

WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

A Conference at Bishop's Close—The Duty of Women to Vote at Civic Elections.

The hospitable doors of Bishop's close opened yesterday afternoon to receive the first provincial conference in connection with the Women's Council, that being the reason of the Countess of Aberdeen's presence in Victoria.

Upon her arrival the Countess of Aberdeen was presented with an address read by Mrs. Scaife, and in reply expressed her thanks for the very cordial reception given her, referring to the progress made by the Women's Council in the past two years, thankfully acknowledging that the blessing of God had been with them and that the same power would make the workers to faithfully serve their day and generation.

Mrs. Gordon Graham having been appointed secretary, the conference proceeded to business. Resolutions were passed on the necessity of provision for the suitable accommodation of the insane while waiting medical attendance; upon the case of the poor, sick and incurable, and upon the necessity of the appointment of police matrons.

The annual meeting of the Royal City Art and Scientific Association takes place on Monday afternoon at Westminster, when officers will be elected. In future J. O. Williams and J. G. Ure will be associated in the management.

The annual prize meeting of the rifle club took place at Westminster yesterday. G. Turnbull led in No. 1 company's match with 99; Lieut. Duff Stuart in No. 2 competition with 90, while the aggregate score in No. 1 and 2 was made by W. J. Sloan, 181 being the figure.

Ranchers throughout the district commenced last week to feed their cattle, and though the winter has set in unusually early this year, there is abundance of hay in the district, and the cattle are not likely to suffer from lack of feed.

Charles Taylor, of Montreal, is visiting this city, seeking information regarding the mining interests of the Okanagan district. Mr. Taylor states that he was among the first to open up the Nova Scotia gold mines over thirty years ago.

Two or three years ago the Okanagan country was known only as a section possessed of untrilled agricultural resources. Now all this is changed. Hundreds of locations have been recorded, and there are numerous mineral claims being worked which promise a rich return to their owners.

On Tuesday night a number of gentlemen representing twelve claims situated in Camp Hewitt, on Okanagan lake, met at the Coldstream hotel, and as a result of their deliberations the Camp Hewitt Mining and Milling Co., Ltd., was organized to take in the following group of claims, on many of which considerable development work has already been done.

Never before in the history of the city has such a large and brilliant company been brought together at any social function as that which through the building known as the "jam factory"

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

Mr. Justice McColl Congratulated—Address to Ministers—Ranching Prospects Favorable.

Government-General's Reception at Coldstream—Produce Shipments to Kootenay—Mining.

VANCOUVER. VANCOUVER, Nov. 28.—A meeting of the executive of the local Council of Women took place at Hotel Vancouver yesterday. Lady Aberdeen was present.

Mr. Justice McColl presided at the Supreme court, sitting yesterday, for the first time in Vancouver. Mr. McColl was congratulated by the Vancouver Bar upon his elevation. Messrs. L. G. McPhillips, Q.C., and C. Wilson, Q.C., spoke on behalf of the bar, and Justice McColl replied, cordially thanking the bar for their expressions of congratulations.

The annual meeting of the Royal City Art and Scientific Association takes place on Monday afternoon at Westminster, when officers will be elected. In future J. O. Williams and J. G. Ure will be associated in the management.

The annual prize meeting of the rifle club took place at Westminster yesterday. G. Turnbull led in No. 1 company's match with 99; Lieut. Duff Stuart in No. 2 competition with 90, while the aggregate score in No. 1 and 2 was made by W. J. Sloan, 181 being the figure.

Ranchers throughout the district commenced last week to feed their cattle, and though the winter has set in unusually early this year, there is abundance of hay in the district, and the cattle are not likely to suffer from lack of feed.

Charles Taylor, of Montreal, is visiting this city, seeking information regarding the mining interests of the Okanagan district. Mr. Taylor states that he was among the first to open up the Nova Scotia gold mines over thirty years ago.

