Proposed Council Of the Empire

Interesting Correspondence with Member of Cape Colony Parliament.

Misapprehension Which Exists as to Objects Sought to Be Obtained.

The London Times in its issue of Nov. 9th says: The secretary of the British Empire League sent to the Hon. John X. Merriman, M.L.A., Cape Colony, among others, the resolutions adopted by the council on July 3.

Mr. Merriman replied, saying:

The name "Empire," which is generally used to describe the various communities that acknowledge allegiance to the King of England, may serve as a convenient expression for the somewhat undefined relation that has hitherto so happily existed between England and the self governing communities of English-speaking men; but if this relation is to be made the subject of any sort of written constitution, I venture to think that "Commonwealth" and not "Empire" more nearly expresses the sort of relation that must exist in the future if the connexion is to be a permanent one.

An Imperial Council sitting in London, with the object of giving advice or exercising any control over self-governing communities, without at the same time having a right to give similar advice and control to Great Britain, will certainly not make for a permanence of the connexion in the next generation, whatever it may do just now, when, for one reason or another, there is a good deal of generous enthusiasm, genuine as well as factitious.

With regard to the proposal in resolution No. 2 to give "importance and efficiency to what is virtually an Imperial Council" by giving it a permanent existence, I may take leave to remark that the present constition of these conferences is by no means a representative one. In many cases, before the minister whom accident has for the time sent to such a conference can return home he may well chance to find that the turn of the political wheel has put him in the minority, and the legacy of a whole series of resolutions, passed in a body in which his position was neither that of a delegate nor a representative, is left to his successor.

In one case, at any rate, which is familiar to the writer, the Prime Minister, who had just managed, immediately before his departure, to scrape through on a motion of no confidence by the casting vote of the speaker, attended one of these conferences, and during his stay in London, without any authority of the legislature, pledged the government of the colony to a most embarrassing expenditure which had to be liquidated in another form by his successor in office.

The result is a growing feeling of suspicion and dislike for these irresponsible conferences, where only one side of colonial feeling is represented, on the part of those work-a-day assemblies at the other side of the world, who have to find the means, by taxation or otherwise, to carry out the resolutions upon which their opinion was not taken. If any satisfaction or permanence is to be looked for, something more representative must be devised than the chance appointment of a fluctuating political minister.

With regard to No. 4, which contemplates the extension of the functions of the proposed council to India, it is difficult to see how the affairs and interests of the self-governing colonies are to be mixed up with those of the Indian Empire, and, if I may be permitted to add, such a step would impose most undesirable responsibilities upon those democratic communities in addition to those burdens inseparable from their growth and position.

Resolution No. 5 advocates the formation of a permanent committee, whose functions should be, under the council's instructions, to examine and report upon public matters and questions. As, presumably, this committee would be located in London, and its functions would be most wholly confined to giving advice to the self-governing colonies, it is difficult to conceive any proceeding that would be more bitterly resented by those representative bodies who are responsible for the conduct of affairs in the colonies than advice, however well-meaning, tendered to them by a body located thousands of miles away, and of necessity out of touch with local conditions and feelings.

In conclusion I must apologize for the length of this letter, which deals so inadequately with a few of the problems arising out of your communication.

There are 11 million of English-speaking men outside of England who owe allegiance to the King of England and who live under their own political constitutions.

Time, it must be recollected, will still further increase the proportion between the subjects of the king who live outside England and those who live in England.

The advance and prosperity of these communities has been largely due to their emancipation from leading strings and the powers of self-government that they have enjoyed.

It would be a questionable experiment to set up the leading strings again, by whatever name they may be called.

JOHN X. MERRIMAN.

The secretary of the Empire League replied on Oct. 27th:

Sir,—I brought your letter of August 1st last before the executive committee of the league at a meeting held on the 12th inst.; with the Earl of Derby in the chair. It was received with much interest, and the points raised in the letter were duly considered.

In speaking of the whole of the countries under the rule of King Edward VII. "the British Empire" has become the recognized expression. It seems to the council that the word "Empire" is not inappropriate in referring to a number of states which govern themselves, but are united for common purposes under the rule of one sovereign. It does not imply superiority or inferiority of one part in relation to the rest. The Australian Federation is known as the Commonwealth, and if the term were applied to the whole of the British communities it might tend to confusion.

