The Colonist.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH, 1889.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

BY

W. H. ELLIS, A. G. SARGISON. } ELLIS & CO.

THE COLONIST BUILDING, GOV'T ST.

TERMS:

THE DAILY COLONIST.

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY

Per Year. (Postage free to any part of Canada)..... $10 00
Parts of a year at the same rate
Per week (if delivered)..... 25

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

Per Year (Postage Free to any part of the Dominion or United States $ 2 00
Six Months..... 1 25
Three Months..... 75

Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly IN ADVANCE.

ADVERTISING RATES:

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THAT PROCLAMATION.

President Harrison's Behring's Sea proclamation is not looked upon in Washington as a meaningless document. Some in the capital of the United States, at any rate, regard it as an assertion of the right of the Government of the United States to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the whole of Behring's Sea, and a warning to both United States citizens and foreigners not to hunt seals in any parts of its waters. The Washington correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune* takes this view of the document and considers that the whole of that sea is included in the territorial waters of the Republic. He contends that it was part of the territory which the United States purchased from Russia. He says:

"The United States treated with her as such owner and acquired all the rights Russia had. To Russia's right to close the sea England repeatedly gave tacit assent. Russia and the United States divided the sea between them, and her half Russia still closes against the world. The laws of the United States have been extended over one-half, and the United States has given notice through the Treasury that its jurisdiction extends to the western boundary line passing through Behring's Sea, as fixed by the treaty. Halleck, on international law, declares that 'national territory consists of water as well as land,' and the Coast and Geodetic Survey has declared that Behring's Sea is not a part of the Pacific Ocean, but a distinct body of water."

We have a notion that both the correspondent's history and his law are at fault. He seems to have forgotten, if he ever knew, that Russia's right to treat Behring's Sea as territorial waters was questioned by both the United States and Great Britain, and that neither of those nations, either tacitly or in terms, assented to Russia's right to it. Every one knows that "national territory" consists of water as well as land, the only question is how much of the ocean or sea that washes its shores can a nation claim as "territory." The law of nations says, not more than a marine league from the shore, and United States ministers contend that on the eastern side of this continent the three-mile limit must follow the sinuosities of the shore. But on the western side we see that they claim the whole sea though it is twelve hundred miles wide. What authority the coast and geodetic survey had to declare that Behring's Sea is not part of the Pacific Ocean, we have yet to learn. If Nature has made them one, as it has, all the surveying parties in the world cannot put them assunder. But this enthusiastic assertor of American claims does not stop at declaring that the United States owns the whole of Behring's Sea. He claims for his country not only the sea but all that it contains. He says:

"Seals are American animals, born on American soil, having their habitat, year after year, on American islands, and entitled to American protection."

This is a new claim, and could be made a pretext for the United States exercising a protectorate over the whole of the North Pacific. Each seal no doubt carries in his inside pocket his certificate of birth, duly attested by the Governor of Alaska or his representative. The Britisher who interferes with that American born seal in the pursuit of happiness, no matter where he may roam, exposes himself to the vengeance of the outraged Republic. British Columbia sealers having seen this extraordinary claim had better take a note of it and govern themselves accordingly. We would not be surprised to find that this claim to protection based on nativity extended to wild geese, wild ducks, whales and salmon, as well as seals. There is nothing like being logical. If the United States can claim a right to protect seals because they are American born, it can extend its ægis over all the creatures that first see light on its soil and in its waters. The claim would be difficult to prove. Who can tell, for instance, whether the halibut which the British Columbian fisherman innocently catches off the coast of Queen Charlotte Islands is of American parentage, and had for its habitat, when it first swam, American territory, and is therefore entitled to American protection. It is not easy to see to what complications this new claim would lead. But, absurd as it is, it is only a few degrees more absurd than the claim of the United States to jurisdiction over that part of the Pacific Ocean which the Geodetic Survey has been pleased to call Behring's Sea.

PETTICOAT GOVERNMENT.

