PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Second Session of the Sixth Parliament.

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY.

FRIDAY, March, 11, 1892.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock.

PETITIONS.

Petitions were read and received as follows, viz: In support of Bill to amend License Regulation Act, 1891; from residents of Surrey, opposing Private Bill to validate certain Debentures issued by the Municipality; from the New Westminster and Vancouver Tramway Company, opposing Private Bill to amend the New Westminster and Vancouver Short Line Railway.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

MR. MARTIN, from the Standing Orders and Private Bills Committee, reported the preamble of the bill to incorporate the Kootenay Power Co., with amendments.

ADJOURNED BUDGET SPEECH DEBATE.

MR. SWORD resumed the debate on the motion of the hon. Finance Minister, "that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, and the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply." He argued that the various sections of the New Westminster District had not been fairly treated by the Government, and had, therefore, been forced to form themselves into municipalities. If the Government would adopt the same method, in dealing with other districts more municipalities would be formed, for it would only be necessary to cut down the allowance to less than the revenue from these sections of the country in order to make them form municipalities and collect and spend their own revenue. He endeavored to show that the members of the House who gave an undivided support to the Government were not the real representatives of the people in that they did not represent by any means the majority of the electors. Notwithstanding all that had been said, he (Mr. Sword) did not think the independent members of the House should be classed as out and out oppositionists, for that, he said, was not their real position. Regarding the Crofter scheme, which he understood the Government would bring before the House, he said he hoped the Premier would see his way clear to bring this measure down at as early a date as possible, in order that it might be fully discussed and properly understood by every member of the House.

MR. HORNE followed. He said that in looking over the estimates, he had noticed that there was no provision made, as he had hoped there would be, for a new court house in the City of Vancouver. He understood, however, that this matter would be attended to in the supplementary estimates. It was quite right that this should be so, for Vancouver was entitled to quite as good a court house as either Victoria or New Westminster. There were also other items contained in the estimates, to which he would, at a later date, refer, but for the present would content himself with pressing upon the Government the claims of Vancouver for a suitable and sufficient court house building.

MR. PUNCH complained that the money of the province was not being expended in the same proportion in which it was collected in the various districts, and claimed for Westminster district, especially, that a much more liberal allowance should be made.

MR. BROWN was also an objector to certain details of expenditure which did not meet his views. He was, however, compelled to compliment the hon. Finance Minister on having so ably dealt with the finances of the province, and with having spoken in such a way as would certainly serve to give outsiders a good impression of the stability of the province. He (Mr. Brown) was not one of those who would decry the financial administration of the province, but on the contrary, was glad to bear testimony to the ability and efficiency displayed, and was sure that as the resources of the province became better known at home and abroad, the credit and good name of British Columbia would become even higher and more stable than at present. He congratulated the hon. Finance Minister on his success in placing the Inscribed Stock of the province on the London market, and said that he (Mr. Turner) deserved full credit for what he had done. Continuing, he claimed that the Government should show a much more liberal spirit in dealing with expenditure for roads and bridges. He went into details and figures in order to prove that the Government was not justly spending the money. In conclusion he summed up his argument in the saying that "he smelled a mice."

MR. ANDERSON replied to the hon. member for Westminster City (Mr. Brown) who, he said, in his figures and calculations had misrepresented Victoria district.

MR. SMITH quoted from the estimates of revenue and expenditure to prove that the Government could not be fairly charged with having dealt the most liberally with the districts which sent Government supporters to the Legislature. He claimed that it was impossible for the Government to give universal satisfaction, and thought that, all things considered, the policy of the greatest good to the greatest number had been carried out. In his own district there were many roads and other improvements wanted, but these would require the expenditure of a large amount of money and he would not unduly urge upon the Government to depart from their conservative policy of keeping as nearly within the revenue as possible. (Applause.)

MR. KEITH said that as each of the members of the House seemed to be airing an individual grievance, he might as well follow suit. He was disappointed that no sum had been placed in the estimates for more school accommodation at Nanaimo. The Government should consider this claim and give Nanaimo enough money to erect a good school building.

MR. FORSTER followed, and urged further grants of money by the Government for improving the roads of Nanaimo district. He also said he had great pleasure in supporting the claims of Nanaimo for a new school and hoped the Government would see its way clear to make an ample grant for a suitable building.

