demand, and a resort to temporary certificates was rendered necessary. Circumstances were changed now, and the time had arrived when the practice of issuing temporary should, in justice to our regularly certificated teachers, and could, without injury to the educational interests, be very materially circumscribed. The present measure proposed that a temporary certificate should only issue in the event of the trustees desiring the services of the applicant satisfying the Department of their inability to secure the services of a regularly certificated teacher, or in the event of a regularly certificated teacher being prevented by sickness from coming up for examination. It might not be wise, or even just, to adopt a hard and fast rule absolutely abolishing the temporary certificate system; but he felt that the time had arrived when it would be both safe and proper to limit the practice as proposed in the present bill. Now that there were more than enough of regularly certificated teachers in the province to supply the demand, it would be manifestly unjust to continue to permit persons who had never passed an examination under the statute to step in and, as it were, take the bite out of the mouth of our own teachers. As a profession it was entitled to some protection, and it was believed the time had come when the mode of protection contemplated by the bill could be extended to them without injury to the interests of education. He would not longer occupy the time of the House, but simply move the second reading of the bill.

Mr. Semlin suggested the desirability of providing some mode of examination for teachers in the inland country.

The Hon. Mr. Robson said his hon. friend (Mr. Martin) had pressed this matter very strongly upon the government last year; but on enquiry it was found that the number of teachers likely to avail themselves of such an arrangement was too small to justify it. This year the hon. member (Mr. Martin) had renewed his solicitations, and it was quite possible that arrangements might be made for holding a teachers' examination at Kamloops.

Mr. Orr asked if it was the intention of the Hon. Provincial Secretary to amend his bill by striking out the clause relating to the system of daily marking, which he considered unnecessary labor for the teachers and productive of no good results.

Hon. Mr. Robson said it was not his intention to introduce a clause doing away with "daily marking." That was a matter of detail in the internal working of the schools which he left to the Superintendent of Education. Since the matter had become the subject of discussion in the public press he had consulted with the superintendent and inspector, and was thoroughly convinced of its utility—that it consituted the only true basis for monthly reports as to the standing of pupils. It might be that his colleague (Mr. Orr) was better authority on that subject—knew more about it than the superintendent and inspector both put together (laughter); but he preferred to be guided by their judgment. It was not altogether unnatural that teachers, who were merely human, should desire to get rid of the work involved in daily marking; but when it was borne in mind that our teachers were highly paid, and that the additional work did not amount to one day's work in the month, he did not think there was any good ground for complaint on their part. He was aware some of the teachers had pronounced against the "daily marking" system; but he feared some of them had allowed themselves to be misled by a "crank," who had devoted himself to working up an agitation, but who was hardly entitled to be considered an authority upon educational matters.

Mr. Orr said that the teachers of the province had condemned the daily marking system.

Mr. Mason dwelt upon the necessity of providing some place in the inland district, Kamloops had been mentioned, where candidates for teachers' certificates could be examined, without incurring the expense of coming to Victoria.

Mr. Semlin advised that a special committee be appointed to hear what the superintendent of education and the inspector had to say upon the question of daily marking. He had always heard that the superintendent condemned it.

Mr. Beaven did not see any necessity for the bill proposed. He thought the existing act all that was necessary.

The bill was read a second time.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BILL, NO. 7.

Mr. Higgins moved the second reading of Public School Bill, No. 7.

The hon. mover contended that one female at least should be allowed the privilege of sitting on the School Board, with whom the lady teachers could consult on matters of delicacy which are continually coming up in school work. Women had the right to vote at school elections and should have the right to act as school trustees. None take greater interest in the schools than women, and they were in every part of the world to-day, showing themselves capable, energetic and useful in offices similar to those which it was proposed to throw open to them. At the recent election for aldermen in the city of London, Lady Sandhurst was elected as an alder*man*. At Portland, Oregon, a woman was Superintendent of public schools, and numerous similar instances were cited. The reasonable objection of the hon. member for Lillooet had been met by making the clause apply only to cities. [Mr. Allen—Hear, hear.] The second clause proposed to amend the Act so that holders of first-class certificates would not require to renew them yearly.

Bill read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Robson moved, seconded by Mr. Anderson, that both bills be referred to the same committee with instructions to the committee that they have power to amalgamate them.

The House then went into committee with Mr. Nason in the chair.

At 4:30 the committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again on Monday.

Report received and leave granted.

RETURNS.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented further papers on the rules of the Supreme Court.

CHARITABLE ASSOCIATIONS ACT.

Hon. Mr. Robson moved the second reading of the Charitable Associations Bill.

The object of the bill, the hon. mover said, was to enable such societies as Temperance Lodges, Young Men's Christian Associations, etc., to be incorporated, and also to allow them to hold 10 acres of land instead of 5 acres.