It appears to the council that some misapprehension exists as to the objects it had in view.

The league is certainly not in favor of the establishment of "an Imperial council sitting in London with the object of giving advice or exercising any control over the self-governing communities, without at the same time having a right to give similar advice and control to Great Britain." The Hon. W. P. Reeves, high commissioner of New Zealand, in moving the resolutions, explained that in his view the prime minister of each self-governing community should be the representative of that communiaty on the proposed council, and should cease to be a member as a matter of course when he ceased to be prime minister. In other words, members of the council would reside in different parts of the Empire, though the majority of its meetings would probably be held in London. If you will read the article by Mr. Reeves in the British Empire Review for November, 1904, which I am sending herewith, you will see that his views are not very far apart from yours. I also enclose a copy of the Review ofr August last, which contains a full report of the council meeting of July3, at which the resolutions were adopted.

The permanent committee would probably be composed of the permanent under-secretaries of state for the colonies and for India, the official representatives in London of the self-governing communities beyond the seas, and such experts as may bet added temporarily from time to time. Its duties would be strictly confined to the collection of information, which it would digest and tabulate in such a form as would prove most useful for the meetings of the council of the Empire. Such a committee would certainly not be expected to offer advice to the different self-governing communities. It work would be done entirely at the direction of the council, and its opinions, if it expressed any, would be given confidentially to the council, and could be utilized or not as the council might think fit.

With regard t othe point you raise that the conferences are not repsesentative because the prime ministers attending may have ceased to retain the confidence of the self-governing communities which they are supposed to represent, the council is of opinion that, although this might occur in isolated cases, and though possibly some better method of appointing representatives may be devised, the plan suggested is well worthy of consideration. There is no doubt that every system of representation can be criticised, and these problems can only be solved by consultation and experience.

The reason for having India represented in the council is that it is impossible to deal exhaustively with questions of defence or trade without including that great dependency, whose representative would probably be the Secretary of State for India.

To obtain the advantages of union it is obviously important that some mode may be devised by which views may be exchanged and common action secured.

Your letter is of great interest, and if anything should occur to you arising out of this reply it is hoped that you will not hesitate to write your views fully.

The Times also has the following editorial on the question:

We published yesterday an interesting correspondence arising out of the movement for the formation of a Council of the Empire. A series of resolutions recommending the establishment of such a body, and its equipment with something like a permanent secretariat, was adopted at a meeting of the council of the British Empire League held in July. Among other colonial statesmen to whom a copy of the resolutions were transmitted was Mr. John X. Merriman, the well-known politician at the Cape. Mr. Merriman, though his distinguishing abilities are not disputed by any one, can hardly be called a professed Imperialist. His political aspirations have borne a different character. He has aimed at the encouragement of a South African rather than a British patriotism; at the independence of the sub-continent rather than its incorporation in a unified Empire. A glance at his record, therefore, would hardly lead us to expect him to take a very keen interest in the proposals of the league. But Mr. Merriman, like many most effective people, has been better than his principles. He replied to the resolutions sent him in an extremely instructive letter, which took the trouble to go into the various points with a good deal of critical detail. * * * Mr. Merriman thinks that the word "Empire," whide appropriate enough to the somewhat undefined relation that has hitherto so happily existed between England and the self-governing communities of English-speaking men, cannot be properly applied to the self-governing communities themselves, and should not be applied at all to a closer constitutional structure such as the advocates of Imperial unity are aiming at. His own suggestion is that the term "Commonwealth" should be employed instead. To this the secretary of the British Empire League replies with point that the name has already been appropriated by federal Australia. Returning to Mr. Merriman's complaint of "Empire," we willingly make him a present of the fact that the term has denoted in the past a large variety of political combinations to which the British Empire bears no resemblance whatever. But that does not necessarily condemn its present use. There is no reason why the word should not be exclusively associated either with the great Asiatic empires of antiquity, or with classical or medieval Rome, or with Caesarism as exhibited by a Napoleon, or even with modern German or modern Japan. Admitting, as we think Mr. Merriman would, the force of Mr. Murray's practical objection to the name Commonwealth, and also the fact that such a term would mean little or nothing to millions of the native subjects of the Crown, we doubt if any more natural and effective word than Empire can be suggested to express the personal tie of loyalty that links all its members together.

