

banks, a clause excluding from taxation personal property from which revenue was not derived.

Mr. Macdonald objected to banks being the only institutions which were exempted from taxation upon personal property. The banks were better able to bear the burden of taxation than many other institutions, and many individuals, a specialty was made of banks in this particular, while other classes were taxed both on personal property and income. This bore out the contention, he said, of the opposition that this bill was ill considered before introduced.

The motion of the Finance Minister carried.

The committee rose at 6 o'clock and reported progress, after which the House adjourned until tomorrow at 2 o'clock.

Victoria, Dec. 9th.

In the legislature to-day the greater part of the time was taken up with the consideration of the remaining clauses of the new Assessment Act in committee. This bill was finally got in shape to be reported, when the amendments will be submitted in due form to the members for consideration.

Prayers were read by the Rev. W. L. Clay.

The petition from the B. C. Copper Co. and others, asking amendments to the "Steam Boiler Inspection Act," was received.

Bills Introduced.

The following bills were introduced, read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow:

"An Act to amend the Mutual Fire Insurance Companies Act, 1902." By Hon. F. J. Fulton, a bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Royal Inland Hospital Act, 1896.'"

By J. H. Hawthornthwaite, a bill intituled "An Act to further amend the 'Steam Boilers Inspection Act, 1901.'"

By Premier McBride, a bill intituled "An Act to amend the Midway & Vernon Railway Act, 1902." This bill provides for the commencement of the work within 15 months after the granting of a subsidy by the Dominion parliament and the completion within three years. Kelowna is also to be on the main line or a branch line.

Third Reading.

The act to amend the Coal Mines Act passed its third reading. This provides for the increase in the prospector's license to \$100.

Assessment Act.

The House then went into committee on the new Assessment Act, with C. W. D. Clifford in the chair.

J. N. Evans pressed for the amendment of the act so that the assessor should visit the property each year in order to ascertain the value. It was urged that this was the only satisfactory way of getting at the correct value.

The amendment was lost.

To the provision that the notice of the sale of lands for taxes should not be inserted in a weekly paper which had a daily edition, H. Tanner objected. He contended that in the case of rural sections where the mail was received only two or three times a week that the semi-weekly or weekly editions only were read. He wanted it left to the discretion of the assessor as to what edition it should be inserted in.

His amendment striking out these words carried.

On the section covering costs of advertising, John Houston wanted the section left as in the old one. It was specified in the old act that \$1 should be paid for advertising and \$1 for other costs. The finance department did not seem to agree with this, and had issued instructions to the assessors to pay the advertising done for 75 cents. It was reasonable to suppose that the newspapers in advertising should get a decent rate. The finance department when it was left to its discretion would not pay a decent rate.

The Minister of Finance wanted it left open to the department to arrange. The amount to be charged to the ratepayers would be the same.

H. G. Walls thought the new amendment better than the old one, and preferred to have it left to the discretion of the finance department.

Mr. Houston wanted to know if the Minister of Finance or the member for Columbia knew more about running a paper than he did. He thought they did not. What he was aiming at was to prevent undertrappers in the finance department coming in and arranging to lower fees to newspapers at the expense of the publication of the notice and paying 50 cents to one and \$1 to another.

The Finance Minister said that he did not claim to know as much about running a paper as the member for Columbia. But he had had it. He did run a paper "it would not be as scurrilous as one as the member for Nelson ran."

Mr. Houston wanted an explanation of what the statement of the Finance Minister as to his publishing a scurrilous paper meant, and what bearing it had on the subject. This seemed to be the whole stock in trade of the government.

The clause stood.

H. Tanner moved to change the rate of interest to be charged against the person whose land having been sold for taxes should wish to redeem it. He moved that the rate should be 6 per cent, rather than 12 per cent. This would encourage speculators to go in and purchase the land for the purpose of getting an advanced rate of interest.