Bill read a second time.

The House went into committee with Mr. Duck in the chair.

The committee rose and reported the bill complete without amendment.

House rose to sit again to-day at the usual hour.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Hon. Mr. Turner—That the speech of His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the present session, be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Mr. Beaven—To move the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this House, the action of the Government in agreeing to the report of a select committee of the House, and not subsequently carrying into effect its recommendation, is incorrect."

Mr. Semlin—That a select committee be appointed composed of Beaven, Baker, Cowan, Higgins and the mover, with power to send for persons, papers and records, and to report to this House upon all matters connected with the artesian well boring experiment, together with any conclusion that may be arrived at as to the work done, the implements used, etc., etc.

Mr. Orr—That when bills 9 and 7 entitled an "Act to amend the Public School Act" as amended by the committee of the whole, is considered, I shall move that sub-section 2 of clause 54 be amended by striking out the words "daily and weekly" in the first line and the word "daily" in the second line.

Mr. Beaven—That when bill No. 3, entitled the "Summary Convictions Act, 1889," as amended by the committee of the whole is considered by the House, I shall move the following:—1st. To amend section 34 by inserting in line four, after the word "attorney," the following words—"or by any other person." 2nd. To amend section 35 by inserting in lieu three, after the word "attorney," the words "or any other person." 3rd. To strike out the words, "at hard labor," in line 22 of schedule J. 1. 4th. To strike out the words, "at hard labor" wherever they occur in the other schedules of the Act.

Mr. Martin—That on the motion to adopt the report of the committee on the second reading of the "Act to amend the Elections Regulations Act," I shall move the following additional clause as section 7; 7. "The preceding sections of this Act shall not apply to the electoral district of Yale."

Mr. Higgins—That an order of the House be granted for a return of all correspondence, if any, between the Provincial Government and the Imperial and Dominion Governments; or between the Provincial Government and the C. P. R. Co., or other companies or persons, with respect to the calling of the Oriental steamships at the ports of Victoria and Esquimalt, in accordance with the request contained in a resolution of the House of March 8, 1887.

ALTERATION OF BILL IN COMMITTEE.

Hon. Mr. Davie—On the motion to adopt the report of the committee on the second reading of "An Act to Amend the Elections Regulation Act," that the report be not adopted, but that the following clause be inserted as section 6:—6 The preceding sections of this act shall not apply to the Electoral District of Lillooet.

QUESTION.

Mr. Orr—To ask the Hon. Attorney-General: "What steps have been taken, and with what result, to recover the sum of $250,000 from the C.P.R. Co., forfeited by them for the nonfulfilment of their contract with the Government of British Columbia in respect to the extension of the railway to Coal Harbor and English Bay, and whether it is the intention to prosecute the suit.

THIRTEENTH DAY.

THURSDAY, Feb. 21, 1889.

The Speaker took the chair at 2:15 p. m.

Prayers were read by Rev. P. McF. Macleod.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Anderson presented the petition of the National Electric Tramway and Lighting Co., in reference to the extension of their line from Victoria to Esquimalt.

The petition of R. P. Rithet and others (re incorporation of the Canadian Western Railway Co.) was, on motion, received.

ARTESIAN WELLS.

Mr. Martin moved, seconded by Mr. Thomson, "that an order of the House be granted for a return of the report of Mr. E. B. McKay, regarding the artesian well boring experiment in Yale district."

The hon. mover, in introducing his resolution, said that he did so not thinking for one moment that there was anything wrong, but another hon. gentleman by his repeated questions seemed to imagine that there was a "nigger in the fence." He approved of Mr. Semlin's suggestion that a special committee be appointed, and would give the committee all the information that he could in the matter of the well boring experiment. He thought it strange that whenever the government attempted any measures for the benefit of the agricultural districts, his hon. colleague, who with him represented the greatest agricultural district in the province, should attempt to cast obstacles in their way. His own colleague (Mr. Semlin) was the first to congratulate him when the government decided on sinking a test well, and now he was apparently taking exception to the work that had been done.

Mr. Semlin replied that he did not intend to cast any hindrance in the way of the experiments. He had always been anxious to have them made, and was glad to see them attempted. His only object in asking for the special committee was because he thought that they might make some suggestions of assistance or benefit to the government in prosecuting the work. He was very anxious to see the experiments prove successful.

Hon. Mr. Vernon had no objection to bringing down the returns referred to. He hoped that a special committee, if appointed, would be able to assist the government in the matter. The government should have more money placed at their disposal to make the experiments thorough and complete. He referred to the active interest which Mr. Martin had always shown in the matter.

