

Thanks to the precautions taken at the Brisbane floods of 1898, although approaching the level of 1890, did not coincide with them the loss of life and loss of property was the earlier visitations brought. This was due chiefly to the system of flood-gauging, assisted by the meteorological forecasts. These former so accurately recorded the rising of the river upstream that there was ample warning and all damagable property was removed to safe quarters. The height of the floods may be realized from the fact that at Greensboro the river went up to 62 feet, and at Brisbane reached 16.9 feet, and at Ipswich 16.5 feet less than the 1890 record.

The following contradiction of the story of the epidemic of spinal meningitis at Skagway is given by the editor there by Mr. O. C. Sylvestre, the proprietor of the Juneau paper whose circumstantial recital of the plague conducted appeared in the Colonist a few days ago. Mr. Sylvestre says:

"Based upon some information the source of which is unknown to me, the Alaskan Searchlight in its last issue published an article about a terrible epidemic of spinal meningitis at Skagway every particular. There is no plague at Skagway, nor has there been. During the last six months, according to the most reliable information obtainable, there have been but a few deaths in the deaths in town, and these have not been of an unusual character. The people of Skagway are well and prosperous. The White Pass and Yukon route beyond the Klondike sands are going over to the gold fields of Klondike. I regret that during my absence from Juneau the editor pro tem should have been so imposed upon as to take such a course. The epidemic must have been something more than a mistake; that it must have emanated from some source inimical to the interests of Skagway; that some person has taken advantage of the ignorance of the editor getting my paper to publish an article maliciously false for the purpose of injuring Skagway and booming some other town. To prevent such an occurrence ever again, I regret, not an issue of the Searchlight will be published in Juneau. The paper will be removed here at once, where it will be un-

Tired of Bounties.
LONDON, March 4.—The Morning Post says on good authority that bounty giving powers are anxious to abolish bounties and are willing to meet in conference in London and to adopt the convention of 1886, or as an alternative to accept the imposition of countervailing duties.

Mr. Piercy, of Denman's island, is reported to be selling out his stock to the Klondike gold fields.

After the Elopement.

Artie—Darling, you have no idea how anxious I was while you were coming down the rope ladder. I was afraid you had not fastened it secure above.

Susie—You needn't have been alarmed, dear. I tied the knot for me.

that the Gotthard wagon road had been opened it was possible to go from Frankfurt to Milan in a single week. It is now done in a day.

Oldest Sailing Craft.

The oldest sailing craft in the world is the so called Gokstad ship, a Viking vessel which was discovered in a sepulchral mound near the place called

Section.

interest of the order he represents.