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(From THE DAILY COLONIST, Sept. 25.)

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Reduced Rates.

Within the past week the tramway company have lowered the rate on the Esquimalt line, the fare now being ten cents each way, instead of twenty-five cents for the round trip. It is needless to say the public do not object to the change.

Naval Notes.

H. M. S. Pheasant will pay off her old crew shortly, sending the men home by the C.P.R.; H.M.S. Champion will do the same, and both will ship fresh crews at Esquimalt. A grand tournament of athletic sports is being arranged for October 8th.

More Wharfage.

Another new wharf is being built on the Belleville street water front, for Mr. John W. Fleming, stone cutter. The wharf is to be 150 feet long, and will be built of the strongest material. It is the intention of Mr. Fleming to use it almost entirely for the handling of stone.

One Thousand Dollars Reward.

The above reward is offered by the Provincial Government for such information as shall lead to the apprehension and conviction of the persons concerned in the robbery of the Columbia and Kootenay Railway and Navigation company's safe, at Nelson, on Saturday, August 29th last.

W. C. T. U.

The meeting of the W. C. T. U., which was to be held in Temperance Hall, Pandora street, yesterday afternoon, was withdrawn, on account of the session held last Monday evening. But a meeting will be as usual, next Thursday at 3 p.m., when, it is expected, some very important business will come up.

The People.

Port Angeles has still another newspaper, and, if the standard of No. 1, Vol. 1, is maintained, a good one. "The People" is the name borne by the new arrival, which is to be "devoted to the interests of the republic and the toiling millions." The initial number is clean and attractive typographically, and the news is interesting, fresh and original.

The Hive and Honey.

Early yesterday morning some party or parties unknown broke into the Bee Hive saloon, on Fort street, and removed what cash was in the till, amounting to some $12. There is no clue as to the intruders, but whoever they were they appear to have known the ways of the house and the whereabouts of the coffers.

Easy to Find.

The secretary of the committee on accommodation for the fair and tournament week has secured a neat little office on Yates street, at the entrance to the New York Hotel, thanks to the kindness of Mrs. Johnson. Anyone having rooms to place at the disposal of visitors is requested to register particulars at the secretary's office.

Of Unsound Mind.

A woman, by the name of Mrs. Smith, was taken to the city lock-up, last evening, by Officer Redgrave, charged with being of an unsound mind. She went over to the other side the night before last, on the steamer City of Kingston, and returned, last evening, on the same steamer. She was found, later in the evening, in a very excited condition.

A Golden Wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Dowler, well-known in this city, celebrated their golden wedding in England on the 15th of last July, in a style worthy of the great event. The following is clipped from an English paper:

GOLDEN WEDDING.—DOWLER—BLACK.—On the 15th July, 1841, at St. James', Piccadilly, by special licence, John Walter Dowler, of Ashcombe, Sussex, to Isabella, daughter of William Black, of Jodburgh, Scotland.

All Indians.

The Indians seem to be the only law-defying citizens now in town. In yesterday's police court four appeared in the dock. One was a drunk, who paid a fine of $5, while his next door neighbor paid the same for committing an assault. Number three was charged with having an intoxicant in his possession, for which he was made to pay a penalty of $25. The fourth, for carrying liquor on the reserve, was fined $50, or in default two months.

James Bay Athletic Club.

A meeting of the shareholders of the James Bay Athletic Club was held last evening, there being a good attendance. The financial standing of the club was fully discussed, and after much important business was transacted, the following officers were elected: Hon. President, A. C. Flumerfelt; President, Joshua Holland; Vice-President, Capt. John Irving; Trustees—Geo. Byrnes, H. D. Helmcken, A. G. Sargison, E. Mallandaine and Dr. J. D. Helmcken. A committee of management, including the above trustees, was appointed as follows: C. E. Dickenson, E. W. Finlayson, W. E. Askew, W. B. Charles, A. E. Mowat, F. A. Jackson, R. J. Kerr, J. S. Yates, W. Sullivan and C. Finlayson.

Rhyn Whiskey.

Geo. Miller, a white man, working in Esquimalt, was arrested last night by Officers McNeil and Hunter, on a charge of supplying an Indian with an intoxicant. It appears that the Indian went to him in the morning and gave him about $60 to get liquor. He accepted the cash, and went to a saloon and got three large boxes, each containing fifteen bottles of gin. The Indian did not say anything more about it until night, when he met the prisoner on Store street, and asked him where the whiskey was. He then took the Indian back to the woods, near Esquimalt, where he had the stuff concealed, and, as he gave it to him, the officers came up and took all parties concerned.

