

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

Vancouver Discussing the Wisdom of Giving the C. P. R. Exemption From Taxes.

Happenings at Fairview, Trail, Nelson, New Westminster and Elsewhere.

Vancouver, Oct. 28.—C. N. Davidson returned yesterday from Fairview where he reports there is great activity. The weather is mild, and but little snow has yet fallen on the hills. Good progress has been made on the construction of the Tin Horn mill, and if nothing unforeseen happens it will be in operation by the middle of next week. Mr. Davidson brings the satisfaction of the Winchester company, which recently purchased the Stenwinder claim, were immediately taken up. On the Oro Fine group work is progressing satisfactorily, and Mr. Davidson brought down Mr. Lewis' samples from the Independence claim, one of this group, which he will have assayed. The Smuggler company is also working away, while the Strathguy company intends to recommence operations and will probably put up a new mill. On the townsite a large amount of building is going on, the three sawmills being taxed to their utmost capacity. The new hotel will probably be opened in a few days, or less, the furniture being now on the road.

Mr. Lewis, of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, who do a comparatively large trade with Vancouver, said to a reporter to-day that the assurance of the C.P.R. authority that the O.P.R. wharves are to be extended 500 feet eastward without delay. Sheds will be built and the space between the office and freight sheds on both sides filled in to accommodate freight in transit. Mr. Lewis said this was good news to the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, who had been making vigorous protests lately against having to pay dock freight at the O.P.R. wharves. The overcrowded state of the bonded sheds, where all their freight had to be loaded and unloaded. Sometimes their steamers could get abreast of the sheds where freight might be taken care of, but frequently the freight has to be handled "the full length of the wharf at double rates. And sometimes owing to the crowded conditions of the wharf, steamers had to land at other points. Mr. Lewis says his company are making vigorous preparations for the Klondike trade and are building two new steamers for the Alaska run.

CRUSADE IS A FAILURE.

Boston Reformers Attempt to Abolish Rice Throwing at Weddings. Throwing rice at bridal couples immediately after the ceremony will continue to be in vogue in this city. An effort to stop the good old custom has proved a failure. Nearly two years ago the anti-rice crusade in Boston, and for some time the genuine fakes that were substituted were used almost entirely. The chief argument against rice was the danger that lay in the fact that some persons are actually prepared to undergo a physical examination, to prove that his heart and lungs were all right. We made out a license for a young fellow last week who had prepared to undergo such an examination, to prove that his heart and lungs were all right. He was aged 28, in Phil., eight years, father and mother both living. Both willing grandfathers and mother both dead. Mother aged 65, father 65, and grandfathers 76 when he died grandmother died when father was 18, his old all from Delaware Sussex Co.

At a recent wedding breakfast in New York city a young electrician, in the thing of a practical joker, tried a brand-new device on the assembled company. It was a paper ball, filled with rice, and it floated in the air, and was completely covered with flowers that were not noticed by any of the guests. By an ingenious arrangement the ball was in every direction by merely switching an electric button which the young man had fastened to the table. At an opportune moment the joker set his machine off, sprinkling everything on the table with rice. The guests were all very much amused, and the electrician has been asked to fix up similar bombs for a half dozen weddings to take place among his friends this winter.

Railson—Heavens, man! You look all broke up. Why don't you take a vacation? Smith (feebly)—That's just the trouble, I just got back—Philadelphia North American.

"The doctor put my husband on his feet in a week," she explained. "It was no trouble at all. The bill he presented fairly lifted him out of bed."—Indianapolis Journal.

I can't understand Brown's failure. He was reputed to be a first-class business man. "It's easily explained. Some one told him once that he was a good poker player, and he's been trying to demonstrate it."—Chicago Post.

"I don't mind Jack's slane," said one of the girls. "He's so clever in the use of it." "How so?" "Why, he sent me three dozen bouquets of 'famous beauties' with a card on which the only words were, 'you're another.'"—Household Words.

DESTRUCTION OF SHEEP. To the Editor:—The destruction of sheep by thieves is becoming alarmingly prevalent around the islands justly, and a number of them have been killed and wounded on Salt Spring lately, the latest outrage having occurred on Narrows Island, where a flock of sheep was passing in a boat when a man was passing in a boat, when his attention was attracted by a smoldering camp fire, and he fired, and the sheep were scattered all around and the man was killed. The sheep were then taken to the mainland and the man was buried. The man was identified as John B. Foster, and the sheep were taken to the mainland and the man was buried. The man was identified as John B. Foster, and the sheep were taken to the mainland and the man was buried.

