Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1886.

THE OCCUPATION OF BULGARIA.

Though the telegraphic reports in regard to the situation in the Eastern some what brief, they are yet portentous enough to show beyond doubt that a troublous cloud is gathering there. In abdicating the throne of Bulgaria, Prince Alexander told his late subjects that he did so upon the assurance of the czar that such a course would be for the best interests of Bulgaria and that its liberty should be preserved intact. The emperor of Russia may deem that the best way to ensure liberty to Bulgaria will be to take it under his own especial charge. Thus the czar would strengthen his position on the Black sea by the acquirement of so much more territory, extend an encircling arm around Austria, and place Russia immediately contiguous to the coveted prize—Turkey. Russia is fully aware of Germany's disinclination to go to war with her, and knowing it, quietly ignores her right of protest against such officious interference as has lately been manifested in the deposition of Prince Alexander. Yet Germany equally with Austria is affected by the state of affairs in Bulgaria, and if Russian rule establishes itself there and refuses to give way to any protest of two or more of the other powers, then it would seem that the time for something more decisive had arrived. We said that Germany and Austria are equally affected by any change in Bulgarian rule; but England is also, and in a no less direct manner. As an influential nation it behoves her to regard with a jealous eye any change in the present balance of power in Europe. The danger of the military occupation of Bulgaria by Russia is apparent when the position of that principality is considered. Even supposing that such a condition of things were tolerated, how soon would it be before some quibble as to the proper definition of the true boundary between that province and Turkey would be raised, or difficulties started, which would finally be made to furnish a pretext for a quarrel and the commencement of a war against Turkey that would be claimed as a righteous one by the czar of all the Russias. Austria, knowing Germany's attitude, is dubious of committing herself to a line of action that might cause Germany to withdraw from alliance with her sooner than adopt the same course. France, presumably, would await the action of Germany, and if that country became involved in a heavy war would see in the circumstance her long-awaited opportunity for a war of retaliation; and to the possibility of such an invasion in such a case Germany is fully alive. When the time for decision shall have fully arrived, England may be relied upon to act with a firmness consistent with the imfinchingly maintain whatever position she may assume. Although the present British government have a sufficiently sure tenure of office, yet the lessons of the many rapid changes of administration of late would render the marking out of a particular line of policy in the present question still more deliberate; the more so when the many unsettled questions which the government have to face impel them to restrain from initiative action over powers more nearly situated and equally though not more nearly concerned Russia, cognizant of the existence of these international considerations, has not been slow to take advantage of them; and the only reason to suppose that her intentions are not exposed with more effrontery is the knowledge that her hampered financial condition unfits her for a prolonged struggle with the allied armies of Europe. England may be slow to move conspicuously in this matter, but should Russia take such steps as would imply a virtual annexation of Bulgaria, she will undoubtedly again receive an ultimatum as vigorous as that of Lord Beaconsfield's, whose determined attitude put a stop to all equivocation, and averted what could not but have been a most bloody and disastrous war.

THE PROGRESS OF SURGERY.