The Finance Minister pointed out that 6 per cent, only was charged the delinquent taxpayer up to the time of the sale. The 12 per cent. rate was charged in order to provide for additional costs.

Mr. Tanner thought that the rate could be 6 per cent, and additional costs charged if necessary.

A vote being taken, the rate remained at 12 per cent.

The leader of the opposition took exception to the following section:

"In order to promote and facilitate the collection and recovery of taxes, and to give full and effect to the meaning and intent of this act, or any amendment thereof, and of the schedules of forms to this act, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may, from time to time make and discharge such rules and regulations as may, in his opinion, be necessary

or desirable for carrying out the spirit, intent and meaning of this act in relation to matters for which no express provision has been made, or for any respect of which only partial or imperfect provision has been made; or when the time limited for any act or step is insufficient, or where, by accident or otherwise, such act or step has not been taken, or it shall appear to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council that an alteration in dates is necessary or desirable, or where any proceeding under this act, or intended so to be, has been taken and failed, or if, in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, any ambiguity or difficulty shall arise in the construction of or in applying this Act, or if any change of practice, procedure or method may be deemed desirable, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may, by rules or regulations, from time to time make and promulgate such enlargement, extension, or alteration in times or dates, or adopt such measures, such as may be necessary or desirable, as he may see fit; and any such rules or regulations shall be published in at least one issue of the British Columbia Gazette, and shall have the force of law."

J. A. Macdonald thought that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council was really given powers by this section which properly belonged to the legislature. It was also interestingly and really given the power of a court. He thought it rather too great power to give.

The Finance Minister pointed out where a change in date had been found essential, and that clause would give nothing but proper powers.

Mr. Macdonald showed that the act specified dates for the paying of taxes, etc., and then along came a clause like this, putting it into the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to nullify these preceding sections. It seemed out of keeping to enact legislation and then by the addition of an omnibus clause to provide for the overruling of these.

The Attorney-General agreed that the section did look rather inconsistent at first sight, but he contended that there was no intention to override the other sections. It was for the purpose of rectifying mistakes which might have been made. He was willing to accept any suggestion to overcome the difficulty.

Mr. Macdonald said he seriously objected to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council being given the interpretation of the law. The construction which might be put on it in that way might be against the interests of the people.

The words "or adopt such measures" from ambiguity or difficulty, near the end of the section were struck out.

In connection with the exemption of benevolent societies the Attorney-General proposed a clause to suit the point raised by Mr. Drury. He proposed to exempt the ordinary income raised by assessment benevolent societies from among its members.

Mr. Drury wanted to know if the income from debentures, etc., would be exempt.

The Attorney-General would not answer this, but said that it was proposed to exempt the assessments of the societies.

Mr. Drury quoted from a judgment given in Ontario as to exempting the interest from debentures. This was a broader question, Mr. Drury held, and would likely lead to difficulties. He did not believe in taxing the interest from debentures. It would injuriously affect the sale of debentures of municipalities. Quoting from the opinion of the judge in the Ontario court also referred to, he showed that he also held that opinion.

Before the committee rose the leader of the opposition took occasion to demand a promise from the government that the question of the taxation of interest from debentures should be dealt with by the government so as to more fairly adjust the taxation.

The Attorney-General, in the absence of the Premier, said he would promise that a comprehensive scheme would be submitted by which the members of the House would have the fullest opportunity of dealing with the subject.

Mr. Macdonald said that he had a notice of motion respecting the subject, with which he was in some doubt as to what to do under the circumstances.

The Attorney-General said that he would assure the leader of the opposition that he would bring down his government scheme was brought down, having the fullest opportunity to take action on his notice.

The committee rose, awaiting the printing of the bill as amended.

Evidence Act.

The House then went into committee on the bill to amend the Evidence Act, with Chas. Munro in the chair.

