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FLOUNDERING.

The Colonist seems to think Premier McBride's record is a sufficient answer to the charge that he has been guilty of insincerity, if not of actual hypocrisy, in his treatment of the Asiatic immigration question. Is it not a hazardous thing to invite discussion of the record of the Premier on Asiatic exclusion or any other subject? Mr. McBride cannot deny the fact that he told Hon. R. W. Scott, Secretary of State, in Ottawa, that Mr. Bowser's Natal Bill would be disallowed; but he pleads that the conversation with Mr. Scott was private and that its purport should never have been disclosed. Did the Premier intimate to the Secretary of State that the information he imparted was intended to be private and confidential? And has the public not a right to the fullest information in regard to a matter that primarily concerns itself? The plain fact is that the Bowser Bill was a humbug in its inception. It was introduced for the purpose of humbugging the people of British Columbia. Mr. McBride knew days before it received the assent of the Legislature that it was not intended to become law, that it was marked by the Lieutenant-Governor for disallowance, and he naturally is incensed because his duplicity has been made public as a result of utterances which he says were never intended for publication. Nothing the Premier or his organ in this city can urge in extenuation of the duplicity thus exposed can make the public believe that the Lieutenant-Governor in withholding his assent from the Bowser Bill was not acting upon the advice or with the approval of his chief adviser. Mr. McBride dare not say that he is not responsible for the veto. His trickery has been exposed. He takes refuge in quibbles lest an explicit statement should lead to further revelations which would be even more damaging to what remains of his character as a public man. His organ has done its best for him. It has resorted to misrepresentations of the communication which passed between Mr. Scott and the Lieutenant-Governor in the hope of placing its idol in a more favorable light. But its task is a hopeless one. Attempted explanations simply serve to show that there can be but one explanation. The Premier was serving his master while striving to delude the public into the belief that he was serving it.

DEATH OF MR. TARTE.

Hon. J. Israel Tarte, most sturdy of Canadians and a stout advocate of Imperial unity is dead. The news came to us with startling suddenness. No one seems to have known of the illness of Mr. Tarte, but any of us might have suspected, knowing the indomitable energy and the ceaseless activity of the man, and the deep interest he continually manifested in the public affairs of his native country, that nothing less than bodily infirmity could have sealed his lips or paralyzed his pen.

Mr. Tarte served Canada well during his life. That will be the unanimous verdict of all Canadians now that his work is finished, the distorted party perspective eliminated, and the value of his services can be viewed in a true light.

For a great many years the late J. Israel Tarte was one of the most conspicuous figures in Canadian public life. In the province of Quebec, of which he was a native, the lines of party divisions have never been so rigidly drawn as in the English-speaking provinces. Mr. Tarte was a supporter of the late Sir John Macdonald, but a few years after the great Chieftain laid down the sceptre and was succeeded by premiers of less conspicuous gifts, he asserted his independence and was the chief instrument in exposing the methods by which the Conservatives had so long maintained themselves in power. On the formation of the Laurier government he was called to the cabinet and allotted one of the most important departments. It was perhaps only natural under the circumstances that Mr. Tarte should be the victim of virulent assaults from the Conservative press. He was represented as the "Master of the Laurier administration," an enemy to British connection, and a most extravagant administrator. Subsequent developments proved how completely at fault was the opposition estimate of the character of the hon. gentleman. He may have indulged in vaulting ambitions. The representations of the opposition may have produced in his mind an impression that he was in reality the strong man of the government, destined to fill the shoes of the Premier. But if he ever entertained such an illusion it was rudely dispelled. When he undertook as a member of the government to formulate its policy in the absence of his leader in Great Britain he paid the penalty of his rashness. His retirement from the government followed the return of the Premier. Of course the loss of the services of the eminent French-Canadian was accepted as meaning the disruption of the government. But the fact of the mastery of the administration was soon established. Mr. Tarte accepted the decree philosophically. He stated something which was probably quite true: that his proper sphere, the pursuit from which he derived the greatest happiness and the most complete personal satisfaction, was in the profession of journalism. He said he preferred a seat in the press gallery to a chair on the floor of the House of Commons.