Petticoat government has been a complete success in Oskaloosa, Kansas. Last year its citizens, as much for the fun of the thing as anything else, elected a city council composed entirely of ladies. When the election was over and the new council got to work, some of the ratepayers thought that they had carried the joke a little too far. The corporation to a woman turned out to be zealous reformers. The treasury was empty when they took office. They inaugurated a policy of retrenchment and economy. Not a dollar of the people's taxes was wasted and no one, no matter what his position or influence, could get a soft snap from the council. The mayor insisted upon having her money's worth for every cent expended. The Lord's Day was not observed in Oskaloosa, shops were kept open, bars did a rousing trade, butchers sold on that day, as did many other traders. The council commenced to enforce the law, but the city marshall was only half-hearted in carrying out the orders of the council. He complained that he could not get people to obey the law. The lady mayor bounced him forthwith and gave the position to a man who could not be trifled with. There was a good deal of kicking at first, but the law was administered firmly and impartially, and in a short time Sunday was, in Oskaloosa, a very different day from what it had formerly been; and what many will consider singular, the great majority of the citizens were well pleased with the change. In Oskaloosa, as in other towns, the boys after nightfall caused a good deal of trouble. They congregated at the corners and those who passed them heard remarks that were neither refined nor pleasant. They tore down signs, stole fruit and played pranks that caused quiet citizens a good deal of annoyance. The council, for the boys' own sake as well as for the good government of the town, were resolved to put an end to this nuisance. They issued an ordinance that all boys under eighteen years of age who were found on the streets after eight o'clock in the evening would be arrested. How young America liked this regulation it is not said, but the immediate result was that a boy could not be found with a search warrant on the streets within the municipality after the prescribed hour. The ladies, in short, managed the city's affairs so well that the citizens this year again elected a lady for mayor and ladies for aldermen. The example of Oskaloosa, too, was catching, for the town of Cottonwood Falls this year elected a corporation composed entirely of ladies. The mayor's name is Mrs. Minnie Morgan. The success of the rule of women in Kansas has acted as a stimulus to the women's rights movement in all parts of the United States, and we would not be surprised to see the ladies of Canada insisting upon their right to take part in the government of the municipalities of the country. That good time is coming—certain.

A FUGITIVE.

Boulanger continues to be the disturbing element in French politics. He, while he was in Paris, was the centre around whom malcontents of all parties gathered. Royalists, Bonapartists, Radicals and discontented Republicans rallied round him and made him their mouthpiece. Boulanger professed to be loyal to the Republic. If that was the case it was hard to understand why the bulk of his following was composed of the open enemies of the Republic. He declared that he was tolerant, and that men of all shades of politics were welcome to aid him in reforming the Republic. He professed to be sick of the parliamentary Republic that now exists in France, and his object is to set up a Republic which shall not be parliamentary. What a republic would be without parliamentary institutions it is hard to tell. But Boulanger is not by any means definite in his statements. He deals in generalities which every one is at liberty to interpret as he sees fit. It is suspected that profession of loyalty to the republic is only made for policy sake and that he is playing into the hands of the enemies of republicanism, who are among his friends and counsellors. The Government accuse him of plotting against the republic. Whether they have any evidence on which to base this accusation it is difficult to say. Boulanger's flight from Paris is not the act of a man who knows that he is innocent. He says that he does not wish to be tried by his political enemies. But if he is innocent of the offences laid to his charge, he need not fear the worst that his enemies can do to him. Law reigns in France as well as in other civilized countries, and if he has committed no crime against the State the only effect of persecution will be to increase his popularity. Why Boulanger did not remain in Paris and fight it out is a mystery—that is, if he has done no wrong. M. Tirard, the Premier, has declared in the Chamber of Deputies that "the Government desire to prosecute the man who is seeking to overthrow the republic. It is our duty to defend the constitution of our country against the intrigues of factions, and to take every means to protect France from the horrors of civil war." The fact that Boulanger has not remained in France to meet these charges warrants the conclusion that they are not altogether groundless.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE question whether capital punishment is allowable or not on moral grounds, still exercises men's minds in different countries. There are many who hold that society has no right to take a man's life even for its own protection. They say, besides, that if it were allowable it is not expedient; for capital punishment is not effective as a deterrent. Murder, they contend, is more frequently committed where its punishment is death than it is in the countries in which the death penalty has been abolished. They assert that the worst use a man can be put to is to hang him. This important and very interesting question has been discussed in the Legislature of Minnesota. A bill was introduced at its last session to abolish capital punishment. Its supporters used the humanitarian argument for all it was worth, and they made a deep impression, for the measure was defeated by a very small majority. One of the most effective arguments in its favor was that since the abolition of the death penalty in Michigan murders had become fewer. It would be interesting to know if this is really the case, for other countries that have abolished capital punishment have found it necessary to return to it. Murders and crimes of violence were more frequent and human life became less sacred. It is just possible that the circumstances under which the experiment was tried were unfavorable and the new law was not allowed a fair trial.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Value of the B. C. Fisheries is $1,902,000.

Radical Changes to be Made in the Excise Duties.

Sir Richard Cartwright's Motion Condemning the Government Negatived After a Six-Hour Debate.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, April 10.—Col. Prior, Messrs. Mara and Gordon had an encouraging interview with Hon. Mr. Bowell to-day for the purpose of obtaining permission for the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company's steamers to use the American channels on the Alaska route. The minister said he would make representations to Washington immediately.