The Attorney-General proposed an additional amendment as follows:

"Whenever it becomes necessary to prove the nationality or race of any person in any action, cause, proceeding or matter in any court, or in or upon any investigation, trial, hearing, proceeding or matter before a stipendiary magistrate, police magistrate, or one or more justices of the peace, the judge, juror, stipendiary magistrate, police magistrate or justice of the peace, may infer as a fact the nationality or race of the person in question from the appearance of such person."

This, the Attorney-General pointed out, was done for the purpose of ascertaining to what particular race a man belonged. It was necessary in order to enforce certain acts that this should be made possible.

J. A. Macdonald did not want anything done to make it difficult for those of foreign blood to get the full benefit of the law. It might work against a man of another race who had become naturalized.

Stuart Henderson pointed out that the Attorney-General wished this in order to carry out certain laws it should be introduced as an amendment in connection with the evidence act and not in connection with the evidence act.

The Attorney-General said that introduced in connection with the Coal Mines Act or similar acts it would result in the disallowance of these measures.

Mr. Macdonald pointed out that the legislature tended to reverse the established rules of evidence. That was to put it upon the prosecutor to establish the contention. This proposition was reversing this.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite pointed out the difficulty of proving the race of a Chinaman to enforce the law against



The satisfaction of having the wishing done early in the day, and well done, belongs to every user of Sunlight Soap.

their employment in the mines. The law became useless without this clause. The leader of the opposition held that the member for Nanaimo had not shown that prosecutions had fallen to the ground in the cases he referred to. If the legislature refused to be drawn away by every demand for freak legislation which came to it, the laws would be much better than they were now.

A division on the amendment to the act was taken resulting in its carrying. The bill was reported.

Coal Tax Act.

The House went into committee on the amendment to the Coal Tax Act with C. W. D. Clifford in the chair. The bill was reported.

Pharmacy Act.

G. Fraser, in rising to move the second reading of the amendment to the Pharmacy Act, was greeted with applause, this being the first occasion upon which he has spoken in the House. It was intended, he said, to prevent those who might not be qualified to carry on the business of dispensing drugs in any part of the province.

Dr. King, in supporting it, was likewise greeted with applause upon his maiden effort. He supported the bill.

John Oliver, while not opposing the act, wished care to be taken in specifying the articles which should be assigned for sale by druggists alone. He instanced the case of Paris green. This was used by farmers, and he wanted the necessary protection given them with respect to its purchase.

The bill passed its second reading.

The House then adjourned to meet again to-morrow.

A ROUGH TRIP.

The Empress of India Encountered a Series of Westerly Gales.

Starting with boisterous weather and ending in a dense fog, which prevented the steamer coming into port, the voyage of the R. M. S. Empress of India, from China and Japan, completed on Wednesday, was anything but pleasant for the passengers aboard.

After leaving Yokohama the ship ran into a series of westerly gales and seas which swept her decks. Then when nearing this coast, dark, hazy weather was encountered. The ship came into quarantine the night before last, and left at eight yesterday morning, continuing her voyage a few miles when she dropped anchor. There she remained until the Queen City went out to her in the afternoon at a time when the fog was at its height. It required no small amount of searching to locate the steamer, and when she did loom up in sight it was within the length of a city block or so. The ship brought a total of 198 passengers, of whom 34 were destined for Victoria.

In the saloon there arrived: Paul Barbilian, Mrs. B. Bavanda, Miss Zaida Benuseuf, E. J. E. Bracken and servant, J. H. Cockesdale, A. H. Darré, H. C. Du Val, Mrs. H. C. Du Val, Miss J. Du Val, Mrs. A. C. Foster, Miss J. Gallup, G. C. Graves, Geo. R. Gregg, Mrs. G. R. Gregg, J. C. Grew, Miss A. Griggs, Capt. T. H. M. Jerram, R. N., and servant, S. Kaba, P. Koyu, K. C. Ochi, Mrs. M. Kushimoto and child, Miss Liao May, Miss Liao Hank, Master Liao Yu, B. F. Lum, Mrs. B. F. Lum, C. H. Mackinnon, A. N. de C. Morris, D. Otani, Mrs. D. Otani, J. Otani, Miss Otani, G. B. Palmes, R. N., Cecil P. Talbot, R. N., G. Smith, Bertram Vignil, R. N., and H. P. Wilson, R. N.

