Whitaker Wright

Mining Promoter

Like Humberts He Believed In Spending Money With Lavish Hand.

"Guinea Pigs" as Figure Heads Make Company Promotion Easy.

It seems curious that a man who has never set foot in the province should owe his downfall to British Columbia. Whitaker Wright was going steadily along prosperity path when he had Rossland properties brought to his notice. They looked good to him and they might have still been so had he been content with ordinary company methods. But he was a Napoleon of finance, and had, he thought, to make big splashes in the stock exchange pond. And so, by not making good use of British Columbia's mines, he brought himself to the present fix. A Rossland telegram says:

"Whitaker Wright was the London promoter of the British American corporation, which sold 25,000,000 in shares to buy Rossland mines. The corporation acquired the Le Roi, Josie, Number One, Nickle Plate, Great Western, Columbia, Kootenay, Black Bear and other properties, enriching the vendors substantially. English capital was thus attracted to Rossland but it has always been held here against Wright that his flotations never had working capital. In the instance of the Le Roi, all of the two millions earned in profits during the past four years has gone into equipment, development and the acquisition of the Northport smelter. Wright formed several subsidiary companies here—the Le Roi, the Le Roi No. 2, Rossland Great Western and Columbia-Kootenay, all of which are in successful operation, the latter two having merged. The British American corporation is practically out of existence, but the subsidiary concerns are flourishing. Wright is not supposed to hold a share of Rossland stocks now."

Whitaker Wright cut a wide swath as a mining promoter in London and Paris. He evidently believed with the swindling Humberts that anyone could gull the public if he spent enough money and lived in royal style. Wright secured thousands of subscribers to stock in various mining companies, among which was Le Roi of Rossland, B. C. Most of these companies proved to be fraudulent. He was also at the head of the London-and Globe Finance corporation, where affairs are now under investigation.

Wright lived like a lord. It was his boast that everything he owned was the best that money could purchase and that he never counted the cost of anything which he desired. As an example of his lavishness, it is said that at the time of the failure which has brought him into unpleasant prominence an army of 600 workmen was engaged renovating his country home at Godalming. For the adornment of the grounds surrounding this house he spent thousands of pounds upon statuary and historical fountains which he imported from Italy. The stables connected with this establishment alone represent an enormous investment. Valuable pictures adorn the stalls, which are of oak, with polished gun-metal fittings. His town residence in Park lane is furnished throughout in the most magnificent style.

The financial crash of the companies floated by Whitaker Wright came in December, 1900. There were eleven of these, including the parent company, entitled the London and Globe Finance corporation, with a total capitalization of $60,675,000. Wright was the managing director.

Few millionaires lived in the same princely style as did Wright. In Park lane, London, he had a miniature palace, in the drawing-room of which was a copy of the famous cabinet du roi of Louis XV. It took three years to complete and cost many thousands of pounds. At Godalming he owned a country seat, in beautifying which 600 workmen were engaged. It contained costly fountains and statuary brought from Italy. Wright's stables alone cost a small fortune. They have upholstered oak and leather settees and polished gun metal fittings while valuable paintings and bas reliefs adorn the stalls. His private yacht was fitted up with similar luxuriousness, and at one time he was credited with the patent of a yacht to race Sir Thomas Lipton's Shamrock.

One of the victims of the crash was the late Marquis of Dufferin, previously governor-general of Canada and British ambassador at Paris. He consented to be chairman of the London and Globe company and had 25,000 shares in the different companies.

With Lord Dufferin on the board of directors were Lieut-Gen. Clough-Cathrap, who was colonel of the Fifth Dragoon Guards, and Edward William Pelham-Clinton, master of the late Queen's household, the son of the fifth Duke of Newcastle. When the crash came Lord Dufferin was severely censured for his connection with the Wright companies, but in a frank speech to the stock-holders of the London and Globe corporation he declared his position and won the sympathy of the country. His wealth, at one time large, was believed to have been swallowed up in these companies.

On March 10 action was taken against Wright. Justice Buckeley, in the chancery division of the high court of justice, made an order directing that the London and Globe Finance corporation (limited), prosecute on a criminal charge Whitaker Wright and utilize the assets of the London and Globe to pay the costs of the prosecution. The following day a warrant for Wright's arrest was issued. When the police officer went to his home he was informed that Wright had gone to the continent on account of his health. The same afternoon the Irish Nationalist, Swift McNeill, asked the home secretary in the House of Commons what steps were being taken to prevent Wright escaping from justice, and later the home secretary announced that the government intended to bring Wright to justice.