THE LATE A. A. GREEN.

Funeral Services of More Than Ordinarily Impressive Character.

The funeral of the late Mr. A. A. Green, which took place yesterday afternoon, was attended by very many sorrowing friends of all classes of society, who became one in mourning the death of a kind and sympathetic friend and a public and philanthropic citizen. Between three and four hundred called at the family residence, Gyppeswyk, during the morning, to offer such consolation as they might to the bereaved family, and view the well known face of the departed friend. The body was enclosed in a massive oak casket, highly polished, with gold and silver mountings, which soon became partially hidden in the wealth of flowers which filled the house with perfume. The floral pieces, which occupied every inch of room in one back in the funeral cortege, were of rare beauty and great variety. The cards attached bore the following, as well as many other names: Dr. Milne and Mrs. Milne, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Kurtz, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Kelly, Mr. McNeill, Mr. A. Keast, Mr. E. A. McQuade, Mrs. Wm. Wilson, Miss Annie Munro, Mrs. W. C. Ward, Mrs. H. Kent, Messrs. Geo. and Louis Garesche, Mrs. W. Ridgeway-Wilson, Mrs. Dr. R. Harris, Mrs. Chantrell, Mrs. Robert Ward, Mr. Coltart, Miss Spooner, Mrs. Arthur Lewis, Mr. J. D. Pemberton, the Misses Pemberton, Mr. A. R. Milne, Ladies' Committee P. O. Home, Mr. and Mrs. Goffin, Mr. Francis Bourchier, Orphans of the Home, Mr. Chas. Dickenson, Mrs. Hibben, Messrs. Redon & Hartnagle, Ald. F. G. Richards jr., Mr. Bishop, Mr. D. Carr, Mrs. Nicholles, Dr. Duncan, Mrs. Eli Harrison, the gentlemen of Garesche, Green & Co., Capt. Clarke, Mrs. John Irving, Miss Cridge, Mrs. Laundy, Mrs. Alex. Munro, Mrs. Henry Croft, Mrs. D. W. Higgins, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. Robert Irving, Mrs. Nuttall, Mrs. Percy Brown, Mr. Aaron Lewis, Mrs. Dunsmuir, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Earle.

The funeral services at both the Reformed Episcopal church and the grave were conducted by the Venerable Bishop, assisted by the Rev. C. E. Dobbs, and at the church by the full choir. Mayor Grant, Mr. Thos. Earle, M.P., Mr. G. H. Burns, Mr. Wm. Wilson, Hon. D. W. Higgins, Mr. W. C. Ward, Mr. Henry Saunders and Major Nicholles were the pall-bearers, while the chief mourners at the cemetery were the sons of the deceased, Masters Ray, Frank and Albert Green; Mr. F. H. Worlock and Master Ray Worlock, Mr. George and Mr. L. Garesche, Mr. J. B. Chantrell, Mr. J. Coltart, Mr. B. Goward, Mr. A. Haynes and Mr. D. Steele.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION

Of Royal Arch Masons—List of Officers—Presentation to M. E. Past First Principal McKeown.

The annual convocation of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, under the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Edinburgh, Scotland, was held in the Chapter hall, Masonic Temple, yesterday at 3 p.m. The officers for this year are: Companion W. J. Quinlan, 1st Z.; Companion T. F. Richardson, 2nd H.; Companion A. Stewart, 3rd J.; Companion E. Langley, Scribe E.; Companion B. S. Oddy, Scribe N.; Companion C. E. Renouf, Treasurer; Companion J. L. Stamford, 1st Sojourner; Companion A. Rusta, 2nd Sojourner; Companion C. Dubois Mason, 3rd Sojourner; Companion T. Cuniff, Janitor.

After disposing of business, the companions adjourned, meeting again at 7:30 p.m., when the officers were installed by Most Excellent Past First Principal Angus McKeown. After the installation, Companion Angus McKeown was presented with a Past First Principal's jewel by the Companions of the Chapter. At 9:30 p.m., the Companions assembled to enjoy a banquet, prepared by F. Garland.

THE FORESTERS' FESTIVAL.

Grand Gathering of the Independent Order in this City.

All the Foresters of the Independent Order, in this province and in the State of Washington, will meet in Victoria, on Thursday, October 1st, excursion steamers bringing the courts from Nanaimo, Westminster, Vancouver, Port Townsend, Seattle, Tacoma, and other neighboring points.