NEW WESTMINSTER. The Rev. C. T. Easton, rector of St. Barnabas church, is leaving here to take charge of the parish at Nelson, and will be succeeded at St. Barnabas church by Rev. Field Yolland, late of Vancouver

and Revelstoke. The Rev. F. Yolland has taken a house in this city and will remove his family here the latter end of this week. He will take charge of the church from the beginning of next month.

Saturday is the last day on which the rebate of 10 per cent on the current year's taxes will be allowed. Commencing on November 3rd, and lasting up to the end of the month, the rebate allowed will be 5 per cent.

A couple of interesting liquor cases were heard before Mr. Kelly, S. M., at Chilliwack, at the end of last week. The first was against W. H. Cavley, who was charged with illegally selling liquor. The informant was W. I. Abbott, whose testimony was unimpeached, and consequently the case was dismissed. The second was against Abbott, the informant, who was convicted of having sold liquor at the fair. He was fined \$110 and costs \$100 for a license fee and \$10 for the fine.

Mr. Anlay Morrison, M. P., returned yesterday from Nelson, where he had been attending the assizes. Mr. Allan D. Seymour will leave early next week for Vernon, having been transferred to that branch of the Bank of Montreal. Mr. Dewdney, a young nephew of the late Governor, will probably enter the bank's service as a member of the staff in this city.

Owing to the fact that there are no cases to come before the grand and petit juries the assizes will not be held in this city this year. Such an event has not happened for many years past, and it is doubtful if it has ever happened before in this city. It speaks well for the community at large as well as for our dispensers of justice and our officers who maintain the laws of the land. The district and city of New Westminster should feel proud of having such a clean record, one that compares with any other part of the world, and one that speaks for itself, proving that this part of British Columbia and the Dominion of Canada contains one of the most law-abiding communities.

On Tuesday afternoon, the 2nd November, the B. C. Fruit Exchange will hold their regular quarterly meeting. At this meeting freight will be issued for all freight reports to September 30th. The Lower Fraser Fruit Union will hold their quarterly meeting on the same evening at 7:30 o'clock.

A coincidence in the vital statistics for this month is the fact that the births and deaths are exactly the same number, viz: 12, and the number of marriages is only one less. The Chinaman who was found dead in a shack on Friday, it is now ascertained, accumulated to a large dose of laudanum which he had taken the previous evening. He was discovered soon after he had taken the laudanum and a medical man was called in to check the effect of the drug, although the stomach pump brought up a large quantity. On Friday evening the remains were interred in the Chinese cemetery.

ASHCROFT.

Ashcroft, B.C., Oct. 29.—Great excitement was aroused here by the arrival last Tuesday of Arthur Noel from the Little Joe mine on Bridge river, the Klondike. Mr. Noel brought down 40 pounds of ore, which he weighed and found to be worth \$2,000. The pieces of ore had almost the appearance of nuggets. Mr. Noel is one of the company who bonded the mine last month ago for \$20,000. The specimens came from the surface, a very little work has been done on the mine as yet, it having been staked but a short time ago by Henry Gargyle. Many of the business men of this place are anxious to invest in the mine, and "to stake a claim." They left at daylight this morning, as it is necessary to hurry in order to avoid the snow which will soon be falling there.

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The fall season has been an exceptionally favorable one for farmers, and a large amount of produce has been raised. The city of Vernon has already been accomplished. Extensive repairs and alterations will be made in connection with the Vernon flour mill. Not only will the mill be increased to an 80-horse power, but several improvements will be made in the machinery, more modern appliances being put in. When alterations are completed this mill will be equipped in a manner unsurpassed by any of the mills in Canada.

The little steamer Greenwood City, which was built at Okanagan Landing for the purpose of navigating Okanagan river and Dog lake, was successfully launched last night. On Saturday, with Capt. Manning in charge, she made her initial trip down to Okanagan Falls. She made the downward passage all right, but we hear that she met with unexpected difficulties in breasting the force of the current of the Okanagan river on her upward passage and has not yet returned to Pentiction.

Robt. Wood, of Greenwood City, is in town, and seems to entertain the most favorable opinion regarding the Boundary Boundary Boundary. Everyone acquainted with the facts will agree with him that this section is bound to assume a very prominent position among the mining districts of the province as soon as railway communication is afforded it; and it now looks as if a railway from Pentiction to the Columbia is fairly in sight; in fact there seems no reasonable room for doubt that such a road will be commenced next spring, if not sooner.