A more serious argument of Mr. Merriman's is that directed against any policy which would give control over the colonies or the power of advising them to an Imperial council sitting in London, without giving a similar power of control and advice over the mother country. Such a policy would certainly make short work of the Imperial connection, if it were seriously insisted on. But nothing of the kind is contemplated, so far as we are aware, by the advocates of an Imperial Council as a step towards Imperial unity. The whole essence of the proposal is that the colonies should be as fully and powerfully represented as they are now in the periodical colonial conferences; and the council would be, in fact, nothing but the erection of those conferences into a permanent system. * * * The reciprocal control exerted by Great Britain and the colonies would probably not offer any insurmountable difficulties in practice. It is a fact which must be faced by every one who is honestly bent on wielding the Empire together. So soon as the council attained any measure of executive control it would be seen to be the vital element in our Imperial policy.

One of Mr. Merriman's chief sources of anxiety is that the scheme of representing the colonies by their premiers does not work with perfect satisfaction now, and a fortiori would be still less satisfactory when the constitution of the council gives more far-reaching importance to the question. Here again, however, a large part of the seeming difficulty may be simply due to the fact that we have not worked out all the possibilities in detail. Supposing the presence of a colonial premier at a conference or council is found to prejudice the domestic course of politics in his colony, or to weaken his own position through absence, it might be quite practicable to substitute another spokesman who should be equally representative but less indispensable at home. If the Imperial council should be realized in practice and take the extremely important place which is marked out for such a body, there does not appear to be any reason why each colony or group of colonies represented should not have a minister specially charged with the consideration of Imperial affairs. Mr. Merriman's fears as to mixing up the interests of the self-governing communities with thos eof India seem able to rest on a certain misconception. The representation of India is, as the British Empire League pointed out, absolutely necessary if either the defence or the commercial relations of the Empire are to be adequately discussed. It does not follow that the self-governing colonies will incur any loss of political status from this joint representation. No sort of interference with the domestic affairs of the various members of the Empire would be attempted by the council. Colonies with the most various grades of franchise and autonomy might meet there in complete equity and with full reservation of their own rights. Nothing but their external obligations as partners in the Empire would come under consideration. But we welcome Mr. Merriman's letter, as we remarked, for the clear proof which it affords of personal interest in this discussion. In many quarters of the Empire we see visible signs of a similar growth of interest. The tour of Sir Frederick Pollock and his party through Canada has done much to set the cause for the creation of an Imperial Council before the Canadians. It is not improbable, also, that the distinguished visitors themselves may return with quickened sense of the practical manner in which Canadians approach the question of Imperial consolidation, and a conviction that the arguments advanced in the Dominion towards reconsideration of our commercial relations are not to be lightly set aside.

NERVOUS DYSPEPSIA.

Mr. George Bolen, Spry, Bruce, Co., writes: "I was troubled with nervous dyspepsia for some years, and after using nine boxes of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, I felt better than I had for years. Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is certainly the best medicine I ever used, and I say so because I want to give full credit where it is due."

More Terrible Than War!

More terrible than war, famine or pestilence is that awful destroyer, that hydra-headed monster, Consumption, that annually sweeps away more of earth's inhabitants than any other single disease known to the human race.

"It is only a cold, a trifling cough," say the careless, as the irritation upon the delicate mucous membrane causes them to hack away with an irritable tickling of the throat. When the irritation settles on the mucous surface of the throat, a cough is the result. To prevent Bronchitis or Consumption of the Lungs, do not neglect a cough however slight as the irritation spreading throughout the delicate lining of the sensitive air passages soon leads to fatal results. If on the first appearance of a cough or cold you would take a few doses of

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you would save yourself a great deal of unnecessary suffering. Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup contains all the life-giving properties of the pine trees of Norway, and for Asthma, Croup, Whooping Cough and all Throat and Lung affections it is a specific. Be sure when you ask for Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup to get it. Don't be humbugged into taking something else. Price 25 cts.

Miss Lena Johnston, Toledo, Ont., writes: "I have used Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup for throat troubles after taking numerous other remedies, and I must say that nothing can take the place of it. I would not be without a bottle of it in the house."

Along the Waterfront

Many New Lights and Aids to Navigation Sought by B.C. Mariners.

