From THE DAILY COLONIST, Sept. 4.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Census of Victoria.

The city clerk has been instructed to write to the chief census commissioner at Ottawa for the official figures, prior to the council taking up the matter of having a new enumeration.

To be Reformed.

Police Officer Abell accompanies the erring Emily Rosson to the Fraser River this morning, the intention being to place her in the Sister's retreat at the Mission. It is to be hoped that she will return a wiser and a better girl.

One Step Nearer the Goal.

The Citizens' committee on hotel accommodation completed their consideration of desirable sites yesterday, and unanimously adopted a plan for the construction of Hotel Victoria, which will be made public in detail at an early date.

Those Assessments.

It is announced that the Nanaimo miners who were thrown out of work for refusing to pay their assessments, have resolved to take the matter to the courts in what their legal advisers deem to be the best way of having an issue raised.

Court of Revision.

From the hour of two o'clock until half-past, the only persons present in the Court of Revision, yesterday afternoon, were Ald. Robertson, the city clerk, the city assessor, Mr. Morris Moss, J. Isaacs, and two newspaper reporters. For want of a quorum, the court did not sit.

Conservatory of Music.

Miss Kate McGregor and Miss Laura Adams have established a conservatory of music in the Croft and Norris block. Miss McGregor will instruct in vocal and Miss Adams in instrumental music. Both are well known, and known as first class teachers, and the conservatory will no doubt grow and flourish.

Two Ribs Broken.

Dr. J. C. Davie was driving on Fort street on Wednesday night, when his horse took fright and made a bolt for liberty. The doctor would have speedily brought the horse into subjection, had not the wheel caught the tramway rail; the buggy was overturned and the doctor thrown out, two ribs being broken in the fall.

U. S. Land Transfers.

Recent transfers of Port Angeles and other properties have, it is announced, been certified to by local notaries, without any official authentication. It appears that these notarial transfers have no value unless they bear the official mark of the U. S. consulate, Canadian notarial deeds having no binding force on the other side.

The Pacific Magazine.

The Pacific Magazine for the current month contains among other matters a very interesting article entitled "Our Victorian Cousins." The whole publication is full of Western snap, is conducted by Lee Fairhill of Seattle, and edited by Miss Ella Higginson. It is filled with short, crisp notes and comments, and admirably written and attractive stories.

School Improvements.

Trustees Hayward, Jessop and McLaughlan, accompanied by architect Mallandaine yesterday visited the Spring Ridge, Hillside and James Bay schools with a view to ascertaining the additional accommodation required, and the best means of supplying them. It is likely that a report on the subject will be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

Provincial Land Surveyors.

The Board of Examiners of candidates for the profession of Provincial Land Surveyors meet in the offices of the Department of Lands and Works, on the second Wednesday in October. There are a large number of aspirants. The examiners consist of the Surveyor-General, Mr. Kains, and Messrs. J. A. Kirk, John Mackenzie, Peter Leech, J. H. Brownlee and W. Pindar. They will be in session five or six days.

The Crematory.

In the Council meeting, on Wednesday night, objection was made to the presence of the crematory in certain localities, because of the proximity of milk ranches, whose product, it was held, would be tainted by the refuse to be disposed of. One of the aldermen then remarked that there were bigger nuisances on a ranch on the Cedar Hill road than could be found in any of the belongings of a garbage crematory.

County Court.

A considerable number of cases were heard yesterday before Chief Justice Sir Matthew Beghie. There was both interest and amusement in some of them. In one it was sought to commit a debtor to jail for not having satisfied a judgment order; but the party proved that he had not been able to pay. On counsel making his motion thereafter, his lordship remarked that he was tolerably well acquainted with the list of offences, but he had so far failed to discover that it was a crime for a man to have no money. In connection with another suit a colored witness convulsed both court and spectators with laughter as he told all he knew with accompaniments of humor and gesticulation.

The Dunsmuir Residence.