The Mainland brethren, arriving first, will be met by Court Cariboo, and escorted to the City Hall, the Council Chamber having been secured for the meeting place. From headquarters, the provincial lodge will march together, in full regalia, to the outer wharf, to receive the visitors from the American side. All the courts will join in the parade following, the company dispersing at the City Hall.

In the evening, an open session will be held, addresses on the objects and standing of the order, interspersed with music recitations, etc., forming the programme. The I.O.F., though only recently established in this city, now numbers many influential citizens among its members, Court Cariboo being one of the most attractive, as well as progressive lodges in the city.

A BICYCLE RAILROAD.

Proposed Rapid Line From Seattle to Tacoma—Advantages of the System.

(Post Intelligencer.)

The Seattle & Tacoma Air Line Railway Company is seriously considering the adoption of a new form of railroad, which would double the present speed of trains and greatly reduce the cost of construction and operation. This is the bicycle railway, an invention already in successful operation on a line one mile and three-quarters long, on Coney Island, N.Y. A survey has been completed for a line from Seattle to Tacoma, on which the distance is reduced to thirty-six miles, and the minimum curve is 2,865 feet. This line would give an opportunity of testing the system on a long distance, and the profile of the proposed route has been sent East for the consideration of the directors, who will soon reach the decision, whether a bicycle railroad shall connect the two cities or not.

The Boynton patent is the application to railroads of the principle of the bicycle. As a thirty-pound bicycle will carry ten times its weight, and a man has traveled 334 miles on a bicycle in one day, the advantages of the systems were seen to be the minimum of dead weight and friction and the maximum speed. The bicycle railway consists of a single rail in the middle of the road-bed and a guide beam overhead, held in position by a timber or metal framework. The wheels are under the centre of the locomotive and cars and have a double flange, which prevents them from jumping the track, while a pair of truly wheels on the roof run on the guide beam overhead. The guide beam serves to prevent the car from jumping the rail and keep the train upright, especially while rounding curves, its motion keeping it upright on a straight track.

For the bicycle railway it is claimed that the friction is reduced to a minimum, consequently the amount of dead weight may be immensely reduced and thus a higher rate of speed can be safely and with ease maintained. A driving wheel, six feet in diameter with short stroke engines, can be made to run a bicycle locomotive 100 to 125 miles an hour, and bicycle trains can carry five times their weight without any proportionate increase of friction.

The passenger cars of this system are fourteen feet high, forty-two feet long and four feet wide and two stories high, and are loaded and unloaded from two story platforms at the depots. They are divided into eighteen compartments, nine on each story, and seat sixty-six persons. They are constructed of three thicknesses of one-eighth inch wood veneer, are encircled lengthwise by a triple band of steel and vertically at the top, center and bottom by ten bands of steel opposite each division wall of a compartment, and eighty-eight steel rods run between the seats. They are entered by doors opening into each compartment and by spiral staircases at the ends. By this construction, lightness is combined with strength.

It is estimated that the trains would make the trip from Seattle to Tacoma in forty minutes at the most, and the time may be reduced to thirty minutes, as the line would be double-tracked and no danger of collisions would be incurred. The route selected after passing the head of the bay is the top of the ridge which divides the Sound from the valley.

MASSACRED BY INDIANS.

PORTLAND, Or., Sept. 24.—A letter was received to-day from Juneau, Alaska, under date of Sept. 12th, which says:—Intelligence has just reached here from the upper Yukon that a band of hostile Chilcats attacked a small hunting party of two whites and five Indians, and several were killed. It is thought here that the party is one composed of E. B. Ewing, a prominent citizen and journalist, of Missouri, Herbert Carcliffe, a young Englishman, and five Indians.

VERNON VS. "THE TIMES."

$10,000 Damages Claimed by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works

For Alleged Defamation of Character—A Case that will Last Several Days.

Contempt of Court Which May Result in a Term of Imprisonment.