One has only to take notice of the large quantities of hay, vegetables and fruit which almost daily leave this station for various Kootenay mining towns, to be convinced that our farmers have been very successful in securing a profitable market in these places for their produce. Three years ago this trade was practically unknown, or, at least, in its experimental stage. Every season since that time it has increased, until this year there will probably be at least four times as much produce of this nature exported than during any previous season in our history. This is largely due to the fact that the Kelowna Shippers' Union, and kindred associations, which have worked up a flourishing trade with the mining camps. A large proportion of the produce is sent to Kelowna, through the Coldstream and EBC ranches, W. Murphy, French Bros., and other farmers in this section, are large shippers, while W. R. Mevaw, Hutchison Bros., and W. T. Sheaford also send

out a large quantity of produce.—Vernon News.

FAIRVIEW.

A large force of men are at work building a road from the Joe Dandy mine to the river where their mill is located. The Tin Horn mill is completed and will be running in a few days. Needless to say, we are all anxiously waiting for the music of the dropping stamps.

We understand that the mine will have to go out of business pretty soon, the double eagle already coined, being found on the Stenwinder. This is the oldest property in the camp and some say the best, but we are glad to see it receiving recognition. The strike in the Smuggler is better and bigger than anything expected. The ore is in the vein 8 feet and have not got through it yet. Of course, there are streaks which will give \$1,000 to the ton, but the whole vein will average better than \$8 per ton, which is quite good enough for the Smuggler, or any ordinary property. We will have a mill of their own soon.

A gentleman whose name we cannot learn, from Chilliwack, is here with the intention of starting a drug store. It will be a very nice store, and is getting quite a few ladies here now, and who of course need cosmetics, etc.—Correspondence Midway Advance.

TRAIL.

Trail, Oct. 26.—Freight Agent Peters, of the C.P.R., was in conference with Superintendent Gutelius, of the Columbia & Western, to-day, in reference to the freight and passenger transportation and connection with the Okanagan country, via the new Trail-Robson road, and it is likely that a schedule will be announced in a day or two. Up to this time no regular service has been established, although a freight train goes out daily, and carries much of the material used at the smelter. This evening a quantity of "cokes" came down from Robson, for the "want of which there has been little done at the works since yesterday of two.

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good ship round the Horn and reached British Columbia. He travelled by sea to Osoyoos lake and secured his piece of land. Had he arrived a few years later he would have been disappointed. When an accurate and detailed history of the province is written in all probability a page will be devoted to the indignation protests made when it was found that a few acres at the head of Osoyoos Lake had become the property of an expatriated German. The land should have been reserved for Judge Haines' cattle.

The tired traveller who reaches Kruger's thanks his stars that the host got there before the land grabber. It is like an oasis in the desert. The "I am pleased to see you," and "my wife and I were just talking about you," followed by a meal that would satisfy an epicure, would all be missing if Kruger hadn't come to Osoyoos Lake forty years ago. Instead of a comfortable home, a genial host, and the best of fare, the traveller would be greeted by an insolent Shorthorn who would question his right to gaze upon the beauties of Osoyoos Lake. We will have a mill of their own soon.

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COMMUNICATIONS.

A PRETTY STATE OF AFFAIRS.

To the Editor:—I desire, with your permission, through the medium of your journal to call the attention of the public to certain matters in connection with the legal profession in this province. I have been induced to take this step on account of a personal grievance of my own, yet it is not for the purpose of airing that grievance, but rather of endeavoring if possible to bring about a change in the laws which render such things possible.

There has been much discussion by publicists with regard to the advisability of the laws which limit the practice of certain professions to those persons who attain prescribed qualifications. I am myself a believer in the policy of law of that nature. I have never, however, seen it suggested by any writer on this subject that these laws should be passed for the protection of the different individuals practising the different professions. The only person on whom they are, or can be, defended, is the protection given by the public at large.

In this province, however, it would appear that so far as the legal profession is concerned it is the view of the general body that the laws which have been passed and are to be carried out, not for the purpose of protecting the public, but for the purpose of constituting the legal profession into a protected ring. The ordinary sanction provided for the enforcement of such laws is a prosecution before a justice of the peace with the penalty of a fine in case of conviction. In British Columbia the medical, dental and surveying professions have to submit a bond to the justice of the peace, which places the storekeepers here very much, and they are looking for an increase in business in the future.

