J. Hill of the Great Northern. This colossal figure of the railway world, the most enterprising and the boldest and most successful of all those in the United States, was a migrant from Ontario in the sixties, and in the interval which has since elapsed he has built up a great transcontinental system and opened to settlement and development the Middle West states of the union.

Quick to appreciate the possibilities of a country and to take advantage of them he has for some years been quietly acquiring larger and larger interests in British Columbia, until he has become a decided factor in the life of the province. Now comes the intelligence, startling, perhaps, but readily understandable and easily credible, that he has actually under way a project for constructing a transcontinental line through Canadian territory, and that he will run a race in railway construction with the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern. No one who has watched the policy pursued by President Hill during the past few years will for a moment doubt that he has now in hand either by actual construction or the preliminary work of surveys the eighteen hundred miles of road from Vancouver to Winnipeg. Under the circumstances it may be regarded as a fair sporting proposition to lay a wager on the winner. British Columbians, it is more than probable, would not hesitate to name the favorite.

The entry of President Hill into the field of All-Canadian railway construction is, however, the best tribute which could be offered to the value of Western Canada and its future outlook. Mr. Hill has no sentiment in building railways, nor does he have regard to nationality. A Canadian born and an American by adoption, he is on the lookout for large business for his enterprises, and that he should have entered without fuss and without demand for assistance on the construction of a road, to build the duplicate of which a Canadian company demanded and obtained the pledge of the Dominion's credit, not only marks him out for distinction as a fearless and superior operator, but should impress the people of this country with the worth of their western possessions, as estimated by the shrewdest and most successful of American projectors.

ZULUS ATTACK THE COLONIAL FIELD FORCE

Eye Witness Describes Rescue of Isolated Party of Women and Children.

TROOPS ARE COMPELLED TO RETIRE

Column Is Ambushed by Insurgents While on March to Greytown.

London, April 6.—A despatch gives this account of the fighting between the Zulus and the Natal colonist expedition which rescued the women and children isolated at Keate's Drift: "Bambaata surprised the column at dusk at Impanza, the natives springing out of the thicket, fanatically shouting their battle cry and attacking the vanguard with their assegais. The police behaved with coolness, keeping the horde of blacks at bay and steadily continuing the march to Greytown. The fighting did not cease till midnight, when the column reached Bota's farm in safety. The women and children had been placed in the center of the column and thus completely shielded.

The infuriated natives hacked the bodies of three policemen, who were killed, but the bodies were rescued. Sergeant Brown is missing, and it is feared that he also has been killed.

The white residents of Impanza escaped to Keate's Drift at Bambaatas, first attack, and the looting of the hotel and imbibing liquor incapacitated the rebels.

Compelled to Retire

Greytown, Natal, April 5.—The colonial field force, which was concentrating at Impanza, 12 miles northwest of Greytown for operations against the insurgent chief, Bambaata, the deposed regent of the Greytown district, has been compelled to abandon its laager after heavy fighting and retire to Greytown.

A portion of the force sent to rescue the women and children isolated at Keate's Drift, succeeded in doing so, but while returning was attacked by rebellious natives. A running fight was kept up for six miles, the Zulus continuing the pursuit until within a mile of Greytown. Three of the colonial police were killed and several were wounded. The remainder are safe at Greytown.

Rebels in Strong Numbers

The police report that the rebels are in strong numbers, and flushed with victory and the officials fear further excesses.

A strong force of artillery, infantry and mounted men is moving out of Greytown today to operate against the rebels. A laager has been formed here and every preparation has been made to defend Greytown in case of attack. An assault on the town, however, is considered unlikely to occur, the Zulus preferring to fight in the rugged country outside.

The British field force at present only numbers a few hundred men, and will be strongly reinforced during the next twenty-four hours.

BY-LAWS ARE PASSED.

Grand Forks Endorses Several Public Measures.

Grand Forks, B. C., April 5.—At the election held here today, the Kettle Valley line railway right-of-way bylaw passed, the following votes being polled: For the bylaw, 231. Nine against and six spoiled ballots. The Grandforks steel structural bonus bylaw also passed, for which the following votes were polled: For the bylaw, 230; against, 11; and 5 spoiled ballots.

Supt. H. W. Warrington says that work on his railway will start forthwith. The building of the steel works also will be started immediately.

There is general rejoicing here this evening over the passage of the two so important bills, which means much for Grand Forks.

VON BUELOW IMPROVING.

German Chancellor Is Recovering From Fainting Spell.

Berlin, April 6.—Inquiries this morning at the residence of Chancellor Von Buelow, elicited the information that he is continuing to improve.

A few minutes after Von Buelow fainted in the reichstag, telephone messages were sent to the Princess Von Buelow and to the Emperor. The Princess reached her husband as soon as Prof. Danvers. The Emperor was at lunch when the intelligence was conveyed to him and he immediately arose, recalled all his engagements for the afternoon and ordered a carriage to go to the reichstag. Prince Von Buelow spoke for about half an hour on the Moroccan question at the opening of the day's session in his usual animated style; but it was observed that his face was very red and that he seemed to have difficulty in drawing his breath.

His break-down was undoubtedly caused by over work during the Moroccan conference. He had been working from eight in the morning to midnight for three months past.

THE PHILLIPS CASE.

Police Court Development of an Interesting Character.

Toronto, April 5.—J. E. Jones, counsel for Phillips, again added variety to the police court proceedings by intermittent objections to the manner in which the case was being conducted by the magistrate. He was finally informed that if he was not satisfied he could apply for a change of venue.

The features of the evidence were the detailing of Phillips having secured Toronto Life stock and having paid for it the same to be held by Jean McCann. Various checks issued by Burt for commissions were closely scrutinized. Mr. Jones wanted to know what that had to do with Phillips, but the court said: "If this man was honing anything for Phillips we should know it. If this man obtained money as result of conspiracy with Phillips he is not entitled to it, and we want to get it," added Mr. Curry. One lady said on the stand that the check for $10,000 did not go to the credit of Phillips. "I have here vouchers from the Bank of Montreal showing that it did go to Phillips' account, and it is vouched in the handwriting of this same young lady."