In the Supreme Court, yesterday morning, before Sir M. B. Begbie and a special jury, the case of Vernon vs. The Times was begun. This is an action for libel, in which damages are laid at $10,000. The article complained of appeared in the Victoria Daily Times, of July 21st, under the heading "Vacillating Vernon," which accused the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works of favoritism in the administration of his department. One of the clauses of the article to which exception is taken, and on which the charge is mainly based, reads thus:

"All the political scandals of this year of grace, 1891, are not centered in Ottawa. At the Federal capital, no doubt, the gamesters play for higher stakes, and there are more gamblers there than in Victoria, who go in for a grand jack-pot; but our Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works knows how to play a lone hand, when the stakes are worth the risk. The gambler who plays with cards up his sleeve is pretty certain to win the game; and, for the same reason, when Mr. George Forbes Vernon is the interpreter of the Land Act—the dealer, so to speak, of the cards—the play is unequal, and the honest applicant for land is at a fatal disadvantage.

"It goes on to give what it alleges to be a faithful account of certain applications for lands at Port Simpson, accusing Mr. Vernon of favoring his friends, to the detriment of others who applied for sections of that country.

Messrs. Chas. Wilson and G. V. Bodwell appeared for the plaintiff; Messrs. A. L. Belyea and Thornton Fell for the defendant. The following jury were sworn in: Messrs. J. Lovell (foreman), George Jacques, R. J. Russell, Joseph Sears, John Teague, W. B. McKillican, P. T. Johnson, and David Spencer.

Mr. Bodwell opened the case with a lengthy explanation of the working of the Land Act, explaining that it was the policy of the Government to encourage the taking up of crown lands. He produced maps showing tracts of land applied for by Messrs. Davies, Barnard, Cunningham & Son, and others, all of which had been duly advertised, and the ten per cent. paid down. At this time the department was not aware that there were other claims on this property, and no until those to whom the lands had been awarded had paid in their last deposit on the 5th March did this appear. On the 13th March, and after the usual sixty days' notice had been given, claims to the property came in from other parties. Mr. Vernon interpreted the Act as meaning that those latter parties had no claim, the law making their claims having expired. Had they any objection a remedy was provided for them by section 102 of the Land Act, giving them power within one month to appeal to the court. They persisted, however, in their claims, and the matter was referred to the Attorney-General, who, upon consideration thought it would be advisable to hold an investigation. The result of this investigation was, that the conditions of the Act had not been complied with by Mr. Davies, Mr. Barnard or Mr. Cunningham. But if these gentlemen had not complied with the Act, the others were wrong in a much aggravated degree. As none of the parties had complied with the Act, it was decided to take the land over from the claimants as surveyed land, and offer it for public sale. This was done, as advertised, but before the date set forth, and from information received by Mr. Vernon, he deemed it advisable to withdraw the sale. This course was approved of in council; (the article in the Times of 21st July appearing under the heading, "Vacillating Vernon," was here submitted.) Counsel argued at length that the article was a clear libel, full of falsehood and base charges, as the editor of the Times must have known at the date. Not alone was the personal character of Mr. Vernon attacked, but his public character was assailed. The article in question, counsel said, was untrue, libelous, and malicious. It was not published for the purpose of benefiting the community, but clearly to gratify the spleen of the writer or some other individual. The liberty of the press was one of the vitals of vital to the prosperity of a country; but it was a liberty which should not be abused. The article in the Times was clearly an abuse of this liberty. It was not written with the object of proving what the writer professed to believe to be crookedness on the part of Mr. Vernon. If this were the object, it would have been couched in language more becoming and serious, instead of vulgarism, the writer apparently being better acquainted with gambling and card-playing slang than with good English. It was no defence to set up that the article was written in good faith, and that the writer believed what he said to be the truth. He had the means at his disposal to ascertain the correct state of the case, as all the evidence needed—it was documentary evidence—could be had from the Lands and Works Department. This country was a young country, and the government was wisely endeavoring to induce settlers and capital to come to it and take up the vacant lands. The offensive article was extensively copied into other newspapers, not alone in Canada and America, but in the Old Country. What would people think of the manner in which the Lands and Works Department was managed, if they were to believe the statements made in the Times concerning its chief? Then again, to prove the malice of the Times, an unprecedented liberty was taken in publishing a private letter, examination, and that in a garbled form—most important points being wilfully omitted, and for the purpose of prejudicing the public mind before the case was heard.

His Lordship—Whoever is responsible for or advised the publication of that evidence was guilty of a gross contempt of court, and is liable to imprisonment. It is not a true copy of the official report, and had no right whatever to be published. It is gross contempt of court.

Hon. Theo. Davie was put in the box, and recognized the copy of the Times, containing the article, which he purchased at the office of that paper.