A fund of $25,000 was raised to initiate the proceedings against Wright. Arnold White, the author, at a meeting, said the reason the prosecution was not undertaken by the government was that the directors of the London and Globe were sheltering themselves behind members of the royal family. He added that he understood that a royal duke had invested his money in the concern and he believed that "certain hangers on at the court" were using the name of the King and others for the purpose of hiding their own deeds. Other speakers at this meeting declared that the stockholders of the London and Globe company were victims of "terrible, heartless and gigantic swindles."

Wright's wife is living in comparative seclusion near Godalming. When seen this evening she reiterated her belief that he was on his way to Egypt for the sake of his health, the doctors having declared that a rest was imperative. His one desire, she said, has been to do something for the unfortunate shareholders, and the worry severely told on his health. He had remarked that if there was any trouble he must recover his strength to enable him to fearlessly meet the charges brought against him. She had heard from him at Paris, but he did not mention his movements.

When told that her husband had been arrested in New York she said she supposed he must have met friends in Paris who persuaded him to change his way and go to New York, perhaps on his way to the mines in British Columbia. Asked whether her husband was an American, Mrs. Wright replied: "I do not know. I am an American. We were married in America. He has always been thoroughly English, much to my disgust. If he had been an American he would have been properly protected."

WHITAKER WRIGHT.

Mrs. Wright concluded by stating that eminent counsel would be engaged in her husband's defence, and she hoped that his health would enable him to make vigorous defence.

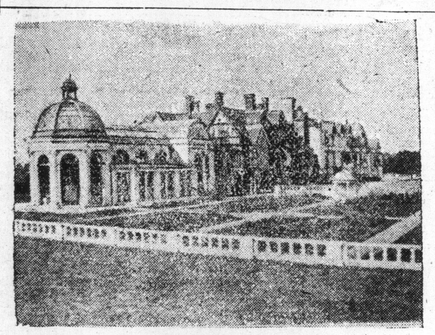
BOGUS AGENT.

The magazine subscription grafter is again abroad in the land. Within the past few days one is said to have been working in the city. In this connection it may be noted that reports come from neighboring cities of the coast that an alleged agent of the Ladies' Home Journal is working various cities along the coast. Robert Greenwood, is one of this class of fakir, who has been arrested at Portland. The usual method of the grafter was to tell that the neighbors of his victim had subscribed, and of the proposed increase in the price.

THE STRIKE SITUATION.

There was nothing doing in the local strike situation yesterday. Meetings were held by the strikers in the Longshoremen's Hall, but nothing other than the routine business was discussed. Last night a lecture on "Modern Unionism" was given by George Estes in Institute Hall.

Although the C. P. N. steamers are carrying cargo, according to the Vancouver World, the steamer Joan has temporarily gone out of the freight carrying business. Like the small Atlantic liners, she will cater particularly to passenger traffic. This is not because it does not pay to carry freight, but because she can get no one to handle it.



WRIGHT'S PALACE AT GODALMING, NEAR LONDON.

SPRING OPENING AT WESTSIDE

Some Useful Information Regarding the New Styles This Year.

These are millinery opening days at the Westside, Wednesday being the first day, when the ladies of Victoria attended what is, without doubt, one of the finest exhibitions of millinery ever made in British Columbia.

The imported hats are very handsome, and it is difficult to do justice to the beauties that are to be seen at this popular store. To judge from the crowds that keep continually coming and going all day, and at times filling the commodious show-rooms to their utmost capacity, and the many sales being made, the lady leaders of fashion of our fair city are quick to show their appreciation in the most substantial manner.

Regarding the styles which have undergone very great changes since last season, the marvelous exactness with which the delicacy of natural flowers and fruits have been reproduced is very striking.

The millinery laces this season are entirely different from those previously worn—last year's were flimsy, cob-webby, chantilly and Point d'Aube—this year they are heavy, antique and guipure d'art. The Parisians have turned to fruits for inspiration. Whole hats appear as clusters of cherries, grapes, etc., while some hats, too, are composed of flowers, artistically arranged, exact copies of the real thing.

The three new shapes which are particularly noticeable are the flat-hat, the boat-shape, which has replaced last year's toque, and the big, round Russian turban. The Tucom, which is issued from Paris, has a slight change in the back.

Buckles are long and come in very artistic designs. Sequins are long and dangling this year. The new colors this year are champagne to wood brown, blue and reseda, and water green. These are only a few of the many gems of the new styles for this season which may be picked up by a visit to the Westside millinery show rooms.