Chilliwack is a grand country, and the investment the government of British Columbia can make is to open up that country by a road, and the best route is undoubtedly through the Bella Coola valley. The settlers of Bella Coola are anxious to have a road, and are willing to pay for it, now so well under way, to get a road through the settlement and across the divide, will be helped along. It is a well-known fact that thousands upon thousands of acres of the best land in British Columbia lie idle right at the threshold of the best of markets only for the want of a road to open it up. A road can be built at a tolerably small expense, as the men here have just been through with the trail work. This is corroborated by Mr. B. Franklin, a settler at Tada Lake. Mr. Franklin reports very favorably from his country and says chances are many and good for energetic people who will go in to settle. It is to be hoped that the attention of both government and private individuals be directed towards developing that country.

OSOYOOS VALLEY.

Were it not for the fact that the land grabber secured control of the valley leading to Osoyoos Lake, it could today be peopled with at least 300 families. Situated only 1,000 feet above the sea level, and in the track of the warm current of air which comes northward through the Okanagan valley, it is climatically an ideal spot to live in. The soil is of a sandy loam, and with irrigation would produce almost every variety of fruits—even fruits which are supposed to ripen in the sunny south. To-day this valley is as barren as the sands of the Sahara, save the portions which have been planted by the hand of man. Mine Host Kruger and Mr. C. A. B. Bantly, gold commissioner. Everyone of the valley, up to Fairview, even, belong to Mr. Ellis, and his cattle roam over it at will. No more striking commentary on the methods adopted by the disposing of public lands can be found than the deserted appearance of Osoyoos valley. Here families could live in comfort, in an almost perfect climate, with exquisite scenery, with an abundance of game, convenient to the best markets for produce; but the settlers must eke out a miserable existence on some barren mountain side, while fruitful lands are tied up in the hands of a cattle king. An equitable system of taxation would force the owner of the greater portion of Osoyoos valley to pay a rate of taxation as high as that paid on the farms in the Fraser river valley; but it is safe to wager that he does not pay one-tenth of that amount.

The writer wondered how Mr. Kruger secured his acres at the head of the lake. One would come to the conclusion that a government was extremely derelict in its duty to the land-grabber when it allowed a big-hearted native of the Fatherland to cultivate a modest number of acres in a garden of Eden. But the explanation is a simple one. Some years ago Mr. Kruger, a debutant of this ideal spot in British Columbia, and having some knowledge of the avidity with which the best lands are secured by the speculators, he hid good-bye to Bismarck and sailed in a

pointed out to the benchers that I had not written the letters nor authorized them to be written. Even after that they declined to withdraw the proceedings against me, but agreed to suspend the prosecution in the hope of securing some fresh evidence against me before my six months expired.

With regard to Mr. Curtis I pointed out to the benchers that it would only be common decency to notify him of the complaint and give him an opportunity of offering any explanation which might have for their consideration before taking the extreme step of summoning him before the court. I pointed out to them—indeed, they themselves were well aware of it—that the mere act of summoning an applicant for call to the bar before the court was calculated to do him irreparable injury. Even if he were entirely innocent of the charge, the matter would, of course, get into the newspapers, and as the general public do not discriminate very closely, the effect would be to give the impression that Mr. Curtis was charged with some very serious offence. I was informed by the chairman that the benchers required no instructions from me, and the case against Mr. Curtis was proceeded with. The matter came before the chief justice, who found Mr. Curtis innocent of any violation of the act. The injury done him by the acts of the benchers was, however, very serious. He had been suffering many years from insomnia and found the fact of this province so beneficial that he was almost restored to health. This determined effort on the part of the benchers, when he had made all his money, and that expectation, caused him so much worry as to bring back his malady almost as severely as before.

While these proceedings were going on complaints were made against the solicitor of Rossland of a very much more serious offence against the act. In this case the benchers pursued the proper course of holding an investigation themselves, and inasmuch as the benchers were satisfied, they refrained from taking this gentleman before the court, but instead thereof passed upon him the ridiculous sentence of "suspension from practice for one week." The benchers, who effected anything, was an injury to the solicitors on the other side of the case in which the gentleman in question was engaged.

Unless one pauses to consider, it is difficult to understand why the benchers should act so differently in the two cases. In the case of Mr. Curtis and myself, the offence charged was very trivial, and yet they insisted on trying to send us to jail and debar us from being called to the bar. In the case of the Rossland lawyer, the offence charged and proved was a comparatively serious one, yet practically nothing was done. When it is remembered that the Rossland lawyer was in the ring and that Mr. Curtis and myself were outside of it, one can understand the reason for the action of the benchers.