Two or three years ago the Okanagan country was known only as a section possessed of untrilled agricultural resources. Now all this is changed. Hundreds of locations have been recorded, and there are numerous mineral claims being worked which promise a rich return to their owners.

On Tuesday night a number of gentlemen representing twelve claims situated in Camp Hewitt, on Okanagan lake, met at the Coldstream hotel, and as a result of their deliberations the Camp Hewitt Mining and Milling Co., Ltd., was organized to take in the following group of claims, on many of which considerable development work has already been done.

Never before in the history of the city has such a large and brilliant company been brought together at any social function as that which through the building known as the "jam factory"

BRITISH POLITICS.

Government's Programme for the Approaching Session—The Army to Be Strengthened.

Expedition Against Khartoum—German Commercial Competition—Pan-Anglican Conference.

LONDON, Nov. 28.—It was announced that the Queen yesterday signed a proclamation re-assembling parliament on January 19, and this has brought the public mind back to political matters. The date announced is a week earlier than was expected, and only upon two previous occasions since 1880 has parliament met so early in the year.

The government apparently is resolved to make a great effort to get through with its programme, which, however, will be distinctly modest. The only noteworthy proposal likely to be made is an increase of several million pounds in the war budget. Ministers have taken advantage of the recent war scares to advocate strengthening the army and naval marine have not been slow in adopting the same course in order to bring about naval improvements.

The proposed expedition next year against Khartoum will, it is said, number 25,000 men, of whom 18,000 will be Egyptian troops and 7,000 British troops. The British expedition will consist of an infantry and a cavalry brigade with artillery, and an Indian brigade with cavalry, amounting to 20,000 men, all to be available for an attack upon Omdurman.

The president of the board of trade, Mr. C. T. Ritchie, addressing the Crofters' chamber of commerce on the subject of German competition, pointed out that there had been a general advance in British trade. It seems there has been an increase of 4 1/2 per cent. in imports and 7 1/2 per cent. in exports during the last ten months, while the British imports from Germany since 1893 have been almost stationary.

Right Rev. Dr. Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, in an interview just granted to the Patriarchal Degree, said: "At present I do not know of any changes that will be made in the programme for the Lambeth conference in consequence of the death of Dr. Benson. I have been so overwhelmed with affairs that I have not had time to carefully consider the matter. Doubtless there will be some changes that will have to be made, but nothing material, as far as the American bishops are concerned. We expect at least 200 bishops to be present from abroad."

Mr. G. R. Sims, the newspaper man and playwright, of London, tells a good story about Switzerland. A referendum was held in the canton of Valais, and the votes had been given, and the chairman was ready to declare the figures. In this moment of anxious expectation, when the fortunes of the country were at stake, a voice from the public gallery was heard crying, "Waiter!" The result was instantaneous. The whole sovereign assembly of the Swiss people rose to its feet as one man answered, "Yes, sir."

OTTAWA, Nov. 27.—A commission has been appointed by the Dominion government to investigate the actions of Mr. Guillet, M.P., in connection with the superannuation of a custom house collector and the appointment of a successor at Cobourg, Ont.

DISHONEST JOURNALISM.

The destruction of the trestle on the E. & N. R. R. has called forth some comments from the Province which we think that paper ought to be heartily ashamed of.

The destruction of the trestle on the E. & N. R. R. has called forth some comments from the Province which we think that paper ought to be heartily ashamed of. As an exponent of public opinion, the periodical referred to has assumed to play the role of a fair and unbiased critic of the events and affairs; yet, in dealing with matters connected with the E. & N. R. Co., it has contented itself with exhibiting a malicious and vindictive peculiarity in its own remarks.

The proposed expedition next year against Khartoum will, it is said, number 25,000 men, of whom 18,000 will be Egyptian troops and 7,000 British troops. The British expedition will consist of an infantry and a cavalry brigade with artillery, and an Indian brigade with cavalry, amounting to 20,000 men, all to be available for an attack upon Omdurman.