Miss M. B. Crothers, who has been the designer and trimmer for the firm ever since they opened this department, has been given entire control, which is in itself a sufficient assurance of the completeness and success of this important department.

One of the hats shown our reporter was a charming white maline hat, handsomely trimmed with white plume, and buckle with dainty fancy maline trimming. Another very handsome effect shown was a fawn straw hat, trimmed almost entirely with richlooking cherries, nearly perfect in appearance to nature.

A very handsome black picture hat had many admirers, it was so richly trimmed with heavy black applique lace and large black plume. There are also a number of other creations from New York, London and Paris, augmented by many choice and catchy creations originated and produced from the Westside's work rooms.

In the large costume department several huge cases of new jackets were just being opened, the styles of which are bold and striking, and are sure to have many admirers. The latest styles being Russian effect, Etons and very short jackets. Materials being of fine Venetian and box cloths, silk and linen, mostly trimmed with soft piping and braids.

The entire store and show windows have been specially decorated for the occasion, and new goods meet the gaze on every hand.

TIE UP IN NEW YORK.

Elevated Roads' Employees Unanimously Refuse to Accept Company's Offer.

New York, March 23.—By a practically unanimous vote, the newly organized Manhattan Elevated railway employees tonight refused to accept a proposition made by the officials of the road looking to a settlement of the grievances of the men. One of the officials of the men's organization said tonight: "We will insist on our demands. Of course in considering the advisability of a strike we will not lose sight of the inconvenience the public will be caused, and we will go as far as possible to have the matter settled by arbitration."

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Still Debating Gamey's Charges—Special Legislation Required in the Case.

Toronto, March 24.—There were two features of interest in the continued debate on the Gamey charges at this afternoon's session of the legislature. The first was the announcement by Premier Ross that as there appeared to be a divergence of opinion as to the power of the commissioners in regard to compelling witnesses to answer all questions, some holding that under the statutes a judge would be handicapped, the government was willing to introduce special legislation insuring full power to the commissioners in this respect. The second point of interest was an amendment introduced by Mr. Foy, the Conservative member for South Toronto, to refer the charges to a committee of the House. He made an earnest speech in support of the resolution.

QUEEN ESTHER'S SCENIC SPLENDOR

Cantata Produced With Richness of Costumes Fine Color Effect.

The sacred cantata, "Queen Esther," was produced last evening at the Victoria theatre, under the direction of A. H. Newton, of Boston, with a gorgeous splendor of rich Oriental scenery and costumes. From a spectacular standpoint, the cantata exceeded all expectations, the picturesque beauty of dress in which the principal characters were robed, and the attractive stage pictures produced by the royal guards, with burnished helmets and glittering shields, by the troops of shepherdesses and tamborine girls, decked in gaily colored and gracefully flowing garments, being particularly captivating. To present "Queen Esther" as it was given last evening with all the detail and arduous labor involved in drilling the large chorus, not only in the music of the cantata, but also in the preparation of the pretty dances and fancy march movements, was a task calling for specially skilful direction. Mr. Newton is deserving of a great deal of credit for the smooth manner in which the various intricate details were produced.

Victoria has always been noted for its gitted amateurs, and last evening was another striking demonstration of the wealth of talent in this city. The drills by the Queen's maids of honor, the shepherdesses, the Queen's royal guards and the dance of the tamborine girls were splendidly executed and won enthusiastic applaus.

All the action of the cantata takes place in the throne room of King Ahasuerus, the canopied throne and massively, ornately depicted pillars with the other scenic features being an appropriate setting for the strong dramatic situations.

Mr. J. G. Brown, as "King Ahasuerus," presented a faithful likeness of an ancient Persian potentate, and his deep bass was equal to the low pitched notes of some of his solos. Seated on his throne, "King Ahasuerus" was an imposing personage of dignified repose, and only on one occasion did his stately bearing unbend, and that was when Mordecai seated on a nery, prancing steed, came into the royal presence. Mordecai's charger was evidently a stranger to the footlights, and the jeopardy of the new-found favorite occasioned momentary alarm. However, the steed was pacined under Mr. Kent's caressing hand strokes, and all danger was happily averted.

