

EMPRESS OF INDIA ARRIVES.

Fall of Wei-Hai-Wei and the Peace Commission the Chief Topic of Discussion.

Death of Robert Fraser-Smith, Editor of the Hong Kong Telegraph.

The R. M. S. Empress of India, Capt. P. Marshall, R. N. R., arrived here shortly after six o'clock this morning after a splendid run across the Pacific. She left Japan on March 1, and was a few hours over eleven days making the trip. She could have been in last night, as she made the cape about dark, but lay to for a while, and came up the straits very slowly. She met the pilot sloop and took Capt. Thompson aboard below the Race and came to anchor inside the San Pedro. The Maude acted as tender and was alongside at 7:45 o'clock. The officers had very little to report. The China for San Francisco and the Victoria for Victoria left a few hours ahead of the Empress, but she overhauled them the first night out. The Victoria was very heavily laden with freight. The only incident of the voyage was the death of a Chinese passenger, whose body was kept and will be returned to China. The ship brought 2,400 tons of general freight, the distribution of which has already been published in the Times, 383 steerage passengers, of which number 100, mostly Chinese, came ashore here, and the following cabin passengers: Mr. Blanchard, W. H. Correll, J. S. Hamilton, R. F. Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. Murdoch, Rev. and Mrs. W. X. Ninde, Geo. F. Ninde, F. W. Ninde, Mr. Fors, A. E. Ripley, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Koecker and five children, A. E. Turnour.

There was very little war news to be had before the departure of the Empress. Two things were being talked of—the fall of Wei-Hai-Wei and the new China peace commission. The great credit for the victory of the second great Chinese stronghold is given to the Japanese torpedo boats, which worked miracles. They forced their way through the blockaded channels two nights in succession, and by brilliant, flashing fighting, sunk five of the big Chinese war vessels inside of thirty hours. Their own losses were heavy, and the men suffered frightfully from the cold and the fire of the enemy, but the work was done wonderfully. It awoke Admiral Ting to a sense of his helplessness and caused the surrender. The spoils of the capture were immense, as many of the vessels of the Chinese fleet were unscathed and many can be repaired. A period of inactivity followed the fall, but it is believed that the next advance will be on Chee Foo. It was generally understood on the departure of the Empress that Li Hung Chang, properly accredited to conduct peace negotiations, would leave China for Japan in March. On the return to China of the former commission the following rather remarkable letter was made public, the Chinese claiming that it had been suppressed by the Japanese:

To the Plenipotentiaries of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Excellencies: In the conference held with your excellencies to-day, after listening to the speech of his excellency Count Ito, of which a copy was handed to us and a memorandum setting forth the reasons why negotiations for peace were terminated, your excellencies took note of us, with the information that arrangements would be made for our early transportation from your country. Before our departure we deem it our duty to our government and to ourselves that we should leave with your excellencies the following statement. The commission which we handed you in our conference of yesterday, as we have fully explained, does confer upon us full powers to negotiate a treaty, and we have stated to your excellencies that we were prepared to sign with you a treaty of peace, if our negotiations should reach a satisfactory conclusion. This is confirmed in the most solemn and authoritative manner in the letter of our august sovereign addressed to his imperial majesty the Emperor of Japan, which we exhibited to you at our first conference, and which we solicited the privilege of delivering to his imperial majesty, but which request your excellencies declined to grant. A translation of that letter accompanies this communication.