TWO HUNDRED SLAIN.

Russian Troops Surrounded Body of Chinese Robbers Who Suffered Heavy Losses.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 8.—The Russian troops have defeated a band of Chun Chuses (Chinese robbers) on the Liao river, Manchuria, killing 200 of them and wounding as many more.

After the conflict reported on November 28th between the force of Russian soldiers and a body of Chun Chuses at Tacheloa, in which five Russians were killed and nine were severely wounded, the Russians pursued the fleeing tribesmen and finally hemmed them in at the Liao river. The great loss of the robbers is attributed to a Port Arthur dispatch to a "panic among the Chun Chuses."

Itching of the Feet.

INSTANTLY RELIEVED BY "FOOT ELM."

Have you ever had your feet itch and itched till you wished you could get your feet off and tear them to pieces? This is one of the forms of irritation of the feet that Foot Elm instantly allays and cures.

We might mention some other things it does. It rests tired feet, eases aching feet, prevents chafing and blistering of the feet, dispels disagreeable, sweaty odors, cures corns, bunions and ingrowing toenails and "breaks in" new shoes.

Price 25 cents a box of 18 powders distributed by mail, V. Stout & J. W. Bowmanville, Ont.

STOP THE PAIN-BUT DESTROY THE STOMACH.—This is sadly too often the case. So many numerous nostrums purporting to cure, in the end do the patient immensely more harm than good. Dr. Von Stan's Peppinole Tablets are a purely vegetable peptic preparation, as harmless as milk. One after eating prevents any disorder of the digestive organs. 60 in. box, 35 cents. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—40.



—An organ recital will be given in St. Andrew's Presbyterian church on Tuesday evening next.

—The total clearings at the Victoria clearing house for the week ending 30 December were \$630,755.

—It has been decided to postpone all meetings of the Central W. C. T. U. until after the holiday season.

—The sum of \$30.80 is gratefully acknowledged from A. G. H. Barnard for the funds of the Home Nursing Society.

—Captain Simon McKenzie, who is in the city, denies that his tug the Escort struck the rocks near Crofton last week.

—Large congregations, good sermons and liberal offerings, were the order at Sannich mission on Sunday when Rev. J. P. Westman, of Victoria, conducted services at Strawberry Vale, South Saanich and Sidway.

—Mr. Geo. E. Rodman, a lawyer at Ketchikan, Alaska, was married on November 28th, at that place, to Miss Petra Cassa Jorgensen, of Victoria. The ceremony was performed by Judge Stackpole, in the presence of the bride's mother and a few intimate friends.

—Owing to the accident to the R.M.S. Mona, the sailing dates of the Canadian-Australian line from this port have been altered as follows: Miowera will sail on December 31st; Mona will sail on January 8th. The Miowera is due on the 23rd inst.

—R. M. S. Empress of India arrived at quarantine on Tuesday and was to come to the ocean dock on Wednesday, but the weather was too foggy, so she lay to some distance away. The Queen City, acting as tender, went out to the liner Wednesday afternoon.

—A. S. Angell, of the B. C. Photo-Engraving Co., has published a very attractive calendar for 1904. It is in three parts, neatly ribboned together, and each is a work of art. The cover contains a picture of the parliament buildings, while artistically grouped views of Victoria's beauty spots adorn the other two pages.

—The funeral of the late Geoffrey Kennerly took place on Wednesday from the parlors of W. J. Hanna. A large number attended and beautiful floral emblems were presented. Rev. J. P. Westman officiated, and the following acted as pallbearers: R. T. Clanton, T. H. M. Jerram, R. N., G. B. Palmes, R. N., J. T. Little, secretary of the Y. M. C. A., was appointed a member of the association.