Mr. Beaven said that no one had insinuated that there was "a nigger in the fence" except Mr. Martin. Nothing would be of greater benefit to the upper country, than a plentiful supply of water, if it could be obtained by artesian wells. The great want there was water; and if plenty of it could be obtained even at great expense, it would be of the utmost importance to the entire province. He expressed dissatisfaction with the answers to Mr. Semlin's questions, furnished by the hon. the Chief Commissioner on Wednesday. He had seen Mr. McKay's report published in the daily press. He did not know that it was an authentic report, but it did not contain very encouraging particulars of the costly experiments made. The matter had first been referred to in 1875 by Mr. Semlin. The then existing government before they had time to act in the matter were retired, and succeeded by a useless government.

Hon. Mr. Robson referred to the statement made by the hon. leader of the opposition that in 1875 Mr. Semlin had brought the matter before the then existing government, who were on the point of taking action thereon when they were retired from power. The hon. leader of the opposition forgot to tell why it was that he and his party, when they again came into power in 1878, and continued to hold the reins of government for four or five years, paid not the slightest attention to the matter which they were burning with zeal to deal with when they went out of power. The question before the House was not, however, the acts of dead governments, but of the present one. They had proved themselves alive by taking action in the great question which was so strongly urged upon their attention by his hon. friend, Mr. Martin. The hon. leader of the opposition would have done well not to have told the little bit of history which he had given to the House, as it lead to the other sad comment on the acts of the dead government. The cost of the experiments in well boring that had been made had been far less expensive per foot than might have been expected when they are compared with what has been paid in other counties. The experiment, so far, was admitted not to be a complete success. This, however, was no reason for the opposition casting blame on the government because their first attempt to develop artesian wells had not been as complete a success as might be desired. The experiments had developed some very encouraging facts. There was one feeling on both sides in favor of everything possible being done to obtain water in the inland districts by artesian wells, and he hoped that an earnest and well concerted effort would be made to make the experiments a complete success; as, with plenty of water, the inland districts, which now were in some places almost a wilderness, would become a veritable garden, the pride of the country, and one of the fairest portions of the province.

Mr. Grant thought that the question was not what a former government had done, but what the present government was doing or would do. He considered the costs of the experimental boring were excessive. He had been told so by a practical borer from Pennsylvania, who also pronounced the plant and machinery used by the government antiquated and useless. He was sorry that the experiment had turned out as it had, and enlarged upon the necessity of supplying water by artesian wells in the interior, but condemned the course adopted by the Government in going about the experimental work.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir had heard both sides of the House on this subject, and had decided in his own mind that neither side knew anything about the matter. Three thousand dollars was far too small a sum to set apart for the work. The boring had all been done by hand. No one in the House could start a bore and put it down as far as 116 feet by hand for the money expended. He thought it was very cheap. Soil was harder working through than rock. Hand boring could never give satisfactory results.

Mr. Grant—The hon. gentleman is behind the age.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir—If you go up to Comox you will see the finest boring machines in the world. I may be old, but I am not so far behind the age as you are.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir, continuing, thought that the wrong plan had been adopted by the government in making their experiments. Before any work was done, the best possible machinery should have been obtained, even if it was the most expensive. They then could go to as great a depth as could possibly be necessary. At Kamloops they would probably be required to go to a great depth, from the flatness of the land in question. He hoped that the House would vote a good substantial sum to prosecute the experiment—no more cheese-parings like the $3,000. He knew of one well in California 4,000 feet in depth, but it was not the work of a $3,000 machine. It cost $14,000. Three thousand dollars was not enough to commence work on, and to do so was only wasting the money. It was actually money lost, like a great many other sums of money had been, by the same system of cheese-paring in making allowances for important works.

Mr. Semlin thought the government, who had acted ignorantly in the matter, should have applied to the hon. president of the council for information on the subject.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir—But how could they when I was eight hundred miles away?

Mr. Semlin assured the House that he did not wish to offer any opposition to the measure, as Mr. Martin had inferred.

Hon. Mr. Vernon, in referring to the remarks of the hon. leader of the opposition, said that he had never known of Mr. McKay's report being printed. Not only had the government of which Mr. Beaven was head done nothing in the matter, but they retired leaving the Province a quarter of a million in debt.

Mr. Beaven referred to the statement made by the hon. president of the council that the money expended was perfectly useless. He was willing to take the evidence of the hon. gentleman and condemn the government's experiments as a failure, and the bore put down of no use whatever.

Mr. T. Davie said he was surprised to hear the remarks just made coming from the lips of one who was a member of a government that started out to build a dry dock by days work and furnish the cement when they didn't know how much cement was required. He did not think any point could be made against the government of failure in the experiments. The work still remained, and could be carried on. The money was not wasted. The only trouble with the present government was that they were too candid to conceal any mistakes that they might make. They acknowledged their fault and strove to learn from experience.

