

Twice-a-Week Times Published every Tuesday and Friday by THE STATES PRINTING & PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED.

A SCANDALOUS APPOINTMENT.

Little fault will be found with the appointment by the McBride government of a commission to revise the statutes of British Columbia.

One fact is established by the political history of Great Britain, and that is that the Lords or the privileged classes have always been opposed to "light."

There is little doubt that the announcement of the personnel of the commission appointed to undertake the important work of revising the statutes will cause consternation in the ranks of the legal profession.

A PIT FOR THEIR OWN FEET.

The Lords are quite busy defending their course on the hustings. And yet the strongest and ablest lordings of them all admit the imperative necessity of reforms which will have the effect of limiting and curtailing the powers of the purple chamber.

ALAS! POOR COOK.

Our readers will remember that the famous Dr. Cook announced on his return from the Arctic regions that he had wrenched the north pole from its firm base, inserted a brass plate in its stead, and brought the unique trophy, decorated with an American flag, home to the United States.

AND THE PRESS.

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Columbia, and very few of them will bury themselves in obscurity. We found out. We are consequently inclined to sympathize with Dr. Cook, impostor, liar and perjurer though he may be, now that the newspapers which were the first to accept his story and to glorify the nation because of his alleged discovery are the loudest and most severe in their condemnation.

COMBINES AND CONSUMERS.

Now it is the unassuming and industrious, and it must also be said enterprising, milkman who looms up conspicuously in the limelight.

There is a vacancy in the Cabinet. The Attorney-General is acting Finance Minister. Hon. W. J. Bower is no doubt an able man in his own special field of the law, but he is not a financier.

We understand that the government has had in its service for some time one of the most competent mathematicians or statisticians in the known world, that under his supervision a system of appointment, promotion and equitable remuneration for the provincial civil service has been prepared.

At the same time there is something more than a suspicion in the public mind that milkmen are not the only nor the worst offenders in Victoria or neighborhood against the anti-combines law and against the interests of consumers.

PROVINCIAL POLITICAL REFLECTIONS.

Now that the holiday season is at an end, the "glad hand" is beginning to cool off, and the business of life has become normal, perhaps we shall be excused for bestowing a minute or two to the consideration of matters which we expect to occupy a considerable deal of our attention for three or four years—the administration of provincial affairs by the McBride government.

White Elephant AT SPRING RIDGE CITY HAS PROPERTY BUT CANNOT USE IT Bought Scattered Land for Purposes of Corporation Yard.

The Spring Ridge gravel pits problem, which for years has loomed large as a civic question, bids fair to be handed on to succeeding generations with increased force.

It will be recalled that early last year the agitation which has long engaged the attention of the residents of that section of the city for the abolishing of the sand and gravel pits and the regrading of the land in question took definite form.

The people of Spring Ridge, however, expressed amazement at the high cost of the work as estimated, and asked if a simpler plan could not be devised.

About this time the board, assuming that the improvement scheme would go through, and needing a site for a corporation yard, thought it would be advisable to purchase land at Spring Ridge pits.

A Times reporter this morning inspected at the city engineer's office at the city hall the plan of the proposed improvement scheme.

There are a number of other matters in respect to which the taxpayers of the city would like to be enlightened before the administration vacates office, but it is improbable that their curiosity will be satisfied.

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(Continued from page 1.)

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NEW YORK GOVERNOR FAVORS CHANGE Does Not Believe the People Would Elect Minor State Officials.

Albany, Jan. 6.—Judge Hughes does not believe that the people should elect the minor state officials. In his annual message to the legislature he recommended the election of governor and lieutenant governor, allowing them to appoint a cabinet like the National government.

He recommended acceptance of Mrs. Harriman's offer of 104,000 acres of land to the state. The offer of Mrs. Harriman is made up on condition that the state shall agree to protect her home and grounds in Orange county where Harriman died, from future confiscation by condemnation proceedings in case it should be decided later to extend the park.

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BELL COMPANY HAS PROSPEROUS YEAR

Annual Report Shows Profits of Nearly \$150,000,000 During 1909.

New York, Jan. 5.—The annual report of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., which reached us from the Western Union Telegraph Co., shows that the concern made nearly \$150,000,000 during the last year.

Paris, Jan. 6.—Native soldiers, serving at Tunis under the French flag, have been fired upon by Turkish soldiers, according to dispatches received at the war office to-day.

BUYERS STEAMER.

The Belcarra to Run Between Vancouver and Ladysmith.

Vancouver, Jan. 6.—Schell Steamship Company, of this city, has purchased from the Terminal Steam Navigation Company the steamer Belcarra, which will be placed on the run from here to Ladysmith on January 17th, to alternate with the steamer Tartar.