—A. F. Gwin, formerly engaged in mining on the Island, and now operating at Princeton, feels confident that the Similkameen country will equal or exceed the Boundary country as an ore producer, so soon as railway communication gives proper access to that part of the province. Mr. Gwin as proof of his statement points out that not only are there vast bodies of ore that can be mined as easily in the Boundary, but the coal fields in the Similkameen make the question of fuel even simpler than in the other district. All that is needed is the railway, and that must come before long.

—A move is on foot to form an amateur orchestra in the city, and the first meeting took place Monday at Dr. Cobbett's office, the following committees and officers being appointed: Executive committee, T. R. Smith (chairman), Dr. Nash, H. Kent, G. Hicks, G. Jay, W. C. Sampson, J. Longfield, Dr. Dawie, Dr. Cobbett and E. N. Russell; musical committee, F. Watkins, T. R. Smith, Dr. Nash, Dr. Cobbett and J. Longfield; conductor, F. Watkins; librarian, H. Kent; secretary, Dr. Cobbett; treasurer, T. R. Smith.

—The following donations have been received at the Aged Woman's Home during November, and are gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. McTavish, sr., Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. McTavish, cash; A. Friend, pens; Mrs. C. Spencer, apples; King's Daughters, cake; Mrs. Frank Kermode, reading matter; Mrs. Becker, sack of potatoes; Sons and daughters of George G. Cooke and bread; Mrs. Vior, two suits of underclothing; Baptist Missionary Society, cake and sandwiches; Mrs. Van Tassel, pens; Mrs. A. H. Bostock, Mrs. A. S. Margison, Mrs. C. M. Cox and Mrs. George Berringer, binding matter; Mrs. J. D. Helmeck, brown bread; Mrs. H. Clay, sandwiches; Mrs. S. A. Spenser, cake; I. C. C. Society, china tea set and cake; Times and Colonist, daily papers.

—The annual match of the Vancouver Island Golfing Association was held December 6th on the farm of A. G. Wright, South Saanich. The following were the winners: Professionals, A. A. Monroe, first prize and T. W. Paterson, 2nd; Amateurs, H. Goyett, first, T. Munro, second, and J. Black, third. A banquet and annual meeting were held at the Prairie hotel in the evening. The election of officers resulted as follows: P. Imrie, president; P. Glenzie, vice-president; H. F. Haldon, secretary; Wm. Simpson, treasurer; A. Renard, E. Marcotte, H. Goyett, A. McDonald, A. Munro and W. Duval, directors; H. Tanner, M. P. P., who was present, gave a very interesting address. Wm. Thomson and Mr. Imrie also made a few remarks.

—Mrs. Moclair, mother of Mrs. L. B. Hamlin, Carberry Gardens, was one hundred years old yesterday, having been born in Newport, County Mayo, Ireland, on December 8th, 1803. The aged lady, though at present confined to bed by a slight illness, is not only in possession of all her faculties, but can still read without spectacles. On her birthday many of her friends paid visits of congratulation, one of the presents being the sum of \$100, one dollar for each year of Mrs. Moclair's life.

—The oratorio "Elijah" will be presented about the middle of April, under the direction of Herbert Taylor and Gideon Hicks. Mr. Taylor will sing the part of Elijah, and prepare the soloists for their respective parts, while Mr. Hicks will take charge of the chorus and orchestra. The oratorio requires ten principals and a large orchestra and chorus. An effort will be made to assemble a chorus of two hundred voices and an orchestra of twenty-five. The production will be given in St. Andrew's Presbyterian church.

—The Hudson's Bay Company shipped from here on November 2nd a car of sealskins consigned to themselves, London, Eng., via the Great Northern railway. This car left Seattle on November 14th at 7 a.m., and was forwarded to New York on the steamer Minneapolis, sailing November 21st. Cable advices have now been received by the Great Northern railway here advising that the car arrived in London on December 1st in plenty of time for the December fur sales.