We cannot agree with your excellencies that the instruction in our commission to wire for imperial sanction the result of our negotiations, in any way impairs or modifies our powers to sign a treaty. As we have already stated to you its object was to insure the more prompt ratification and execution of the treaty when signed. That our interpretation of our power is supported by our government is proved by the fact that at the request of your government the United States minister at Peking received from Tsungli Yamen an assurance that we were clothed with full powers to negotiate and sign a treaty of peace. Besides we offered in our conference to-day, to have any technical defects which you thought existed in our commission, corrected by telegraph. The commission which we submitted to you is similar in form to those with which his imperial majesty the Emperor of China has been accustomed to invest his plenipotentiaries when dispatched to other lands for the negotiation of treaties, and so far as we are aware this is the first instance in which such credentials have been rejected. Ours is a mission of peace and it does not become us at this time to discuss the unfriendly allusions contained in the speech respecting the government of China. We need only express our deep regret that the earnest efforts which we have put forth to carry out the wishes of our august sovereign for a speedy and satisfactory termination of the war which now distracts the two neighboring nations, have proved fruitless. We cannot, however, close this communication,

without expressing our surprise at the manner in which we have been deprived of the customary privileges of plenipotentiaries on a mission of peace. We have been informed by Count Ito that telegraphic communication in cipher with our government would not be permitted, and we have been notified by an official of the Japanese foreign office that a cipher telegram addressed to us had been received, but that it could not be delivered until we furnish the private code of our government for its translation. Before our departure from Peking we were assured by the minister of the United States in that capital, that we would be permitted, in accordance with international practice, to freely communicate in cipher with our government by telegraph. We conclude with the expression of our thanks for the trouble the Japanese government has taken in bringing us to this city and for its hospitable entertainment while here, and with assurance to your excellencies of our distinguished consideration. Signed, SHAO.

The Japanese contend that it was not part of the official correspondence, that it was written after negotiations were over, that the Japanese representative declined to receive it, and as to refusing the use of the cipher they were not entitled to the privilege of properly accredited plenipotentiaries.

The Japanese parliament has passed another war loan of 100,000,000 yen and a loan of 2,000,000 yen to be used in paying Korea's debts, and arranging her internal affairs.

The Japanese army in Shantung is inactive, while that in Manchuria is kept busy repelling inconsequential attacks from Chinese soldiers.

During a gale in Yokohama harbor on February 24 the Northern Pacific liner Sikh dragged anchor and drove ashore broadside on the breakwater. She was lightened, four hundred tons of flour being discharged and three days afterwards came off at high tide. She was not damaged.

Prof. Milne's residence at No. 14, Kagaya Yashiki, was completely destroyed by fire at about 7:30 o'clock on the morning of February 18th. The flames originated in a little wood house near the kitchen and spread with great velocity over the whole of the main building. A north wind was blowing, and the dryness of the season contributed to the catastrophe. Despite the efforts of the fire engines, only the frame work of the house was left standing. Professor Milne and all his household escaped unhurt, but nothing but a little clothing could be saved. The loss of the well known scientist is indeed very heavy, because his good books and almost all his manuscripts were burned.

A spirited rescue was made on Sunday, February 24, by S.S. Liddesdale, Captain Clark. On the morning of that day, when about 20 miles northeast of Ojinohama, a Japanese boat was discovered, in which some men were visible. Finding that these latter could not help themselves, and that it was impossible to lower a boat as the wind was then blowing a terrific gale from the south-eastward, an attempt was made to drop down alongside of her—a work of no easy task in the then condition of wind and sea. The first attempt failed, but the sampan was got close under the lee of the ship. The men in her were, however, helpless, and could render no assistance, and at last, as the ship rolled to leeward and the sampan mounted the sea, the men were grabbed by those on the ship's deck and were thus hauled on board. Some idea of the height of the sea that was running may be formed from this, as the deck of the ship was about 16 feet above the level of the water. The men, nine in all, were taken below and everything done for them, and fortunately they all recovered. Upon inquiries it appears that the boat belonged to Miura near Misaki, but had been blown off shore, and had then drifted north for eight days, during the latter part of which they had neither food, water, nor fire, in fact it is a marvel that they survived. Capt. Clark deserves some recognition from the Japanese government for the skill and exertions shown in saving these men.

Robert Fraser Smith, editor of the Hong Kong Telegraph died on February 10. The deceased was one of the best known men in the Orient.