HON. MR. VERNON said that he thought, if anything would show how satisfactorily the Government was administering the finances of the province, it would be the criticisms of the members of the House. Of course there was a little irritation here and there. That was a natural sequence, and was apparent every year. It was now a new road here, and then a new road there, etc.; but the main question of finance, the most important matter of how the finances generally were being administered, had come in for little or no criticism, not even from the leader of the Opposition, who was really about the only hon. gentleman on the opposite side of the House who seemed to know anything at all about finance. He could understand that, perhaps, the members of the House were more or less unfamiliar with the details of the issue of Inscribed Stock of the province, but thought that after the lucid and clear statement of the Finance Minister they would probably know more about it. He ridiculed the contention of the hon. leader of the Opposition, that the Government kept the Public Accounts Committee from meeting in order to keep information regarding the public accounts from the ratepayers of the country. Such, he said, was not the case, but he would also say that it was as much the fault of the hon. leader of the Opposition as of anyone that the Public Accounts Committee, which was in the control of the House, had not met. He replied to the charge of the hon. leader of the Opposition that the returns brought to the House were not printed but were being smuggled away by the Government. No member of the House, he said, asked for so many returns as the same gentleman (Mr. Beaven). It was an easy enough matter to put a few lines of "motion" on the order paper and call for a big return that it might take weeks to prepare; and if all these returns were not printed it was because there seemed to be no necessity for so doing, and, besides, if all these returns were printed the Government Printing office, now running extra hands and over time, would have to be more than doubled in capacity. He criticised severely the uncalled for remarks of the leader of the Opposition in claiming that the Finance Minister had been egotistical in his speech on the provincial finances. On the contrary he (Mr. Vernon) thought that the Finance Minister had been most modest, and had claimed no credit to which he was not entitled. Referring to the allegation made by the hon. leader of the Opposition, that every year the province was getting deeper and deeper in the *mire* he, (Mr. Vernon) said that if this were the case, it was a most remarkable thing that the credit of the province was every year going *higher* and *higher*.

HON. MR. TURNER—Your are getting poetical. (Laughter.)

Continuing Mr. Vernon said there was only one conclusion to be drawn from the increasing debt and the increasing credit, and that conclusion was most justly that the Government was spending the money of the province so satisfactory, and the public works being done, were so well carried on that they were forming a valuable asset. He defended the action of the Government in selling such public lands as had been sold at $1 per acre at that price, and declared that a great deal of the land which had been sold in this way, had been sold simply because possibly coal would be discovered, and not because these lands were good for agricultural or pastoral purposes. Concluding, Mr. Vernon said that, on the whole, he was more or less disappointed, in a certain sense, that the Opposition's criticism of the budget had been so very mild. When the session opened they (the Opposition) had promised some great field days and some vigorous attacks on the Government; but, so far, these had not developed. Regarding what the junior member for Yale had said about redistribution and that he (Mr. Vernon) was a "traitor" to his constituents, he (Mr. Vernon) remarked that he thought it was unnecessary to deal with this, as the constituents themselves had already dealt with it. When they had fully understood the matter they had taken his hon. friend (Mr. Semlin) who once stood at the head of the poll, and put him down very nearly to the bottom, and in fact it was only by a narrow chance that he, (Mr. Semlin), had been able to keep his seat in the House. Continuing the Chief Commissioner defended the action of the Government in distributing the provincial revenue in the way of expenditure in various districts, saying that he wished it were more clearly understood and better remembered by every member of the House that the province as a whole should be considered in the estimated expenditure, and that no one should deprive any particular portion of the province from a much needed allowance, simply because that portion happened to be within or without any district lines, (applause). Dealing with the charge made that the Government had done certain work by day work when it should have been let by tender, he, (Mr. Vernon), said that he had considered that the best method of constructing public works and of husbanding the resources of the province. He gave one instance in East Kootenay where a road was to be built. Here the Government called for tenders, the lowest of which was $20,000. As a matter of fact, the Government afterwards built the road for less than $5,000, and though, perhaps, not quite as good a job had been done, still it was quite as good as could be afforded, and the large amount of money saved had been expended in other portions of the district. He also gave other instances of a similar nature. Referring for a moment to the attack made by the hon. member for West Kootenay, (Mr. Kellie,) on the Government agent for that district, he declared most emphatically that the Government agent was altogether a very superior man, and was peculiarly well qualified for the position. The Government had every confidence in him. As to the many local matters that had been brought up from time to time, he would be glad when the whole province should be divided up into municipalities, so that the Government would be relieved of the municipality work it was now compelled to do. (Applause.)