Mr. Bole had very little to say on this *boring* question. (Laughter). There was no suspicion that anything was wrong until hon. gentlemen on the treasury benches got up to explain. It might possibly be one of those cases where "The wicked fly when no man pursueth." He thought the House should know more about the question.

Mr. Martin said if the experiment had not been tried on property owned by a supporter of the Government, nothing would have been heard about the matter from the Opposition. Mr. Dawson stated that water would not be obtained at less depth than 450 feet. Water was struck in small quantity at 116 feet, proving that deeper down plenty was to be had. He said if the committee was appointed he would lend them all the assistance in his power. The resolution carried.

STEAMERS TO CALL AT VICTORIA.

Mr. Grant moved, seconded by Mr. Beaven:—

That a respectful address be presented to his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to draw the attention of the Imperial and Dominion Governments, at an early day, to the necessity of providing, in the event of a subsidy being granted to a steamship line between British Columbia and the Asiatic Coast or Australasia, that provision be inserted in any contract entered into that will provide for steamers, both ways, coming to Victoria or Esquimalt.

The hon. mover said:—No one in the province would deny the importance of the city of Victoria. In the matters of wealth and commerce Vancouver was far behind Victoria in contributing to the provincial revenue. Vancouver was also far behind in the matter of income and imports. Victoria, being of the greatest commercial importance, should not be forgotten. When steamers were to be subsidized, he thought none would deny the right of Victoria to expect some recognition of her claims.

Mr. Beaven directed the attention of the House to the previous action that had been taken in the House in the same matter. He hoped that the resolution would carry unanimously, and that justice would be done to a portion of the province that in the past had received very scant justice. In 1887, the hon. member for Esquimalt had introduced a similar resolution, that was passed unanimously, but which had been productive of no apparent result. In 1888 the hon. member for Esquimalt again introduced a resolution bearing on the subject. But it also had not been again heard from. He hoped that the resolution would pass unanimously and that even at this late hour justice might be done to Victoria.

Mr. Higgins referred to the vital importance of the question. He was very much surprised a few days ago to see a despatch stating that Col. Prior had been informed by the Postmaster-General that the matter lay in the hands of the Imperial Government and that the people of Victoria and Esquimalt should bestir themselves and petition in this matter. He considered the attempt to shift the matter to the Imperial Government was a mere subterfuge. The pigeon-holes at Ottawa were full of petitions ont his subject; and the remarks of the Postmaster-General to Col. Prior were, he thought, adding insult to injury.

Hon. Mr. Robson said that the subject was discussed when he was in Ottawa. He was met with the opposition that for the Government to ask the steamship companies to call at Victoria on both inward and outward voyages, if the commercial considerations did not demand it, would be to compel the Government to pay for it "through the nose." The matter lay greatly with the steamships themselves and their commercial interests. He thought it was best for the entire province to have steamships call at Victoria, providing that it did not cause serious delay in the transcontinental traffic. He heartily supported the resolution, and assured the hon. mover that the government would carry out the wishes of the House.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys thought that the hon. the provincial secretary had not satisfactorily discharged the duties which called him to Ottawa in the matter of steamers calling at Victoria. It was a very serious matter for the people of Victoria to be trifled with, as the hon. the provincial secretary was trifling with them in this matter. It would have been more manly for the hon. the provincial secretary to state that there was no good to be gained by the passage of the resolution. He hoped, however, that it would be productive of good.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir thought that the provincial secretary had shown the House the exact position of affairs, thereby enabling the House the better to decide on the question before them, and was on that account deserving of the thanks rather than the censure of any member.

Hon. Mr. Robson stated that he did not say that he was met with a direct refusal at Ottawa. He certainly favored the passage of the resolution and the continual effort of the House to obtain the desired end.

Mr. Grant reviewed the resolution. He thought that it would be advantageous to steamships, if in commercial lines alone, to call at Victoria.

Resolution carried unanimously.

INCORPORATION OF WESTMINSTER RAILWAY.

Mr. Bole asked leave to introduce a bill to incorporate the New Westminster and Vancouver Short Line Railway.

Leave granted. Bill read a first time and referred to the select committee on railways.

VANCOUVER STREET RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. Robson asked leave to introduce an act to incorporate the Vancouver street Railway Co.

Leave granted. Bill read a first time and referred to the select committee on private bills.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Orr asked the hon. the leader of the government: "Is it the intention of the government to appoint some person, resident on Texada Island, as recorder of mining claims and issuer of mining licenses?"

Answer—I cannot say what the government may determine to do in the future.

Mr. Orr asked the hon. the chief commissioner of lands and works: "Who or what person or company has control of the large quantity of quartz mining machinery now lying on the bank of the Fraser river at Yale? Can the government take possession of the said machinery and utilize it for the development of the quartz mines lately discovered?"

Answer—(1) The machinery belongs to the Cariboo Quartz Mining Co. (2) Mr. Mason has charge of it. (3) The government have no authority to take possession of the machinery.