The possibilities of science have come to be recognized as so great that any fresh development is, with the general public, regarded as merely a matter for a nine days' wonder to be after that time forgotten, or only revived when the utility of the discovery receives a popular demonstration that again attracts the passing astonishment of the unthinking. Among other paths in the vast field of science that of surgery has made rapid and truly marvellous strides. The days when surgery was rude and almost brutal, when the knife and saw were resorted to almost before a question was asked, and when cupping and leeching were regarded as sovereign remedies for nearly every ill but a physical injury, are now no more, and the healing art as followed at present owes little to the past, except the discovery of the immortal Harvey—the circulation of the blood. Skilled hands, strong nerves, and capable brains, together with a variety of experience, and the extended means of knowledge furnished by the increasing influence and prestige of medical associations, are daily unfolding to practitioners and the public at large the almost unlimited curative power that a bold but judicious use of the knife may possess. Even a year or so ago it was generally considered that excision of the stomach was a hopelessly fatal operation, but although attended with such grave danger as to be at the best one of a very heroic nature, cases are now on record of its having been successfully performed. As if to place this feat in the shade comes the record of a yet more remarkable surgical feat performed on August 20th last, at the meeting of the British Medical Association at Brighton, by Mr. Victor Horsley, F.R.S., professor superintendent of the Brown institution, and surgeon to the National hospital for the paralysed and epileptic, in Queen square, Bloomsbury, who exhibited three patients, treated in that hospital, whose recovery is said to mark the commencement of a new era in surgery. They are men who have been suffering from severe epileptic fits, and in whom Mr. Horsley has opened the skull and removed diseased structure or new growth from the brain itself. A similar operation was reported at the close of 1884 from another institution, and it will be remembered that a correspondent who signed himself "F.R.S.," called attention to it in our columns at the time, and claimed it as a direct result of experiments performed on living animals. The case, as regarded from this point of view, occasioned considerable controversy; but, unfortunately, the publication was premature, for the patient died when his recovery was thought to be well assured. The fatal result was attributed by his medical attendants to a cause independent of the nature of the operation, and therefore did not discourage future attempts in the same direction. The next opportunities for such attempts were afforded at the National hospital, and advantage was at once taken of them. In the most recent of the three, the operation was performed on July 13, so that a complete month has since elapsed; and the patient was sufficiently well to take the journey to Brighton and to bear the fatigue of being exhibited to the large audience attracted by Mr. Horsley's paper. The other two cases were operated upon, one a week or two and the other several weeks earlier; and in none of the three has there been any symptom to interfere with prompt and complete recovery. So far, also, the men are cured of their epilepsy; but a considerable time must be permitted to elapse before any claim for permanence of result can be established. What is actually proved at present is that it has become possible, by the observation of symptoms, not only to determine the fact of the existence of some morbid growth within the skull, but also to determine its precise position with such accuracy that it can be cut down upon and removed. It is also proved that the necessary operation can be performed, by the aid of certain precautions, with a very small degree of risk to life, and that considerable portions of the brain may be removed without injury; the functions to which these portions are subservient being performed, after a while, very possibly, by corresponding parts of the opposite hemisphere. There has in former times been a good deal of what may be called brain surgery, but, as a rule, it has been accidental rather than designed. Until the occurrence of the fatal case in 1884, it was not generally known, even in the medical profession, that Dr. MacEwen, of Glasgow, had operated successfully in an instance of a somewhat similar kind, besides having repeatedly trephined, or opened the skull with good results. Many severe fractures of the skull have been followed by protrusion and removal of even large portions of the brain substance, and in some of these cases recovery has followed, while trephining has often been performed for the sake of epilepsy which has distinctly followed upon injury. In none of these cases, however, has the removal of brain substance been designed as a remedial measure; and the trephining for epilepsy has been a last resource, usually undertaken in the hope of finding some depression of bone at the seat of injury, the situation of which, therefore, and not the symptoms of the case, has determined the locality of the operation. In two of Mr. Horsley's patients there had been previously trephined for the purpose of elevating portions of bone which were depressed by fracture of his skull; so that in both of these the localisation was assisted by manifest external indications. But in the third there was nothing of this kind, and the point at which the skull should be opened was determined solely by the fact that the fits commenced in a particular group of muscles—those, namely, which act upon the left thumb. The physician in charge of the case was able to say that this manner of commencement pointed certainly to the presence of a continuing source of irritation near the surface of the brain at a definite spot; and the surgeon having opened the skull at the point indicated, a tumour was found embedded in the brain substance, and, together with a portion of brain surrounding it, was removed so far with absolute cessation of the fits, which were previously not only very frequent, but, as might have been expected, were also increasing alike in frequency and in severity, and were such as to disable the patient from following any occupation, not to say that they placed his life in constant jeopardy from accident. Epileptics of this class are not infrequently burnt or otherwise severely injured during their attacks, and can never be said to be in safety when unattended. There are two contingencies in relation to the cases which render it impossible to predict with certainty the permanence of the results obtained, and these are, first, that the scar which must form in or upon the brain tissue may possibly itself become a source of irritation in time; and secondly, that a certain proportion of brain tumours, as of tumours in other parts of the body, are of a nature to render recurrence possible or probable. The likelihood of any difficulty arising from the first contingency is greatly diminished by circumstances to which we shall presently advert; and when all possible allowance is made for failures incidental to the second, the cases must still remain as perhaps the most remarkable of the brilliant triumphs which have been obtained by the co-operation of physicians with medicine and surgery. Modern discoveries with regard to brain function enable the physician to point to the precise seat of the unseen disease, and modern improvements in surgery enable the operator to remove that disease without appreciable risk to the patient.

THE SPERRY ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The population at which the mayor and a special committee of four members of the council have arrived in rejecting the Sperry light contract, must meet with general approval in view of the facts. The committee claim that the Sperry lamps are not what should have been supplied as part of a modern electrical plant, and, being unprovided with the hoods to protect them from rain, snow, frost, and weather, and consequent rapid consumption of the carbons and general deterioration, are not complete as the terms of the contract require. Mr. S. P. Greene, the electrician representing the Sperry company, takes the ground that, though the company manufactures lamps with hoods, the lamps provided are in them selves complete. If this be so, the committee are satisfied that the lamps are of old pattern or only suitable for inside lighting; and that thus the lamps furnished are, in either event, not up to contract. The committee have also discovered that the rates of revolution of the dynamos are not up to the required standard, and are also taking the evidence of experts to ascertain the best means of getting the required power with less than the present consumption of fuel. The cost of running the machinery, if continued under the present system, would be so enormous that it would be better for the city to shut down the whole outfit and make a new departure. The committee are also trying to find out who is responsible for the lack of power of the new engine which, nominally of 175 horse power, only develops that of 40 horse power, making it necessary to employ two engines when it was understood that the old one would only be used in the alternative of any mishap, and they hope by next Wednesday to submit a report which shall declare with whom in their opinion the fault rests. The report will also embody the decision at which the committee have arrived with regard to the light, and the grounds therefor, which it is presumed are sufficiently strong to cause the council to confirm their action.