Again, while these benchers were straining their eyes to discover some petty violation of the act as against outsiders, they winked at a most gross violation of the act committed by two members of the bar who were actually benchers. Indeed, if the benchers who rose to move that Mr. Gordon Hunter be instructed to proceed to such extremities against Mr. Curtis and myself had been able to see two legal signs—both of which are violations of the "Legal Professions Act"—compared with which long by against Mr. Curtis and myself of writing a couple of letters, sink into insignificance. I refer to Mr. H. D. Helmecken, who carries on business as a lawyer and puts a sign over his door acting in the general public that the business is carried on by Messrs. Drake, Jackson & Helmecken. I find on the list of barristers entitled to practise in this province no such name as Drake or Jackson. The other case to which I refer is that of the Hon. C. E. Pooley, who advertises his business in the firm name of Davis, Pooley & Luxton, while there is no such name as Davis upon the list of barristers or solicitors entitled to practise. Mr. Pooley is, I understand, the head of the benchers.

One would imagine from the circumstances above set forth that the law in this province must have been a very poor selection in choosing the members of their governing bodies. This is, however, not the case. The names of the gentlemen who at present hold the position of benchers are: Hon. C. E. Pooley, Q.C.; L. G. McPhillips, Q.C.; Charles Wilson, Q.C.; H. D. Helmecken, Q.C.; E. P. Davis, Q.C.; J. S. Yates, Esq.; W. Bodwell, Esq.; A. Jenks Esq.; F. E. Gregory, Esq. As far as the above-mentioned gentlemen are fully representative of the bar of the province. The facts above recited show how small and elementary principles of English jurisprudence is which prohibit a man from being a judge in his own case.

In this province the benchers have the power to debar a barrister or solicitor off the rolls of their own motion. I believe that is also the law in some other provinces in Canada. In the province of Manitoba, from which I come, they have no such power. These such applications must be made to the court. In my humble opinion, that should be the law in this province. I tremble to think that my professional standing and reputation are subject to review by a body of men who fail to recognize in their judicial proceedings that elementary common law rule which declares that no man should be condemned without being given full opportunity of defending himself. It strikes me that the political platform promulgated the other day by the Liberal party at New Westminster deals with some matters of much less importance than this, upon which it is silent.

JOSEPH MARTIN.

Vancouver, B. C.

From the Lone Star State comes the following letter, written by W. F. Gass, editor of the Mt. Vernon, Tex. Herald: "I have used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in my family for the past year and find that but remedy for colic and diarrhoea that I have ever tried. Its effects are instantaneous and satisfactory and I cheerfully recommend it, especially for children and infants. Indeed, you shall try and keep a bottle of it on your medicine shelf as long as we keep house." For sale by Langley & Henderson Bros., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

At a recent wedding breakfast in New York city a young electrician, in the thing of a practical joker, tried a brand-new device on the assembled company. It was a paper ball, filled with rice, and it floated in the air, and was completely covered with flowers that were not noticed by any of the guests. By an ingenious arrangement the ball was in every direction by merely switching an electric button which the young man had fastened to the table. At an opportune moment the joker set his machine off, sprinkling everything on the table with rice. The guests were all very much amused, and the electrician has been asked to fix up similar bombs for a half dozen weddings to take place among his friends this winter.

Railson—Heavens, man! You look all broke up. Why don't you take a vacation? Smith (feebly)—That's just the trouble, I just got back—Philadelphia North American.

"The doctor put my husband on his feet in a week," she explained. "It was no trouble at all. The bill he presented fairly lifted him out of bed."—Indianapolis Journal.

I can't understand Brown's failure. He was reputed to be a first-class business man. "It's easily explained. Some one told him once that he was a good poker player, and he's been trying to demonstrate it."—Chicago Post.

"I don't mind Jack's slane," said one of the girls. "He's so clever in the use of it." "How so?" "Why, he sent me three dozen bouquets of 'famous beauties' with a card on which the only words were, 'you're another.'"—Household Words.

DESTRUCTION OF SHEEP. To the Editor:—The destruction of sheep by thieves is becoming alarmingly prevalent around the islands justly, and a number of them have been killed and wounded on Salt Spring lately, the latest outrage having occurred on Narrows Island, where a flock of sheep was passing in a boat when a man was passing in a boat, when his attention was attracted by a smoldering camp fire, and he fired, and the sheep were scattered all around and the man was killed. The sheep were then taken to the mainland and the man was buried. The man was identified as John B. Foster, and the sheep were taken to the mainland and the man was buried.