Influential delegations from the boards of trade of Toronto and Montreal interviewed Hon. Mr. Bowell to protest against the imposition of duty upon inland freight charges on goods purchased in Great Britain. The proposal will likely not be pressed.

In the house Sir Richard Cartwright moved a lengthy resolution condemning the government for improvidence in connection with the three per cent. loan. Sir John Thompson made a most effective reply, showing conclusively that it was optional for the government to redeem the loan annually, or not until the expiration of fifty years. The question was debated for six hours, when the motion was negatived by a majority of 43.

A delegation of the Dominion dairymen interviewed the Premier to-night, to ask a grant of three thousand dollars to disseminate information among the farmers of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Costigan proposed some radical excise changes. Duty would be remitted on malt used in the manufacture of vinegar. The duty on cigarettes would be changed.

The anti-combines bill will be strongly opposed before the commerce committee.

The value of the Canadian fisheries last year was $17,500,000, a decrease of $668,000. The value of the British Columbia fisheries is $1,902,000, a decrease of $76,900. Mowat says this was principally owing to the failure of the salmon fishery on the Fraser last year, although the average pack for cannery is reported to be nearly the same as in 1887; the total capital invested showing an increase of $163,000.

Ex-Mayor Bates died suddenly of heart disease to-night.

Eighty-eight millions of fish were turned out from the Dominion hatcheries last year.

STILL AT LARGE.

Donald and the Police Manage to Dodge Each Other—The Outlaw's Crime.

The following description of Donald Morrison, the Megantic outlaw, and of the crime he committed was communicated from Megantic to the *Montreal Gazette*:—

Donald Morrison is still uncaught, and is likely to remain so. The armed party sent out are altogether too few in number, and are practically useless. The probabilities seem to be that when the expedition has ended in utter failure, if the reward is increased to five thousand dollars, Donald Morrison will come marching into Montreal and give himself up. Highland-Scotch people here, who are all Presbyterians, say they would like Donald to be tried by an Irish Catholic jury, as they think such a body would understand eviction cases, and would be apt to give Donald fair play. Morrison, whom I have not seen yet, is highly praised by everyone who has known him since he was a baby. The post-master of Agnes says he is a splendid specimen of a man, a Presbyterian, truthful, honest, upright, moral, never known to use an oath or any vulgar word. This is the universal testimony of all the people whom I have met. Jack Warren, whom Donald shot, was a big stout man, weighing about 230 pounds, about 40 years of age, reported to have been a Yankee outlaw and whiskey smuggler, and not a British subject. He did not live with his wife. Donald came into the village of Lake Megantic to buy a new hat for the Sacrament Sunday at Marsden, and was halted by Jack Warren, revolver in hand. Donald, it is alleged, tried to avoid Warren, and did what he could to keep out of trouble, but he was obliged to kill Warren or be killed himself. He killed Warren.

One night last week Morrison and a party of friends came to the village of Lake Megantic looking for Detective Carpenter, so as, they said, to give him the chance of earning the $3,000 reward. The men were all armed. This proceeding is condemned by the people here, who do not wish any more blood shed. They all would like Morrison to give himself up after the forces are withdrawn and a fair trial guaranteed.

Steamer Baltimore, from West Point, arrived at Baltimore on Sunday, and the captain brought news of a terrific storm on Chesapeake Bay. All the houses on the lowlands were submerged, and York river is covered with floating cordwood and *debris*. All the fish ponds on the flats were destroyed, entailing a heavy loss. Two schooners went ashore and another was sunk.

CABLE NEWS.

Earl Cadogan to be the New Viceroy of Ireland.

The Ghastly Present Sent to the Governor of Suakin.

Wm. H. Smith's Elevation to the Peerage Again Talked of—Balfour Mentioned as Leader in the Commons.

Banquet to Wm. H. Smith.

LONDON, April 10.—A grand dinner was given tonight at the Merchant Tailors' hall to Wm. Henry Smith, government leader in the commons. Both politicians and business men were present, and the latter in their speeches expressed the confidence of the city of London in Mr. Smith and his ability to direct the interests of the tory majority in the commons. It is generally believed that this dinner, coming closely upon the announcement of Mr. Smith's intention to retire from the house and take a higher though less prominent seat, that will be the reward for his active party service, was designed to mark the approaching step, and that Mr. Smith's resignation of the tory leadership and acceptance of a peerage will very shortly follow. The dinner was evidently arranged with this object in view. At present all indications point towards Mr. Balfour's succession to the leadership. The coming session needs a strong, aggressive man at the head to lead the tories, and Balfour's Irish record is cited as evidence that he is the only man able to assume the leadership. The friends of Goschen, however, think he is entitled to the honor, but the Balfourites think of other honors for the chancellor of the exchequer.