All Canadians are agreed now that they are in a position to pass sane judgment upon the career so suddenly brought to an end that Mr. Tarte was a true friend of the Empire. His conspicuous talents were devoted to the task assigned by his great leader, to whom he was a devoted friend whether in office or in private life, of soothing racial animosities and making Canada a unit in patriotic sentiment. That the efforts of these great statesmen were not exerted in vain Canadians fully realize to-day when they compare the conditions with the conditions which prevailed only a few years ago.

THE WICKEDEST CITY.

Again the fact has been demonstrated that a really competent statistician can demonstrate almost anything on paper once he sets his mind diligently to the task. All Canadians remember the time when they were all but convinced, notwithstanding collateral evidence to the contrary, that they were being rapidly made wealthy by the National Policy. But Canadians, in the face of mathematical demonstrations, were sceptical, and concluded to risk an experiment. With that experiment they are thoroughly satisfied to-day. However, the particular case under consideration has nothing whatever to do with national or provincial or municipal politics. It has to do with one of the wonders of the most wonderful of nations—with Chicago, which has long been held up as an example of all that is disreputable in municipal and social life. Chicago, says the municipal statistician of that city, is not the wickedest place in the United States by an means. Hypocritical Boston is the centre from which most that is vile emanates to contaminate a naturally pure nation. The proof: In Boston, according to the report, 83.7 persons out of each 1,000 were arrested in 1906, whereas the proportion in Chicago was only 44.8. In a similar manner it is shown that during the present year Boston has grown more wicked while Chicago has improved more than 50 per cent. In New York, the report says, the proportion of arrests in 1906 was 46 out of every 1,000; in Baltimore, 63.1; Pittsburg, 77.4; Duluth, 61.9; Charleston, 77.8, and Terre Haute, 83. The statistician has also discovered that in Boston there is twice as much drunkenness as in Chicago.

"Chicago is the most honest city on earth," says the statistician, backing up his statement with tables which show that Chicago has only 18.7 policemen to every square mile, whereas wicked Boston has 29.5, New York 27 and Baltimore 30.

We leave the matter in the competent hands of the champions of rival cities, who will doubtless discover many weak points in the armor of the windiest and the purest of American municipalities. But we cannot refrain from remarking that the statistician's demonstration is absolutely contrary to the evidence of the senses of all who have been so unfortunate as to visit Chicago. If Boston is a wickeder city we cannot understand why it has escaped the fate of the Cities of the Plain.

GOOD AND BAD TIMES.

Canada cannot escape the consequences of her position. She lies alongside of the great American republic, a country which is subject to more and sharper commercial and industrial ups and downs than any other nation on earth. The cause of this mercurial manifestation is not easy to find out. Some say it is due to the fiscal policy of the government, others attribute it to the American temperament. There is no question that our neighbors must either rush along under a full head of steam with all safety valves tied down or proceed under a slow bell with scarcely enough energy to give them steerage way. At the present time the industrial fires are banked. The command has been issued that there must be retrenchment all along the line. And the change from fast to slow has been so sudden that neither Americans themselves nor those interested in their affairs can understand the cause of it all. One day money was plentiful and everybody bubbling over with confidence; the next currency was scarce and general gloom had spread over the face of the country. This remarkable change was bound to affect business in Canada. The banks felt the depressing influence immediately and began to make preparations for any corresponding feeling upon the part of their depositors. In this they displayed characteristic British prudence, for which they are to be commended. How long this reflex influence will be felt in Canada or how far it will extend there is no means of knowing definitely. In the worst of depressions our condition has never been as low as that of the United States. Our chief industry is agriculture, and there is no indication that the farmers have suffered or are likely to suffer to any material extent as a result of the general slackening up of business in other lines. They have gathered a fairly bountiful harvest, and they are realising exceptionally high prices. With the opening of spring many undertakings of very large dimensions will be proceeded with actively, such as the construction of the new transcontinental railway and numerous branch lines for other roads. These works will absorb all the idle labor. So that the conditions are the reverse of depressing.