Minerals in the Railway Belt

September 6th, 1886.

To the Editor: I have not a copy of the settlement bill before me, but I remember that in one of the clauses *all minerals* are reserved to the Island Railway Co. There is no exception made. Of course, I presume that gold prospectors will be allowed to work alluvial diggings, though according to the terms of the bill they should not. But what about other minerals? Prospectors do not usually confine themselves to looking for gravel diggings. Suppose any of the persons who are prospecting on the island discover within the railway belt a lode containing gold, silver and, perhaps, other metals combined, what are their rights against the railway company? This question is suggested by the fact that some prospectors claim to have discovered lodes containing gold and silver mixed, like the Nevada lodes. Specimens of the ore have been assayed at San Francisco, and found to contain gold and silver in considerable quantities, together with other minerals. I think that if a rich silver mine were discovered within the railway domain the company would be authorized by the terms of the settlement bill to claim it as their own and to prevent the discoverers from working it.

Again, even if the precious metals are excepted from the provisions of the bill, although no such exception is mentioned, look at the perplexities which will be entailed, if any of the baser metals are mixed in the vein, as frequently happens. In some of the Nevada mines there is a good deal of lead, just as in lead mines there is often a percentage of silver. If this were to happen here within the railway domain, the operators of the mine could not use the lead. For the satisfaction of prospectors on this island (at least in the railway belt), it is very desirable that the law on the matter should be definitely and certainly known. Perhaps it will not be known until the question is tested in the courts.

W.

[Gold and silver are "royal" metals and unless specially conveyed by name are not conveyed under the generic title of "mineral." In the case of "mixed" metals—that is, gold and silver ores that carry base metal, the quantity of metal carried will determine the nature of the lode. If there is more lead than gold or silver, the lode will be classed as lead; but if either or both of the precious metals preponderate then the lode will be gold or silver as the case may be.—Editor Colonist.]

The Murder of Gillis.—O. Kent, charged with the murder of Gillis at Kamloops, has been discharged. The Indian girl has been committed for trial.

The Behring Question.

To the Editor: The American and Canadian press are wrangling over the measures made by their respective governments, each calling the acts of the opposite nation "outrageous," "illegal," etc., when the seizures on both sides are right, except that, in the case of the sealers, the act of congress granting the exclusive privilege may be declared unconstitutional.

With reference to the Alaskan seizures, I believe the "high seas" policy contrary to the interests of British Columbia, for so soon as the waters in question are yielded as "high seas" they at once pass beyond the control of any nation, and there being no restraint, the seals would be exterminated or driven away in a very short time. It is better to be contented with "half a loaf."

There is no reason to hope that an intelligent nation, enjoying free and valuable privileges on the east coast of Canada, will ultimately do their duty by admitting Canadian sealers. If refused, however, there are means of retaliation; indeed, it may be demonstrated now, that an expedition such as referred to in Mr. Boutwell's letter, would be "profitable." For instance, the writer was informed by the master of an American schooner that his mode of hunting was to go to the "path of the seals in the Pacific and travel with them northward, every morning letting down boats, each containing two hunters and an oarsman, who would steal upon and shoot female seals with young while sleeping on their backs in the belief that the taking of a male was very rare indeed; and that his catch in 1885 amounted to $16,000 in value. Now stating the number of schooners at 35, the average catch of female seals, counting the young, amounts to an annual loss to sources of reproduction, of about 210,000 from the schooners alone; when if the hunters were allowed to take the seals on land at the proper time, with the same destruction of life, they could take 210,000 seals, instead of 70,000 as now caught under perilous circumstances. From the tone of the American press I believe congress will rid the country of the Alaska monopoly, without giving up their possessions.

I have seen nothing in the press to change my views in regard to the character of Kamschatka Sea. There are other points to be considered besides mere degrees of "openness" or diameter of sea, for these points are matters of opinion. Treaties bear the same relation to international law as the statutes to the common law. A treaty, therefore, is not a safe guide to determine principles of international law; nor are the decisions of courts (however persuasive) *authority* upon such questions. High courts in the United States have decided, in determining a question of jurisdiction of maritime courts, that a vessel moored in harbor, with her hawser fastened to the shore, is on the high seas. This is ridiculous when applied to international question. And I believe it was hastily yielded that Russia had a title to the Behring sea, and in 1825 England recognized Russia's possessions by her convention with Russia defining the boundary between Alaska and British territory. Although the Adams' controversy was just closed, and it was known that Russia had leased the sealing venture, the only thing of value, Great Britain did not make any reservation or protest in regard to the seals. This was again admitted by the United States in 1867, by purchase, and Mr. R. P. Noah, an American politician, published a letter in 1868, asserting that if congress did not make the appropriation to pay for Alaska, *England was anxious to buy* the property at even a higher figure.