Imperial Parliament.

LONDON, April 10.—In the commons tonight, Mr. Dodgeson H. Madden, conservative member for Dublin University, denied the circulated report that Lord Londonderry intended to resign the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Daniel O'Rielly, nationalist member for North Mayo, moved to read secondly the bill providing that courts in fixing rents deduct from the letting value the cost of improvements. Also that courts deal with arrears, deciding the amount payable, and fixing the term of judicial rent seven instead of fifteen years. The motion was rejected by 229 to 168.

The Parnell Commission.

LONDON, April 10.—Before the Parnell commission to-day Sir Chas. Russell, arguing in behalf of the Parnellites, recounted the history of the growth of Fenians in America, which he said was merging into a movement to obtain justice for Ireland by legal agitation. "The history of the national league in America," said Sir Charles, "shows no complicity in crime. There is no period in the history of Ireland," continued the speaker, "in which the people of the Irish race in that greater Ireland beyond the seas were not willing to accept the right of self government in amity with the rest of the British empire." Sir Charles said that Parnell was not associated with any secret society. He had never met Patrick Ford, nor was he implicated in any conspiracy whatever. Michael Davitt, although a friend of Ford's, had repeatedly denoued out agas and all agitation that incited to them.

The Wrecked Sultan.

LONDON, April 10.—The admiralty officials are about to make inquiries into the efforts of the Duke of Edinburgh, admiral of the Mediterranean squadron, to float the man-of-war Sultan, which recently went ashore on reefs in the Mediterranean Sea.

"Freeman's Journal" Fined.

DUBLIN, April 10.—The libel suit brought by Magistrate Stokes against *Freeman's Journal* was decided to-day, and the *Journal* fined £300 damages.

Army Bill Passed.

VIENNA, April 10.—The lower house of the Reichsrath has passed the army bill with amendments made by the Hungarian Diet.

The Australian Rabbit Pest.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., April 10.—The committee which has been investigating M. Pasteur's method of exterminating rabbits from Australia, report that the rabbits inoculated with the virus of chicken cholera, die; but the disease was not communicated from one to another.

Francis Joseph's Visit to Berlin.

VIENNA, April 10.—Emperor Francis Joseph has decided to pay his promised visit to Berlin on the 10th of August.

The Queen at Sandringham.

LONDON, April 10.—The Queen will visit the Prince and Princess of Wales at Sandringham, during the last four days of April.

A Ghastly Present.

SUAKIN, April 10.—A messenger has returned from Khartoum, conveying letters from Slatein Bey and the Catholic missionaries, and also bringing what is supposed to be the head of the Abyssinian general, Ras Alula, which Khalifa sends as a present to the Governor of Suakin. Ras Alula, it is stated, was killed in battle at Gallabat.

Boulanger Attends a Soiree.

BRUSSELS, April 10.—General Boulanger attended a soiree given by Deputy Somsee, this evening, at which the leaders of the aristocratic and diplomatic circles were present. The general was well received. Henri Rochefort has taken a house in Brussels.

The Queen's Old Nurse.

LONDON, April 10.—The Queen to-day paid a visit to her old nurse, Mrs. Hillier, who lives at Regent's Park, and talked with her for an hour.

The Hamburg Murder.

HAMBURG, April 10.—The supposed murderer of the boy Steinbach, whose mutilated body was found on the roadside near here Monday, has been captured at Lubeck.

Clergymen Sentenced.

DUBLIN, April 10.—The Revs. Morris and Cunningham were sentenced to-day at Nenagh, County Tipperary, to two months' imprisonment without hard labor, for offences under the Crimes Act. The clergymen appealed from the sentence.

Bishop Keane's Mission.

LONDON, April 10.—It is understood that Bishop Keane, of Washington University is not meeting with full success in the engagement of professors in Germany.

The Samoan Conference.

BERLIN, April 10.—It is announced on the highest authority that Mr. Bates will be received by the diplomatic authorities here with the same courtesy that is extended to his colleagues. No official notice is being taken of his expression of private opinions concerning Germany's action in the Samoan matter.

An Australian Budget.

SYDNEY, N. S. W., April 10.—The new budget for the colony abolishes specific duties on imports and raises the revenue by means of direct taxation. These regulations are to go into effect at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

CRICKET.