But we observe that some indiscreet representatives of the Conservative party, evidently believing that a slump in the business of the country would furnish them with the opportunity to which they have looked forward with pathetic eagerness for several years, are attributing the depression in some of the larger of the cities of the Dominion to the death of the National Policy. They have temporarily forgotten that they still insist, or did insist up to a short time ago, that the old policy is still alive and is responsible for the new prosperity. The farmers of Canada have their opinions upon that point, and they will support their opinions at the polls when the time comes. The Farmers' Sun, published in Toronto, puts the case very well when it says:

"In Canada the tariff on dutiable imports brought into the country between '87 and '86 average nearly 31 per cent. During that period the Dominion passed through the most serious depression it has ever experienced. Between '96 and 1906 the tariff on articles subject to customs taxation averaged less than 28 per cent., and in that ten-year period the country prospered as never before.

"The Sun does not for one moment contend that the slight reduction in the tariff above recorded was the cause of the change in conditions. It would not so insult the intelligence of readers who know that other and greater influences were at work. What we do maintain, however, is that the experience of recent years in both the United States and Canada has forever shattered the position of those who have contended that high protection insures abounding prosperity."

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ARMY CAPTAIN AS CAPITALIST

Arrest on Charge of Forgery at Kamloops Due to Vigilance of Bank Manager.

Vancouver, Dec. 19.—The capture of Capt. D. L. Keller, alias Smith, formerly of the United States army, who was arrested yesterday at Kamloops, was due to the watchfulness of the manager of the Bank of Hamilton. Keller had been living in the district for several months, posing as a capitalist. He had bought a ranch and erected a hotel at Adams Lake. Recently he came to town and presented for deposit a cheque for $92,500, which it is alleged Keller stole in blank form and later forged while an army officer at Fort Sheridan, Ill. The bank advanced only $400 on the cheque, which Keller declared was the proceeds of a big land deal. United States secret service officers were called into the case and the arrest followed.

YUKON MORALS STILL ON TAPIS

Effort Is Being Made to Have Lord Day Act Rigidly Enforced.

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—In correspondence presented to parliament over the enforcement of the Lord's Day Act in the Yukon, a letter from the deputy minister of justice says that the mounted police were under no larger obligations with regard to the enforcement of the Lord's Day Act than as to any other criminal act and the duty of the authorities in the Yukon would be discharged if adequate attention was paid to any complaint prepared.

—The remains of the late Miss Skinner, who died in Vancouver, will arrive this evening and be taken to the Hanna chapel, Yates street.

PRESENTATION MADE TO LORD STRATHCONA

Canadians in London Recognise the Work of the High Commissioner in a Most Suitable Way.

Lord Strathcona's house in Grosvenor Square, London, was, on November 21st, made gay by a gathering of the best known members of the Anglo-Canadian community. No one is prouder at being called an Anglo-Canadian than the Princess Louise. She was there with the Duke of Argyll, and many others whose names are Canadian household words, such as Admiral Sir Archibald Douglas, Lieutenant-General and Mrs. Laurie, Mrs. Travers Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Lang, Mr. John A. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Donald McMaster, Mr. and Mrs. W. Nordheimer, Prof. Osler, Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Parkin, Major General and Mrs. C. W. Robinson, Mrs. John Rae, Maj.-General Bland Strange, General Lord William Seymour, Mr. Thomas Skinner, Mr. and Mrs. A. Sheringham Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. John Smithers, Lady Jane Van Knoughnet, Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson, Prof. and Mrs. C. A. Carus Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Wallis, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Taylor. The occasion was the presentation to Lord Strathcona of a handsome silver centrepiece from "some of his friends residing in the United Kingdom, who are closely identified with Canada." A photograph of the centrepiece accompanies these notes and it will be seen that it is in the Empire style and takes the form of a canopy resting on four pillars with figures in silver symbolical of phases of Canadian life and development with which Lord Strathcona has at various times been associated. There are excellent models of a buffalo and moose, figures representing "fruits of the earth" and "waters of the earth," models of a farmer, miner, backwoodsman, and trapper, and surmounting all a representation of a trooper of Strathcona's Horse. The centrepiece rests on a solid silver plateau around which in relief are representations of the maple leaf and the thistle, the arms of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Dominion of Canada, and of Lord Strathcona himself. At each end of the oval base are medallions in silver of Lord and Lady Strathcona, while other medallions represent the Royal Victoria College at Montreal, and the scene in the Rocky Mountains when Lord Strathcona drove the last spike of the Canadian Pacific railway. The whole is a fine work of art and elicited the encomiums of all who saw it.