The United States has been inconsistent in her claims as to territorial waters. To the contrary of the assertion in the Chronicle, may be cited her claim to the whole of Delaware bay, and from Cape Ann to Cape Cod, from Nantucket Muntauk Point, thence to the capes of the Delaware, from South Cape of Florida to the Mississippi, and in 1806 she claimed from the Atlantic seaboard to the Gulf Stream.

Referring to Mr. Boutwell's letter of date April 19, 1872, quoted in *The Colonist*, I do not think it implies that the writer thereof considered the rights of his government confined within a circle three miles from shore around each island. The expedition proposed to hover just outside the Aleutian passages and shoot the seals going in, and when Mr. Boutwell speaks of want of authority to "drive off parties going up there for that purpose unless they made such attempts within a marine league of the shore," he doubtless means one league south of the Aleutian archipelago, which is the boundary defined by the Russian treaty, and upon which the expedition intended to hover. These waters are subject to ownership, but the proprietor would be bound to grant the "innocent use" thereof for merchant vessels to pass through, *free of toll*, because it is a road between two oceans; but this privilege does not carry the right to take fish, any more than an easement over land gives a right to take goldfish.

R. Gardiner.

Victoria, September 7th, 1886.

Gaslight for the City.

To the Editor: Reference to the electric light in this city and the article in today's issue set the ratepayers thinking, and when it is considered in an economical point of view we are led to think we are paying very dearly for such a luxury. It is very well to try and eclipse New York and other large cities in this respect, but in a city like Victoria electricity will never be made to pay for various reasons, and the alarming death rate connected with the working of it makes it still more expensive. It is said that life insurance companies will not insure men who are so employed, as some of the best electricians have lost their lives—been taken away in the prime of life. I was sorry to see in to-day's issue another added to the number, Supt. Brockway, of Minneapolis, but this is only a beginning. I know of a great mortality. You remark, "That the cost of running the machinery if continued under the present system, would be so enormous that it would be better for the city to shut down the whole outfit and make a new departure." This seems to be now in place before accepting a scheme that is likely to be a source of trouble and great expense to the city. I fully concur with your remarks, as it is the better course to pursue, as the old adage, "Marry in haste and repent at leisure," is a true one, and before the city wads itself to a scheme which is likely to be a loss to it, they had better think twice. I would like to hear from the light committee as to the probable cost per month or year of the present system. If I remember rightly, it was a large figure, but still it turns out to be far short of the amount required to meet expenses. I hear the light is not up to the standard, and the engines are defective as to power, requiring two engines instead of one, which means double the amount of labor, double the amount of fuel, and everything else in proportion. Had the city entered into an agreement with a gas company to supply gas to the city it would have been supplied to them at less than half the present cost of electricity, and would have been on every burner, and would have been on every burner, which will never be reached by the electric lights. In fact, now, parts of the city are just as dark as ever and as difficult to get along in a dark night. Had the city desired large gas towers as are now used in some cities they could be erected, they give as much light as the small electric towers now in the city, and a far better light, free from the flickering and the glare which is blinding to man and animal as well. The gas towers now erected in the streets of some cities give a very powerful light, and are as much cheaper and without danger, and they are superseding electricity where electricity has been tried, and at less than half the cost. It is likely the present gas company would be willing to supply gas that would be a saving to the city, or in the event of their not doing so the city could have a gas company of its own, by which it would receive a handsome return for its investment, instead of the present untried and expensive plan.

Ratepayer.

Victoria, Sept. 11, 1886.

SAD OCCURRENCE AT OTTAWA.

Sir Alexander Campbell's Second Son Found.

Ottawa, Sept. 3.—The city was startled this evening by a report that Archibald Campbell, second son of Sir Alex. Campbell, had committed suicide by shooting himself. On enquiry it was ascertained that about half-past five o'clock he was found dead in his room at his father's residence by a servant who went to call him to dinner. Early in the day the servants heard a noise in Archibald's room but paid no attention to it, as the young man was of a retiring and melancholy disposition, and would remain secluded for several days at a time. Whether the shooting was accidental or premeditated can only be conjectured, but a revolver with one chamber discharged was found near the body of the deceased. Sir Alexander Campbell is overwhelmed with grief. The young man was about 24 years of age and passed his final examination as a barrister last autumn, having studied in Toronto. About two months ago he was appointed assistant reporter to the supreme court here, in order that he might become familiar with practice in that court. It is not likely that any inquest will be held.

Poultry Pickings.

Plaster of Paris scattered over the floors of fowl houses is a powerful absorbent, preventing the smell which arises from the droppings.

The greatest secret of raising young ducks is not to allow them to get wet. Give them all the water they can drink in vessels so constructed as to permit them to reach the water only with their bills. Keep ducks and goslings away from the ponds or creeks until they are fledged.

It is not necessary that fowls should have all the range they want to be productive of eggs. If they have sufficient room for exercise, and are supplied with the requisites for the production of eggs, such as green food, meat and gravel, they will keep healthy and lay all the eggs the breed or strain has the capacity for doing.