Hon. Mr. Vernon, examined by Mr. Bodwell, deposed—I am Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and, by virtue of my office, am a member of the executive. I am a member of the Government. I have been in public life since 1886. I was shortly afterwards appointed to my present office. I remember the circumstances connected with the sale of land at Port Simpson. An official map was produced, showing the lands which had been gazetted. A bound volume of the B. C. Gazette for the years 1889 and 1890 was also put in. Witness pointed out the lands which had been gazetted. The applications from Davies and Barnard were duly made—that of Davies for 1,000 acres was made on the 25th January, 1890; that of Barnard for 82 acres was dated 6th February, 1890. Both applications were duly gazetted.

The application of Cunningham and sons was handed to witness, and identified. It was dated March 1st, 1890, and duly gazetted. There was also a subsequent application from Davies, dated 5th March, 1890, also identified.

Mr. C. Wilson handed in a printed copy, certified, of the correspondence in respect of the lands in dispute.

The correspondence started with a protest, dated February 28th, 1890, against the sale of 1,280 acres of land, near Port Simpson, to Mr. Joshua Davies, on the ground that he had not staked the land or posted the notice required by clause 30, of the Land Act, 1884. To this Mr. Vernon replied, that the application of Mr. Davies had been accepted, no protest having been filed within the prescribed time—sixty days. The protest was signed by J. M. Lindsay Alexander, R. H. Hall, J. D. Hall, B. E. Hall, Gordon Lockerby, Frank Roundy, C. W. Robson, George and B. Robson. Several other protests were also received on same grounds. H. E. Hall, on behalf of Albert E. Bolton, protested against the application of R. Cunningham & Son, because they had not staked their claim or advertised the application, to which Hon. Mr. Vernon replied in like terms to those adopted in the other case. Protests were also directed to the Commissioner against the application of F. S. Barnard for lands in the same district. Seeing that the same answer was being given as in the first petition, those who claimed the prior rights to the lands in question, sent in their cheques for purchase money, but these also were returned. A sample letter in this connection is the following:

Hon. F. G. Vernon, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, Victoria, B. C.:

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 28th April last, returning cheque for $25, being deposit of 10 per cent. for purchase of 520 acres of land in Coast District, which, on behalf of Mr. A. E. Bolton, I had applied for on 14th April; also returning cheque for $55 deposit made at same time on application of Mr. A. E. Green for purchase of 550 acres.

I have also to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 28th inst., returning cheque for $48 deposited on behalf of Messrs. Geo. F. Hopkins and A. E. Green for purchase of 480 acres.

In the above letters you decline to entertain our applications on the ground that these lands have been applied for by Mr. F. S. Barnard, Messrs. R. Cunningham & Son, and Mr. Joshua Davies, and that no protests against their applications had been filed before receipt of their deposits.

I would remind you that in my letter of 17th March last I pointed out that that position is untenable. As you have not taken exception to our contentions as expressed in that letter, it is needless for me to repeat the provisions of the Land Act which are fatal to the claims of the applicants who you say made prior application; but we claim the right given by the Act, to show, and to appeal before you and prove, that we have complied with the Act and that the other applicants have not.

Trusting to receive fair treatment at the hands of the Department, which is all we ask, I beg to again send you, inclosed herewith, the three cheques which were returned by you.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

H. G. HALL.

One of the applicants, Mr. Hall, wrote asking if there was any mistake in the case.

Witness explained that parties wishing to purchase lands had to give sixty days' notice, while notice for pre-emptied lands should also be given for a like term. On the 26th May, the House was prorogued, Mr. Vernon left Victoria in May, and the election was in June. He went to the interior during the interval between this and the 18th July, and resumed his office work on the 21st.

The witness said that he was absent from Victoria from 13th May to 18th July, during which time there was some correspondence with the office. In August he left on a visit to England, returning on the 23rd January last.

Do you know that cheques presented from Mr. Barnard, during your absence, were received at the office and returned? asked Mr. Wilson.

Witness said he knew nothing further about this matter except what appeared on the books. After returning from England he was informed that during his absence an investigation had been mentioned.

Several applications for the lands in question were handed in for identification. On the 13th February he held an investigation into the matter, and found that Messrs. Barnard and Davis had not staked their lands. The rival applicants applied for lands which had already been claimed. The result of this investigation was referred to the Executive council, and approved of in May, 1891. The different applicants for these crown lands were notified of the fact.

Witness explained that it was owing to pressure of business and with the object of giving Cunningham a chance of being present that the investigation was put off. Portions of the lands were reserved, which were not in dispute, and these he might, had he thought fit to do so, have given to any of the applicants. Portions of the lands claimed by Barnard and others had been surveyed by them, and the cost thus incurred was refunded.