The representative character of the presentation may be gathered from the names of the members of the executive committee by whom it was organized. They are Messrs. S. Cameron Alexander (Canadian Bank of Commerce), Archer Baker (Canadian Pacific railway), J. C. Colmer (joint honorary secretary), C. A. Hanson (Coates, Son & Co.), John Howard (agent-general for Nova Scotia), Percy Hurd, K. N. Macfee, C. A. Duff Miller (agent-general for New Brunswick), George R. Parkin (joint honorary secretary), W. T. R. Preston (formerly Dominion Emigration representative in this country), Thomas Skinner, Russell Stephenson (Hudson's Bay Company), Fred. W. Taylor (Bank of Montreal), J. H. Turner (agent-general for British Columbia), G. A. Walker, Harrison Watson (agent-general for Prince Edward Island), and Beckles Wilson.

The Duke's Apology.

The Duke of Argyll was most felicitious in his few remarks when making the presentation. He recalled the happy days when he and the Princess resided in Canada, and when first he met Lord Strathcona at his happily named Manitoba residence of "Silver Heights." "Since those days," he added, "you, Lord Strathcona, have stood upon the golden heights and have won the golden opinions and affections of the Canadian people and the British people. You have most worthily represented in London the most vigorous of the young nations of the world. You have gained many friends and on their behalf I wish to make this presentation."

Lord Strathcona's Reply.

Lord Strathcona is used to compliments and ceremonial occasions, but it was obvious that this personal tribute was in his estimation unique in its way. He spoke of it as a "gracious and kind tribute," and characteristically enough made his acknowledgments in a few simple words. Their kindness, he said, was undeserved, and he begged their pardon if he had seemed somewhat dilatory in deferring from week to week and month to month the little ceremony of that day. "I was not," he said, "wanting in proper consideration of those who wished me such kindness. Had it been a question of business, no matter of what importance; had it been even a political matter (and I may say there is nothing I dislike so much as party politics), had it been a downright fight, I should have been pleased to get it over as soon as possible. But this is a very different situation, and I think I must submit to witnesses and to acknowledge your kindness. It is impossible for me to express how deeply I recognize it." Quite naturally Lord Strathcona went on to speak in most entertaining fashion of some of his recollections of old days in Canada.

Hudson's Bay Memories.

"You have," he said, "referred to my connection with the Hudson's Bay Company. In that connection I am, and always have been, very proud. I look upon it myself as mainly owing to the wise ruling of the Hudson's Bay Company for two centuries and more, that Canada is possessor of that Great Lone Land—Rupert's Land formerly—the land of the Hudson's Bay Company. When we knew it first, there was war and discord between the nations and the government, but when the time came for the transfer of that great country to Canada there was no difficulty whatever in bringing it about. So I do think that the Mother Country and Canada and the Empire as well owe to the Hudson's Bay Company a debt of gratitude for the admirable manner in which they have preserved peace. There was, however, a little difficulty, a great deal of friction, resulting from the Riel rebellion, and it happens that it was given to me to be connected with the effort made to obtain a proper and a moderate solution of that difficulty. I was asked to go to the Northwest as a commissioner of the Dominion of Canada and the Imperial government, and, if I may be permitted to refer directly to myself, I only wish to say of those services which you are good enough to say I have rendered in one war or another—that the part I was permitted to take is the one real service I was able to discharge to the Mother Country. It was a time of great peril and anxiety and we are happy in now having that great country which will be almost the dominant part of the continent.