Mrs. G. J. Burnett appeared as one calculated to obtain "grace and favor" in the sight of Ahasuerus. Vocally, however, she did not meet the requirements of her part in a few instances, although occasional shortcomings were redeemed by the general excellence of her portrayal of the part. Mrs. H. Currie, as "Zeresh," was easily entitled to the highest honors of the evening. Not only was her singing the most pleasing, but her acting was characterized by a naturalness and absence of all artificiality so rarely encountered in such a finished degree among amateurs. Her acting in the final parting scenes with Haman was intensely dramatic without a vestige of exaggeration.

Mr. H. Kent, as "Haman," with his lengthy experience in many operatic roles, could be depended upon to give a most satisfactory interpretation of the crafty, plotting prime minister. Mr. Kent in his solos, duets and concerted numbers was particularly pleasing. Mr. H. J. Cave, as "Mordecai," used his tenor voice to advantage, his rendering of the verse, "Do I wake, or am I dreaming?" being delightful. His grave demeanor throughout was eminently in keeping with the character of Mordecai, whose soul was distressed with the threatened extinction of all his people.

Miss Scowcroft, in the dual role of the "Prophetess" and "Mordecai's sister," will no doubt be better tonight, as she improved very much in the final scenes last evening. Mr. Gideon Hicks also had a double part, taking the "High Priest" and "Hegai." Mr. Hicks sang "Honor and Arms," from "Samson," in the third act, the phrasing of this difficult solo being accomplished with marked success.

In addition to the splendid dancing of the chorus of pretty young girls, there was also some fine drills and dances executed by winsome maids not yet in their teens. These tots went through intricate movements with wonderful proficiency for their tender years.

The grand march in the last act was a moving picture of Oriental pageantry, the soldiers, shepherdesses, dancing girls, courtiers, priests, heralds, and pages combining to present a striking scene unsurpassed by anything heretofore produced in Victoria, so far as the number of participants on the stage and the beauty of costumes are concerned.

All attending this evening will be both surprised and delighted at the amount of work accomplished in presenting this cantata. It is not a production that can challenge criticism in all its features, but it contains so many excellent and entertaining characteristics that it is deserving of liberal patronage.

Summarized, it is a series of highly-colored pictures, illuminating the biblical story of beautiful Queen Esther, as told in the expressive medium of song.

PRICE OF LUMBER CAUSES A STIR.

Government of Territories to Investigate the Workings of Combine.

The announcement that the government of the Northwest Territories intends to appoint a commission to look into the matter of the lumber combine, is causing a considerable stir at Vancouver, and in fact at the Coast generally. One of the causes leading up to the agitation is that the retail lumbermen of the Territories of Manitoba are not quite satisfied with the deal they are getting from the mills. It has been learned, so the Northwest people say, that the C. P. R. made some concessions to the lumber dealers of the Coast in the way of reduced freight rates to the Territories. Instead of a slight reduction in the scale of prices, there followed a raise of more than what the lowering should have been. To understand how the whole lumber trade is worked, it is necessary to explain the connection between the retailers of Manitoba and the N. W. T. and the manufacturers of lumber. The Western Lumbermen's Association is a body composed of nearly all the lumber dealers in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. There is also an honorary membership, which comprises every lumber manufacturer from the Lake of the Woods country, also the Pacific Coast. This honorory membership is the ruling influence in the association practically as they supply the lumber and to them many of the retailers are under obligations.

There is a reciprocal relation between the honorory members and the ordinary members. The honorory members are permitted to supply the lumber to no one outside the ordinary membership of the association. The penalty for violating this rule is expulsion, and boycott by all the retail membership. The ordinary retail members are in turn bound to buy stocks only from the honorory members. The penalty for violating this rule is also expulsion, and a practical freeze-out by all the honorory membership. These rules and their frequent enforcement make, of course, a particularly effective weapon of intimidation, and as will be seen, it has an edge over those within and without the association.

A feature of the association is its comprehensive grip of the retail trade. Its power is restricted for the purpose of monopoly. The executive allows one member for each patch of territory or population, making the patch large enough to ensure a very lucrative business for the resident member, even without monopoly prices which are everywhere exacted. To protect this member in his monopoly, no other retail dealer is allowed to do business in the same territory, a simple starvation process being very effective. The rule binds each member to respect the territory of his neighbor.

The working of the system results in an almost absolute monopoly of the wholesale and retail lumber business of the West for the membership of the association. Except at other than C. P. R. points, a man cannot engage in the retail trade without the permission of the association. Likewise a big wholesale trade cannot get along without the support of the retail trade of the country. The only competition the combine has outside of one or two mills comes from the Minnesota pine lumber mills and Washington State.