The president of the board of trade, Mr. C. T. Ritchie, addressing the Crofters' chamber of commerce on the subject of German competition, pointed out that there had been a general advance in British trade. It seems there has been an increase of 4 1/2 per cent. in imports and 7 1/2 per cent. in exports during the last ten months, while the British imports from Germany since 1893 have been almost stationary.

Right Rev. Dr. Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, in an interview just granted to the Patriarchal Degree, said: "At present I do not know of any changes that will be made in the programme for the Lambeth conference in consequence of the death of Dr. Benson. I have been so overwhelmed with affairs that I have not had time to carefully consider the matter. Doubtless there will be some changes that will have to be made, but nothing material, as far as the American bishops are concerned. We expect at least 200 bishops to be present from abroad."

Mr. G. R. Sims, the newspaper man and playwright, of London, tells a good story about Switzerland. A referendum was held in the canton of Valais, and the votes had been given, and the chairman was ready to declare the figures. In this moment of anxious expectation, when the fortunes of the country were at stake, a voice from the public gallery was heard crying, "Waiter!" The result was instantaneous. The whole sovereign assembly of the Swiss people rose to its feet as one man answered, "Yes, sir."

OTTAWA, Nov. 27.—A commission has been appointed by the Dominion government to investigate the actions of Mr. Guillet, M.P., in connection with the superannuation of a custom house collector and the appointment of a successor at Cobourg, Ont.

At the regular weekly meeting of Columbia lodge, No. 2, I. O. O. F., on Wednesday evening last, the following officers were elected for the term commencing Jan. 1, 1897: A. Edwards, N. G.; J. S. Smith, V. G.; R. W. Fawcett, Sec.; W. Jackson, Per. Sec.; A. Henderson, T. Sec. The elective officers have until Jan. 6, the date of installation, to prepare themselves for the duties of their offices.

Peerless lodge also chose its new officers during the week past, electing the following gentlemen to the several chairs of honor: Noble Grand, Charles Porter; Vice Grand, Wm. McKay; treasurer, W. K. McIntosh, and secretary, Hinkson Siddall. Vancouver Encampment, No. 1, meets on Thursday at 7:30 p.m., when the Patriarchal Degree will be conferred.

The annual election of officers will take place at the regular review of Victoria Live No. 1 Ladies of the Maccocks, which will be held on Wednesday at the usual time and place. Victoria lodge, No. 83, Daughters of St. George, give a concert and dance tomorrow evening in A. O. U. W. hall, to commence at 8 o'clock. A good and varied programme has been arranged; refreshments will be served; and good music will be available for the dancing. The Daughters of England will give a concert and dance at the A. O. U. W. hall on Thursday next, a first-class programme being presented.

Vancouver lodge A. O. U. W., are intending to hold a mass meeting in January to discuss the graduated system of government.

WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

A Conference at Bishop's Close—The Duty of Women to Vote at Civic Elections.

The hospitable doors of Bishop's close opened yesterday afternoon to receive the first provincial conference in connection with the Women's Council, that being the reason of the Countess of Aberdeen's presence in Victoria.

Upon her arrival the Countess of Aberdeen was presented with an address read by Mrs. Scaife, and in reply expressed her thanks for the very cordial reception given her, referring to the progress made by the Women's Council in the past two years, thankfully acknowledging that the blessing of God had been with them and that the same power would make the workers to faithfully serve their day and generation.

Mrs. Gordon Graham having been appointed secretary, the conference proceeded to business. Resolutions were passed on the necessity of provision for the suitable accommodation of the insane while waiting medical attendance; upon the case of the poor, sick and incurable, and upon the necessity of the appointment of police matrons.

The annual meeting of the Royal City Art and Scientific Association takes place on Monday afternoon at Westminster, when officers will be elected. In future J. O. Williams and J. G. Ure will be associated in the management.