As announced in yesterday's COLONIST, the contract for the erection of a palatial residence at the Gorge, for Mr. James Dunsmuir, has been awarded to Mr. Thos. Catterall. The plans of the building have been shown to a COLONIST reporter, and, judging from them, the new residence will be as commodious as it will be beautiful. The building, some 80x90 feet, will be of stone and brick, and while it cannot be classed as of any particular style of architecture, it may be said that a lesson has been taken from all the schools, and the best points adapted. The site selected is a charming one, facing the Gorge. The building will be surrounded by nearly 20 acres of ground, well wooded, and capable of being made very attractive. The ground plan provides for drawing-room, dining room, breakfast room, billiard room, smoking room, hall and vestibule, kitchen, pantries, servants' hall, etc., with wide and spacious verandas. The drawing and dining room are off the main hall, and *en suite*. The first floor is reached by a wide staircase, and is taken up with bedrooms, day and night nurseries, bath rooms, etc., while the attic is devoted to observation tower, servants' apartments, and other such accomodation. The house throughout will be lighted up by electricity, with electric bells, speaking tubes, and every modern convenience. The out offices are of the most approved style, and when the grounds are laid out, the building will be one of the most attractive of Victoria's suburban residences. Work has already been commenced, but it is not probable that the building will be ready for occupation much sooner than April or May next. Before it is handed over by the contractor it is estimated that not less than $30,000 will have been spent on it.

New Temperance Hotel.

It is expected that Mr. Grant will, in about two weeks, take possession of the two upper flats of the Jewell block. He proposes to conduct a first-class temperance hotel, having from 70 to 100 rooms for the use of guests.

New Firm.

The rapidly increasing business of Mr. Cornelius Soule has resulted in a partnership being formed under the name of Soule & Day, architects. Mr. Day's professional education in Dublin, and his practice in South Africa, fit him for the requirements of this city.

"Native Sons of California."

On Wednesday next, "the Native Sons of California" have a grand banquet, at the Rainier hotel, Seattle. U. S. Consul Myers is going over to speak to the toast of "Our Foreign Neighbors." The Consul hardly knows how to handle his subject, as he has become so accustomed to the people of British Columbia, that he can neither consider them "foreigners" nor "neighbors."

A Lost Row Boat.

Inquiries are being made in Victoria for a row boat belonging to Smith's Island lighthouse, which was stolen on the night of the 22d and 23d August from the west beach of Whidby Island. Its measure is 16 feet by 4 feet. A sail and two oars were also taken. The boat was branded "U. S. Lt. Hs. Estabt." A skiff was left behind, which was occupied the previous day by two young men who came under pretence of wanting water.

The Poor.

At the conclusion of the Council proceedings, on Wednesday evening, the members had a brief private session in the committee room. It is understood that the object was to discuss the case of several poor people and the advisability of placing them in the Old People's Home, where some of them are to be taken. The conditions of a number of poor women were also taken up, and the Mayor was authorized to administer such relief as he might deem expedient.

Owner Wanted.

A few evenings since Frank Jewell, while at the C.P.N. wharf, was asked by a stranger to take charge of his satchel. This he consented to do, but a considerable time elapsing, with no stranger in sight, he took the valise to the police station, where it now is. It is a well finished black valise, and in addition to a quantity of clothing, contained two books, one entitled "The Changed Cross," in which was written "F. Crothorn with L. Vernon's good wishes."

Interesting Case.

In the County Court, yesterday, before Chief Justice Sir M. B. Begbie, the case of Gaerdie vs. Bucknam was heard and completed, so far as the evidence is concerned, the argument being fixed for this morning. Mr. Crease appeared for the plaintiff and Belyea & Gregory for the defendant. The point at issue is the liability of the defendant on a seaman's advance note. The vessel to which the seaman belonged being wrecked before the money was earned, Capt. Bucknam refused to pay.

In the Toils.

Sergt. Walker and his brother officer, R. H. Walker, were enjoying a walk through the Chinese quarter yesterday afternoon, when a sound of revelry saluted their ears. It sounded like fan tan, and as the Walker brothers take great interest in the game, they entered with the intention of taking a hand. Unfortunately their appearance called the game, and as clubs were trumps, five Celestials were ordered up—to the police station. They will be charged this morning with witnessing an unlawful game, to wit, fan tan.