Men who have attempted to set up in retail trade at country points in Manitoba or the Territories have been compelled to withdraw because the wholesalers would not supply them.

As the C. N. R. is the only independent road running into Manitoba, the Western Lumbermen's Association has a monopoly co-extensive with the C. P. R. system. Wherever the C. N. R. touches a C. P. R. point as Brandon, Portage in Prairie and Winnipeg, there are some independent dealers and they can get supplies from Minnesota and Washington State. Now that the question has been raised it is likely to be threshed out thoroughly. As it is a virtual boycott there is a move to have the legality of the combine as at present constituted, tested by means of government investigation.

VICTORIA HUMORIST.

In the current number of Judge, appears this article by Agnes Deans Cameron:

THE SCHOOL BOY OF 1903.

"Tommy, have you been vaccinated?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Have you had your vermiform appendix removed?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Do you use sterilized milk?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Is your home connected with the city sewer?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Have you shed all your milk teeth?"

"All but one."

"Have you a certificate of inoculation for the croup, chicken-pox and measles?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Is your lunch put up in Dr. Koch's patent antiseptic dinner-pail?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Have you your own sanitary slate-rag and disinfected drinking-cup?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Do you wear a camphor-bag round your throat, a collapsible life-belt, and insulated rubber heels for crossing the trolley-line?"

"All of these."

"Have you a Pasteurized certificate of birth and baptism?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"And a life-insurance non-forfeitable policy?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Then you may hang your cap on the insulated peg, set opposite your distinguishing number, climb into your seat, and proceed to learn along sanitary lines."

AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

The first business to come before the meeting of the Agricultural Society last evening was a letter from Mr. Ladner, who wrote in connection with a prize he had won at the last fair.

Mr. Boggs explained that according to the judges books, the prize in question, had been awarded to Messrs. Smith Bros. The writer will be informed accordingly.

This was followed by the reading of the auditor's report prepared by Mr. Baxter.

Considerable discussion arose before this statement was adopted. Mr. Clarke thought that he, as chairman and president of the Building and Grounds committee, should "O. K." everything that went into the grounds.

The next item was the report by the special committee appointed to act in conjunction with the city solicitor upon the British Columbia Agricultural Association's constitution, advising that at the next annual meeting of the British Columbia Agricultural Association the board be reduced to five, to include His Worship the Mayor, two members be nominated by the City Council, and two members by the Association, and that this board shall have the full control of the affairs of the association, and the appointing of all officials. In the meantime the present board of management appoint from among its members an executive committee. These amendments were adopted unanimously. Dr. Tolmie and Mr. Baker were appointed as members of the Board.

It was then decided that the Association hold its annual exhibition this year on the dates assigned to them by the Northwest Fair Association, which will be from the 6th to the 10th of October.

The World's Favorite For Over Twenty-Five Years.

For over twenty-five years the Diamond Dyes have been the chosen and popular dyes all over the civilized world. Diamond Dye users never suffer failures or disappointments in their work; they quickly and easily get the exact colors they require, and thus save time and money. The Diamond Dye Mat and Rug Patterns are popular from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The designs are artistically colored on the best Scotch Hessian and are ready for hooking. Send your full address to the Wells & Richardson Co., Limited, 200 Mountain street, Montreal, P. Q.

Vancouver Man Gives Evidence

In the Case of the King vs Estes For Attempting to Delay Mails.

Vancouver Board of Trade Officials Tell of Arbitration Efforts.

The case of the King vs. Estes for inciting the crews of the steamers Charmer and Danube to desert and thus delay His Majesty's mails, was continued in the Police Court yesterday, when several witnesses from Vancouver were examined concerning the workings of the strike. The president and secretary of the Vancouver Board of Trade gave evidence concerning the meetings of the arbitration committee and the strikers, and Robt. Brook, an officer of the strikers, also gave evidence in regard to Estes' connection with the strike, most in connection with the tying up of the tug Czar. Capt. Christensen, of the Czar, was also examined in this connection, and then an adjournment was taken until this morning.