PUBLIC ROADS BILL.

On motion of Mr. T. Davie, the bill relating to Public Roads was referred back to the committee for the correction of a few minor clerical errors, the committee to sit on Monday.

CHARITABLE ASSOCIATIONS BILL.

The Charitable Associations Bill (Hon. Mr. Robson) was read a third time and passed.

MEDICINE AND SURGERY BILL.

Mr. Anderson moved the second reading of the Medicine and Surgery Bill.

The hon. mover explained that his bill was simply to introduce a clause in the existing Act providing for the admission of homœpathic physicians to practice in the province, on presentation of the diplomas of their college, without having first to undergo examination at the hands of the allopathic board of examiners.

The bill was read a second time, and the House went into committee with Mr. Cowan in the chair.

At 5:30 o'clock, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again on Monday.

The House rose to sit again to-day at the usual hour.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS.

Mr. Bole—To add as a new section in Bill No. 11 (County Courts Bill), the following: "Section 113 of the County Court Act (Chap. 25 of the Consolidated Acts 1888) is amended by striking out all words after the word "Court" in the 7th line of such section—and before figures 1886."

Mr. Bole—To move that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieut.-Governor praying His Honor to represent to the Dominion Government the great necessity which exists of taking steps at an early date to establish quarantine stations at New Westminster, Vancouver and Nanaimo.

Hon. Mr. Vernon—To move on the motion to adopt the report of the committee on the second reading of "An Act to amend the Elections Regulation Act" (No. 8), the following additional clause as section 7: "This act shall not come into force in the districts of Yale and Lillooet until such time as a majority of the registered voters in each or either of these districts shall petition the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council to have the provisions of this act applied to them.

Mr. Bole—That it is in the opinion of this House desirable that the Government should introduce legislation to provide official stenographers in connection with this House.

MARINE.

The schooner Mary Ellen, Capt. Alex. McLean, arrived at San Francisco on Wednesday. All on board well.

Steamship Umatilla, which sails for San Francisco to-morrow afternoon, is taking on 1500 tons of coal at Nanaimo.

Ship South America is loading Vancouver coal at Nanaimo, and ship J. B. Brown is loading East Wellington coal at Departure Bay.

PERSONAL.

S. and G. Leiser arrived from Vancouver last evening.

George Thomson, M. P. P., returns to Nanaimo to-day.

John Partridge, the well known dry goods merchant, will arrive to-night from Europe.

Capt. P. Larkin, of the well known contracting firm of Larkin, Connolly & Co., of St. Catharines, is at the Driard.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

CABLE NEWS.

Opening of Parliament in the Presence of a Large Assemblage—The Queen's Speech.

Universally Admitted the Session Will be the Fiercest on Record as Regards Legislation.

The French Ministry Finally Formed by M. Tirard—Personnel of the New Cabinet.

The Queen's Speech.

LONDON, Feb. 21. — Parliament was opened to-day. The Queen's Speech was read from the throne in the presence of a large assemblage of members of both houses. In the Speech the Queen said England would take part in the conference with Germany and the United States with reference to affairs in Samoa. The conference would take place at Berlin and would be a continuation of a conference on the same matter which was begun at Washington. The address continues: "In view of the increased expenditure for war preparations of other nations, it is necessary for us to increase the precautions hitherto taken for the protection of our commerce. My relations with foreign powers are at present friendly, but I have no right to assume that this condition is impossible of change. Your attention will be asked at an early date for measures tending to develope the material resources of Ireland, and for amending the constitutions of the various tribunals having special jurisdiction over the real property of Ireland. The recent amendment made by your honorable body for the restoring of order and confidence in Ireland have already been productive of salutary results. A measure for restoring gold coinage to a satisfactory condition will be submitted to your consideration, and measures regarding the various local subjects will also be submitted." The speech alluded to the operations in Egypt, and said the renewal of the trouble at Suakin was not feared. Regulations regarding Thibet have been brought to a favorable conclusion, and further military operations are considered unnecessary. Legislation will be necessary for the execution of a sugar convention, and also for a completion of the conversion of 4 per cent annuities. In conclusion the speech stated that measures would be submitted relating to titles regulating universities in Scotland, determining the liabilities of employers in case of accident to employees, establishing a department of agriculture, cheapening transfer of land, and remedying abuses attaching to limited liability of joint stock companies.

House of Commons.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—Gladstone opened the debate in the commons to-night on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He expressed hope for the early enlightment of the house regarding the situation in Samoa and Zanzibar, and indicated his thorough and constant adherence to his views on the Irish policy. Smith, government leader, stated that the Samoan papers were being prepared, but the government could express no decisive opinion on the subject. He could state that Germany had strongly declared that she would not recede from any of her engagements as to the rights of English and American residents in Samoa. In the conduct of the East African matter, Germany was not assuming any powers not contemplated by her arrangement with England.