A telegram, dated Peking, 26th instant, reports that five out of the eight Mayors, and five out of the sixteen governors, six out of the 21 treasurers, three out of the twenty judges of China proper, including Formosa and Kashgar, have already signed in their memorials on the question as to whether war should be continued or not. Over two-thirds of the memorials are to the effect that if Japan wishes for an indemnity only, peace should be concluded with her, however large the amount required may be. But if Japan desires to retain even an inch of the occupied land, war then should be carried on to the bitter end. They advocate that the right of ceding territory gained by his ancestors with so much bloodshed, is not included within the prerogative of the Emperor. Several Tartar and Manchurian generals, and two or three commanders in chief of provinces have also sent in their memorials on the question, but the contents of them are not known.

The licensing commissioners with two members of the board, Magistrate Macne and Mayor Teague sat this afternoon. The only case of importance was that of the Bee Hive. Under permission of the mayor a temporary transfer of the license of John Cook to Fell & Co. was granted until this sitting of the board. This afternoon when the matter was taken up J. Stuart Yates, representing No. 1 Lodge I. O. O. F., owners of the property, applied for a transfer of the license to them under the new act. The motion was rather a surprise to the other interests represented and it was decided to lay the matter over until March 27. The temporary transfer was formally ratified. There were several other minor applications disposed of.

FIRE APPARATUS TENDERS

They Are Opened by the Council and Referred to the Fire Warden's Report.

Electric Light Matters Again Cause a Lively Time at the Council Board.

Fire department apparatus tenders and electric light matters were the chief subjects of discussion at the council's regular meeting last night.

The tenders for the fire apparatus were opened. They were from Perry & Turner, 100 feet hose according to specifications, guaranteed for five years, to stand 500 lbs. pressure, 90 cents per foot. Nicholles & Renouf offered hose on similar conditions for \$500.

Rubber Co. tendered on Eureka 3-ply hose, 500 lbs. pressure, five years guarantee, at \$1.05 per foot; Paragon 2-ply hose, 400 lbs. pressure, four years guarantee, 90 cents per foot; Red Cross 1-ply hose, 300 lbs. pressure, three years guarantee, 75 cents per foot; New Surprise jacketed hose, 400 lbs. pressure, three years guarantee, 70 cents per foot; U. S. Mail, 1-ply, 350 lbs. pressure, 55 cents per foot. The Toronto Gutta Percha Co. quoted Baker fabric, 3-ply, 400 lbs. pressure, five years guarantee, 80 cents per foot; four years guarantee, 75 cents per foot; heavy Ajax, one-ply, 275 lbs. pressure, three years guarantee, 65 cents per foot; and New Peerless, 400 lbs. pressure, three years guarantee, 85 cents per foot.

Ald. Humphrey moved they be referred to the fire wardens.

Ald. Macmillan approved of the matter, but wanted an understanding. He wished the committee to be given directions, otherwise it would be a second fire horse purchase. The horse recommended by the committee might again be bought.

Ald. Partridge was on his feet to take issue against the remarks of Ald. Macmillan. The horse had not been purchased. He wished it understood that he conducted the business of the city as if it were his own affair.

Ald. Macmillan wanted a chance for the local bonus.

Ald. Wilson said the worst horse night since an excessive amount of pressure, perhaps 500 lbs. on the first test; but the next time water was put in it it would burst. The five year guarantee was a long one.

Referred to fire wardens to report.

The Canadian General Electric Co. Company wrote asking that the second instalment on their contract be paid: It was overdue three months. The machinery should, according to agreement, have been tested December 10. Electric light committee to report.

The Chinese mission asked three months time to connect with the sewers, pleading lack of funds. Referred to sewerage committee.

J. W. Mellor would like a share of the city plate glass insurance. He wrote asking the council for the insurance.

Ald. Macmillan favored tendering for the insurance.