The Canadian Pacific.

"My Lord, Duke, you have referred to my connection with the Canadian Pacific railway, and I say very earnestly indeed that had it not been for the most cordial co-operation of all my colleagues who undertook the construction of that track, it would have been impossible. But happily we were in perfect accord, and each and all of them did their best to effect the desired result. Whereas, there was at the time a great uncertainty with regard to the propriety of making of the road, whereas, it was denounced by many, and whereas, it was said it would be of no utility, you will find now that it is binding together the provinces, and adding to their strength as nothing else has ever done. We are to have another great railway soon. It is well for us to know that there is need for another great railway in that country, and there is room for all. It will be of great service in Canada.

Strathcona's Horse.

"You have referred, my Lord Duke, to that body of men who amongst others went out from Canada to aid the Mother Country during the South African war. I can say, and say truly, for the commander of that corps, himself an able man—Colonel Steele—and for every member of it, that they looked upon it that in going there they simply did their duty, and none would consider it anything but invidious that credit should be attributed to one corps more than to another; each and all—whether Canadians or Australians, or from any other part of the Empire, did their part equally well. (Applause.)

Royal Victoria College.

"You also referred to the college in Montreal—the Royal Victoria College for Women. I am proud to know that those who benefit by that college realize that it was from our revered Queen Victoria, the mother of the princess here now, that we have the right to use the royal name. They are very proud and justly proud of that right, and I have no doubt they are doing very good work indeed in Canada. We who have any intimate knowledge of Canada knew that the system of education there is a very admirable one, whether elementary or secondary or university. Many have assisted in furthering Canadian education, but there is one man in Canada above all others to whom we owe a debt, and to him I trust we are very grateful for what he has done. That is a gentleman who is an intimate friend of my own, one of Scottish and Highland descent — Sir W. MacDonald. (Applause.)

"He alone has given for secondary, university and technical education a sum of money which cannot be less than one and a half or one and three-quarter million pounds—bordering on two millions sterling. And he has given it to a very good object. (Hear, hear.)

The High Commissionership.

"And now, Your Royal Highness and my Lord Duke, you have referred to the work I have been engaged in for eleven or almost twelve years. When I came to accept most reluctantly that office (of high commissioner) I had no idea that I should stay, not ten or eleven years, that I should remain ten weeks. But coming into it and finding the work that was to be done, I accepted and resolved to do it well—not that there were not many others who could have done it much more efficiently than I. (No, no.) I looked upon it as an obligation to accede to the request. It has been to me a labor of love throughout ,and while I hope very soon to be able to hand it over to younger and more able hands, still there is just one duty yet remains which I should like to see accomplished. That is in the direction of bringing different parts of the Empire more closely together, with a faster service between this country and other parts of the Empire. The Hon. Mr. Sifton and myself hope that we may be able to work out a method which in the end will accomplish this. We owe it to ourselves that we should have an 'All-Red' line. I think, whether it is very proper or not, that we should not be contented or satisfied until we have to every part of the Empire as fast and as good a service as can be given by any other nation. (Applause.) Such is not the case at the present moment. But I trust that before long we shall be able to realize it, and I am sure the people of Canada will rejoice if your royal highness and my Lord Duke who represented our gracious Queen there now some twenty years ago, should travel by one of the first steamers of these fast services. You would find the remembrance of you there as fresh in the hearts and affections of the people of Canada as it was then—and then it was very great.

"This kindness, my friends, I deeply appreciate. My time may not possibly be long, but whether it is measured by years, months or by days, I shall have in my recollection this great kindness of my friends. It will be one of those memorials which testify that however small the effort of any individual is, so long as it is his best, it will not go without recognition. For your presence here to-day your royal highness, I thank you, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

With kindly greetings and handshakings all round, one of the most interesting, and what may well prove to be an historic gathering in the history of Canada, and one of her greatest citizens came to an end.—Montreal Star.