Mr. Ferguson, under foreign secretary, stated that the government had protested against the attempt of Portugal to close the Zambesi. He hoped that the Samoa conference would have the happiest results. Mr. Chamberlain's mission to America had not resulted in failure. On the contrary, the understanding reached through his efforts had operated so well that no English or American vessel had been seized since it went into force. The Sackville incident had not disturbed the friendly relations between England and United States.

The House of Lords.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—In the House of Lords this evening, Lord Granville expressed the deep sympathy of that body with Austria over the death of Arch Duke Rudolph. Lord Salisbury joined in Lord Granville's expressions of sympathy. He said that no events had occurred at Zanzibar since her majesty's last speech. A long contest regarding the matter at Zanzibar was probable. He hoped for an early resumption of the conference begun at Washington on the Samoan question. Referring to Irish affairs the premier declared that the people of Ireland were finally becoming alive to the insincerity of men by whom they had suffered themselves to be led in agitation.

Piggott's Evidence.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—Upon resuming the session of the Parnell commission to-day, Pigott was again placed in the witness box. Witness said Eugene Davis told him that "F.B." was bound to Parnell not to interfere with his movements until a certain period. Davis gave the principal facts for the pamphlet exposing the plots. Pigott said that Morris Murphy told him while in Paris that he had found five or six of Egan's and some of Parnell's letters, and some old documents in a bag. Made memoranda of the letters. He then identified six of Egan's and five of Parnell's, including the *fac simile* printed by the *Times*. Pigott said that in April of 1886, he accepted Murphy's terms for the letters. Murphy said it was necessary to obtain the authority of the heads of the Clan Na Gael in New York to secure the letters. "I accordingly went to New York," said the witness, "where I saw Brieslin, who gave me a letter to Murphy. The letter was sealed and returned to Paris, and a little later I went with Murphy to a cafe, when we met five men, whom, Murphy said, represented the Clan Na Gael. I was sworn on a Roman Catholic prayer book under no circumstances to reveal the source from which I obtained the document. They also made me swear never to mention any names in connection with the letters, and if legal proceedings followed their publication, I must not give testimony. Pigott said that he did not get the documents that night at the cafe. He then detailed the story of the purchase of the letters and Murphy's offer to purchase them back again from him. Witness said that Tom Brown surrendered more letters to him in Paris at the beginning of 1888. Later, he paid an unknown man in Paris for the letters. Piggott denied that he forged the last two batches of the letters. He said that he met Parnell and Labouchere at the latter's house. Parnell here accused him of forgery, and Labouchere privately offered him one thousand pounds if he would confess to forging the letters. Solicitor Lewis also accused him of forgery.

Sir Charles Russell took Pigott in hand and conducted his cross-examination vigorously. He made Pigott acknowledge he had made a statement declaring his disbelief in the genuineness of the Parnell letters, but he denied that he had forged them. He also admitted that he wrote to Archbishop Walsh offering to expose the whole conspiracy, but the archbishop declined to proceed without the name of the forger being disclosed. Pigott denied that in the sworn statement he had made to Solicitor Lewis he said that he had asked Archbishop Walsh to put him in communication with Parnell in order that he might expose the forgeries. The letter Pigott had written to the Archbishop was produced. Pigott said he could not explain how his designs could be defeated if the letters were genuine. The witness could not recollect the letter.

England's Navy.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—Extracts from the report of the commission on naval manœuvres in 1888 will be presented to the House of Commons to-day. They say that the nation has every reason to be satisfied with the *personnel* of the navy, but that the main lesson of the manœuvres is that Great Britain is far from being as strong as she should be on the sea. They say: "We are decidedly of the opinion that no time ought to be lost in placing the navy beyond comparison with the combined naval forces of any two powers. At the same time we believe the navy strong enough to engage any single maritime power with success.

A Lively Time Expected.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—It is universally admitted in political circles that the session of parliament just opened will be the fiercest on record as regards legislation. Fighting measures affecting Ireland will be vigilantly watched by the Irish members, Gladstone concurs in this opinion.

To Condemn the Government.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—In the commons this evening, John Morley (liberal) gave notice that he would move an amendment to the Queen's address, condemning the administration of the government in Ireland.

Sir Chas. Tupper Sails.

LONDON, Feb. 21,—Sir Charles Tupper sailed from Southampton for Canada to-day.

Snow Storms in Galicia.

VIENNA, Feb. 21,—Heavy snow storms prevail throughout Galicia.

The National Defences.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—The *Standard* says that the government will devote $60,000,000 to the improvement of the national defences.

The French Cabinet.