Ald. Cameron asserted that the rates of the companies were uniform. Finance committee.

The city barristers wrote stating that the city had the power to abate the Johnson street ravine nuisance.

The street committee were requested to see how the improvement could be carried out.

The electric light committee reported.

Victoria, B.C., 11th March, 1895.

To His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Victoria.

Gentlemen—Your Electric Light Committee desire to report that an official notice has been sent to Mr. Stickle instructing him to turn all tools and appliances connected with the new electric light works, and that the same may be checked and put in use as soon as funds are provided to proceed with the work of finishing the new plant.

The committee ordered by the council through Messrs. Nicholles & Renouf has arrived. Mr. Cartmel's report fully covers this matter.

Mr. Cartmel has been engaged by your committee under a temporary arrangement until the end of the month to arrange the remainder of the work required to complete the new electric light works can be properly proceeded with. This mode of proceeding your committee feel convinced is the best way the matter could possibly be dealt with.

R. T. WILLIAMS, EDWARD BRAGG, WM. WILSON.

Ald. Partridge claimed that he could get no information relative to the correspondence or documents of the electric light plant contracts.

Mayor Teague replied that all the documents could be found in the city offices.

Ald. Williams asserted that there had been no definite understanding with Mr. Stickle. He again affirmed that the Hamilton Manufacturing Company should have furnished the line shafting.

Mayor Teague said if the council were foolish enough to let the Hamilton Company get away with \$2,000, they should all be in the chain gang.

Ald. Williams—That's my opinion about the line shafting.

Mayor Teague said he did not agree with Ald. Williams.

Ald. Williams affirmed that the line shafting purchase was a job put up in the council.

Mayor Teague retorted saying Ald. Williams did not understand the matter. He had not been used to that kind of work. (Laughter.)

Williams to have an investigation if he held such a pessimistic opinion.

Ald. Williams replied he would if the mayor told him how to go about it.

Mayor Teague advised Ald. Williams to get a proper interpretation from persons who knew something of the matter.

Ald. Williams said several engineers had agreed with him.

Ald. Macmillan here came to the rescue of Ald. Williams. After mature consideration he too had come to the same conclusion as Ald. Williams. The com-

pany should have supplied the shafting. It seemed like a fraud.

Ald. Bragg said the company had not to supply the shafting. The city barristers and Mr. Cartmel both bore him out in this. The subject was dropped.

Ald. Hall and Partridge having said that a meeting should have been called to discuss electric light matters.

Ald. Bragg's motion that \$3,168.18 for electric light work bills be paid was carried.

Ald. Macmillan introduced a by-law to amend the revenue by-law.

It was decided on motion of Ald. Bragg to call a meeting on Saturday night to discuss the by-laws to be submitted to the electorate on March 19. The council then adjourned.

CABINET REPRESENTATION.

Liberals Ask That the Province be Represented in the Dominion Cabinet.

Further Arrangements Made for the Coming Campaign—A Busy Meeting.

There was a large attendance at the meeting of the Liberal Association held in the Philharmonic Hall last evening. Ex-Ald. Dwyer occupied the chair.

A report from the committee who were appointed at a previous meeting to consider the formation of a campaign committee was read and adopted. A large central committee has been formed and preparations have been made for the organization of ward committees. The central committee will meet on Friday evening in the Philharmonic Hall.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. Templeman at the last meeting of the association, was seconded by Mr. Macmillan amidst enthusiastic applause and on being put was unanimously carried:

"Whereas the province of British Columbia has been a member of the Canadian confederation since the year 1871, and during that period of twenty-four years has never been represented in the Dominion cabinet;

"And whereas the province is isolated from the centre of population and political influence, and remote from the capital, her commercial, agricultural, mining, fishing and lumbering interests—which are possibly superior to those of any other section of Canada in their enormous possibilities—have been retarded, by the ignorance of the Ottawa government of local conditions and of the special requirements of these great interests;

"Be it therefore resolved that it is the opinion of the Liberal party of Victoria in meeting assembled, that the policy hitherto observed in the formation of cabinets, whereby the entire representation with the single exception of one member to Manitoba and the Northwest is taken from the older, smaller, although more populous and more wealthy eastern provinces, is not in the best interests of the Dominion as a whole and ought not to continue.