MR. KITCHEN stated that his idea of the financial policy of the Government was that the Government was taking the money away from the prosperous districts which did not support them and giving it to the parts of the province that had to be pap-fed in order to return a Government supporter. What kept the Government in power was that there were a hungry lot of horses standing at the public crib, which must be fed in order to keep their votes straight. He went into elaborate details in support of his contention that the district of Westminster had not been getting its share of the public revenue, and declared that his constituents would support him in his opposition to the Government, and he proposed vigorously to assail certain expenditures provided for in the estimates.

MR. CROFT replied, also going into the details of the accounts to show that the arguments of the hon. member for Westminster district (Mr. Kitchen) were fallacious.

HON. MR. TURNER'S motion that the Speaker do now leave the chair was thereupon carried without division.

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY.

MR. EBERTS introduced a bill to incorporate the Canadian Northern Railway Company. Read a first time and referred to Railway committee.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee of supply, with Mr. Martin in the chair. The following items were carried:—

1. Interest	$ 113 978.55
2. Sinking Fund	55,753.00
3. Premium and Exchange	550.00

On the discussion of item No. 4, for discount and commission, $2,990.00.

HON. MR. BEAVEN asked for details. He said he could not understand why such a large sum of money should be paid for brokerage and commission.

HON. MR. TURNER replied, warmly, that, after his explanation of yesterday, he could not see what more information the hon. leader of the Opposition wanted, unless he (Mr. Beaven) was a baby in finance, and knew nothing whatever about even the simplest rules of arithmetic. He (Mr. Turner) had explained fully that the loan had cost the province, including all charges, interest and sinking fund, just a little less than 4½ per cent., in this there being included 1 per cent. to pay off the liability. Even the City of Victoria paid five and one-half to six per cent. for their money, and if hon. gentlemen opposite would only think of it they would see at once in how good a position the province had been placed, and how thoroughly good a transaction had been made.

HON. MR. BEAVEN persisted that this was no answer. He wished to know where the money had gone, who had got it, and what for. He wanted to know if it had gone into the pockets of the Finance Minister, or of his partners, or of some one else.

HON. MR. TURNER—I thought you were going to say that—I expected it yesterday.

HON. MR. BEAVEN repeated his enquiry.

The committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The Speaker left the Chair.

EVENING SESSION.

The Speaker took the chair at 8 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER said—Resolved, that I do leave the chair.

HON. MR. ROBSON—This is a very important motion, and should be made in the regular way, not hastily put. Anyone should have an opportunity of speaking before you leave the chair to go into committee of supply.

MR. SPEAKER—I have simply followed the usual and regular form of procedure in this House. Now, with regard to what took place, this afternoon, in the House, I would like to give a full explanation. At the time when the debate came to a close, the hon. the Premier was discussing some matter with his colleague, the President of the Council, and though I put the question three times in the regular way before ringing the division bell to call the members in, he (Mr. Robson) did not make any attempt to speak. The hon. Premier is complaining of being refused permission to speak, without the least justification or cause whatever.

HON. MR. ROBSON—When you saw that I was busily engaged in conversation with one of my colleagues, I think it was but due me that you should have drawn my attention to the fact that the debate was about to close, without putting the question to the House and ringing the bell.

MR. SPEAKER—I treated the Hon. Premier in this case, as in all others, just as I would treat any other member of the House.

HON. MR. ROBSON—Nothing of the kind. You treated me discourteously.

MR. SPEAKER—Then I throw myself upon the judgment of the House. The Hon. Premier has no right to speak of me as he has done, or to make against me such a baseless—a groundless charge.

MR. SEMLIN bore the speaker out in what he had said, in regard to having called the question three times before ringing the division bell.

MR. MARTIN said he did not like to differ with his hon. colleague (Mr. Semlin), but he (Mr. Martin) had certainly not heard the question put three times. He would not, however, say on this account that the Speaker had not put the question three times.

HON. MR. VERNON said that he believed he had heard the Speaker put the question three times, yet, in a matter of this kind, there was generally a good deal of latitude allowed. There was certainly a certain amount of latitude, not to say courtesy, that should be shown to the hon. leader of the Government, who occupied a very important and a very elevated position in the councils of the province. He (Mr. Vernon) was sure that the Speaker had no idea of shutting off the hon. premier. It might be, and was very true, that the Speaker had asked "Are you ready for the question?" three times; yet he had seen that the hon. Premier had been engaged and, without overstepping the bounds, might have called his attention to the fact that he was about to put the question. He thought the Speaker had been a little hasty when the Premier had entered a protest against the question being put and so suddenly shutting off the debate. Of course, the position the Speaker occupied was a very important one and he (the Speaker) should be sustained by the House; but still there were exceptional circumstances to be taken into consideration, and he (Mr. Vernon) would again say that he thought the Speaker was a little hasty in his action. There was nothing to be gained by such an unusual haste, and it was certainly not quite courtesy to the leader of the Government to refuse him liberty to speak on such an important subject and at such an important time.