PARIS, Feb. 21.—M. Tirard has succeeded in forming a cabinet, as follows: M. Tirard, premier and minister of commerce; M. Constans, minister of the interior; M. Rouvier, minister of finance; M. Thevenot, minister of justice; M. Fallieres, minister of education; M. Faye, minister of agriculture; M. Guesguyot, minister of public works; M. Freycinet, minister of war; Admiral Jaures, minister of marine; M. Decourced, minister of foreign affairs. The ministry will assemble to-morrow morning and the declaration will be read to the chamber of deputies on Saturday.

Princess Victoria's Betrothal.

BERLIN, Feb. 21.—It is stated that the Princess Victoria will shortly be betrothed to Prince Charles, third son of King Oscar, of Sweden, who is expected to visit Berlin in March.

Abandoned the Task.

PARIS, Feb. 21.—M. Meline abandoned the task of forming a cabinet on account of being discouraged in his appointments. M. Kibot would accept no position but that of minister of the interior.

Baseball in Rome.

ROME, Feb. 21.—The American baseball clubs will play here on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. They will go from here to Florence on Tuesday evening, and from there to Paris.

Zanzibar News.

ZANZIBAR, Feb. 21.—By a decree of the Sultan, trade in arms and ammunition is forbidden in Zanzibar and Pemba. The British consul warns British subjects to obey the order. The German missionaries are not yet released. Capt. Wissman's advance party has arrived here.

CAPITAL NOTES.

The Watchword of the Government is Economy, and Few Railway Subsidies will be Granted.

Sir John Says that there will be No Appeal to the Country Until the Year 1892.

Parliament Not Yet Ripe for Prohibition—The Proposed Trip to the States.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 21.—A ministerial caucus was held to-day. The greatest enthusiasm and unanimity prevailed. Sir John said the watch-word of the government was economy, and in every respect where the curtailment of expenses was to be made it would be done. Members need look for few railway subsidies this session. Relative to the rumor of dissolution, he said he saw no good reason why they should appeal to the country before 1892, the limit of the parliamentary term.

Abbott introduced a bill in the Senate to-day to permit conditional release of first offenders in certain cases.

The department of fisheries has received information that the Canadian vessels seized in Behring sea two years ago will be sold next month.

Scores of petitions are pouring in daily asking for an increase in the duty on flour.

Sir John was interviewed to-night relative to the proposed free trip through the States. He said it would be degrading on the part of parliament to be taken round in that Barnum-like way.

The minister of customs proposes to amend the law to prohibit the bringing in of goods after dark.

Reciprocal wrecking privileges, as embodied in Kirkpatrick's bill, formed the chief topic in the House this afternoon. The promoter urged business reasons for the passage of the bill. Many members favored the measure, which was finally referred to a select committee.

Prohibition then held the floor. Three divisions were taken, all of which tended to show that the House was not ripe for the consideration of the question.

The budget speech will probably be delivered Tuesday week.

WESTMINSTER NEWS.

Large Real Estate Sales—Steamer Princess Louise Ashore—The Masonic Ball a Great Success.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

WESTMINSTER, Feb. 21.—Haight Bros. mill at Popcum, opposite Agassiz station, is being rebuilt and furnished with additional machinery. The output will be doubled this year.

Sales of city real estate, aggregating $30,000, were made yesterday.

The steamer Princess Louise is ashore in the river opposite Guechon's Landing. She will get off with the tide.

The Masonic ball was a great success. About 50 visitors came over from Vancouver to take part. Dancing was kept up with great zest until 4 a. m.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

AMERICAN NEWS.

A Meat Syndicate Representing $25,000,000 to Supply Consumers, Dispensing With Middlemen.

New Steamship Company Organized at San Francisco to Ply to Victoria and Sound Ports.

Shocking Double Murder in West Virginia, Arising out of a Horse-Whipping Case.

Double Murder.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 21.—The *Sun's* Romney, W. Va., special says: This morning Oscar Evans killed Jacob Kirby and mortally wounded A. L. Hoke, seven miles south of Romney. Hoke is a bark contractor and Kirby was in his employ. Evans is a teamster. A week ago Hoke horsewhipped Evans. To-day Hoke and Kirby were driving a team on a lonely road on Big Mountain, and meeting Evans with his team, they disputed the right of way. The road being narrow, a violent quarrel ensued. Evans shot Kirby twice through the body. Hoke then threw Evans to the ground. He tried to get Evans' pistol away from him and called to Kirby to assist him. Kirby struggled to his feet and with the blood streaming from his wounds unclasped a knife and attempted to reach the combatants, but fell dead before he could strike a blow. Evans succeeded in disengaging his right arm and shot Hoke through the lungs and legs and beat him on the head with the pistol, and left him for dead. Hoke subsequently recovered and crawled into a fence corner where he was found and taken to a farm house. Evans gave himself up.