A match game of cricket between elevens of H. M. S. Espiegleand "C" Battery, R.C.A. was played on Beacon Hill, yesterday, with the following result:

H. M. S. ESPIEGLE.

Tucker, b McKenzie	0
Brooker, run out	0
Lieut. Pritchard, b McKenzie	0
Pramsey, b Grant	9
Capt. Clarke, b McKenzie	2
Mitchell, b McKenzie	1
Lieut. Lambert, b Grant	1
Large, b Grant	1
Trevellen, b Grant	21
Clilvard, b Grant	5
Tetherton, not out	4
Extras	10
Total	54

C BATTERY, R. C. A.

Gunner Webber, b Large	4
" Hall, b Tucker	14
" Kirkby, b Large	22
Capt. Benson, c Pritchard, b Mitchell	29
Major Peters, c Lambert, b Tucker	0
Lieut. Ogilvie, c Pritchard, b Large	0
Gunner Grant, b Lambert	60
Sergeant Proctor, b Lambert	19
Gunner McKenzie, not out	53
Sergeant Kennedy, b Large	25
S. Sergeant Chamard, b Lambert	8
Extras	23
Totals	257

Bowling analysis not kept.

BASEBALL.

Telegrams received last night give the following results of the League games:

Jersey City—New York 5, Princton 8.
Baltimore—America 2, Chicago 5.
Philadelphia—Philadelphia 3, Brooklyn 3.
Boston—Athletics 8, Boston 12.
Cincinnati—Cincinnati 8, Cleveland 1.
Louisville—Louisville 6, Pittsburg 3.
Columbus—Columbus 8, Milwaukee 2.
Washington—Washington 6, Newark 5.

SPRING GOODS just arrived at London Boot & Shoe Store, Douglas street.

From the DAILY COLONIST, April 11.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Naval.

H. M. S. Swiftsure, flagship of the Pacific squadron, sailed from San Francisco for Esquimalt yesterday. During her brief stay in the port of San Francisco she lost nineteen men by desertion.

Decapitated.

On Tuesday, while the Port Discovery mill was in operation, a Chinaman who was employed in running one of the gang saws, slipped and fell against the saw. When discovered it was found that his head had been sawn off.

The Yacht Nyanza.

The pleasure yacht Nyanza sailed on Sunday from Sausalito, Cala., for Victoria, under command of Captain Carrington. Captain Dewar, the owner of the yacht, will remain for some time in Victoria, and will visit Japan, China and India before returning to England.

Incoming Passengers.

The following passengers left San Francisco yesterday by the Walla Walla, bound for Victoria: Miss M. Janson, Mrs. Siddle and two children, Mrs. Hibben and child, R. J. Howitt, Miss Lottie Rice, R. E. Johnson, B. W. Trott, A. Wishart and wife, J. C. Blackett, Pierre Laubert, G. C. Jensen, Mrs. J. E. Davis, Mrs. McLure, H. Bloomingdale.

Back from the North.

The steamship Sardonyx arrived at the C. P. N. Co.'s dock at 1 p. m. yesterday. She brought very little news of interest from the north. Owing to the fact that the salmon run has not yet commenced, the northern canneries are still busy with the work of preparation only. The Northern Pacific Canning Company have nearly completed their new cannery above Inverness. The Sardonyx left port on Monday, April 1st, and went as far north as the Naas. Her passengers down were: Mrs. Hamsen and child, Mrs. Simpson, Capt. Cyrus Orr, M. M. English, M. Harrison, J. A. Carthew, W. J. Mattheson, S. Munson, Harry Simpson, Wm. Barrett, N. J. Johnson, and twenty Indians.

Funeral of Officer Roberts.

The funeral of the late William W. Roberts, of the city police force, took place yesterday afternoon, from the hall of the A. O. U. W. on Government street. There were in attendance the brethren of the lodge of which the deceased was a member, a large representation of the city and provincial police forces, and many sorrowing friends. From the lodge room the funeral cortege proceeded to Christ Church Cathedral where services were held by Rev. Arthur Beanland. The mortal remains were then committed to the grave in Ross Bay cemetery, the pall bearers being Messrs. J. J. McKillican, S. E. King, F. Morrison, F. Sylvester, J. Murray and T. Houghton.

A 1,327-Dollar Washup.

Donald Truth: Advices from Perry Creek are that the company cleaned up dust to the value of $3,240 in the months of January and February, more than enough to pay working expenses. Fully as much is expected for the month of March, as one washup yielded $1,327.50. Mr. Dow, the foreman, states that nearly the whole of that amount came out of a deep hole in the tunnel in four days, and that there is yet a considerable quantity of the same dirt in sight. Work in the tunnel is going on day and night. The nature of the ground is still that of a canyon full of boulders. Perry Creek is reached by steamboat and stage from Golden, and is about 200 miles south-east of Donald.