"Resolved, that the undoubted right of British Columbia to cabinet representation be brought to the attention of the Liberal leader (Hon. Mr. Laurier) with the view of doing justice to the province by remedying the evils and removing the discontent engendered by past neglect and misrepresentation, and ensuring in the future fair and equitable treatment at the hands of the government of the Dominion."

If it had work willing hands and brains will win this election for the Liberal party in the city their success may be predicted. At the meeting last night the utmost harmony prevailed, and judging from the feeling of confidence which was apparent among those present, the opposition candidates, Messrs. Templeman and Milne, have every reason to be hopeful. As one gentleman observed as he was leaving the hall last night: "When the election is over you can rest assured that the Conservatives will know that there has been a contest."

BELLA COOLA COLONY.

Colonists Have no Intention of Leaving Their New Home.

Bella Coola, March 2.—A meeting of the colonists was held to-day in Rev. Mr. Sangstad's house, and questions concerning the future prosperity of the colonists were discussed. The colonists having learned that doubt is entertained by the government concerning the probable permanency of the Bella Coola colony, a motion was made and carried, that the colonists make a declaration and present it to the government, "that the intentions of the colonists are to make Bella Coola their future home and that the government may rest assured that such is the case."

It was also decided that Rev. Mr. Sangstad should go to Victoria by the first steamer to present matters of importance concerning the colony to the government.

All is well with the colonists. The weather for a long time has been fair with some rain and sunshine. There is very little snow left.

The colonists for some time have been busy making a road up the valley. A good trail is already cut but there is a lot more to do, besides many bridges to build.

The trout fishing season opens on Saturday, not Friday, as previously stated, and as many people understand.

Monumental liars—a good many gravestones.—Albany Argus.

STONE NOT SATISFACTORY.

More Trouble Between the Provincial Government and Contractor Adams.

This Time It Leads Up to an Attack on the Superintendent of Works.

There has been more trouble at Haigington Island where the stone for the new government buildings is obtained. Mr. Howell, the superintendent of works, on the new buildings, went north on his last trip of the Danube with certain instructions from the government for contractor Adams, who has been on the island for some time superintending the quarry work. It seems that the stone which Mr. Adams has been sending down has not been entirely satisfactory and in fact the government had been informed that it was being taken from below high water mark and was therefore affected by salt water, which discolors it, and besides there was a great deal of iron in it. Superintendent Howell was sent up to look into this matter and carried letters from the chief commissioner of lands and works and Architect Rattenbury to Contractor Adams. According to Mr. Howell he handed the letters to Mr. Adams and was walking away when Mr. Adams ran up and struck him on the ear, knocking him down and saying: "This is your bloody work; you have been persecuting me"—or words to that effect. Mr. Howell has no sooner got on his feet than Adams again struck him, this time in the mouth, and he again fell down. Adams struck several more blows, Mr. Howell, however, only attempting to defend himself. Finally some of the men allowed his temper to get the better of him, wished to apologize. Mr. Howell immediately left the island on a small steamer and caught the Danube for Victoria. He will take action against Mr. Adams.

Mr. Howell visited the island a year ago and suggested how the stone should be taken out. The stone runs up from the beach to the top of the island. That near the water has a great deal of iron in it and is also affected by the action of the salt water, which renders it unfit for building purposes. Mr. Howell therefore recommended that the stone be taken from near the top of the cliff, where it is pure. He says this is not being done, but on the other hand Mr. Adams is taking the stone from below high water mark, for it is not yet known what action will be taken by the government, but it is certain that they will not allow the stone to go into the buildings.