H. T. Lockyer, manager of the Hudson's Bay Co. and president of the Vancouver Board of Trade, said the Vancouver Board of Trade had an arbitration committee, which met Estes and the strikers' committee at Vancouver, and as a result certain propositions were made to the C. P. R., and communications were made to the strikers. Meetings were held with them, Estes being present. Estes took the leading part in the interviews. Most of the negotiations between the Board of Trade committee and the strikers' committee were conducted through Estes. The meeting between the committees lasted three hours. Estes placed the strikers' position before the Board of Trade committee. He said the strike had been called not for higher wages or shorter hours, but for "the right to exist." He also spoke of the steps that had been taken to accomplish their object and of their plans. Witness gathered from remarks that it would be a fight to the finish, and everything that could be done to accomplish the strikers' end would be done. Estes read documents to show the sympathy the strikers could expect from outside sources. They expected help from the miners. One telegram Estes read was for the purpose of getting help from the miners. It struck the witness that the intention was to shut off the coal supply from the C. P. R. Estes said the strike would extend to every union man in British Columbia, in all probability, and witness thought also the Western States. One or two members of the strikers' executive spoke in justification of the strike. They were willing to concede less than Estes and would usually come to Estes' opinion. Witness thought they follow Estes' lead. Another meeting was held between the railway officials, the arbitration committee and the strikers. Estes was not present, the officials having failed to allow him to be present. Estes attended, but remained in another room, and now and then some of the strikers would retire to the adjoining room and consult him.

A warmer meeting was held the next day—a joint meeting of the various striking unions. Estes was present. The arbitration committee reported to Estes that some re-arrangement of the agreement drawn up between Mr. Buscombe, of the committee, and Estes for the strikers, was necessary. The proposed modifications were discussed. It was pointed out that the railway officials would not recognize an agreement which included a clause for the recognition of the U. B. R. E. When this was stated, some of those present stated that they were loosing their time. Witness could not swear who said so. Estes stated, after the agreement had been placed with the general superintendent, to witness that he hoped it would be accepted, as he had to use all "animal magnetism" he possessed to get some of the executive committee to concede some of the points.

At the first meeting of the arbitration committee and strikers' committee, at which Estes was present, he said they were going to lock up this whole Western country and tie up the C. P. R. Witness did not remember any particular expression Estes used. He certainly formed the opinion that the general object was to tie up the C. P. R. Witness was not cross-examined.

William Skene, secretary of the Vancouver Board of Trade and acting secretary of the arbitration committee, said he was present at the first meeting with the strikers' executive, at which Estes was present. The meeting was called for the purpose of getting the views of the strikers, with the object of placing them before the C. P. R. There were about seven of the arbitration committee and seven of the strikers' committee present. Estes made a clear statement of the scope of the U. B. R. E., which he said was first started at Winnipeg, and an association was afterwards made in the United States. Estes said what the strikers' wanted was simply "hands off." He spoke of communication with the Western Federation of Miners, which comprised all the miners from Vancouver to Mexico, and this organization would be a wheel within a wheel. He said if the railway company intended to kill them, it would be a fight to a finish. Estes said he had asked the Western Federation of Miners to call out their miners, and it would be impossible for the C. P. R. to get a pound of coal. The inference was that all the unions would be called out. The C. P. R. was to be tied up at Vancouver and all the shipping. The idea was to fight to a finish, and they would take all possible steps to coerce the company.

A document was drawn up as a result of this meeting. Estes took part in the drawing up of the agreement, which was submitted to the C. P. R. As a result another meeting meeting was held that night. The Board of Trade went into the underwriter's offices, consisting of three rooms. The C. P. R. officials refused to meet Estes, and he went to another room. When the meeting ended the committee had a meeting with the strikers and the document was modified, Estes taking part in the modification.

Witness noticed that Estes seemed to be head man among the strikers. He was their spokesman, and they seemed to look to him always. Estes argued fairly and witness noticed that the others would give in. Witness remembered Estes having said, "he had used every ounce of magnetism" in persuading some of the strikers' committee to agree to the modified document which was submitted to the C. P. R. He was not cross-examined.

Robert Brook, of Vancouver, chief clerk in the C. P. R. telegraph office and chairman of the U. B. R. E. division at Vancouver, was a striker. He met Estes first last November in Vancouver, when he paid a visit to Vancouver. There was no talk of a strike then. Estes returned to Vancouver early in the year, and on the evening of February 27, after the strike was declared, he again went to Vancouver. A number of members of the U. B. R. E. had been sent East and the U. B. R. E. thought the company were taking steps to disrupt them. Headquarters were advised. Estes was the president of the U. B. R. E. He came to Vancouver on the first occasion; he settled an impending trouble and they asked him to come again. The U. B. R. E. were the first to go out on strike. The other unions went out as a result. Estes regretted the strike and was disappointed that it had occurred. Estes was averse to strikes taking place, the same as others are. Witness did not remember Estes having regretted the strike because of the lack of organization. The strike was conducted by the executive committee. Estes attended the meetings of the executive on rare occasions. He had a great deal of his own correspondence to attend to. Witness was at all meetings of the executive. The committee got him to come into the meetings at odd times. There was much work to be done in connection with the strike. Witness worked harder at them than before he went out. He could not remember Estes being present at any meeting when the coal supply was discussed. He heard of the Czar being tied up. He was present at a meeting with Clarence Marpole relative to this. Mr. Marpole wanted to get coal for Vancouver. Estes wrote out a statement for Mr. Thomson to certify that the coal the Czar was to bring was for the city. Witness fenced for a long time regarding the object of this certificate being given. Estes wrote because he can write better than Mr. Thomson. Witness could not say, though, why Estes was brought into the matter. Witness took part in the conversation, nor did he care who got the coal.