His Lordship asked if the evidence taken at the investigation into those rival claims was on oath.

Witness replied in the negative.

Examination continued—In consequence of information received he advised the executive to withdraw the sale of these lands, and his advice was taken.

Taking the Times, Mr. Wilson read over passages of the offensive article, and questioned the witness on same. The assertion was made that favors were shown to friends in the granting of lands. This he denied. He only twice spoke to Mr. Cunningham, and he scarcely knew Mr. Reid. He conscientiously endeavored to carry out the Land Act. In response to the question, "Have you noticed copies of these articles in other newspapers?" Mr. Vernon replied in the affirmative, and handed a number of newspapers containing quotations from the article. The Seattle Times and the Colonies in India were handed in among others.

Mr. Belyea objected to the introduction of these papers as evidence.

His Lordship—You should not object to that. Your client comes here as a philanthropist, and surely if all he puts forth be right it would be an advantage that the most complete publicity should be given to it.

Mr. Barnard disputed the right of those parties to object to his application, and set forth his reasons as follows:

On the 6th of December, 1889, I applied at the Land Office in Victoria to purchase 320 acres of land at Port Simpson, adjoining some land at that time owned by me there.

Mr. R. H. John informed me he was proceed to acquire this land. His instructions were followed to the letter. A stake had been planted at the point from which the land proposed to be purchased was described.

Notice of intention to purchase was inserted in the Gazette on the 21st December, 1889.

Deposit of 10 per cent. was paid and accepted by the Department on the 6th of February, 1890.

With the consent of the Department, Messrs. Gray & Devereux were employed to survey the land.

The survey was proceeded with, was accepted and gazetted on the 7th of August, 1890, by the Department.

On the 13th of August, balance of purchase money was paid and accepted by the Department. Prior to that date, the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works gave Mr. B. H. John instructions, in my presence, to prepare the Crown grant. On the 4th or September by money less ten per cent., was returned, and I was informed that there were adverse claimants to the land.

The adverse claimants, Messrs. Green and Bolton, published a notice in the Gazette on the 26th February, after my deposit had been accepted, applying for the land, or a portion of it. Their deposit was tendered and refused on the 25th of March.

They have not surveyed the land as required by the act, and the six months have elapsed some time ago.

They never asked for or received any permission from the department to postpone their survey.

Mr. Gore so informed myself and the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, in my presence.

I, therefore, contend that their claim should not be considered, on the grounds:

1st—That their application was made subsequent to mine, i.e., after my deposit had been accepted.

2nd—That they have not complied with the requirements of the act by surveying within six months after date of application, or received permission to defer such survey.

With regard to Mr. R. H. Hall's claim to a portion of my land, evidence is in the land office showing that he neither tendered the 10 per cent. deposit or surveyed the land, and, I believe, did not even advertise in the Gazette, and only bases his claim upon his *ipse dixit* that he staked the land.

I submit, therefore, that as I was the first applicant, paid my deposit within the required time, surveyed the land with the consent of the Department within the required time, paid the balance of the purchase money upon acceptance of the survey, said money being accepted and instructions being given to prepare my Crown grant, I should now receive my patent without delay.

Cross-examined by Mr. Fell—I saw the article on the day after it appeared in the Times. I do not know that there was a meeting of the executive that day or the next.

When did you issue the writ? I think it was the day after, because I saw that something would have to be done.

Was there a meeting of the executive before the writ was issued? I don't think so. I had some conversation with members, but there was no executive meeting.

Who prepared your statement of claims? My solicitors.

Who are they? Bodwell & Irving.

How, then, did they know of this order in council to make public all those documents? I don't know.

What was the date of the writ? July 23rd.

And the date of the order in council? July 23d.

Is the Attorney General acting as counsel for you in this matter? He is not.

Are you prosecuting the case yourself, or is it the Government? I am doing it myself.

The original field notes of Mr. Richards, by whom the map was prepared, were produced, and the witness questioned at length upon the same. Mr. Vernon explained that he was the political and temporary head of the department, and not the professional and permanent officer. He was not a civil engineer, and could not speak with authority on the map.

His Lordship objected to the technical nature of the questions put, and asked Mr. Fell to confine himself to the point at issue.

Mr. Fell replied that he was doing so, as one of the allegation, to which exception had been taken, was that lands which were unsurveyed were given over to Mr. Vernon's friends.