The annual prize meeting of the rifle club took place at Westminster yesterday. G. Turnbull led in No. 1 company's match with 99; Lieut. Duff Stuart in No. 2 competition with 90, while the aggregate score in No. 1 and 2 was made by W. J. Sloan, 181 being the figure.

Ranchers throughout the district commenced last week to feed their cattle, and though the winter has set in unusually early this year, there is abundance of hay in the district, and the cattle are not likely to suffer from lack of feed.

Charles Taylor, of Montreal, is visiting this city, seeking information regarding the mining interests of the Okanagan district. Mr. Taylor states that he was among the first to open up the Nova Scotia gold mines over thirty years ago.

Two or three years ago the Okanagan country was known only as a section possessed of untrilled agricultural resources. Now all this is changed. Hundreds of locations have been recorded, and there are numerous mineral claims being worked which promise a rich return to their owners.

On Tuesday night a number of gentlemen representing twelve claims situated in Camp Hewitt, on Okanagan lake, met at the Coldstream hotel, and as a result of their deliberations the Camp Hewitt Mining and Milling Co., Ltd., was organized to take in the following group of claims, on many of which considerable development work has already been done.

Never before in the history of the city has such a large and brilliant company been brought together at any social function as that which through the building known as the "jam factory"

NO RED TAPE DELAYS.

The Government of British Columbia Interested in the Case of Two British Columbians Wrongfully Imprisoned in Cuba.

That the wheels of British diplomatic circles can move swiftly enough when the rights of British subjects are believed to be outraged by a foreign power, is evidenced by a case in which all residents of this province are interested, and full particulars of which are awaited with keen interest.

The first intimation in the matter came on Thursday last in a telegram to Premier Turner from Mr. Bell-Irving, the well known merchant of Vancouver, who stated briefly that his two brothers-in-law, Messrs. Beattie, both well known in Vancouver and this city, had been arrested by the Spanish authorities in Cuba and wrongfully imprisoned.

Mr. Bell-Irving asked that the Government of British Columbia take immediate action in their behalf, and Hon. Mr. Turner at once telegraphed to Hon. F. G. Vernon, the British Columbia Agent-General in London, requesting him to communicate to the Foreign Office urging prompt inquiry and protection for the two British Columbians, if it were found that they had been wrongfully dealt with.

At the same time Hon. Mr. Turner asked Mr. Bell-Irving's communication with the request that he cable to the Secretary of State, asking him to interview the foreign office also in the matter. This His Honor did, and immediate replies were had both from Hon. Mr. Vernon and the Secretary of State. The former in fact cabled within eighteen hours after the dispatch of Premier Turner's message to him, stating that the desired steps had been taken and the foreign office would take steps to assure the safety of the Messrs. Beattie and all other British residents in Cuba.

At the regular weekly meeting of Columbia lodge, No. 2, I. O. O. F., on Wednesday evening last, the following officers were elected for the term commencing Jan. 1, 1897: A. Edwards, N. G.; J. S. Smith, V. G.; R. W. Fawcett, Sec.; W. Jackson, Per. Sec.; A. Henderson, T. Sec. The elective officers have until Jan. 6, the date of installation, to prepare themselves for the duties of their offices.

Peerless lodge also chose its new officers during the week past, electing the following gentlemen to the several chairs of honor: Noble Grand, Charles Porter; Vice Grand, Wm. McKay; treasurer, W. K. McIntosh, and secretary, Hinkson Siddall. Vancouver Encampment, No. 1, meets on Thursday at 7:30 p.m., when the Patriarchal Degree will be conferred.

The annual election of officers will take place at the regular review of Victoria Live No. 1 Ladies of the Maccocks, which will be held on Wednesday at the usual time and place. Victoria lodge, No. 83, Daughters of St. George, give a concert and dance tomorrow evening in A. O. U. W. hall, to commence at 8 o'clock. A good and varied programme has been arranged; refreshments will be served; and good music will be available for the dancing. The Daughters of England will give a concert and dance at the A. O. U. W. hall on Thursday next, a first-class programme being presented.