SUCCESSORS TO INJURIES.

Fireman Dies From Burns Sustained When Engine Topped Into Ditch.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 6.—Guy Cameron, a Southern Pacific fireman, who was badly scalded at Napa Junction on Tuesday when his engine left the rails and toppled into a ditch, died here to-day.

MINING IN THE KASLO-SLOCAN DISTRICT Outlook is Bright for the Present Year—Extensive Work Planned.

The mining outlook for 1910 looks up the most promising for a decade past. In the local field the prospects are particularly bright, says the Kaslo Kootenian, and the slow but gradual rise in the prices of silver augurs well for the silver-lead industry.

Assurance is given that the Slocan Star, one of Sandon's best known properties, about to start up as active as of yore. Then there is the possibility or probability of the old Payne resuming life and being worked upon an extensive plan.

Shipments from the Lucky Jim are at present hampered somewhat owing to the reluctance on the part of the Great Northern to accept zinc consignments for the United States, due in part no doubt to the switchmen's strike across the line and the difficulty experienced in handling the tonnage in a frozen state.

With good prices for metals the Rambler could ship extensively, but under the present conditions there is nothing to warrant a large output, and, consequently, all efforts are confined to developing this noted property.

Up South Fork, in addition to the Bismarck, Cork, Flint and other properties, there is likely to be a consolidation of several interests whereby three properties will be worked to greater advantage.

Along the rich gold resources of the northern section Poplar appears destined to come again to the fore. The deal put through here a day or two ago is but the forerunner of others to follow.

ELLECT OFFICERS.

The annual business meeting of the Victoria Shipmasters' Association was held Monday evening in the association rooms, Imperial Bank building.

PHYSICIAN SEEKS DIVORCE.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 6.—Dr. Walter Lampe, whose wife, Mrs. Jessie Lampe, fired a bullet into his head on August 1st, has brought suit for divorce. He alleges two attempts had been made on his life, from one of which he still carries a souvenir in the shape of a bullet located somewhere in his head.

CANADIAN HEARS M... CANADIAN NOR... PRESIDE... Predicts Great Province of Colun

(From Thurs... The members of... turned out in force... to-day at their... honor of their... Mackenzie, pro... adian Northern B... and they heard a... from that gentle... the Canadian Nor... said to come to B... that ambition was... realized. The dis... also gave it as his... that this province... richest in the whole... of Canada. It was... also by the Prem... McBride, Signor... gushed member of... public of Mexico, v... visiting the city, a... C. H. Lugin—all b... optimism for the fu... of Canada.

A. E. McPhillips... der of the club, P... right he had the... Mayor Hall, Signor... Prior; on his left... and Bishop Perrin... long tables was one... President McPhill... the speaker, said... would be to have... a guest. There were... railway question ad... lumbia, and though... very had just bee... the last elections, a... of the past, Mr. M... he was not sure b... but he was sure he... by the fine audien... Tremendous chee... Mackenzie when he... fore him by apologis... fer them in the gu... ner orator, for he l... ever to that reput... der of chess of me... things instead of... He hardly thought... form either to say... falls of the Canad... in 1884 that he had... Columbia, a provin... always had the g... At that time he b... construction work o... that date there had... not only in Canada... Jombia. It had been... all who had eyes... important part railw... development of a... There was nothing... progress and develop... capable more than... (Cheers.)

Continuing, Mr... would readily reach... the wonderful reso... lumbia, as they kn... than he did. This... upon—that the pro... grees greater than... province in the D... to the Canadian N... he hoped, he read... through the provin... The Canadian Nor... the extending of t... cific coast. He rec... 1886 that the first... way building had... the Canadian Nor... Since that date th... had gone on and... terprise until to-d... miles of railway... been steadily incre... (Cheers) Most of... of trackage had b... of Mackenzie & M... some over by leas... small amount of... cific. Last summe... 600 miles of add... had laid rails on 3... Have finished more... to get sufficient... Now they are con... constructing their... Columbia. (Cheer... surveyors in the f... from the reports... ceived they were... one of the best l... thent of America... He did not know... much more to be... could not tell the... to do in British C... the reasons that... elected their Supre... ernment. Of one... hopeful—that the... of the province w... some degree. (C... Colonel Prior, it... thanks, said he kn... Dominion of Can... adian Club would... tive son of the D... Hill had termed... builder on the co... (Cheers.) He was... watched the magr... had attended the... enterprise in th... Dominion would b... benefit would fol... from their buildi... He looked forward... for British... Vancouver Island... it a red letter day