FOOTBALL MATCHES IN ISLAN DLEAGUE

The Schedule as Arranged at the Meeting Held in Ladysmith Yesterday

(From Thursday's Daily.)

As intimated by the Times on Tuesday there were five entries in the Vancouver Island Football League. J. G. Brown and Ed. Whyte went to Ladysmith yesterday afternoon and the meeting was held last night. The schedules for all three series were drawn up and arrangements made to the satisfaction of all parties, the first senior games to be played on Saturday, January 4th, when Esquimalt goes to Ladysmith and the J. B. A. A. to Nanaimo. The first home games will be played January 18th, when Nanaimo comes down to meet the J. B. A. A.

The team to play against the Mainland will be picked by a committee consisting of one representative from each city, along with the president and secretary.

Each team is expected to provide referees, which will constitute an official board, and the referees will be chosen for each match from these.

In the following schedules the first mentioned team has the home match:

Senior Series.

January 1—Ladysmith vs. Esquimalt. Nanaimo vs. James Bay A. A.
January 11—Nanaimo vs. Ladysmith.
January 18—Y. M. C. A. vs. Esquimalt. James Bay A. A. vs. Nanaimo.
January 25—Ladysmith vs. Y. M. C. A. Nanaimo vs. Esquimalt.
February 1—Ladysmith vs. James Bay A. A. Esquimalt vs. Y. M. C. A.
February 8—Trial game for interleague match takes place at Ladysmith.
February 15—Y. M. C. A. vs. Nanaimo. Esquimalt vs. James Bay A. A.
February 22—James Bay A. A. vs. Ladysmith. Nanaimo vs. Y. M. C. A.
February 29—Y. M. C. A. vs. Ladysmith. James Bay A. A. vs. Esquimalt.
March 7 — Mainland vs. Island at Vancouver.
March 14—Ladysmith vs. Nanaimo. James Bays vs. Y. M. C. A.
March 21—Esquimalt vs. Nanaimo.
March 28—Esquimalt vs. Ladysmith. Y. M. C. A. vs. James Bay A. A.

Intermediate Series.

January 18—Nanaimo vs. Victoria West A. A. Ladysmith vs. Y. M. C. A.
January 25—Victoria West A. A. vs. Y. M. C. A.
February 1—Y. M. C. A. vs. Nanaimo.
February 8—Nanaimo vs. Ladysmith.
February 15—Nanaimo vs. Y. M. C. A. Ladysmith vs. Victoria West A. A.
February 22—Victoria West A. A. vs. Nanaimo.
February 29—Ladysmith vs. Nanaimo.
March 7—No games scheduled.
March 14—Y. M. C. A. vs. Victoria West.
March 21—Y. M. C. A. vs. Ladysmith.
April 4—Victoria West vs. Ladysmith.

Junior Series.

January 11—Nanaimo vs. Ladysmith.
January 18—Ladysmith vs. North Ward.
January 25—North Ward vs. Nanaimo.
February 1—Ladysmith vs. Nanaimo.
February 15—Nanaimo vs. North Ward.
February 21—North Ward vs. Ladysmith.

MANY VICTIMS IN MINE EXPLOSION

Pittsburg, Dec. 19.—At 2:30 p. m. no details of the explosion at the Darr mine, near Connellsville, had been received at the company's office in this city, and the expected number of men in the mine at the time of the accident was not known. It is said the shifts are not larger than 150 men.

The officials regarded the mine as one of the safest owned by them, and express the belief that the explosion would not reach all of the workings, in which event many would be alive and probably could be saved.

Vice-President Woodruff stated that 160 men were likely in the mine at the time of the accident. Immediately upon the receipt of the news of the explosion the officials of the company here took prompt measures for the relief, and orders were sent to surrounding mines requesting that expert men be rushed to the scene to assist in the work of rescue.

PERUVIAN-CHILE TREATIES.

Lima, Peru, Dec. 19.—Peru and Chile, through the medium of Senor Balcameda, the Chilean minister to Peru, and Senor Poto, the Peruvian minister of foreign affairs, yesterday signed their first treaties of amity. One provides for a consular convention, and the other concerns the pursuit of the liberal professions.

