

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 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. Rockey 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 capture of 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 Toi. 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 addressed 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 to 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 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 result in 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 in 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 instructions 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,

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. The Toronto 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 4-ply 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. tendered Baker fabric, 3-ply, 400 lbs. pressure, five years guarantee, at 90 cents per foot; heavy Ajax, one-ply, 275 lbs. pressure, four years guarantee, 65 cents per foot; and New Peerless, 400 lbs. pressure, three years guarantee, 65 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 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 for the insurance.

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 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.

To His Victoria, B.C., 11th March, 1895. To the Hon. Mr. Alderman Alderman of the City of Victoria. Gentlemen—Your Electric Light Committee desired that an official notice be sent to Mr. Stickle instructing him to send all tools and appliances connected with the new electric light works to proceed with the work of finishing the new plant.

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 BIGG. 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 office of Messrs. Nicholles & Renouf. 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.) Ald. 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-

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 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 Philharmonic Hall.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. Templeman at the last meeting of the association, was seconded by Mr. Marchant and carried with enthusiastic applause and 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 to 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.

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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 McAllip 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 don't 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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CLAIMS OF THE SEALS.

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, Greer, members of the foreign relations committee, remarked to-day that only a mistake but a blunder of the senate and house in appropriating under date of March 10, this measure will find, added to that before final action is reached, it will cost this government largely in excess of \$500,000. Secretary Greer, English member of the foreign relations committee, and who claimed to understand this matter, says he believes that the real damage the claimants amount to is \$500,000. He was therefore opposing this lump sum as set off object in offering the resolution to investigate the matter with the view of ascertaining the facts of the case. If the adoption of the resolution be such that all the essential facts in the case can be ascertained with a very little expense, the alien has been made in both the senate, that a majority of the fraudulent has no real value, and is regarded as an official of this government of those of Great Britain in the settlement. The senate allow the Morgan resolution order that the matter may be finally disposed of by Congress.

Another dispatch to the under the same date says: Mr. Morgan (Dem.) of Alaska a resolution referring to the liability of the United States to the payment by the U. S. of the claims of Great Britain of the Behring sea continental shelf. Instructions to examine into the liability of the United States of Great Britain and the amount any, and as to any liability of Great Britain or Canada arising from the controversy.

Mr. Sherman (Rep.) of Ohio the wisdom of offering to the two houses. He understands now in conference. On that corrected by Mr. Hale (Rep.) who said that the first application of \$25,000 had been struck home and had not been in senate. Mr. Morgan, who had been American delegates to the conference, said: "The British proceeding to the morning paper country they don't 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."

Under this investigation shall be the rule, and the resolution without action. A Washington dispatch Herald says: Mr. Wilson, Dem., of W called up the bill reported for to prevent the extermination of seals in Alaska. In advocating the bill, said that its object was to prevent the rapid extermination of the seals. 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."

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