His Lordship—That is not the point. You liken him unto a gambler, with a pack of cards up his sleeve, and use the basest language you can conceive towards him.

Witness explained the particulars of an application made by E. S. Mason, and denied that F. S. Barnard had applied for or been granted unsurveyed land.

Mr. Fell—Do you consider it to be part of your duty to see that the applications made are correct?

Witness—I presume they are. I don't examine them all myself. 640 acres is the most that can be secured in one application.

His Lordship—A man could apply for and get 640 acres, and then take another 640.

Witness, continuing, said that in the case of Davies claim, the office assumed that the lands were properly staked until proof to the contrary is adduced.

Cunningham's application was, according to the map and the description given in the Gazette, for a tract of water.

Mr. Fell made the most of this discovery, and asked if this Crown grant would have been granted or what lands were given instead of the water.

The answer was that the claim had not been recorded.

Mr. Fell continued to examine the witness on the same lines, in the endeavor to prove that there was no knowledge of the lands applied for in the land office. The explanation was that the lands were, at the time of the application, unsurveyed.

"Had you any private correspondence with any of the parties with reference to these applications?" asked Mr. Fell.

Witness answered that he did not think he had had. In the early stages of the trouble he might have suggested a compromise to the parties concerned. The lands at the time were worth about $1 per acre, but they were now more valuable. In the case of Alexander, Hall and others, for 412 acres, the claim overlapped 240 acres alienated by Crown grant prior to the date of the notice of intention to apply. In the case of Mr. Bolton's application for 520 acres his initial post was planted upon land already alienated by Crown grant, and his application included 80 acres of land previously alienated by Crown grant. The description in Mr. Bolton's Gazette notice is not in accordance with the measurements set forth in the "Land Act." In Mr. Green's claim to purchase 550 acres, his application sent into the Land Office was not in accordance with his Gazette notice. His descriptions were not in accord in the measurements set forth in the "Land Act." 20 chains in length being the longest line allowed, whereas Mr Green's lines extend in one direction 120 chains and in another 93 chains. The application also included land alienated by Crown grant prior to the date of the notice. In the case of Hopkins and Green's claim, their measurements were 160 chains east and west, whereas the "Land Act" permits only 80 chains. The position of the initial post is not on the land but in Works Channel. M. King also applied for 320 acres of the same ground. In the case of Alexander and others for 1,280 acres, the land applied for extends 120 chains north, when the Act only permits 80 chains. There are about 400 acres of Works Channel included in this application, and the position of the initial post, as located by the Gazette notice and as shown on the application sent to the Land Office do not agree.

Mr. Fell examined the witness at considerable length on these objections, and elicited that no action had been taken based on the cases of Messrs. Barnard, Cunningham or Davies. The reason assigned was, that until the facts were revealed by the investigation, the department were not cognisant of them.

Hon. Theo. Davie, Attorney-General, was next put on the stand, and deposed that during Mr. Vernon's absence in England, he had been spoken to in reference to the lands at Port Simpson, claimed by Barnard, Davies and Cunningham. One of the parties spoke of applying for an injunction against the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. He informed Mr. Hall, to whom he was spoken to on the point, that if those people who "alleged to have a prior claim, could substantiate, Barnard, Cunningham or Davies could not claim the lands. An investigation was held, and it was then found that all the claims to these lands were out of order. Witness was examined as to his connection with the present action, and said that he advised it, and drew up the statement of claim.

Cross-examined by Mr. Fell—I consider it consistent with my position as Attorney-General to do as I did in this case. I am not acting as Mr. Vernon's counsel, but simply as his friend.

This concluded the evidence for the prosecution, and the Court adjourned until 10 o'clock, this morning.

SMITH—KING.

Still Another Fashionable Wedding Solemnized at Christ Church Cathedral, Yesterday.

A bright sun set in a fair blue sky shone down upon as pretty a wedding party as Christ Church Cathedral has ever seen, yesterday morning, when Mr. Thomas R. Smith, assistant commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Co., took to himself a bride, Miss Florence H. King, daughter of the late Captain Edward Hammond King, of Her Majesty's 59th regiment.

Both principals being well known, and moving in the highest society circles, assured a largely attended and eminently fashionable wedding, and such it was. The ladies were out in all the glory of handsome costumes, thronging the church long before the ceremony, and strange to say, dozens of gentlemen, although it was an early wedding, were also on hand. The groom's recognized standing in the front rank of Victoria's progressive business men; his identification with many public organizations, charitable and social, and his fine social qualities, no doubt accounted for the large attendance of the male sex.

