

WRANGLERS' HOPES.

Two Canadian Railroads to Be Built and a Fleet of River Steamers.

The Great Preparations to Utilize the Stikine Route to the Gold Regions.

Much attention will, during the next few months, be centered upon Wrangle, where there is likely to be built up immediately a thriving and populated town.

Wrangle is the entrepot for the Stikine river, and the Stikine will be a scene of very great activity during the present summer.

Two of these, the Cassiar Central Railway Company, the promoters of which are men who have made their fortunes in the South African gold fields.

They are chartered by the government of British Columbia for the purpose of constructing from Glenora to a distance of 25th, and will return to give one of her attractive entertainments about April 19.

Miss JESSIE ALEXANDER, the talented Canadian elocutionist, is in Vancouver on route to San Francisco for the sale of Victoria on the 25th, and will return to give one of her attractive entertainments about April 19.

THE STEAMSHIP CENTENNIAL, advertised to sail to-night, will not leave Victoria till to-morrow evening, the delay being due to a number of the passengers not being ready to leave this evening.

THE ANNUAL PLATFORM MISSIONARY MEETING in connection with the Centennial Methodist church will be held this evening. The chair will be taken by Mr. D. Spencer, and addresses by Rev. A. B. Winchester, J. F. Betts and J. Howell.

SHIPPERS' STATISTICS.

A Summary of the British and Foreign Shipping for the Year 1897.

Increase in the Tonnage Sold to Foreigners—Italy the Heaviest Purchaser.

Statistical tables of British and foreign shipping for 1897 compiled from Lloyd's register contain some interesting information of shippers of which the following is a summary:

The total addition of steam tonnage to the register of the United Kingdom during 1897 was 736,274 tons gross. About 90 per cent. of this addition consisted of new vessels, not one of which was built abroad.

The tonnage sold to foreigners during 1897 reached the large total of 387,794 tons, exceeding the figures for 1896 and 1895 by 28,877 tons and 29,000 tons respectively.

Italy was the heaviest purchaser of British tonnage, the total tonnage sold to that country amounting to 100,389 tons, or about 26 per cent. of the total tonnage in each year.

Queen Margherita, of Italy, has made herself responsible for the execution of a plan to build an observatory at Mount Rosa, at a height of 5,400 feet. The new observatory will be higher than that on the summit of Mount Blanc, and the highest in Europe.

Two WINDY DAY FIRES. Mrs. Marsden's Experience Duplicated in Spencer's Millinery Department—Carey Castle Threatened.

Mrs. Marsden's narrow escape from injury by fire was in a manner duplicated yesterday afternoon, when the almost parallel case was reported from the millinery department of Spencer's Arcade.

Mr. Fraser Preferred to British Columbia Lawyers Simply Because He is a Stairwell Liberal.

What may be thought or said to the contrary, it is more than probable that Hon. D. C. Fraser, Q.C., M.P., will be appointed chief justice of this province.

PRIVATE BILLS DAY.

Legislation Spends Most of the Sitting Advancing Bills Through the Committee Stage.

Farmers' Institute Amendment and Alice Arm Railway Read a Third Time and Passed.

Yesterday was devoted chiefly to private bills in the legislature and some progress was made in committee on several of these.

THE LAWYERS' FEES. How the Liberal Government Revels in This "Corrupt and Indefensible" Expenditure.

THE YATES-STREET CITY PROPERTY. To the Editor:—I understand that the city council has decided to sell about \$8,250 the Yates street property now in use by the fire department.

DISAPPOINTED ROBBERS. Boldly Attempt to Possess Themselves of Cash at Dowell, Carrill & Co.'s Office.

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VICTORIA KNOWS HOW.

And Hence It Is That Intelligent Klondikers Come Here to Outfit.

Champion McCulloch to Abandon Speed Skating and Dig for Yellow Metal.

Fifty gold hunters from around Montreal, who have all outfitted in the city, are booked to sail on the Ningebow for the North to-morrow night.

Another party of twenty-five is expected to reach here about April 1. Other members of the party which arrived yesterday are: D. Roberts, L. Longin, N. Pigeon, F. Monnet, M. Monnet, P. A. Conchard, K. Leprance, H. Longin, St. Philippe, Victor Eyber, and Donance.

Among the Manitoban Klondikers expected to arrive here on their way North during the next fortnight is J. K. McCulloch, the famous Canadian speed skater of the world.

Mr. Isaac Ogden of Lac La Poudre is a guest at the Oriental. He is en route to Eastern Oregon to make a coal and iron purchase about two hundred miles to be used for packing purposes in the North.

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TALK AGAIN.

Opposition Try to Solution Again Charter.

They Are Foiled Question Being Night 8.

The house yesterday unexpected night session by Mr. Helmecken to grant a charter to Mr. Corbett's opposition wanted until they got word of a result when six o'clock efforts to get an adjourned down by the majority session result could leave the chair.

REPAYMENT. Mr. Higgins moved correspondence respecting cattle guards on the Island.

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