RUSH TO ALASKA.

Juneau Crowded With Idle Men, Many of Them Starving.

The steamer Chilcat just returned from Alaska is to be taken off the route, as her owners say they do not intend to sink the money that they made before the opposition companies commenced to cut rates. In regard to the rush to Alaska Captain McAllister said: "I think it very unwise for men without means to rush to Alaska. Why, Juneau is already overcrowded with idle men, and before I left I was told that at some residence on an average of ten men a day were asking for food. Before leaving for that country they do not take into consideration the fact that the season does not open till May, and even then we will not have use for more than 250 men at the mines. I think they should stop and consider before rushing there."

The steamer City of Topeka, which sailed on Sunday morning for Southwest Alaska ports, took 253 passengers and a full cargo of freight. Notwithstanding the assertion that the present rate of war has made the Alaska trade unprofitable to transportation companies the Topeka will realize not less than \$5,000 in this voyage, not taking into consideration the amount of business of the return trip.

MAYNE ISLAND "TREASURE."

Sensational and Improbable Stories Published by Coast Papers.

For several weeks past a sensational and very improbable story has been going the rounds of the coast papers about a supposed "hidden treasure" on Mayne Island. The only part of the story which is founded on fact is that stating that certain residents of the island believed that there was a "hidden treasure" on the island. This fact was first published in the Times and was made the foundation of the sensational story referred to. A private letter received this morning from one of the island settlers throws cold water on the story. The writer says: "I am inclined to think that the whole thing is a farce. Mr. Jacob Heck, Nicholson's nearest neighbor, states that the supposed miner had no money at all, as he had more than once borrowed money from him and that at one time the old man borrowed \$50, which I must add, I understand, was duly returned. The account in the Colonist is a purely sensational one."

First Parson—Its most unfortunate that this cold weather should come just as I take future punishment as my subject.

Second Ditto—How so?

First Ditto—Well, I noticed that every time I mentioned everlasting fire the whole congregation looked positively cheerful.—Pick-me-Up.

Mrs. Spicer—I want you to stop bringing home bundles of newspapers that are printed in other cities.

Spicer—Why, my dear?

Mrs. Spicer—There are full of bargain sale ads, and it worries me to death to think they are so far away that I can't get to them.

CLAIMS OF THE S.

Members of the Foreign Committee See the B Congress Made

Mr. Hepburn of Iowa Ma "Statesmanlike?" S on the Subject.

According to Boston papers there were at least a few of the United States senators who were willing to vote \$42,000 to the claims of the sealers.

A Washington dispatch to the Transcript under date of March 10 says that Senators Sherman, Grey, members of the foreign relations committee, remarked to-day that only a mistake but a blunder of the senate and house in appropriation of \$42,000 to the sealers was a great deal of money. This measure will find, added to that before final reached, it will cost this sum largely in excess of the amount of the sealers' claims. According to Mr. Howell he has no sooner got on his feet than Adams again struck him, this time in the mouth, and he again fell down. Adams struck several more blows, Mr. Howell, however, only attempting to defend himself. Finally some of the men allowed his temper to get the better of him, wished to apologize. Mr. Howell immediately left the island on a small steamer and caught the Danube for Victoria. He will take action against Mr. Adams.

Mr. Morgan, who had been American delegates to the conference, said: "The British proceeding to the morning paper they do not take into consideration the fact that the season does not open till May, and even then we will not have use for more than 250 men at the mines. I think they should stop and consider before rushing there."

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Mr. Johnson Rep. of N said that we had tried and failed the seal herds. We try to restore the vast herds to our western prairies. Mr. Hepburn Rep. of Ia the United States had in force the Canadian government adjustment of this matter, done by amending the pending to authorize the president to transportation of goods in our territory.

Mr. Dingler Rep. of M the measure. It embodied, deduced by him on the subject. The bill was then passed. Ottawa, March 11.—A