The witness answered very evasively, and much time was lost in eliciting answers in regard to the calling out of the crew of the barge Transfer, and the agreement made with Mr. C. Marpole at the Commercial hotel to allow the coal to be brought to Vancouver. Finally Mr. McNeill, who examined this witness, pressed a question as to whether he would swear that he did not know what the agreement was for. All he knew, said witness, was that Clarence Marpole wanted to get coal for the people of Vancouver. He did not remember Estes telling Thomson that he could now fix matters up. He would not swear that such a statement was not made.

Mr. McNeill—Why was it necessary to see Estes in connection with that matter?

Witness—Well, when things are tied up, you generally go to some one.

Mr. McNeill—To the man who has the power to do it? Who was the man?

Witness—The man who tied the vessel up.

Mr. McNeill—Who is the head of that department, Mr. Thompson?

Witness—He is president of the B. C. S. S.

There was a lengthy series of questions bearing on this point, all of which witness answered most evasively. He was voluble and discussed the questions aside from the point; but fenced whenever the question became direct. He did not hear Thomson say he would not let the Transfer go without Estes' order. Estes had not control. He could not say why Thomson went to Estes.

The strikers' committee with representatives of all the striking unions conducted the strike. Estes did not advise them how to conduct the strike.

Finally the witness said: "You keep bringing in Estes' name. He's not running this show."

Witness continued that Estes was not consulted as to calling out the other unions. Their action was governed by the general laws of unionism. Estes' opinion was asked at times. They would follow his advice, if good, but not if they thought otherwise. Witness would not be governed by any man's opinion. He was not cross-examined.

An adjournment was then taken until 2:30 p.m.

Capt. Christensen, of the tug Czar, was next called. He said the barge Transfer, running from Vancouver to Ladysmith, had been tied up. He had interviewed Thomson about this, but could not secure the release. He had seen Thomson again, but he did not seem able to do anything until he saw Estes. They went to Estes at the Commercial hotel, discussed the matter. Estes said he would let the boat go, if she would pack no freight or coal for the C. P.R., and with the sanction of others, an arrangement was made, and Estes asked Thomson to see that the captain could have men for the vessel. Thomson was asked to give a note that everything was satisfactory, which he gave. The agreement, as a result of which the steamer was released, was drawn up by Estes. It didn't seem as if Thomson had authority to do so. The conversation was between C. Marpole and Estes. Thomson said nothing. Witness had called on Thomson, who could not accomplish anything, and they had both gone to Estes. Thomson was unable to give any satisfaction until he saw Estes. Brook, the former witness, was present at the meeting with Estes at the Commercial hotel. The conditions under which the Czar was allowed to go was that she was to carry no freight in or out of Vancouver or carry coal for the C. P. R. As a result of this agreement, the Czar was allowed to leave.

An adjournment was taken until this morning at 10:30, Mr. Bodwell saying that he had several other witnesses supposed, but he did not know whether it would be necessary to call them until the mail arrived from Vancouver.

LOGGERS AND MILL MEN.

Remarks Attributed One of the Latter at Vancouver Meeting Incorrect.