Breaking a setting hen has often been a difficult problem and a hundred suggestions have been made in regard to the best method. Many of the proposed remedies are cruel, and inflict unnecessary punishment on the poor hen for simply endeavoring to satisfy her natural inclination. The easiest mode is to make a box composed of strips of lath. If lath, which is cheaper, have the top, sides and bottom of that material, and place the box on some kind of support, so that it will not touch the ground, or suspend it from a hook. There being a free circulation of air all around her, she will soon become disgusted.

It is a pretty mean thief that will swindle a poor country preacher with a large family and a small salary; but I once knew a man mean enough to do that by means of a bogus marriage. He came to a small country town in which my church was located. This was in New York State. Near me lived a Baptist minister who had a hard struggle to make both ends meet. A man and a woman drove up to his house one evening and were married. The man had a large roll of bills, and pretended that he was looking for a five-dollar note among them, but they were all for $100. The fellow was profuse in his apologies; said he was sorry that he had no small bills, and did not want to go away without giving the minister a fee. Was it possible for the pastor to get one of the larger bills changed. The poor clergyman, eager to get a cash $5 marriage fee, which was something unusual with him, went to his little hoard and gave the man $95. The next day the clergyman found that the $100 bill was a counterfeit, and he was never able to find the swindler. The marriage was a put-up job, and about the most contemptible trick I ever knew or heard of.—*Cincinnati Inquirer.*

Agricultural Society.—At a meeting of the board of directors, yesterday, President Shakespeare in the chair, preliminaries for the forthcoming show were arranged. The board unanimously decided to petition the municipal council to take steps for the establishment of a public market in the city of Victoria.

Horrified Deacons.

In an Iowa city a minister from a distant city was going to exchange pulpits with the local preacher. The name of the preacher from the city was the same as that of a Milwaukee traveling man, and they both came on the same train Saturday night. The traveling man wanted a good rest over Sunday, so he telegraphed for a room to the proprietor of the hotel. The boss deacon of the church also engaged a parlor bedroom for the visiting preacher, who was represented to be quite liberal in his views, and it was thought he would feel more at home in a hotel than in a private house. The landlord was down to the train as well as a couple of deacons and when the traveling man stepped off the car with his gripsack full of plug tobacco and fine cut, the landlord said: "Good evening, Mr. B.—" The deacons heard the name and went up to the traveling man and one of them said: "This is Brother B., I presume." The traveling man said he presumed it was, if he knew himself. His wife is a sister in the church at home, and being called a brother was nothing particularly new to him. So the deacon took his gripsack and they all walked up to the hotel, conversing by the way. The traveling man thought the landlord had got a new runner for the hotel, and rather liked the idea of having his gripsack carried by a man who seemed a thorough gentleman.

Arrived at the hotel they were shown right up to the parlor bedroom without registering. One of the deacons said:

"Brother B, we have thought that you would prefer this to going to one of our houses to stop over Sunday. Is every thing to your liking here?"

The traveling man took up the towels and smelled of them, looked in the water pitcher, in the wardrobe, under the lounge and everywhere, and said, "This is good enough for me. Everything seems to be present or accounted for, but you always find damp sheets in these hotels," and he stripped off the bed clothes to let the sheets air, pulled off his coat and began to wash himself, when one of the deacons said, "We will leave you now, to your own meditations, and to prepare for your supper, and during the evening some of the congregation will call upon you and converse with you upon our needs as a people, and the best way to arrive at certain results, for the amelioration of the condition of mankind."

"That's right," said the traveling man, as he was rubbing his big red face on a towel, while they went out the door; "come around after supper and I will play you a few games of fifteen ball pool."

If a cyclone had struck the house the deacons could not have been more surprised. They never spoke until they got out doors, and then they looked at each other and sighed. They had never met a preacher, however liberal he might be about his religious views, who was quite so worldly in his talk, and when the visiting preacher spoke about playing wicked fifteen ball pool, they felt as though they must notify the officers of the church, so they went around and told what had happened. There was consternation and a good deal of talk. In the meantime the traveling man had come down to the hotel office, and found out what the racket was about, and he found that the poor minister had been assigned to a small bedroom up three stories, and he sat around the office as pitiful and meek as any man in the world. After supper the traveling man went into the billiard room and got up a game with some of the drummers, and pretty soon the door was darkened by a committee from the church, who looked at the game for a moment and acted as though they would sink through the floor. Finally one of them edged into the room just as the traveling man was about to hole a ball in a far corner pocket and one of the drummers said he couldn't do it and the traveling man, who was supposed to be a preacher, set his cue down on the floor and offered to bet the cigars for all four of them that he would hole the ball. This was too much, and the deacon touched the traveling man on the shoulder and said in a piteous voice:

"Brother B., this conduct is unseemly. There is a committee in the next room that desires to converse with you. Leave this wicked place and come with us."