Vancouver lodge A. O. U. W., are intending to hold a mass meeting in January to discuss the graduated system of government.

Windsor, Nov. 27.—Elijah E. Kidd, of Toronto, was arrested at a fire last night on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences.

Helena, Mont., Nov. 27.—To-night is the coldest night through the state that has ever been known. At 7 o'clock this evening the mercury ranged from 20 to 25 degrees below zero in various parts of the city, and it will fall more before morning.

TRADE IN CANADA.

New York, Nov. 27.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say: General trade is quiet at Toronto, the unfavorable weather, cotton and woolen fabrics being relatively firm. The volume of business at Montreal has been about an average, the orders being light. Navigation to the northwest is closed and exporters report the shipping trade at that port to have been the most profitable for several seasons. Trade at Halifax has fallen off owing to the holiday and unfavorable weather. A similar report is received from St. John, N. B. Weather conditions throughout the maritime provinces are generally unfavorable to business.

The total bank clearings at Winnipeg, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax aggregate \$17,838,000 this week against \$22,729,000 last week, as compared with \$23,372,000 in the same week one year ago. In the preceding week holiday occurred, the total was \$19,715,000.

There were 36 business failures reported from the Canadian Dominion this week against 47 last, 62 in the same week a year ago and 35 two years ago.

Low Temperature at Different Points in British Columbia. DONALD, Nov. 28.—Thirty degrees below zero; clear weather. REVELSTOCK, Nov. 28.—Weather clear and cold; 8 below. KAMLOOPS, Nov. 28.—Clear and cold weather. NORTH BEND, Nov. 28.—Cold and cloudy.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS. At the regular weekly meeting of Columbia lodge, No. 2, I. O. O. F., on Wednesday evening last, the following officers were elected for the term commencing Jan. 1, 1897: A. Edwards, N. G.; J. S. Smith, V. G.; R. W. Fawcett, Sec.; W. Jackson, Per. Sec.; A. Henderson, T. Sec. The elective officers have until Jan. 6, the date of installation, to prepare themselves for the duties of their offices.

Peerless lodge also chose its new officers during the week past, electing the following gentlemen to the several chairs of honor: Noble Grand, Charles Porter; Vice Grand, Wm. McKay; treasurer, W. K. McIntosh, and secretary, Hinkson Siddall. Vancouver Encampment, No. 1, meets on Thursday at 7:30 p.m., when the Patriarchal Degree will be conferred.

The annual election of officers will take place at the regular review of Victoria Live No. 1 Ladies of the Maccocks, which will be held on Wednesday at the usual time and place. Victoria lodge, No. 83, Daughters of St. George, give a concert and dance tomorrow evening in A. O. U. W. hall, to commence at 8 o'clock. A good and varied programme has been arranged; refreshments will be served; and good music will be available for the dancing. The Daughters of England will give a concert and dance at the A. O. U. W. hall on Thursday next, a first-class programme being presented.

Vancouver lodge A. O. U. W., are intending to hold a mass meeting in January to discuss the graduated system of government.

Windsor, Nov. 27.—Elijah E. Kidd, of Toronto, was arrested at a fire last night on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences.

Helena, Mont., Nov. 27.—To-night is the coldest night through the state that has ever been known. At 7 o'clock this evening the mercury ranged from 20 to 25 degrees below zero in various parts of the city, and it will fall more before morning.

THAT "SETTLEMENT"

TO THE EDITOR:—One of the conditions of the Manitoba school settlement imposes "all instruction to be in the French language, for those who desire it, when there are more than ten French children in a school."

This is a patent method, surely, of training a child to hold its own rough life with the seventy millions of English speaking people upon the continent. But then Mr. Tarte tells the people of Quebec "they'll want so many French teachers out here in Manitoba that they'll have to be imported from Quebec. Well, that's a tempting sop; but are the Quebecers so so deluded? They were pretty badly fooled when they listened to Laurier and Tarte's promise of a stronger remedial bill than the Tupper government was giving them. Will they allow themselves to be "sold again" this time? They may go as French teachers to the superannuation of a custom house collector and the appointment of a successor at Cobourg, Ont.