The Late Mr. G. Montobio.

The remains of the late Mr. Geo. Montobio were brought from Nanaimo yesterday for interment in this city, and the funeral will take place this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the Masonic Temple, Douglas street, the deceased having been a member of Vancouver and Quadra Lodge, A. F. & A. M. He was also a member of the B. C. Pioneer Society, the members of which organization will also attend the funeral. Mr. Montobio was a native of Genoa, Italy, and came to this province in 1858, from San Francisco, during the Cariboo gold excitement. After a stay of a few years in Cariboo, Mr. Montobio came to Victoria, where he engaged in the grocery business on the corner of Store and Fisgard streets. Some months ago he disposed of his business and removed to Nanaimo, where he resided until his death. He leaves an estate estimated to be worth $100,000.

A Foolish Protest.

The following is the text of the resolution respecting the Canadian Western Railway, passed by the Council of the Vancouver Board of Trade and forwarded to the Provincial Government:

VANCOUVER, B. C., April 3rd, 1889.

At a meeting of the Council of this Board, held on the 2nd instant, the following resolution was unanimously passed, viz:

That the Council of the Vancouver Board of Trade view with alarm the proposition to grant an immense tract of land in aid of the "Canada Western Railway," in regard to which there is no sufficient assurance of the ability of the applicants to complete the contemplated road, and no data to show that the undertaking is either possible, or even required by the necessities of the province.

That before the great bulk of our lands available for settlement in this Province, where the area of such lands is comparatively small, are locked up in the hands of corporations, the greatest care should be taken or exercised, that the benefits to the Province derivable from the enterprise in respect of which lands are granted, are equal at least to the loss and disadvantages sure to arise from a monopoly of such magnitude.

That the Government of the Province be urged to resist hasty legislation in the direction of large land grants to any corporation or company in aid of a work of a mere speculative nature or of doubtful utility.

E. V. BODWELL, President,
A. H. B. MACGOWAN, Secretary.

COUNTY COURT.

(Before Chief Justice Sir M. B. Begbie and a Special Jury.)

Porter *v.* Russell—Action brought by Robert Porter to recover from John Russell the sum of $300, the alleged value of two dogs shot by the defendant, who claimed that the dogs were in the habit of killing or worrying his sheep. A counter claim of $15, for three sheep, and $10 for loss of time in searching for the said sheep was put in by the defendant. The evidence was very exhaustive, and the jury after hearing it retired, and returning in half an hour, submitted as their finding that the dogs were shot while chasing the sheep. They estimated the value of the dogs at $200 and the sheep at $5 each. Judgment was reserved. Upon the decision in the case will rest the right of a farmer to shoot a dog while the animal is chasing his sheep. Mr. J. Roland Hett and Mr. Charles Wilson appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. D. M. Eberts (Eberts & Taylor) for the defendant.

NEW line of Easter Booklets and Easter Cards, just received by T. N. HIBBEN & CO.

LITTLE LOCALS.

The "James Hamilton Lewis," formerly the "Grace," will leave Seattle to-day on a sealing trip to Behring's Sea.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Leask, of Nanaimo, lost their two-year-old son George on Sunday evening—another victim of diphtheria.

The celebrated Mendelssohn Quintette Club, of Boston, will give a concert in Victoria on the evening of April 24th, under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A.

Congratulations to Mr. Samuel Class, of the Royal Hotel, Comox, whose wife has presented him with three children, two boys and a girl. All doing well.

The commissioners appointed to select a site for a navy yard on the northwest coast of the Pacific, it is stated, have agreed upon a point on Puget Sound, between Seattle and Tacoma.

Mr. John Bings, car inspector on the E. & N. Railway, and Miss Jordan were united in marriage on Tuesday evening at the residence of the bride, Esquimalt road. Rev. Donald Fraser was the officiating clergyman.

James McInnis, of Seattle, is applying for a divorce from his wife Annie, on the grounds of adultery. He claims that she has led a dissolute life in Victoria, and the co-respondent is Albert Elliott, a young man of this city.

Frank Clancy, who was injured in the broil at Seattle on Sunday last, will carry a memento of the battle for the rest of his life. The bullet which struck him, entered the bone of his leg and remains there. The doctors will not try to extract it.

PERSONAL.

Capt. Cyrus Orr came down from the north yesterday.

Chas. Pennie and wife arrived down last evening on the Islander.