Business Change.

It is announced that Mr. Henry Croft has acquired the interests of Mr. Francis Bourchier, in the Vancouver Island Land and Investment company, to whose business he intends to devote himself, his means and energies. Mr. Croft is one of our rising business men. He is active and enterprising to a degree, as all who know him fully understand. His personal popularity and extensive connections, in addition to his other qualifications, cannot fail to enable him to extend the operations of the firm, and augment its already extensive clientele.

Gazette Appointments.

Arthur Lee, of Victoria, to be a Notary Public, and Charles Robert Nairne, to be a clerk in the Treasury.

The certificate of incorporation of the Steveston Natural Gas and Development Company, Limited, gives it a capital of $50,000, in $100 shares; the time of the company's existence to be fifty years, and its principal place of business to be at Vancouver. The trustees of the company are: Messrs. W. H. Steves, A. Murray Beattie, Hugh Forbes Keefer, Donald McGillivray and J. W. Vaughan.

The Firemen's Tournament.

A meeting of the Citizen's committee was held last night for the purpose of making arrangements for the firemen's tournament, to be held on the 28th, 29th and 30th of this month. There was a good attendance, and the most satisfactory reports were received. The funds for the prizes have already been secured, and all that is required is the wherewithal for incidental expenses. The programme is a good one, and under the chairmanship of Mr. Wm. Dalby will no doubt be carried out effectively. Final details will be made at the adjourned meeting of the 10th September.

Manœuvers of Great Armies.

VIENNA, Sept. 4.—The Gopfritz manœuvers, to-day, developed into an infantry battle on a great scale, the infantry being supported by artillery on both sides. The conflict was hotly sustained for many hours. The Eighth corps finally fell back on Schertzenow, around which they have been bivouacking, to-night. The German and Austrian emperors watched the operations with keen interest, being in the field several hours. Archduke Albrecht acted as umpire. A few cases of sunstrokes occurred, but the troops in general were hardy and little affected by heat. Emperor William's desire to watch the movements led him several times to hastily mount, and the dismount resulted in his being fatigued, mostly felt in his recently injured knee. All the newest appliances of smokeless powder were used to an enormous extent. The officers had to exert the utmost skill to prevent confusion. Emperor William is anxious not to wound South German feelings, and will therefore attend the Bavarian manœuvers as a guest.

One car of rails, two of whiskey, one of glassware, one of nails and three of sugar arrived by the Yosemite last evening.

ON STRIKE.

Conductors and Drivers on the Electric Road Fighting for Nine Hours a Day.

Only One Car Running on Each Route Yesterday — Conference This Morning.

How Victorians have come to regard the tramway as a necessity was well illustrated yesterday, when only one car was running on each route, the cause being a strike. The differences between the company and the car crews, which were reported on a fair road to adjustment, led to all the trouble. Conductors and motorneers had threatened to strike unless their requests were met by 6 o'clock, Wednesday evening, but it was expected that a day's time had been gained by the offer of President Higgins to meet and confer with all dissatisfied, last evening. This was proved not to be the case by all the men declining to take out the cars at the usual hour in the morning. By seven o'clock supplies had been secured, and during the day four cars were kept busy, one on the Fort street line, one on the James Bay and Douglas street route, one to Oak Bay beach and one to Esquimalt. To-day, whether an agreement is reached or not, the company promise to have every car running on schedule time. There is to be a meeting of the strikers with the directors at 11 a.m., and both are in hopes that good will come of the interview; hopes that are fully endorsed by the public. The strikers showed that they are not unmindful of the rights of at least a portion of the community, by placing the Young America on the Esquimalt run early yesterday, to take the workmen, who go down by the first car, to their labors.

The strike was simply and solely for shorter hours; no complaint was made in regard to wages or other arrangements between the company and the men. The latter, while asserting their strength and the justice of their stand, when spoken to on the causes leading up to the troubles, had nothing bitter to say of the management; nor had the president the slightest fault to find with the men. Of course the story of the strike bears two interpretations. That of the men, as told by Conductor Douglas, is given first.