The traveling man turned to the deacon and laughed so they could hear it in Des Moines, and said: "Cap, I thought at first you were having fun with me, but now I see it is a case of mistaken identity. You have taken me for a minister, which I am not. Your visitor who is to preach to-morrow sits out in the office there in a splint bottom chair, feeling hurt at being ignored. I am sorry for the mistake, but I couldn't help it. I travel for a Milwaukee tobacco house," and went on and pocketed the ball, won the cigars, and the deacon went out and they soon found the right Mr. B. and explanations followed, but the tobacco drummer kept the parlor bedroom all the same.—*Milwaukee Sun.*

THE PERILS OF ELECTRICITY.

An Operator Killed in a Twinkling.

Minneapolis, Sept. 3.—Supt. Brockway, of the Brush electric company, was instantly killed here last night while he was engaged repairing the electric lights at the Nicollet house. The superintendent was repairing a light in the Milwaukee city ticket office in the lobby of the hotel and supposed that the current would not be turned on from the central plant until he was through, but the operator had failed to receive his instructions, and at 8:30 turned on the current. As Mr. Brockway touched a wire with a pair of nippers, there was a slight flash, and he fell backward, exclaiming "Oh!" He was caught in the arms of a line man, and expired in a few minutes later. This is the second accident of the kind that has occurred within a few days.

Three Times and Out.

Chicago, Sept. 3.—At Temnock station, on the Milwaukee Railway, a woman threw herself in front of the 3.10 train yesterday, but was pulled off the track uninjured. She remained in the neighborhood, and at 6 o'clock made another unsuccessful effort to be killed by the transfer engine. At 5.30 o'clock this morning a freight train ran over and frightfully mangled her beforeher presence was suspected. In her pocket was found a prayer-book and a medicine bottle. The former had the name Ann Cubby, No. 3,536 South Halsted street, written in ink, with a fresh line beneath, "Pray for me." The bottle had come from the county hospital, and was declared to contain medicine given to old drunkards.

Eastern Canada Mail.

(Per Canadian Pacific Railway.)

Ottawa, Sept. 3.—The Gazette contains an order-in-council establishing fees for the inspection of sheep entering British Columbia and Manitoba and the provisional districts of Alberta and Assiniboia, to be collected by collector of customs or other duly authorized individuals: for one sheep, six cents; for five, ten cents each; for ten, six cents; for twenty, four cents; for fifty, two and a half; over fifty, two cents each.

As a result of the correspondence which has been going on for some time past between the Canadian and Imperial authorities orders have been issued by the English admiralty to the commanders of all English war vessels now along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to report at once to Halifax for duty. They will be used to assist the Canadian cruisers in protecting the fisheries and also to look after the protection of Newfoundland fisheries.

Montreal, Sept. 5.—The Canadian Pacific Railway earnings for August were $917,000; against $802,000 for the same period in 1885.

Canada's reply to the case of the United States re the schooner David J. Adams, has been filed in the Vice-Admiralty Court at Halifax.

Toronto, Sept. 5.—A lively discussion took place yesterday at the Methodist General Conference on the motion of the Rev. H. S. Mathews, "that in view of the fact that we as a people have not the position and the influence in the management of the affairs of the country to which our numbers and intelligence entitle us, we recommend our people to take a deeper interest in the political affairs of the country and support each other more strongly than in the past." Discussion was cut short by Rev. Dr. Allison that the motion be laid upon the table which was carried by 103 to 88 against. Lt.-Gov. Aikins arrived here yesterday and is attending the conference. He with two others was appointed a committee to draw a resolution re the Queen's jubilee.

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 4.—A sad romance was developed yesterday afternoon by the suicide of Minnie Charland, the adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charland. Minnie was 21 years old and was adopted by the Charlands when quite young in Toronto. She grew up into a handsome and intelligent woman, believing Mr. and Mrs. Charland were her parents. She recently revisited Toronto, where she learned the facts of her parentage, and this so preyed upon her mind that she finally determined to take her life. She left her home early this morning or last night, leaving a pathetic letter telling what she intended to do. When this letter was found to-day a search for her body was at once instituted.

Ottawa, Sept. 6.—Sir John Macdonald left Saturday to unveil the monument to Joseph Brant at Brantford.

John Dunn, employed in the department of the interior, is reported to have been drowned at Gananoque yesterday by the overturning of his boat.

Ellenville, Sept. 6.—The million feet of lumber in Flint & Halton's yard were burned to-day. Loss, $25,000 to $30,000. No insurance.

St. Catharines, Sept. 6.—Gen. Middleton will unveil the monument erected here in memory of Private Watson and his companions-in-arms, who fell in the Northwest during the rebellion, on Tuesday, the 13th inst.

Montreal, Sept. 3.—The Canadian Pacific railway earnings for the week ending August 31, were $297,000; for the same week last year, $266,000.

Montreal, Sept. 6.—Several great buildings are in course of erection in the business part of the city for warehouses, and as they will be occupied as soon as finished, they are unmistakable evidence of the great revival to commence that has taken place here.