HON. MR. BEAVEN said he had been out of the House at the time the question had been put; but certainly the hon. leader of the Government had a right to speak every time it was moved that the House go into supply.

HON. MR. ROBSON—It was simply discourtesy shown me by the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER—I repel the insinuation, and throw it back. I have always treated the hon. leader of the Government and every hon. member of this House with the utmost courtesy in my power.

HON. MR. POOLEY said he did not think there had been any actual or intended discourtesy shown by Mr. Speaker at all. He did not think there had been or he would say so.

HON. MR. ROBSON—But I do think so, even if I am not permitted to say so.

MR. SPEAKER—You can think as you please. I want you to understand most distinctly that you are not going to put your heel on me.

MR. COTTON said he had heard the question put three times.

COL. BAKER (who sits immediately in front of Mr. Cotton) said that what the hon. senior member for Vancouver had said simply showed the difference of opinion there might be. He (Col. Baker) had been in his place at the time the question was put, and had only heard it put once, but, at the same time, would be far from saying that there was any question as to the accuracy of the statement of the Speaker that he had put the question three times.

MR. BROWN said that members on the Opposition side of the House looked particularly to the Speaker to protect their rights, and he thought it would have been unjust for the Speaker to make any exception in favor of the Premier, that is in the way of giving him any more opportunity to speak than any other member of the House had.

HON. MR. DAVIE said that, while he did not think—in fact, he was sure—that Mr. Speaker had not shown any lack of courtesy towards the hon. the Premier, still he did think the division bell was rung rather hastily. Had he not known that the Premier was going to speak, he would, himself, have continued the debate. He did not think a general warning had been given, even though the usual form had been gone through. He thought too much warmth had been shown in the present discussion, as the whole difficulty was clearly due to nothing more nor less than a want of attention or a misunderstanding.

DR. MILNE and Mr. Kitchen both said they heard the question put three times, and Messrs. Sword and Punch bore the same testimony.

MR. HALL said he did not hear the question put three times, and he had good hearing.

MR. SPEAKER—I wish to repeat that I gave the customary warning, "Are you ready for the question?" three times. I have not been guilty of any act of discourtesy such as I am charged with.

HON. MR. DAVIE—No one said you were.

MR. SPEAKER—You were not here when the hon. Premier accused me of discourtesy.

HON. MR. ROBSON dealt with the debate on the budget speech at some length, taking it up in detail, and replying to the hon. leader of the Opposition and others who had spoken. (A full report of this important speech will appear in to-morrow's Sunday, COLONIST.) Hon. Mr. Robson had not got half-way through his speech, when

MR. SPEAKER ruled that he was out of order because the House should properly be in a Committee of the Whole. He (Mr. Speaker) had allowed the hon. leader of the Government to go on to this length because he (Mr. Speaker) had been accused of discourtesy; but he must now put a stop to it.

HON. MR. BEAVEN contended that the hon. leader of the Government was perfectly in order in speaking. Before Mr. Speaker could leave the chair to enable the House to go into Committee of the Whole, there must be a motion.

MR. SPEAKER admitted that this view was correct with respect to different sittings of the House, but said it had been, and was the practice of this House, to regard an adjourned session the same day as the same sitting. The Chairman of the Committee of Supply did not rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again, but simply called Mr. Speaker to the Chair so that he (Mr. Speaker) might declare it was 8 o'clock. Then when the evening session began he (Mr. Speaker) simply called the Chairman back again without a motion. He admitted having made an error in putting the motion in the first instance, in putting the question, "that I do now leave the chair," and on that account, had permitted the leader of the Government more latitude than was usual, but was now compelled to call him to order.

HON. MR. POOLEY concurred in this opinion.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee of the Whole to consider the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

On the discussion of item No. 4 being resumed.

HON. MR. BEAVEN said that he must have full information regarding this expenditure before he would vote for it. There was a discrepancy between the amount of money the province had received and the amount the province had made itself liable for, and, on behalf of his constituents, he demanded to know what had become of this money, into whose pockets it had gone, and why it had gone there and what it had gone there for.