TO THE EDITOR:—The so-called "settlement" of this question embraces: (a) Religious teaching for half an hour after school hours of the children of those who require it; (b) Daily attendance of the priest for that purpose; (c) A Catholic teacher, when there are twenty-five children of that faith; (d) School teaching in French where there are ten French children. The classes or shades of opinion to be affected by this arrangement are: 1. The holder of the non-sectarian, national schools who think religion should not be introduced at all. 2. The Roman Catholic, or upholder of the separate system. 3. The believer in religious, but not Roman Catholic, teaching in the schools. Yet, I venture to say, and will attempt to demonstrate, that an arrangement more unsatisfactory in its practical working out, to either of these classes, it would be hard to find. I am, therefore, predicting that no such ill-considered system will ever go into operation.

Let us in the first place consider how it would affect the man who thinks there should be no religion in the schools. He sees here the priest "all shaven and shorn" introduced into the school, and Romanism openly and avowedly introduced. The perennial coming of the priest, whilst with some children provoking mockery and scorn by the public school, will have a very different effect with others. The Jesuitical civility and urbanity of the daily visitor, and the fidelity and constancy with which he sticks to his mission, will not be lost upon those children who, although debarred at the school, from the priestly functions, will, of course, have abundant opportunity outside for satisfying their curiosity which has been aroused by, and of cultivating the acquaintance with the mysterious and polite monitor, to whom the child's attention would never probably have been drawn, had he not seen him, day in and day out, at the public school. I say these things, because the influence which the Catholic teacher of the twenty-five might also have, but I do say that it is an entirely false idea that "When sent to school, with its face, 'We first endure, then pity, then embrace.'" But, then, take the second case. The Roman Catholic complains of this system. He claims a hybrid one, he says, at best. He claims no religion in the schools. He wants only what the Constitution gives him, and this is not it. He knows that the country will not tolerate a hybrid one, and that the necessary consequence of the parading of his religion, above all others, will be a revolt on the part of the non-Catholic population, to whom he is a mischievous innovation.

Perhaps, however, the class most wounded by this arrangement is that upon which religion is class number three, or the protestant who would find religion, but not Catholicism, in the schools. I confess myself one of this class, and to me the "Laurier-Tarte-Sifton" plan is a hideous mockery of the name of God, and, perhaps, the most impious and blasphemous thing that has ever been suggested. As a Protestant, however, this extra hour of school for religious teaching presents itself to me as a most effectual way of instilling into the minds of the children of religion and of everything pertaining to it. The children of no religion are to be dismissed to their play at 3.30, but the God-fearing children are to be kept in until four. Just imagine the character of their devotions when they hear the hoot and shout of the supporters of the national, non-sectarian system, enjoying their leapfrog and football outside, whilst these poor little kids are kept in to pray. What difference may I ask in the child's mind between the half hour's punishment, for lessons unlearned or misbehavior in school, as compared with an hour in spiritual exercises, except that the one is only occasional whilst the other is all the time? The effect will be the same in both cases. He will hate and despise the half hour's "keeping in" equally, no matter what the cause of it. A nice sort of a Christian you'll make of him.

No wonder we read in the COLONIST dispatches that the people in Manitoba (not the Catholics nor the extremists on either side) are so angry with the national, non-sectarian system) have been burning Laurier and Sifton in effigy. They'll have lots more of that kind of thing when they try to impose such humbug upon an intelligent people.

A DISGUSTED PROTESTANT. Victoria, November 28.

TO THE EDITOR:—The newspaper man and playwright, of London, tells a good story about Switzerland. A referendum was held in the canton of Valais, and the votes had been given, and the chairman was ready to declare the figures. In this moment of anxious expectation, when the fortunes of the country were at stake, a voice from the public gallery was heard crying, "Waiter!" The result was instantaneous. The whole sovereign assembly of the Swiss people rose to its feet as one man answered, "Yes, sir."