Mr. Olds, general traffic manager of the C.P.R., has returned from his trip to the Pacific coast in connection with traffic arrangements of the road. He considers the business outlook very favorable for the company, as all the large firms have eagerly welcomed the establishment of agencies. The Canadian Pacific will be able to hold its own with the other Pacific lines, which are heavily burdened with fixed interest charges.

The near opening of the Canadian Pacific telegraph wires has caused a great number of the largest and longest shareholders in Montreal to realize on most if not all their holdings in the latter company.

The Grand Trunk traffic receipts for the week ending August 28th show an increase of $60,500 over the same period last year.

Extraordinary Feat of a "Steeple Jack."

In honor of his Majesty's birthday a journeyman gilder named Joseph Pircher on Wednesday morning at Vienna, performed a feat of almost unparalleled foolhardiness. He had made a bet that he would climb unassisted to the gilded pinnacle of St. Stephen's steeple and plant an Imperial flag there with a garland of flowers. The climbing was not to be effected from the platform of the tower, but from its base in the Stefans-Platz, the height thence to the gilt ball, and cross being 432 German feet 6 inches. At eleven in the evening Pircher arrived on the Stefans-Platz with a small party of friends, tied his shoes round his neck, and began his perilous ascent by means of the lightning conductor. Swarming up the metal rod with the agility of an ape, and resting his feet on every projecting piece of stonework, he took thirty-five minutes to reach the platform of the tower. From this point until within 12 feet of the pinnacle the ascent was comparatively easier, as the fretted sides of the steeple form a perpendicular staircase. The last 12 feet offered a sheer smooth surface which had to be swarmed up. The guardian of the tower despatched messengers right and left for police and firemen, and soon after midnight a company of firemen encircled the tower with mattresses and canvas stretched out to catch the hardy climber in case he should fall. The night was clear, and Pircher's movements could be distinctly seen from below. Reaching the gilt ball, Pircher took a small yellow and black flag with a crown of flowers from his pocket, tied both to the cross, gave three "Hochs" for the Emperor, and then began coolly to descend. Finding his shoes inconvenient, he left them on the stone under the ball, and on reaching the ground good-humoredly suggested that one of the policemen should go up and fetch them. Pircher descended as he had climbed, by the lightning conductor, and this feat occupied altogether two hours and thirty-three minutes. He was a little tired at the finish and his hands were somewhat grazed, but he jumped gaily to the pavement amid the enthusiastic cheers of the spectators. After this, however, he was led off to the police station. It is said that he has already climbed 130 steeples. His latest exploit, however, surpasses any feat of steeple-climbing on record.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

Narrow Escape of the Royal Yacht.

A Mishap in the Pillory of Print.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

London, August 21st.

Most people are disposed to congratulate Sir Edward Clarke on his well earned laurels. From small beginnings, and with but little assistance, he has risen to the first rank of his profession. The new knight is a conspicuous illustration of the fact that in this country every career is open to talent and merit.

Members of parliament of the older type evidently share the ministerial hope that the business of the session will soon be at an end, for they are delaying the whips with applications for pairs. Some of them, indeed, so far condescend to ask for leave to be absent. They assume that there will be no opposition, or else giving the whips a wide berth, they simply slipped out of town without leave, and that for no earthly reason, unless it be that they are ashamed of their heroic. Finding that he was not "strong enough for the place," the irascible general resigned his commission, which his colleagues, who shall be able to communicate speedily with a regularly organized system of supports. I do not know whether my plan will prove successful, but I mean to do my duty.

A Celebrated Officer.

London, Sept. 2.—Andrew Carnegie has written a letter to the lord provost of Edinburgh offering 25,000 for the establishment of a free library on the condition that Edinburgh adopts the free libraries act, by the terms of which a tax not exceeding a penny in the pound is charged to defray the current expenses of public libraries.

Syrup of Figs.

Manufactured only by the California Fig Syrup Co., San Francisco, Cal., is Nature's own true Laxative. This pleasant liquid fruit remedy may be had of Leeming & Co., Druggists, in 50c. and $1 bottles, at 1 Fort street, and 1 Yates street. It is the most gentle, prompt and effective remedy known, to cleanse the system, to act on the liver, kidneys, and bowels, gently yet thoroughly, to dispel headaches, Colds and Fevers, to cure Constipation, Indigestion and kindred ills. dw13

ALASKA NEWS.

The Thornton's Captain and Mate Imprisoned and Fined.

The steamer Idaho which arrived at Port Townsend on Friday from Alaska, brings more gold dust than before at one shipment. She reports that miners have arrived at Juneau from the Yukon, and after buying provisions returned at once. No definite news was obtained from them, but they had considerable gold dust with which to pay for their provisions. It is thought that the Yukon country is not up to the standard that is represented.

A Chinaman was arrested at Killinoo on Aug. 24th for violation of the revenue law and is now held at Sitka for trial.