Local Fishing Steamer Arrives With Herring Catch—Liners En Route.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

A long list of lights and aids to navigation which British Columbia mariners wsh to see established, as prepared by the Vancouver Shipmaster's association, is in the hands of Mr. Fraser, commissioner of lights, now making a trip in northern British Columbian waters on board the fishery protection steamer Kestrel. On his return he will visit the west coast of Vancouver island, where new aids are sought by Victoria shipmasters. The list recommended to the commissioner follows:

Light and for signal on Lucy island, Chatham sound; bell buoy on Sparrowhawk rock, south end of Finlayson island, Port Simpson; red light on Mark Tree bluff, Kennedy island, middle Skeena passage; buoy on the rock between Inverness cannery and North Pacific cannery in north Skeena passage; white beacon on small rock 200 feet west from Village island, Port Essington; buoy on rock between Inverness cannery and N. Tree point, north Skeena passage; thirty-day light on White Cliff island, Hardy passage; thirty day light on Gibson reef off Gibson island; thirty-day light on Morning reef, Klewnuggit; light on Turtle point, Gill island. Wright sound; light on southwest point of Sarah island, Boat point; thirty-day light on White rocks, Millbank sound; fog signal on Ivery island, Millbank sound; can buoy on Camp reef, Lamm island; can buoy on Walbran island, Pointer island; thirty-day light on Fog rock, Fisher channel, Fitzhugh sound; thirty-day light on Zero rock, entrance to Hecate inlet; fog whistle on Egg island, Queen Charlotte sound; light on Pine island, fog signal, Queen Charlotte sound; fog whistle on Scarlet point, Christie passage; light on Masterman island; bell or whistle, mechanical, Pultney point; gas buoy on Ledger's reef, off McNeill's point, near Haddington island; light on Gordon point, Cormorant island; light on south point of Helmcken island, Johnston straits; buoy on Ripple shoal, Johnston straits, light on Chatham point; light on Yuculatan rapids; light and fog signal on south end of Ragged islands; light on Junction point, Lewis channel; red light on Maud island, Seymour narrows; thirty-day light on Bear island, on southwest point of Harwood island; the arc of visibility of Cape Mudge, light increased and fog signal established; range light for Union bar; fog signal on Yellow island, Baynes sound; thirty-day light on West rocks, near Departure bay; red light in Dodd's narrow, Vancouver island; thirty-day light on Gabriola reef; Race point light in Porlier's pass made visible all round, and fog signal installed; light on Pearson island light improved so as to be seen all round and fog signal installed; fog whistle at Prospect point, Vancouver narrows and more beacons on north shore; thirty-day light on Burial island. Sanson narrows, Vancouver Island; spar buoy off spit outside Siwash rock, English bay; improvement on Fraser river lightship; range of beacon in Middle arm, Fraser river, enlarged.

BROUGHT MANY HERRINGS.

Steamer Athens Returns With Fish Taken at Cowichan Gap.

The fishing steamer Athens, belonging to D. K. Chongarnes of this city, returned yesterday morning from a fishing trip with a catch of over five tons of herrings, as well as three hundred pounds of cod, taken at Cowichan Gap. The fishermen, report the herring running well at Cowichan Gap. Heavy rains are also reported from Manaimo. The catch of the Athens was speedily sold. The Athens has been engaged for many months fishing mostly for halibut, off Cape Flattery.

ORIENTAL LINERS.

Several Vessels Now on the Way from Yokohama to This Port.

Steamer Shawmut is due on Monday from Manila via other Oriental ports and several other steamers are following her to Victoria and the sound. The steamer Athenian, which sailed from Yokohama on November 1, is due on Friday next. The steamer Iyo Maru, of the N. Y. K. line is also en route, and the steamer Empress of India is to follow her from Yokohama. The Empress will sail for Victoria on the 24. It is expected that the U. S. minister to Japan, Hon. Lloyd Griscom, will be among the passengers.

Officers of the N. Y. K. Company state that the Iyo is bringing about 7,000 tons of general cargo. Most of the freight is matting. The demand for matting has been greater than the supply and all the freighters coming from the Orient are bringing large loads of this material. The rest of the cargo is made up of the usual Oriental freight consisting of tea, silks, etc.

Steamer Dakota of the G. N. line is also bound from Yokohama, having sailed for Seattle on Thursday afternoon, with passengers and 7,000 tons of freight.