OTTAWA, Nov. 27.—A commission has been appointed by the Dominion government to investigate the actions of Mr. Guillet, M.P., in connection with the superannuation of a custom house collector and the appointment of a successor at Cobourg, Ont.

WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

A Conference at Bishop's Close—The Duty of Women to Vote at Civic Elections.

The hospitable doors of Bishop's close opened yesterday afternoon to receive the first provincial conference in connection with the Women's Council, that being the reason of the Countess of Aberdeen's presence in Victoria.

Upon her arrival the Countess of Aberdeen was presented with an address read by Mrs. Scaife, and in reply expressed her thanks for the very cordial reception given her, referring to the progress made by the Women's Council in the past two years, thankfully acknowledging that the blessing of God had been with them and that the same power would make the workers to faithfully serve their day and generation.

Mrs. Gordon Graham having been appointed secretary, the conference proceeded to business. Resolutions were passed on the necessity of provision for the suitable accommodation of the insane while waiting medical attendance; upon the case of the poor, sick and incurable, and upon the necessity of the appointment of police matrons.

The annual meeting of the Royal City Art and Scientific Association takes place on Monday afternoon at Westminster, when officers will be elected. In future J. O. Williams and J. G. Ure will be associated in the management.

The annual prize meeting of the rifle club took place at Westminster yesterday. G. Turnbull led in No. 1 company's match with 99; Lieut. Duff Stuart in No. 2 competition with 90, while the aggregate score in No. 1 and 2 was made by W. J. Sloan, 181 being the figure.

Ranchers throughout the district commenced last week to feed their cattle, and though the winter has set in unusually early this year, there is abundance of hay in the district, and the cattle are not likely to suffer from lack of feed.

Charles Taylor, of Montreal, is visiting this city, seeking information regarding the mining interests of the Okanagan district. Mr. Taylor states that he was among the first to open up the Nova Scotia gold mines over thirty years ago.

Two or three years ago the Okanagan country was known only as a section possessed of untrilled agricultural resources. Now all this is changed. Hundreds of locations have been recorded, and there are numerous mineral claims being worked which promise a rich return to their owners.

On Tuesday night a number of gentlemen representing twelve claims situated in Camp Hewitt, on Okanagan lake, met at the Coldstream hotel, and as a result of their deliberations the Camp Hewitt Mining and Milling Co., Ltd., was organized to take in the following group of claims, on many of which considerable development work has already been done.

Never before in the history of the city has such a large and brilliant company been brought together at any social function as that which through the building known as the "jam factory"

DISHONEST JOURNALISM.

The destruction of the trestle on the E. & N. R. R. has called forth some comments from the Province which we think that paper ought to be heartily ashamed of.

The destruction of the trestle on the E. & N. R. R. has called forth some comments from the Province which we think that paper ought to be heartily ashamed of. As an exponent of public opinion, the periodical referred to has assumed to play the role of a fair and unbiased critic of the events and affairs; yet, in dealing with matters connected with the E. & N. R. Co., it has contented itself with exhibiting a malicious and vindictive peculiarity in its own remarks.

The proposed expedition next year against Khartoum will, it is said, number 25,000 men, of whom 18,000 will be Egyptian troops and 7,000 British troops. The British expedition will consist of an infantry and a cavalry brigade with artillery, and an Indian brigade with cavalry, amounting to 20,000 men, all to be available for an attack upon Omdurman.

The president of the board of trade, Mr. C. T. Ritchie, addressing the Crofters' chamber of commerce on the subject of German competition, pointed out that there had been a general advance in British trade. It seems there has been an increase of 4 1/2 per cent. in imports and 7 1/2 per cent. in exports during the last ten months, while the British imports from Germany since 1893 have been almost stationary.