He says: "The trouble began as long ago as last summer, when we were running on the old schedule. The hours were too long, and we asked that they be shortened, and our wages increased. In the end this was done, the hours being brought down from 11 and 10½ a day to 9. We all thought this was the final arrangement promised, but when Mr. Higgins came back from the east, he wanted us to run 12 hours. A new time table was made out for the Esquimalt route, by which three men were called to do the work that four had always performed. As soon as we saw this notice put up, and, also, that a new schedule would be out in a day or so, we got together and determined that it was time for us to take measures to protect ourselves. No notice had been given us in advance, so we thought we'd do the same. We, therefore, on the evening of the first of September drew up a petition and sent it to the president. This is it:

To the President of the National Electric Tramway and Lighting Co.

SIR—We, the undersigned employes, respectfully request that the men running on the Esquimalt cars be put back to the old time tomorrow, and also that the time of the other men be not changed, as we contend that a man cannot work twelve hours and give proper and efficient attention to his duties. Unless this be done we shall be reluctantly compelled to leave our cars in the shed to-morrow, the 3rd inst. Trusting to see a notice posted in the office complying with the above request by 6 p.m. to-day (Sept. 2), we have the honor to be,

Yours respectfully, etc.

"This petition was signed by 33 motorneers and conductors; everyone employed but two, one of whom couldn't be found, and one who refused. This petition was handed in Wednesday morning, and at noon Mr. Higgins sent me a letter, asking that a committee be appointed as quickly as possible to meet him and discuss the difficulty with a view to its removal. We did appoint a committee of seven, and they met Mr. Higgins at the office. He said that he had come to the conclusion that our petition was not a petition—it was a demand. So it was, but the company had forced us to demand what we considered our rights. We had a long talk, and he tried to make us come over to see things in the light he placed them in. We told him, finally, we could do nothing without the consent of the men, and he said that if we would run to-morrow, (Thursday) on the old arrangement, he would meet us at midnight and have a schedule prepared for our approval, and he would do his best to adjust matters. 'But,' he said, 'I promise you nothing.' We asked him what this new schedule would likely be, and he replied that he 'could assure us it would not be 12 hours.' The committee was instructed to stick to the petition, which was for 9 hours, so we withdrew, Mr. Higgins saying that if we didn't take the cars out in the morning, he was prepared for any emergency—he could tie them all up for a week if he wanted to.

"Afterwards, we held a general meeting of the men, to which the committee reported, and it was, by all, decided to adhere to the original plan. This morning, we did not take the cars out, and at 10 o'clock held another meeting in the Sir William Wallace hall. Three of our number had, we found, seceded. The other thirty were on hand. After a long discussion, we resolved to petition the Board of Directors, as, from what we had learned from a director, it appeared that Mr. Higgins was acting solely on his own responsibility. A committee was named to interview the directorate, and we then decided that no further steps could be taken until their meeting had taken place."

The President's statement of the case is briefly as below: "The men had been running 9 and 9½ hours a day—9 hours for the night men and 9½ for the day crews—under a temporary arrangement. Under last summer's schedule, which is brought forward in connection with the strike, some men were worked 9½ hours, others 10½, and others 11, which we were forced to consider unequal and unfair. Pending a solution of the difficulty that would be fair to all, this temporary arrangement was adopted, and a short time ago the wages were materially advanced. We did not expect that when we came to equalize the work, and institute a common time of 10½ that it would not be acceptable. On the 31st of August, a notice was put up that a new schedule was being prepared; and on the 1st inst. the Esquimalt crews were instructed to run one crew 11 hours and the other 12. This was only temporary, of course, pending the introduction of the 10½ hour system. The men took exception to the order, and presented me with an address, stating that they would not work 12 hours, and demanding that the notice regarding a new schedule be taken down before 6 p. m. I acknowledged the address—it cannot be called a petition,—and asked for a committee of the men to meet me, which they did, and I explained to them what we proposed to do. The committee left me, and I understood that it was decided that the men were to meet me again, this evening, to further discuss the situation, and, if possible, come to a compromise. When they came, this morning, all refused duty but one conductor, and the first car was an hour late in getting out, and then the superintendent acted as motorneer. Subsequently, a few more came back and, with a reserve force, we were able to keep six cars running, two on each route. I hope to have all the cars running on regular time to-morrow (Friday). I have no complaint to make of the men; they are as fine a crowd as a company ever employed, but I don't think they have anything to complain of—the hours demanded are shorter than they will get in any other city. The men seemed at first disposed to appeal to the board over my head, but they afterwards came to me with a resolution asking for an interview with the board, which I endorsed, and the meeting will come off, I suppose. The men have acted hastily. They have been badly advised; but their attempt to tie the cars up has signally failed. There have been fully fifty applications for the vacant positions to-day."