The bride entered the church, which was beautifully decorated leaning on the arm of her brother, Mr. Arthur King, J.P., and was met at the altar by the groom and his friend Mr. Drummond Douglas Dick, who acted as best man. The bride wore a dress of ivory white duchesse silk, with Court train and *mediect* collar trimmed with *chiffon*, caught up with bunches of orange blossoms and jessamine. She also wore a girdle of orange blossoms and stalks of the same, a wreath of orange blossoms and a net veil fastened by a diamond star; around her neck was a gold chain and locket, all the gift of the groom.

Master Victor Essendene Ward, godson of the groom, a bright little curly-headed boy, dressed as Jack tar, carried the bride's train. The bride was supported by her two little nieces Misses Eveline and Constance Ward, and Miss Ethel Ward, who were dressed in apricot liberty silk and the two latter in *sea-foam* Beng line. They all wore net veils and wreaths of jessamine, white silk sashes and shoes, and carried baskets in the shape of slippers filled with white flowers. They also wore gold brooch pins set with pearls, the gift of the groom.

The ceremony was performed by the Lord Bishop of the District, assisted by the Rev. Arthur Beanlands, B.A., assistant rector. The service was fully choral, the surpliced choir leading the bridal party in the western entrance, singing "The Voice that Breathed o'er Eden." Mr. George Pauline, the cathedral organist, presided at the organ, and on the bridal party leaving the church played Mendelssohn's wedding march. The bells rang out a merry peal as the party drove away to the residence of Mr. Robert Ward, at the Laurels, where a sumptuous wedding breakfast was partaken of by the invited guests.

Later on, amid showers of rice and old shoes, the happy couple left for their home, "Ethelwold," en route for Southern California, where the honeymoon will be spent.

The bride received many handsome presents, among them being the following:

Mrs. Richards, carvers, oxodised silver handles; Mrs. Dunsmuir, brooch set in moonstones and pearls; Mrs. Wm. C. Ward, gold bracelet set in pearls; Miss Ward, gold bangle; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ward, cheque; the groom, diamond star, gold locket and chain; Mrs. Simson (California), pair of oil paintings; Mr. Henry Coles Grahschmidt (London), gold watch; Misses Eveline and Constance Ward, silver sugar sifter; Master Victor Ward, silver butter knife; Mr. Douglas Drummond Dick, silver salver and sugar bowl; Rev. Arthur Beanlands, picture, steel engraving; Cyril and Horace Ward, silver sugar tongs; Miss Richards, photograph and frame; Miss Cartlidge, silver napkin rings and grape scissors; Mrs. M. T. Johnston, urn, rich Japanese ware; Mr. Justice and Mrs. Crease, fish slice and fork; Mrs. J. D. Pemberton, Japanese vase; Chief Justice Sir Matthew R. Begbie, cheque; the Bishop of Columbia, travelling clock; Rev. Wastie and Mrs. Green, salver, Indian ware; Mr. A. W. Jones, dinner gong and inkstand combined; Mr. and Mrs. Hinna, set of silver teaspoons; Mr. Gray, silver pickle jar; Dora Irwin, Japanese writing desk; the Clerks of the Western Department Hudson's Bay Co., silver water tankard, stand and goblet; Mrs. James Bray, salver; Mrs. Roderick Finlayson, dozen "five o'clock tea" silver spoons; Mrs. A. H. Ridgman, handsome vase; Mrs. O'Reilly, gold bracelet set in pearls, emeralds and rubies; Hon. P. O'Reilly, gold brooch set in rubies, emeralds and pearls; Sir Joseph and Lady Trutch, amber bracket and necklet and pair of silver bracelets; Mr. Cecil Ward, silver button hook; Mrs. and Mrs. Harvey, Japanese bracelet; Mr. Hedges, H. B. Co., silver breakfast cruet; Mrs. Shaw, bronze flower basket; Tootsie Ward, ivory fan; Mr. and Mrs. C. Kingler Thomson, cheque; Mr. and Mrs. Ritchet, gold brooch with solitaire diamond.

BACK FROM BEHRING SEA.

Return of H.M.S. Pheasant—Full Account of an Eventful Trip.

Warning the Sealers—The British Commissioners' Practical Experience—Schr. Otto in Trouble.

H. M. S. Pheasant, first of the Behring