New Steamship Company.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—The West Coast Steamship Company have prepared articles of incorporation, which will be filed within a few days. The company is to do a general freight and passenger business similar to that of the Pacific Coast Steamship Co. Its vessels will ply between coast ports, from San Diego to Portland, Victoria and Alaska. The company has already two vessels, the City of Pueblo and Pomona, and negotiations are pending for more. The capital stock is three million dollars.

Beef Syndicate Organized.

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—The "Big Four" beef combination at Chicago and Kansas City, which largely controls the present beef supply in the United States, is to have a formidable rival in a syndicate now fully organized and almost ready to begin operations. The new syndicate represents $25,000,000 and bears the name of the American meat company. The organizer and president is J. W. Flagler, president of the Cotton oil trust. The company proposes, it is said, to dispense with middlemen in the sale of their meat, and to give the consumers the benefit of the middlemen's profits.

To Repair the "Hartford."

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Feb. 21.—The assembly to-day passed a concurrent resolution asking Congress to repair the flagship Hartford lying at Mare Island navy yard.

Sailed for Samoa.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—The Monongahela, store ship of the United States Pacific squadron, sailed direct for Samoa this afternoon.

Shot by a Young Girl.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—Emanuel Davis, a young cashier, who was shot by Emma Bennett yesterday, is resting easy to-day and physicians believe he will recover.

Trafficking in Chinese Certificates.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—The trial of Ferdinand Ciprico, the ex-customs inspector, indicted for alleged trafficking in Chinese return certificates, was commenced to-day.

The Six Day Walking Match.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—At 10 o'clock to-night the six days go-as-you-please race for the championship of the world and twenty thousand dollars in prizes was started in the Mechanics' Pavilion by Wm. O'Connor, the oarsman, in the presence of fully fifteen thousand people. At the word "Go!" thirty-seven men started off on their long tramp.

ADRIFT IN THE STRAITS.

Two Chinese Lashed to a Raft, are Found by an Indian—They Relate Their Terrible Experiences—Three Days and Two Nights Without Food and Water.

On Tuesday afternoon, one of the Indians at Foul Bay saw something floating on the water which in the distance seemed but a black speck rising and falling with the swell. His curiosity was excited, and he started in his canoe to see what the object might be. As he came nearer its outlines became more distinct, and he finally saw that it was a small, rudely constructed raft, tossing and drifting on the waves. Two human beings were its passengers. The one, a Chinese woman, lay unconscious, bound to the floating logs with ropes, while the waves washed over her inanimate form. The other, a man, was still conscious, but speech had gone. The red man placed the castaways in his canoe, and in a few minutes they were in his cabin, with kindly faces around them, and kindly hands ministering to their wants.

Not being able to understand the story which the unfortunates, when life and speech came back to them, wished to tell, the Indians took them to the home of Hong Yuen, a market gardener who lived not far away. Here they were cared for by their own people, and the pitiful narrative of their suffering was told. The man was named Loo Ying Ying. The woman was his wife. They state that about eight months ago, at their home in Foo Choo, in the Flowery Kingdom, they met Capt. H. J. Robertson, of Moresby Island, then a resident of the Celestial Empire. The captain wished to hire the man and his wife as his servants, and a verbal agreement was made for three years, the couple to receive $20 per month and their passage to Moresby Island and back to China when the three years was over. They came to the captain's home, and for the past eight months have served him faithfully. Their wages were not paid to them at all, according to the agreement, and the man finally asked Mrs. Robertson for them. He was told that he could work for her no more and would be sent back to China while his wife must stay. She at first refused to let him leave her, but finally consented, if she would be allowed to go as far as Vancouver to see him safely on board the steamer. This Mrs. Robertson would not consent to, and the wife then said that she would stay with her husband, and if he was turned adrift in the strange land, she would remain with him come what would. Both were told to go—they would get no more food or shelter at the home of their employer. Their wages were refused them, and they were turned out of the house. They asked to be allowed to take the boat and cross over to Saanich, where they thought they might get something to do, but were again met with a refusal. Neither would anything be given them to eat, and finally driven to desperation, they decided to make a raft and cross on it to Saanich. The raft was made and the unhappy couple embarked at about 9 o'clock on Sunday morning. But a little way from shore the current caught them and they drifted down the straits. For two terrible nights and three long weary days they were tossed hither and thither, helpless, at the mercy of the waves. Maddened by thirst, starving, exposed to the cold and drenched by the sea, which washed over them, they drifted with the current down the coast, watching with eager eyes for help, until, despairing, they resigned themselves to death. Resolved to fight to the last, they lashed themselves to the raft, and so were found by the Indian on Tuesday afternoon. Their sufferings during those awful days and nights no tongue can tell. When talked to by THE COLONIST representative last evening, they were still weak, but in a fair way to recov