The Dakota's cargo consists of 48,000 rolls of matting, several large consignments of tea, silk, Chinese and Japanese curios and 630 cases of bulbs.

Among the passengers will be Howard James, head of the Great Northern Steamship Company in Seattle and his family, and A. M. Thomas, auditor of the Great Northern, who made the trip from Seattle on the Dakota in the interests of the company.

JOHN MORLEY UPON READING.

Speaking on Oct. 19 at the opening of the Carnegie library at Montrose, Scotland, Mr. John Morley said he would give one piece of advice to librarians, and that was to be aware of the temptation of getting together a lot of books simply because they could be got at a low price. Let them always remember that 100 books of the right sort were of far more importance than 10,000 books that were of no importance ever would be. It was also of importance that a lebrarian ought to be a man who read, one who had got such zeal and interest in books that he could not help reading them. Since his tarly days the science of librarianism had really arisen. He had been particularly struck with the scientific tone of librarianship in America and he hoped the excellence of which they set the example there would spread and extend to these islands. He was not one of those who thought that books would do everything for everybody. They would not, for it was not every man or woman who was capabe of deriving from books the priceless treasures that books contained. But one must not be disappointed. If one thought of how many hours were taken up with material cares, it would be understood that one ought not to be critical of people because they did not go with greater avidity into libraries and take out the best books.

He did not believe there was much distinction of classes in the matter of the reading of books. He believed that the proportion of the working class who read books was about the same as that of what he might term, without meaning, use a harsh term, the idle class. It might be true that of those men and women who used free libraries perhaps only a small percentage would read the best books. But this was at the root of the success of democracy—namely, that one never could tell what fire might not be kindled by a spark raised in one of those libraries.

He remembered once, in opening what was known as a settlement, suggesting the institution of a newspaper class, the idea being to appoint some one to examine the newspapers, and give a short description to members of the class of the most important and interesting matter contained in them.

He quite agreed that it was not by reading alone, or by books alone, that either the working class or the other classes would find salvation; but men of books without neglecting their duties or women who tried to acquire the habit of books without neglecting their duties were getting the key to make their own lives and the lives of their children better. (Cheers.(A narrow mind was the most detestable thing in human nature, except, of course, a bad heart or a bad temper. To the men or women who read, the outlook in life would become wider, and they would become more tolerant. Reading would humanize, would widen the outlook, and also teach the lesson that there were subjects upon which he and they had no right whatever to have an opinion. (Laughter.) Even in America people expressed opinions on subjects about which they knew nothing—(laughter)—and the less they knew the more firmly they expressed their opinions. (Laughter.) Well, reading books got rid of the habit. One other quality that books rightly handled, gave was a reverence for greatness and goodness. The most stimulating influence was to be got from personal teachers and inspirers; but next to these came a good book.

WANTS ITS SECURITIES.

Canadian Assurance Company Brings Suit in Minnesota.

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 18.—The North American Life Assurance Company, of Toronto, Ont., has brought suit in the district court here to compel state insurance Commissioner O'Brien to surrender securities to the amount of $112,401 deposited by the company for the security of policy holders. There is now in force only nine policies issued by this company to parties residing in Minnesota.

Victorian Killed At Los Angeles

Charles G. Kipling Loses His Life as Result of an Explosion.

Another Engineer Injured—Defect Responsible For Fatal Accident.

A despatch received yesterday from Los Angeles by Mrs. Thomas Sparks, conveyed the news that her brother, Charles G. Kipling, had succumbed to injuries received in an engine accident at Los Angeles. Mr. Kipling, who was formerly a resident of Victoria, where his brother, an engineer at the British Columbia cold storage, and his sister wife of Thomas Sparks, are living, was employed as engineer at the Girard street power house of the Interurban Railway Company at the Southern city and was severely maimed and scalded, together with a fellow engineer, Fred Leiser, on Friday last.

A hidden defect in the casting of a huge cylinder of the big 1,000 horse power Hamilton Corliss engine driving the generators of the power house caused the accident. Both men were standing within a few feet of the engine, when

Without the Least Warning

the entire side toward them of the steam chest portion of the cylinder between the oscillating valve caps gave way under the steam pressure and rained a shrapnel volley of ragged cast iron fragments at them.