M. M. English was a passenger down by the Sardonyx yesterday.

J. A. Carthew, of the Northern Pacific Canning Company, came down yesterday.

A. Colquhoun, of Winnipeg, the leading wine importer of Manitoba, is at the Driard.

C. Miller Clark, a representative of the New York *Evening Post*, is in the city on pleasure bent.

We are pleased to announce that Hon Mr. Dunsmuir, who was seriously ill yesterday, was much improved last evening and is rapidly recovering.

A. J. Ratcliffe, western agent of the "Burlington" route, was in town yesterday. Like all other lines, his road wants a portion of the Puget Sound business.

Harry Young, travelling passenger agent of the O. R. & N. Co. and connections, was in the city yesterday. He expects to be frequently in Victoria after this date in the interests of his line.

Leonard G. Little, of Ross, McLaren & Co., lumber manufacturers, returned from the east on Monday night. Construction of the mill above Westminster will shortly commence. Mr. Little went over to Vancouver this morning.

Among the arrivals from the east on Tuesday evening was Mr. D. McLaren, of Wakefield, Ont., a partner in the large timber firm of McLaren & Ross. Mr. McLaren's visit to the province is with a view, of judging from personal observation, what the prospects are for investment, and with this intention he will remain here a couple of months before returning east.

SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Smith and Angus *vs.* Greer.

Full Court—Crease, Gray, McCreight and Walkem, J. J.

Judgment of the court delivered by Mr. Justice Crease.

I have been desired to deliver the judgment of the Full Court herein in which we are unanimous.

The writ and statement of claim as amended include all land claimed by the defendant under the same title within lot 526.

The land is not defined in the amendment, nor did the jury find what specific lands the defendant claimed.

Under such circumstances no judgment can be entered as to any definite portion of lot 526 as is necessary under the practice.

This defect can only be remedied by a new trial, which we accordingly order.

We abstain from giving our opinion on any of the other points which were argued.

The costs must abide the event of the new trial.

Henry P. Pellew Crease, J.

M. W. T. Drake, Q.C. for plaintiffs, W. J. Taylor and J. R. Hett, for defendant.

Smith and Angus *vs.* Greer.

Begbie, C. J.

Ejectment. Interrogatories. New trial.

This action was tried before the Chief Justice and a special jury. At the trial the plaintiffs amended their statement of claim by adding, after a claim for a specific piece of land, a claim for all the land in a certain section, which is claimed by the defendant under the same title. On a motion for a new trial the full court held that the claim was too indefinite and ordered a new trial. This application was for leave to administer interrogatories to the defendant for the purpose of finding out what land in the particular section the defendant claims. Held. The plaintiffs may administer interrogatories for the purpose of clearing up any embarrassment created by the pleadings of the party sought to be interrogated, but not for the purpose of clearing up embarrassments created by the pleadings of the party seeking to interrogate.

Application refused, but leave given to the plaintiffs to amend their writ and statement of claim.

M. W. T. Drake, Q. C., for plaintiffs, J. R. Hett for defendant.

Nova Scotia Gold Mines.

Reports from the gold mines in Queen's county, Nova Scotia, are to the effect that a very rich new lead has been found, which is yielding 25 to 50 ounces of gold per ton of quartz. There are quite a number of leads on this mine now being worked, averaging from 10 to 18 inches thick, and yielding an ounce and a half and over per ton. The owners of the mine are now in treaty and expect to close with English capitalists for 145 acres of the same for a quarter of a million dollars. They also have offers from two American companies for other portions of this mine at $45,000 which they have decided to accept. After disposing of these areas they will still have about 400 acres left, on which several leads have been found, all bearing gold, and from the appearance of the quartz will yield gold equal to the other leads now being worked. The owners think they have a bonanza.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

A regular meeting of the city council was held last evening in the city hall.

There were present Mayor Grant, in the chair, and all members of the board with the exception of Ald. Harris.

CITY ASSESSORS.

Ald. Vigelius moved, seconded by Ald. Wilson, that the rules of order be suspended in order that he might bring forward the appointment of assessors as the first business of the evening.

Ald. Coughlan wished to know if the proceedings already taken in this question were legal?

The rules having been suspended, Ald. Vigelius moved that the applications for assessor be read by the clerk.

Mayor Grant, before putting the motion to vote, requested the aldermen to stick closely to the rules of order, as he should not in future allow them the same latitude that they had been allowed during the last few meetings.

Ald. Coughlan asked if applications had been invited for the position of assessor? If those who had applied had only gathered that the council were considering the appointment of an assessor from "newspaper talk," he did not think it would be fair to the public to accept any application, unless an advertisement was published.

Ald. Kelly said that the public already knew that an assessor was required. He thought it would be well to appoint three temporary assessors, and if a permanent assessor was found necessary to select the best from these three for the position.