HON. MR. TURNER—I rise to a question of privilege.

HON. MR. BEAVEN—You can keep your seat. What is your question of privilege?

HON. MR. TURNER—Mr. Chairman, I am addressing you, and, I say, I rise to a question of privilege.

HON. MR. BEAVEN—Sit down. I have the floor. When I get through, you can talk.

HON. MR. POOLEY—I rise to a point of order.

HON. MR. BEAVEN—What is your point of order?

HON. MR. POOLEY—I address the chair. Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order. I want your ruling on the question of privilege raised by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance.

HON. MR. BEAVEN—Sit down, you can't bring up a question of privilege in Committee of the Whole. He continued that he was astonished at the extreme irritability of the hon. gentleman opposite, who seemed to be thoroughly alarmed, lest the Opposition should get any information about this deficit in the loan. But, nevertheless, he (Mr. Beaven) felt it was a duty he owed to his constituents, and in spite of the ungentlemanly conduct of the hon. President of the Council.

HON. MEMBERS—Order! order!

HON. MR. BEAVEN—It's all well enough to cry order! order! but I am going to have that information, or I—

HON. MR. DAVIE—You have all the information before you in that return from the Finance Department.

HON. MR. BEAVEN: No, I have not. Nothing of the kind. I am going to get that—

HON. MR. TURNER: Mr. Chairman—

HON. MR. BEAVEN: Sit down; I have the floor. Don't lose your temper.

HON. MR. TURNER: When I am accused of being a thief I cannot help losing my temper.

HON. MR. BEAVEN: I didn't call you a thief!

HON. MR. TURNER: Yes you did. You said the money had gone into my pocket or into the pockets of my partners—

HON. MR. BEAVEN: Yes, and I want to know why it was spent and what for? It is a large sum of money not accounted for.

HON. MR. TURNER—Before we discuss the item, I demand an apology from the hon. gentleman opposite. No! He is no gentleman or he would not make such a baseless and totally unfounded insinuation.

HON. MR. BEAVEN replied that the irritability of the hon. members of the Government made him suspect that there was something wrong. The Finance Minister was a member of a well-known firm of merchants in Victoria and—

HON. MR. POOLEY—Order! Order!

HON. MR. BEAVEN—I'll go on discussing this forever if I like—

HON. MR. POOLEY—Mr. Chairman, call him to order. He must confine his discussion to the question now before the House.

THE CHAIRMAN—Come to order!

HON. MR. BEAVEN—If you deal out your rulings with the same impartiality to me as to everyone else, I submit.

Hon. Members—Chair! Chair!

HON. MR. BEAVEN—I will accept the ruling.

HON. MR. VERNON—You have to accept the rule of the House whether you like it or not.

HON. MR. BEAVEN — That's all right. I give you due notice if I don't get the information about where this money went, you won't get the vote. I have asked what has become of the difference between £200,000 and $800,000. He had been asked for this information at least five or six times, to-day, on the streets of Victoria and was unable to give it. The Government was evidently trying to suppress the information.

HON. MR. ROBSON—Who is trying to suppress it?

HON. MR. BEAVEN—The Government. (Laughter.)

MR. CROFT explained that there was no difficulty in seeing where the money went. He figured out the amount the province should receive.

HON. MR. BEAVEN—But who got the money?

MR. CROFT—Why the Treasurer, of course (Opposition laughter).

HON. MR. POOLEY said that he must confess that he was irritated at what the leader of the Opposition had said. When he heard an hon. gentleman call another hon. gentleman across the floor of the House a—

HON. MR. BEAVEN—You must come to order.

HON. MR. POOLEY—I am perfectly in order. The hon. leader of the Opposition said that the money had gone into the pockets of the Finance Minister or of his partner, and had said that he (Mr. Beaven) wanted to enquire where the money had gone. Could any more vile insult be hurled across the floor of the House? It was a deliberate insult to the House, as well as to the hon. Minister of Finance. No wonder members were irritable. If the hon. leader of the Opposition had any idea that the money had gone into improper channels, he should move for a Royal Commission to enquire into it, or move for a select committee, but should not throw out any dirty insinuations, as he had done.

HON. MEMBERS—Hear, hear.

HON. MR. POOLEY repeated that no wonder he felt very much irritated that a thing of this kind should be said in the House. The information brought down to the House was complete. Any schoolboy in the country could work out the amount. If the hon. gentleman could prove that any money was missing or that there was anything wrong, let him move for a Royal Commission, but don't throw out any dirty insinuations to be copied in the newspapers and go abroad, perhaps, to injure irrevocably a gentleman, honourable and upright, as was the Finance Minister.