Vancouver, March 24.—Referring to the article which appeared in the Ledger of the 21st inst., setting forth in a measure the alleged views of the mill men regarding the proposed amendments of the timber law, and the recent meeting of the committees representing the loggers and mill men, Mr. W. Shannon says: The remarks attributed to a mill man in this connection are misleading and untrue. In the first place the committee representing the loggers did not represent the broker and speculation element, as stated, but were chosen by the loggers to look after their interests, because the members were resident in town, and were in touch with the lumber industry, while every member was directly or indirectly in the logging business. One member is a logger employing from 60 to 80 men, and has four camps working in the woods. The speculation complained of by the mill men there is no evidence of as yet. The claims taken up under the special licenses are being worked if they are any good. The mill men first instituted the present plan. In the old days the mill men used to pay a salary to the cruisers to locate timber. This was found too expensive, and not satisfactory. They then gave them so much acre for locating timber to suit them. In former days the pay was 50 cents an acre. Now it is as high as $1 and $2 an acre. This is practically the plan still adopted and the cruisers are more in demand than ever they were because the timber is harder to find. The plan adopted is for the cruiser to protect himself in staking the property so that if one finds it down another mill takes it up. Thus the cruiser is paid for his knowledge and labor and nothing more. Timber cruisers are a class of men no matter what changes in the timber laws cannot be done without.

"To those who are acquainted with the timber situation it is evident that the mill men are not afraid of speculation, but it is believed that what they want is to control the whole of the timber and compel the logger to work for them on the ground. Another reason why the mill men want to lock up the timber of the country is to make their holdings more valuable. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been loaned on these acquired leaseholds by money-lenders, and many of them are not represented by mills, there has never been a blank sawn on them, and this timber is in the market now, and naturally the money loaners, combined with the mills want to shut up government timber until they can sell their own. I know one office has 150,000 acres for sale.

"In conclusion, all that the loggers are contending for is some measure that is fair and just to the whole country, a measure that will safeguard the public interest. We are working to break up a monopoly that is against the interests of the general public.

"It is estimated that the revenue from special licenses for the ensuing year will be over $200,000. If the government let this timber, will the mill men be willing to submit to a tax to this extent that the public interests might not suffer by loss of revenue?"

AMERICAN-CUBAN TREATY.

U. S. Explanation Given to British State Department.

London, March 25.—Under Foreign Secretary Cranborne, replying to a question in the House of Commons today, said an answer had been received from the United States State Department to the British representative with respect to the American-Cuban reciprocity treaty to the effect that the conclusion of the treaty was based on the prerogative of independent nations to enter into such a compact for their mutual benefit.

VENEZUELAN CLAIMS.

London, March 25.—With the exception of one or two minor details, England and Germany have now agreed on the terms of the protocol submitting the claims of the allies for separate treatment in the settlement with Venezuela to The Hague. Italy yesterday instructed her ambassador at Washington to agree to the Anglo-German draft. It is expected that the finished protocol will be submitted to Mr. Bowen this week.

JOS. SAMM DEAD.

Toronto, March 24.—Jos. Samm, who was burned by the falling of a swinging lamp, died in the hospital at 1 o'clock this (Wednesday) morning.

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6 Cabbage—Early Winningstadt.
7 Cabbage—Large Late Drumhead.
8 Cabbage—Red Dutch.
9 Carrot—Early Scarlet Horn.
10 Carrot—Scarlet Intermediate.
11 Cauliflower—Early Paris.
12 Celery—White Solid.
13 Corn—Early White Cory.
14 Corn—Mammoth Sweet.
15 Cucumber—Green Pickling.
16 Cucumber—Table Variety.
17 Herbs—Sage.
18 Herbs—Summer Savory.
19 Herbs—Sweet Marjoram.
20 Lettuce—Summer Cabbage.
21 Lettuce—Early Hanson.
22 Melon—Musk, Early Prolific.
23 Melon—Water, Early Sweet.
24 Melon—Citron "Preserving."
25 Onion—Large Red Weiton Field.
26 Onion—Yellow Danvers.
27 Onion—Small Silverskin.
28 Parsley—Extra Curled.
29 Parsnip—Hollow Crown.
30 Peas—Earliest of All.
31 Peas—American Wonder.
32 Pepper—Large Red.
33 Pumpkin—Large Pie.
34 Radish—Early Turnip, Mixed.
35 Radish—Olive Shaped, Mixed.
36 Radish—Long Scarlet.
37 Squash—Hubbard.
38 Squash—Vegetable Marrow.
39 Tomato—Extra Early Red.
40 Tomato—Large Smooth Red.
41 Turnip—Yellow Fleshed.

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42 Alyssum—Sweet.
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47 Morning Glory—Climbing.
48 Nasturtium—Tall Mixed.
49 Nasturtium—Dwarf Mixed.
50 Pansy—Very Fine Mixed.
51 Petunia—Fine Mixed.
52 Phlox—Fine Mixed.
53 Pinks—Beautiful Mixed.
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56 Stocks—German, Mixed.
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