James Ogilvie, master, and James Blake, mate, of the English schooner Carolena; Hans Gutteormen, master, and H. Norman, mate, of the English schooner Thornton; D. Monroe, master, and J. Markatich, mate, of the English schooner Onward; and C. A. Raynor, master, and John Johnson, mate, of the American schooner San Diego, seized by the Corwin for violation of the fishing laws, were arraigned before Judge Dawson on Aug. 26th at Sitka. The crews of the vessels were not arrested. Captain Raynor was found guilty as charged and sentenced to two months' imprisonment. His mate, Johnson, was sentenced to thirteen days' imprisonment.

The case in re the schooner Thornton was argued by the district attorney and by Messrs. D. A. Dingley and W. Clark for the defence, and the jury arrived at a verdict in an hour. The finding was guilty as to both parties and the fixing of a punishment of 30 days' imprisonment and $500 fine against Gutteormen, and 30 days' imprisonment and $300 fine against Norman. The parties were sentenced accordingly. In pronouncing sentence, Judge Dawson remarked that the offense of which the defendants stood convicted was one of a very serious character, and that they had no more right to go into the waters of another nation and interfere with its industries, and damage its properties and impair the privileges of its lessees than they had to go upon another man's land and appropriate his crops. He said the United States would have been justified in affixing a much greater penalty to this offense than the law had prescribed, in which event their punishment might have been much more serious.

The difficulty of securing another jury panel in Sitka of qualified residents induced the continuance of the case of the master and mate of the schooner Onward until September 6, when they were doubtless dealt with in the same manner.

The United States ship Pinta left Sitka on September 4th for Lakutat to bring Lieutenant Schwatka's exploring party back.

A sad story comes from the warm springs of Sitka. Mrs. Archer, of Juneau, Mrs. Woodley, of Port Townsend, and Mrs. E. H. Brown, wife of the deputy collector, accompanied by two infants, went to the springs, the two former ladies being afflicted with rheumatism and hoping there to regain their health. Two men left the springs about August 27th in the only boat there, promising to send a steam launch for the ladies from Sitka. This they forgot to do. On August 29th Mrs. Brown's infant was taken ill and soon died. The only man left at the springs started across the trail for assistance, and for two days the poor women were left alone with the dead infant. A rescue party at length arrived, and the Indians took the ladies and the corpse to Sitka, where they arrived the next day. The man who had gone for assistance arrived after them. Mrs. Archer was left at the springs, as she was in such a condition that it was impossible to move her. A steam launch was at once sent to her relief. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Woodley are completely broken down, but it is hoped they will recover.

A SUB-MARINE MONITOR.

Jules Verne's Dream Realized in a Boat Constructed by an American Inventor.

A sub-marine torpedo boat invented by Prof. J. H. L. Tuck was yesterday tested and proved a practical success in the presence of a large party of gentlemen interested. They went aboard the steamer Chance Shot at Eighty-sixth street, North River. The sub-marine vessel lay like a gigantic turtle lashed to the steamer's side. She has been christened the Peacemaker. She was constructed at the yard of O. H. Delamater & Co., and is 30 feet long with a breadth of beam of 8½ feet and a depth of 7½ feet. The bow and stern taper off from amidships, and the forward end of the vessel is surmounted by a dome 12 inches high, which is set with glass and just large enough for the pilot to get his head into. Admission to the boat is through a circular scuttle abaft of the dome. At the stern there is a propeller and a rudder of ordinary fashion, and two horizontal rudders with which the boat may be deflected up or down. The interior is half-filled with machinery and mechanical devices, including a powerful little Westinghouse engine. Compressed air is stored in six-inch pipes running around the interior, and arrangements are made by which air may be supplied by chemicals. A gauge registers the depth of the vessel beneath the surface. Light is furnished by an incandescent electric lamp. At yesterday's experiment, Capt. John G. Holland and Engineer John H. Kline slipped down into the iron hull and fastened the air tight scuttle. Then the captain's head appeared in the look out dome and the iron fish started up the river. She had not gone 100 feet before she dipped her nose into the water and gradually slid out of sight beneath the ruffled surface. The spectators anxiously watched the spot where she disappeared for three minutes, when she reappeared about a quarter of a mile to leeward and headed towards them. The Sylvan Glen was coming down the river only a few hundred feet above, and her captain was much surprised at the sudden appearance of the iron monster. He tooted his whistle vigorously and put his wheel hard aport, whereat the torpedo boat kicked up its heels and again disappeared. The Peacemaker reached a depth yesterday of forty feet and attained a fair rate of speed. The torpedo portion of the experiment was not tried. It is designed to use two torpedoes attached together by a chain and fastened to corked magnets, which will attach themselves to the iron or steel sheating of a vessel to be distroyed. They are to be fired by electricity after the torpedo boat has reached a safe distance. Prof. Tuck is working out a device by which he claims the occupants of the boat will be enabled to leave it at a depth of forty feet and return again in safety. Patents on the sub marine vessel have been secured in the United States and throughout Europe. A company has been formed under the laws of this State,