HON. MR. TURNER drew the attention of the chairman to the fact that the discussion had got quite outside the regular course.

After further discussion the item passed.

After passing the Estimates complete, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The House adjourned at 1:10 a.m., Saturday.

A HANDSOME BUILDING.

The New Victoria Brewery to Be One of The Finest Pieces of Architecture in the City.

One of the most handsome structures of its kind, on this coast, will be the new brewery that Messrs. Loewen & Erb are erecting, at the corner of Government and Discovery streets, at a cost of $60,000.

The architect, Mr. Steinmann, of Seattle, has put in his best work on the plans, and it only needs to be said that Messrs. McGregor & Jeeves are the contractors, to assure all concerned that it will be no slop job. Every portion of the work is being carefully scanned, under the closest supervision, and the solidity of the building, even at its present stage, is apparent. They are employing eighteen bricklayers, nineteen stonecutters, twenty laboring men, and twenty carpenters. Mr. Tiedemann is superintending the general labor, as the representative of the brewers and the architect.

The building, which will be 90 feet in height, of Koksilah stone, from Lubbe's quarry, and brick, has a frontage of 110 feet on Government street, and 88 feet on Discovery street. The town side will consist of five stories, and the Discovery street side, of three, the foundation trenches, and stones supporting them, being uniformly 6 feet thick. The brewhouse will occupy the front of the three story building, and at the back of that will be the fill-room and wash-house; there are also capacious store rooms for malt, hops, and the balance of the room is taken up by numerous elevators. The five-story portion of the brewery will contain many novel features quite new to the business in Victoria. On the top of the building will be the mash tub and brew kettle, surrounded by a spacious outlet cooler and water tanks. From these the beer will run into the stock room on the next floor, and thence into fermenting tubs. From here it will run down into rest vats, (each of 200 barrels capacity,) and from there, below into the cellar, where it will be laid off into oak top casks of 100 barrels each. Thence the beer is finally drawn off into the small kegs in the fill room whence it runs down an outlet slide into wagons in the yard.

Messrs Weisel & Vilter, of Milwaukee, are putting in a splendid ice machine of 25 tons weight, with a horizontal Corliss engine, compressor, etc., all of the best make. There is also, from the same firm, a Badelot cooler. A 25 h.p. engine is now on the road. The Albion Iron Works are manufacturing a large portion of the material, the principal items of which are a mash tub, brew kettle, the ice tanks, water tanks, and boilers. Messrs. Wilson Bros. have the contract for supplying all the iron pillars and supports in the building. In addition to the machinery above described, there will be a powerful electric light plant.

It is expected by the contractors that, if work continues to go on as at present with no hindrance, the building will be ready for occupation by the middle of June. The ice machine will be at work by the end of May, turning out nine tons of ice daily for city consumption, so that the city will once more have a good ice factory. It may be mentioned that most of the walls of the building are two feet thick, and that the foundations are the most solid in the whole city. The structure will be a credit to Victoria in every sense of the word, and is the pioneer of solid edifices in the Northern end of the city.

The report that Jay Gould's health had suddenly become very much worse and that he was hurrying home from the South on that account, was denied by Sidney Dillon, Russell Sage and George Gould.

Mail advices from Parilla bring news of an Indian uprising in the Cordillera of the Andes districts. The Toba tribes are at the head of the outbreak, and with them many other tribes heretofore friendly towards their Spanish neighbors. Half a dozen towns have been destroyed, several frontier missions wiped out, and murder and pillage is going on.

The Indians of Chihuahua believe in witchcraft, and for a number of years an old woman held them in great fear by her alleged powers. It was stated that she was in the habit of eating young children. During her absence a party of men went to her home and found not only bones, but the partly eaten body of a child. On her return home she was burned at the stake, and the people ate small portions of her body in order to ward off evils that might befall them for killing her.

The colored people of the West End of Boston, Mass., are in a panicky condition on account of the direful prophecies of the Rev. Andrew Johns, of Allegheny City, Pa., who is conducting revival services at St. Paul's church. He claims to have foretold the Johnstown flood, and now predicts that Boston is to be overthrown by an earthquake. Chicago is to be scourged. He has made many converts, strange to say. He is going back to New York again to warn the people of that city that "God's wrath is near upon them."

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