—A large number of sorrowing friends attended the funeral of the late Mrs. Emma Chalmers, which took place from the residence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howell, Cadboro Bay road, on Monday afternoon. The services were conducted by Rev. R. B. Blyth, assisted by Rev. J. McCoy and Rev. Dr. Reid. The marked esteem in which the deceased lady was held by her many acquaintances was evidenced by the wealth of floral tributes presented. The pallbearers were: Messrs. D. K. Sprague, W. Scowcroft, W. Graham and J. Oliver.

—Tuesday night's concert at the St. Columba Presbyterian church was an unqualified success. There was a large attendance, and a programme of exceptional interest was given. Among those who contributed were: Mrs. J. Gregson, Miss Queenie McCoy, Miss A. D. Cameron, Miss Lawson, Miss Baker and Messrs. A. Longfield, Jesse Longfield, W. Kinnaird and J. G. Brown. The readings by Miss Cameron were especially appreciated, and the vocal selections by Miss McCoy were much enjoyed. Messrs. Brown and Kinnaird were in good voice.

—A meeting of the provincial committee of the Canadian Medical Association, Dr. Lefevre and Dr. McGuigan, of Vancouver, and Dr. Gibbs, of Victoria, will shortly be called by Dr. Tunstall, of Vancouver, the president, to prepare arrangements for the next convention. It is likely this committee will be increased. Dr. Tunstall has just returned from the East, where he interviewed the railway companies as to rates for members attending the convention, and also secured a number of pointers from medical men who had charge of previous conventions.

—At a meeting of Victoria College, Royal Templars of Temperance, held on Tuesday, the following officers were elected: Past councillor, Mrs. Gleason; select councillor, Rev. W. H. Gibson; vice-councillor, Mrs. Field; chaplain, J. Isler; herald, Miss N. Salt; guard, W. M. Ritchie; recording secretary, W. A. Gleason; secretary-treasurer, J. H. Yea; treasurer, Royal Degree, Mrs. T. Lasscombe; trustee, J. Isler; delegates to grand council meeting at Chilliwack, February 1st next, Rev. R. B. Blyth, Grand Councillor Rev. W. H. Gibson; Select Councillor W. M. Ritchie and W. A. Gleason.

—An important meeting of the Knights of Maccabees was held at the K. of P. hall on Tuesday, when there was a large attendance. The first business was the initiation of two new members. The election of officers resulted as follows: Past commander, R. Margison; commander, W. F. Crookford; lieutenant commander, John Bloomquist; record keeper, James Bell; financial keeper, R. F. John; chaplain, Thos. Roberts; sergeant, Geo. Murray; master-at-arms, Thos. McLaughlin; first master of the guards, Hy. Webber; second master of guards, A. H. Miner; sentinel, Emil Kunz; picket, Wm. Minty; physician, Dr. F. W. Hall. A committee was then appointed to arrange for a social to be held at the installation of officers, which takes place in January.

—Crossing from Dungeens to Victoria on Tuesday night the steamer Oscar struck the rocks of Macaulay Point, and from about 11 o'clock until after midnight remained fast ashore. The steamer was light at the time, and was feeling her way slowly through a dense fog, otherwise the vessel might not have escaped so fortunately as she did. As she was struck during a rising tide, and when the water was highest she floated clear of the rocks and continued her voyage to Victoria. This afternoon

she will be hauled out on Tarpel's ways for an examination of her hull. There is a leak now in the hull, but it is slight, and it is not thought the damage is extensive.

—Henry Jenkins was sentenced in the police court Thursday morning to one month imprisonment, for cruelty to dogs. The accused has been raising and selling dogs for a living, and his premises on Fort street, adjoining the Philharmonic hall, were in a filthy condition. The prosecution was undertaken by the S. P. C. A.