Ald. Coughlan said that he had no desire to oppose the appointment of assessors. He objected only to the proposed manner of appointing them.

Ald. Styles did not think a permanent assessor was necessary. Applications for the position of temporary assessors should, he thought, be invited by advertisement.

Applications for the position of assessor were read from E. Dickenson, W. C. Robinson, George Simon, T. G. Raynor, John McDowell, Wm. Dalby and J. H. Nicholson.

Ald. McKillican nominated Mr. J. G. Northcote as assessor; Ald. Kelly nominated Mr. Dwyer.

Ald. Harrison wanted to know if the council was acting legally? He favored the insertion of an advertisement in the city papers before making any appointment.

Mayor Grant said the council were not acting illegally, although applications were generally called for.

Ald. Styles did not approve of making the appointment as proposed, without calling for applications.

Ald. Harrison endorsed Ald. Styles remarks.

Ald. Coughlan enquired why he (Ald. Harrison) did not make a motion to that effect then?

Ald. Harrison—Why don't you?

Ald. Coughlan—If I did you'd only vote it down. If you do, it might carry.

Ald. Harrison—Oh, stuff!

On motion, the question of appointing assessors was laid over for one week, an advertisement calling for applications to be inserted in the city papers in the meantime.

COMMUNICATIONS.

From R. Finlayson, in reference to the necessity of certain street improvements referred to in a previous letter. Referred to the street committee.

From the National Electric Tramway Company, per M. H. Cowan, secretary, in regard to street lines. Laid on the table.

From C. A. Hart, chief agent of the Citizens' Insurance Company, asking for a share in the insurance on the city buildings. Received and referred to the finance committee.

Mayor Grant remarked that in insurance matters, as well as all other business of the Council, it was always provided that the insurance should be distributed among the various companies as fairly as possible. There was no "system of favoritism" in vogue, as Mr. Hart stated.

From Brackman & Ker, applying for permission to use a portion of Government street for building purposes. Received and request granted.

From R. Erskine, in the matter of opening up Hill street west of First street, and between Hillside avenue and King's road. Referred to the street committee.

From Wm. Munsie, asking for street lines of lots 869 and 870, Johnson street. Request granted, subject to the usual conditions.

From H. L. Salmon, calling attention to the dangerous condition of the sidewalk in front of his premises at the corner of Government and Yates streets. Referred to street committee, with power to act.

From W. N. Cowles & Co., San Francisco, in *re* supply of water works material. Referred to the water committee and water commissioner.

From John Rosenberg, directing attention to a nuisance on Humboldt street, caused by a defective drain. Referred to the sanitary committee, with power to act.

From Capt. R. G. Lewis, stating that a communication received from the board, in *re* dumping wharf at Ross Bay, must be forwarded to the Department of Marine. Laid on the table.

From A. Campbell Reddie, deputy provincial secretary, acknowledging receipt of the petition of the city of Victoria in *re* extension of the city limits, which would receive attention. Received and filed.

BY-LAWS.

Owing to the absence of Ald. Harris, the by-law in *re* National Electric Tramway Co., could not be dealt with.

Ald. Harrison introduced a by-law to arrange for a loan of $45,000, for city improvements. By-law read a first time.

REPORTS.

The street committee presented a report, recommending improvements to certain box drains; also the appointment of commissioners to superintend the placing of stone monuments at the governing points of the new streets named in the Official Map Amendment Act. The report was received and adopted.

In connection with this report, the communication of Mr. M. H. Cowan for the National Electric Tramway Company, was taken from the table and the clerk instructed to reply that as soon as possible the request therein contained would be granted.

The park committee presented a report recommending the acceptance of Mr. Haywood's donation of shade trees for the park; also advising the extension of time for receiving plans for the improvement of Beacon Hill park. Report adopted.

A report was presented by the water commissioner, *re* readjustment of water rates, and enclosing a proposed sliding scale of charges. Received, and copies ordered to be furnished to the Board.

The superintendent of police submitted his report, recommending the appointment of Fred Taylor to the vacancy caused by the death of officer Roberts. Crime was reported to be on the decrease; only 180 cases being before the police magistrate during the past three months. The purchase of caps and sundry supplies for the police was recommended, and the Board informed that three men in plain clothes had been placed on patrol duty. Report adopted.

On motion, a resolution of condolence was passed, and the clerk ordered to transmit a copy to the widow of the late officer Wm. W. Roberts.

Charles R. Blake, sanitary officer, presented a report; which, on motion, was referred to the sanitary committee with power to act.

The question of a dumping ground for scavenging materials, came up for discussion on the consideration of Capt. Lewis' communication.

Ald. Harrison advised that the mayor be instruct