Right Rev. Dr. Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, in an interview just granted to the Patriarchal Degree, said: "At present I do not know of any changes that will be made in the programme for the Lambeth conference in consequence of the death of Dr. Benson. I have been so overwhelmed with affairs that I have not had time to carefully consider the matter. Doubtless there will be some changes that will have to be made, but nothing material, as far as the American bishops are concerned. We expect at least 200 bishops to be present from abroad."

Mr. G. R. Sims, the newspaper man and playwright, of London, tells a good story about Switzerland. A referendum was held in the canton of Valais, and the votes had been given, and the chairman was ready to declare the figures. In this moment of anxious expectation, when the fortunes of the country were at stake, a voice from the public gallery was heard crying, "Waiter!" The result was instantaneous. The whole sovereign assembly of the Swiss people rose to its feet as one man answered, "Yes, sir."

OTTAWA, Nov. 27.—A commission has been appointed by the Dominion government to investigate the actions of Mr. Guillet, M.P., in connection with the superannuation of a custom house collector and the appointment of a successor at Cobourg, Ont.

At the regular weekly meeting of Columbia lodge, No. 2, I. O. O. F., on Wednesday evening last, the following officers were elected for the term commencing Jan. 1, 1897: A. Edwards, N. G.; J. S. Smith, V. G.; R. W. Fawcett, Sec.; W. Jackson, Per. Sec.; A. Henderson, T. Sec. The elective officers have until Jan. 6, the date of installation, to prepare themselves for the duties of their offices.

Peerless lodge also chose its new officers during the week past, electing the following gentlemen to the several chairs of honor: Noble Grand, Charles Porter; Vice Grand, Wm. McKay; treasurer, W. K. McIntosh, and secretary, Hinkson Siddall. Vancouver Encampment, No. 1, meets on Thursday at 7:30 p.m., when the Patriarchal Degree will be conferred.

The annual election of officers will take place at the regular review of Victoria Live No. 1 Ladies of the Maccocks, which will be held on Wednesday at the usual time and place. Victoria lodge, No. 83, Daughters of St. George, give a concert and dance tomorrow evening in A. O. U. W. hall, to commence at 8 o'clock. A good and varied programme has been arranged; refreshments will be served; and good music will be available for the dancing. The Daughters of England will give a concert and dance at the A. O. U. W. hall on Thursday next, a first-class programme being presented.

Vancouver lodge A. O. U. W., are intending to hold a mass meeting in January to discuss the graduated system of government.

WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

A Conference at Bishop's Close—The Duty of Women to Vote at Civic Elections.

The hospitable doors of Bishop's close opened yesterday afternoon to receive the first provincial conference in connection with the Women's Council, that being the reason of the Countess of Aberdeen's presence in Victoria.

Upon her arrival the Countess of Aberdeen was presented with an address read by Mrs. Scaife, and in reply expressed her thanks for the very cordial reception given her, referring to the progress made by the Women's Council in the past two years, thankfully acknowledging that the blessing of God had been with them and that the same power would make the workers to faithfully serve their day and generation.

Mrs. Gordon Graham having been appointed secretary, the conference proceeded to business. Resolutions were passed on the necessity of provision for the suitable accommodation of the insane while waiting medical attendance; upon the case of the poor, sick and incurable, and upon the necessity of the appointment of police matrons.

The annual meeting of the Royal City Art and Scientific Association takes place on Monday afternoon at Westminster, when officers will be elected. In future J. O. Williams and J. G. Ure will be associated in the management.

The annual prize meeting of the rifle club took place at Westminster yesterday. G. Turnbull led in No. 1 company's match with 99; Lieut. Duff Stuart in No. 2 competition with 90, while the aggregate score in No. 1 and 2 was made by W. J. Sloan, 181 being the figure.

Ranchers throughout the district commenced last week to feed their cattle, and though the winter has set in unusually early this year, there is abundance of hay in the district, and the cattle are not likely to suffer from lack of feed.