—E. J. Coyle, assistant general passenger agent of the C. P. R. western lines, has informed the Tourist Association that excursions will be run from Manitoba and the Territories to Vancouver and Victoria, tickets being on sale December 15th, 16th and 17th. January 12th, 13th and 14th. For this excursion a rate of single fare for the round trip will be made, tickets good for three months from the date of issue, and for continuous passage both ways.

—On Friday an "At Home" will be held by the Ladies' Aid Society of the First Presbyterian church, at the residence of Mrs. (Dr.) Campbell. There will be a sale-of-work, and refreshments. In the afternoon tea will be served, and in the evening a programme of music will be dispensed. All members are requested to attend.

—R. M. S. Miowera, due here from Australia on the 25th, has only 16 cabin and 25 steerage passengers. Her cargo also is small, there being but 50 tons for Victoria and 76 tons for overland points. The cargo of the ship was made up of 2,902 tons measurement, 1,055 tons weight, or 37,032 packages, all told. The cargo included 1,844 cases of silk goods, 136 cases of raw silk, 65 rolls of matting, 23 cases of cigars, 11 cases of peppermint crystals, 2 cases of gold thread and 1 case of silverware.

—The license commissioners held their regular quarterly meeting in the police court room Wednesday afternoon, when the following applications for license transfers were granted: International hotel, Johnson street, from Messrs. Harper & Trew, to George B. Howard; Colonial Metropole, from Caroline Fernando to Samuel J. Waldron; Oriental hotel to Margaret McKowen; H. T. Cole, permission to move from Pritchard house to 64 Yates street; C. R. Johnson and Edward Harris, Horseshoe saloon, to W. A. Millington and F. L. Wolfenden.

—The death occurred at Vancouver on Wednesday of Herbert H. Davies. Deceased was a native of Newport, Wales, and 44 years of age. He arrived in Vancouver about 12 years ago, taking a position as bookkeeper and accountant in Crowder & Penzer's office, and was subsequently with the Breckman & Ker Milling Co. At the time of his death he was in the employ of Messrs. Clark, Cross & Hellywell, and spent the past five weeks in Victoria in the interests of that firm. Mr. Davies leaves a widow and two children.

—Wednesday a farewell concert was given by the minstrel troupe of 83 company, R. G. A., last evening, at the Five's court, Work Point Barracks. There was a large attendance, and the entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The programme was carried through most successfully, the performing being of exceptional merit. As usual the first part consisted in songs, jokes, etc., all of which were much appreciated. The "Bigophone Band" was enthusiastically encored. Messrs. Wells and Cooke were the favorites. Among those present were the officers of the Garrison and many of their friends.

—The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Christ Church cathedral held a sale-of-work in the schoolroom Wednesday, which was in every way a success. Stalls were held charge of Mrs. Wollaston, Mrs. Pearce, Miss Baynes Reed and Miss B. Cook; dolls, in charge of Mrs. Dallain and Miss Lagrin; candies, in charge of Mrs. Wollaston and Miss Mack, and Miss Netta; and a large number of other articles were carried at the close. Before dispersing goods not sold were auctioned.

—At a special meeting of the Presbytery of Victoria Wednesday at the First Presbyterian church, the name of the "First Presbyterian Chinese Congregation" was changed to the "Presbyterian Chinese Mission, Victoria." The sum of \$200 was asked by Lady Smith towards the building of a new church on Cook street, and is separated from the church edifice which it adjoins by a four-foot passage. The new church is 40x22 feet. There will be a kitchen on the east side of the building, and a combined porch and cloak room on the west side. The main building will be subdivided into two other rooms, a class-room, vestry and library. These rooms for the present will be divided by a temporary partition, in order that the main building may be used for the services when required. The entrance from vestry to present church will be by means of two doors, one leading from the school, the other entry in the north wall of the church.

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