With deadly aim a number of the broken fragments found their mark, under the impulse of the steam pressure of 120 pounds to the square inch at terrific velocity. Bad enough in itself, the hurtling charge of flying iron brought in its wake a

Shrieking, Howling Blast of Steam

super-heated to a blue scorching gas under the pressure of the boilers. Where the fragments of iron struck the luckless engineer it tore ragged holes and bruised the flesh. The steam enveloped them and raised the skin from hands and faces in its furious blast.

An attendant sprang to the throttle of the big engine and quickly shut off the steam, and the employees who rushed immediately to the spot assisted in putting the injured men on board a special car which was hurried to the receiving hospital, where their injuries were dressed.

An Unusual Accident

The accident is considered by the engineers of the company most curious, as the bursting of the steam chest wall occurred at a point where the iron was more than two inches thick and where the factor of safety, is calculated at fifteen times above the bursting point under the steam pressure carried, and as other much thinner portions of the steam chest and cylinder walls subjected to the same pressure remained intact. The only explanation is that of an inherent defect in the casting, a weakness nothing in the past five years use of the engine has ever before given the slightest indication.

Th late C. E. Kipling was for some years engineer at the Pendray works. He was married here to Miss Tait. She and a child survive him.

CARNEGIE PAYS FOR LUNCH.

Engineer's Courtesy Years Ago Remembered by the Millionaire.

Pittsburg, Nov. 18.—Fred Fleck, an old locomotive engineer of the Pennsylvania road has received a letter from Andrew Carnegie, enclosing a check for $1,000 to pay for a luncheon which Mr. Carnegie ate in Fleck's engine cab years ago when he was riding with the engineer, Mr. Carnegie it appears, was ravenously hungry and gladly dined on the contents of Fleck's dinner pail. He has now paid for that meal.

Lever's Y-Z (Wise Head) Disinfectant Soap Powder is better than other powders, as it is both soap and disinfectant. 34

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Deserters of The Carmencita

Four Sealers Said to Have Left Her When In Northern Waters.

Complaint Is Made by Mariners That Carmanah Horn Is Not Blowing.

(From Sunday's Daily.)

When the sealing schooner Acapulco, sea, it was reported that four sealers had deserted from her in northern waters and some alarm was expressed for them. Charles Bird, one of the four derived from Alaska by the steamer Dolphin, having stowed away at Ketchikan, after working his way to that port on various vessels. He says the other deserters, A. Hughes, Buel Davis and J. Daily, are still in the north. Bird and his companions left the Carmencita because of bad treatment and poor food. They joined the vessel in San Francisco last March. For the first few weeks the food served out to the crew was good, but after the vessel called at Vancouver Island for water the supply was cut down. Finally a general complaint was made to Captain McLean.

While at Clayquot trouble arose between McLean and members of the crew.

Bird says that the food began to grow less every day. After the four men had planned to leave the vessel they stole down stairs every night and took food from a locker where the captain kept a supply of ham, salt pork, jellies, sugar and other things which were never served out to members of the crew.

On the night of June 2, after the men had a big supply of food, they lowered one of the ship's boats and with the assistance of several of the sailors, left the Carmencita. The vessel was then off Kodiak. The following morning the Carmencita was still in sight, and Bird says that Captain McLean made no effort to pick them up. Finally the vessel disappeared, and two days later the four deserters went into Sunny Cove, on Trinity Island, near Kediak.

While making a landing the boat capsized in the surf and the provisions were all lost. The men made a search for food but could find nothing but mussels. Bird says that he was poisoned from eating them and for a time was seriously ill.

Bird and his companions afterward sailed their boat to Kodiak, and after securing food traded the stolen boat for passage to Seldovia by the steamer Dora. Bird since worked his way from port to port until he stowed away on the Dolphin at Ketchikan.

Bird says that when he sailed from San Francisco on the Carmencita he was aware the vessel was going on a poaching expedition, but that he expected to get the best of food and good treatment. He says that while he and his companions suffered for food and shelter while on Trinity Island, they were glad to leave the sealing schooner.

HORN NOT BLOWING.

Hugomont's Master Says Carmanah's Foghorn Was Not Working.