PEOPLE UNDER ARMS IN PERSIA

Reactionaries and Constitutionalists Bivouack in Artillery Square --Hope of Settlement

London, Dec. 19.—Presiding to-day at the annual meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia, Sir Lepel Henry Griffin read a cablegram from the manager of the Bank at Tgheran. The message said:

"Since last Sunday there have been numerous armed parties around the assembly and a large display of troops in the artillery square, but it is evident that neither party is anxious to fight. There were large crowds on the streets, but excepting for one or two cases of violence, there has been absolutely no disorder. This, (Thursday) morning, the situation is very much quieter as a result of the negotiations for a reconciliation that were carried on last night. The exile of the late premier, Nazir El Mulek and the princesses, has been cancelled."

Teheran, Dec. 19.—Matters looked more hopeful for a brief period this morning, and the armed factions which have occupied the streets of the Persian capital since Sunday began to disperse when suddenly a few random shots were fired in the public square, causing a speedy reassembling of the organized force.

As a result of the deliberations of last night between the Shah and the parliamentary party it is agreed that negotiations could continue with a chance of success only if both sides struck their tents and dispersed. Accordingly the reactionaries who were bivouacked in the artillery square and the constitutionalists who surrounded the assembly building, started to withdraw from their positions. A number of shops had reopened, the people were beginning to circulate on the streets, and the members of the assembly were deliberating the best solution of the crisis when suddenly the firing from the square was heard. Each faction thought it had been deceived. In the course of the afternoon large and fully armed forces representing each side, reoccupied their former positions. The attitude of each faction is largely defensive.

LIQUOR CASE DISPOSED OF

Magistrate Jay Acquitted Dallas Hotel of Selling Liquor Contrary to Law.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The charge against the Dallas hotel for having sold liquor on a Sunday to William Lang was this morning dismissed by Magistrate Jay on the ground that there was no illegal act proven.

The evidence for the prosecution was given some days ago, and this morning several witnesses gave evidence for the defence. The first of these was George Lawrence Busk, who resides as a guest at the Dallas hotel. He stated that he examined the register on November 24th and saw Mr. Lang's signature there.

Wm. Huggan, also a guest at the Dallas hotel, said he saw Wm. Lang at the hotel between 12 and 1 o'clock. He had not shaved but in every other way he was all right. Lang said he was not feeling well, so witness asked him to take lunch. They accordingly went in together. He ate a good meal. Witness called for a wine card and Mr. Lang had a small brandy, witness taking a glass of beer. After dinner the same thing was repeated and witness paid the bill. They then retired to the billiard room and talked for about fifteen minutes, and then witness left Mr. Lang in the small room.

In the small room later in the day he found a quart Martell brandy bottle.

His reason for going into the room was that Lang had just gone, and he went in to turn out the lights.

Witness further said he registered Lang's name, as it was customary for anyone inviting a guest to dinner to register his name. He paid for the liquor in the billiard room to James Patterson, who brought it from the bar.

Mrs. Isabella Patterson, wife of William Patterson, told of seeing Mr. Lang at the hotel. She came down just as they were commencing lunch and waited on them. Mr. Lang ate a very hearty meal and got a couple of drinks, which Mr. Huggan paid for. She further stated that when a guest of the hotel brought a visitor he was responsible for him; he accordingly registered for him.

She did not know how long the barkeeper was on duty that day. The barkeeper stays in the billiard room, and when anyone wants a drink he goes in and gets it.

Mr. Hart, chief clerk and assistant manager at the Dallas hotel, said he had a general idea of the brandy stocked. It was customary to carry "One Star" brandy in stock. They had not kept Martell's for a long time.

Huggan, recalled, stated the bottle in question was an ordinary quart bottle.

Mr. Moresby, in summing up, said there were limitations to the statute against selling liquor at an hotel. The statute provided that liquor could be served to guests, and a guest meant that a man was in and about the hotel as a means of profit to the proprietor.

The sale or disposal in this case was to Huggan. It was quite clear that Lang got liquor from a bottle that he brought with him, and thus he got himself into the condition in which he was found.

Chief Langley, summing up for the prosecution, reviewed the fact of Lang going to the hotel in a partially intoxicated condition, of his being supplied with liquor at his meals, and of liquor being supplied later when Lang awoke in the small room. He further stated that had he been allowed to ask the questions he wished he could have shown that others besides Lang were drinking there.

In giving judgment the court stated that it was shown from the evidence of Mr. Huggan that Lang was an invited guest. There was some mystery as to the bottle being found, but that was only an inference. With regard to the other case, the liquor was not consumed, and the condition of the man at that time might have required that he should be given brandy. He felt it was a good thing the investigation had taken place in order to clear the matter up.

LOCAL NEW

(From Tuesday's Da

—Owing to the fact that W by, counsel for the owners o ias hotel license, did not a morning, the police magistr ed judgment in the Sunday ing case until to-morrow n 10 o'clock.

—The funeral of the late S Lewis took place yesterday at 2 p. m. from the parlors o Funeral Furnishing Compa services were conducted by Miller at the parlors and The following acted as pallb Sturgess, H. Lewis, F. Gue Newson.

—Three hundred and thirt lars has been cabled to Kirk, for the Poor Childre mas Dinner in London, Eng zens and Sunday schools o have responded well. A n called for all interested in ment to meet in the Y. M. C room to-morrow night at 8 effect a permanent organiz elect responsible officers. I a large number of citizens

—Yesterday afternoon the the late Caroline Dibb, of road, took place from W. undertaking parlors, 35 Yat Rev. Mr. Payne, of St. Pau Esquimalt, conducted the s the parlor and at the grav was a large number of frien and the floral offerings we ous. The pallbearers were: J. Manuel, W. H. Clayards Smith.

—Word has been received Smith, president of the Dia Iron & Coal Mines, which owns large areas in the Nic that coal had been struck i shaft at a depth of seventy coal being at a fair depth un is of the finest quality in The seam is a five-foot one part of the bed which un whole of the district. There Diamond Vale shareholders couver.

—A well has lately been Mrs. White's farm at Sout water being found at a dept 65 feet. The work has been drilling machine, the proper kins & North. For years like many others, has been from lack of a suitable wa but this solves the problem. mill is being installed, and week or two this farm will of the finest water supplies in try. This is the second we Perkins & North.

—The regular meeting of t History Society, held last ev exceedingly well attended, number of lady visitors being ent. After the disposal of routine business came the pa evening, "Old Time Reminis British Columbia,' by Frank This was a continuation o read in November, and th still further graphically de stirring events and scenes o settlement of Victoria, the s ing highly interesting.

—Many Hindus in the ci ported by G. D. Kumar, th worker among them, to be i aid. The cold weather has fering from coughs and feve them, he says, are out of wo not able to get shelter at acknowledges the receipt of bottle of jam from Mrs. This, he says, will be utiliz benefit of the Hindus who ing. Mr. Kumar intends to quinine and other medicine tribute them among his needing treatment. He wish the public of Victoria who towards the procuring of a limb for the Hindu who lo Dr. Hasell has assured him be procured.

(From Wednesday's Da

—The hospital board are a $10,000 be appropriated next the city funds for the Roy hospital.

—Rev. H. A. Kinley, of Saskatchewan, arrived in th night, where he intends to winter. Mr. Kinley has been from nervous prostration.

—On Thursday evening at regular weekly meeting of V 17, K. of P., will be held at corner Pandora and Dougl Work in the knight order given.

—The Capital Furniture Co showing a very fine assortme fets. The goods are all of th to-date designs, in quart Quality in furniture can a found in the bright, com home-furnishing store. On a lote of late arrivals in the department a special sale is announced in to-night's issu

—Next Friday evening an ment and Christmas tree wil at Metchosin hall for the pu public school by the teacher, The play of "Bluebeard" wil by a number of pupils. A l ber of the friends of the expected to be present.

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