Captain McNeil of the bark Hugomont, which has arrived at Tacoma eleven days from San Francisco, stated on arrival that because there was no fog whistle blowing at Carmanah point, he had a difficult time getting his bearings off the straits. For two days the four-master was in the fog, and it was impossible to see anything or make observations. At 3 o'clock Thursday morning the master knew he was near the shore but he was unable for a time to tell whether the lights were those of Cape Beale or Carmanah Point. At both stations the light is white, and at Cape Peale it flashes every half minute. At Carmanah it flashes three times in fifteen seconds with an interval of eclipse lasting thirty seconds. The signals are so similar that Captain McNeil waited for the whistle at Carmanah point so as to be able to tell where he was. However, he is positive there was no such signal in operation and it was only because the fog lifted for a short interval that he was finally able to make out the lights and satisfy himself he was off Carmanah.

The Hougomont was quite close to shore and the big vessel was immediately worn around. There was not much wind, and the task was no easy one. Captain McNeil says there was no danger at any time, but the fact that the whistle was not working made it hard for him to find where he was in the fog, which was "thick as mush," according to the nautical term.

The night before, the foghorn at Tatoosh warned the Hougomont that she was near shore. However, in the fog she had drifted toward the Vancouver shore, and it was necessary to bring her around again to reach the straits.

CROSBY HALL ARRIVES.

With the report of one death on board and the roughest passage in her history, the British steamer Crosby Hall, Captain Black has arrived at Seattle from the Orient. Gales which at times approached the strength of hurricanes battered the ship from the time she left Japan till she anchored in the bay. Officers on the steamer reported it to have been the roughest passage they ever made. The run from Yokohama to this port took twenty-three days. The average passage is about fourteen or fifteen days.

George Davenport, steward on the vessel, died November 15 and was buried at sea. Officers on the ship stated that the man had been sick for about ten days before death occurred. They were unacquainted with the nature of the malady. Davenport lived in Liverpool, England, where he had a wife and three children.

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THE AUSTRALIAN LINE.

Aorangi Due on Wednesday—New Turbine Steamer.

R. M. S. Aorangi, of the Canadian-Australian line is due to arrive from the Antipodes via Honolulu, which port she left last Wednesday, on Wednesday next bringing an average cargo including a shipment of 1,200 tons of raw sugar from Suva for the British Columbia sugar refinery at Vancouver. The Canadian-Australian line purposes shortly to improve the line by placing in service a new turbine passenger steamer in the stead of the Moana. She will make one or two trips to Victoria, commencing in April or May. The new steamer, the Maheno, had her trial trip at Dumbarton, where she was built by the firm of William Denny & Brothers, early in October. She is the largest passenger vessel the company possesses, and the second turbine, they having been among the first companies to take advantage of this method of propulsion. Her dimensions are 400 feet by 50 feet, by 33 ft 6 inches, moulded, to upper deck, and she has almost a complete shade deck, with a boat deck over a large portion thereof. She is elaborately fitted out for passengers, of whom she carries 223 first class, 116 second, and 60 third class. The trial trip was most successful, the vessel leaving for Durban, Natal, where she will receive passengers for Australia and New Zealand.

FOR PROTECTION OF FISH AND GAME

Important Meeting of Local Organization at Driard Last Evening.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

A meeting of the Fish and Game Club was held at the Driard Hotel last evening, when the question of the appointment of a game warden by the C. P. R. was discussed.

It was stated by Mr. Musgrave that he had been in communication with Mr. Dennis of the C. P. R. and that he had been encouraged from the start to do something for the protection of game on Vancouver Island. It was pointed out that at the present time some hunters take out a miner's licence, and, fortified with this, they make a practice of killing deer or birds at any time during the season in what is known as "unorganized districts." In an "unorganized district" it was unlawful for even a miner, prospector or Indian to shoot any game out of season, and if the southern part of Vancouver Island was made into an "organized district" it would soon prevent illegal shooting.

Mr. Dennis was in favor of making all that portion of Vancouver Island south of the 50th parallel of latitude into an "organized district." After a great deal of discussion the following resolution was passed:

"That in the opinion of this meeting it is necessary for the better protection of the fish and game on Vancouver Island that all that portion of Vancouver Island south of latitude 50 should be declared organized under the British Columbia Game Act; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to every member of the executive council of the province of British Columbia."

The question of shooting hen pheasants for a portion of the season and the matter of a gun licence were also discussed. It was finally decided to arrange a meeting with the two gun clubs, with a view to having the advice of all on the matter before acting. The date of the meeting was left with the secretary to arrange.