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

Preparations for the Great Westminster Regatta—The Gun Club go to Tacoma.

THE RIFLE.

FINAL SCORES OF THE D. R. A.

OTTAWA, Sept. 4.—The final scores of the D. R. A. shoot were made to-day, and camp broke up. Most of the competitors have gone, nearly all the western men having started this morning, going via Montreal and Toronto. Following are the first 30 for the Bisley team of 1892: Staff Sergt. Rolston, 20th, 514; Capt. S. A. McMicking, 44th, 483; Staff Sergt. D. Mitchell, 33th, 480; Staff Sergt. J. Ogg, 1st B. F. A., 476; Sergt. Morris, 13th, 475; Sergt. W. Short, Guards, 474; Pt. J. H. Ellis, Guards, 472; Staff Sergt. C. N. Mitchell, 90th, 469; Capt. W. A. Jamieson, 43rd, 469; Sergt. J. A. Armstrong, Guards, 469; Staff Sergt. T. Mitchell, 10th R. S., 469; Staff-Sergt. R. McVittie, 10th R. S., 468; Pte. C. A. Windat, 45th, 468; Staff-Sergt. J. H. W. Simmison, 12th, 468; Lieut. W. Revel, 22nd, 467; Lieut. W. M. Andrews, R. L., 466; Pte. W. Gamble, 46th, 466; Capt. J. McRobbie, 8th Cavalry, 467; Sergt. Dent, 10th R. S., 465; Lieut. A. Wilson, 33rd, 463; Lieut. J. A. Williams, 45th, 462; Lieut. C. L. MacAdam, 3rd Vics., 460; Capt. W. P. M. Elligan, D.F.B., 459; Col.-Sergt. W. S. Fowler, 10th R. S., 458; Capt. W. S. Russell, 45th, 458; Sergt. H. C. Blair, 78th, 458; Staff-Sergt. W. R. Inman, 90th, 457; Sergt. J. Fairbairn, 43rd, 457; Lieut. W. Davidson, 8th R. R., 455; Sergt. R. G. Graham, 20th, 456.

THE OAR.

GAUDAUR WANTS TO ROW HANLAN.

TORONTO, Sept. 4.—Jake Gaudaur, having been asked his opinion of the action of Hanlan in the recent arrangments for the race between the two, said: "I think he is a bluffer; but I will get a race with him this fall, even if I have to go to New Westminster to do it. When he gets out there, he will find me waiting for him."

NEW WESTMINSTER, Sept. 4.—(Special to THE COLONIST.)—Murray and McLean, and Martin and Dignan meet at Vancouver, to-morrow, to settle details for their double scull race. Wise, of Toronto, is likely to take part in the celebration regatta.

Peterson, of San Francisco, and Dutch and Stevenson, the Australians, come up by the Walla Walla, to train on the harbor here for the Westminster regatta. The men from the land of sportsmen will follow Peterson's example—take all their training necessary at Victoria, and then take a day or so to get acquainted with the course.

CRICKET.

A good game of cricket will be played at Beacon Hill, this afternoon, the contesting teams being Mr. H. Martin's eleven and Mr. Goodwin's eleven. The following gentleman will play: Mr. Martin's eleven—Brown, Dowlen, Goward, Hardie, Hewett, Irving, Martin, Perry, Rhodes, Thomas and Williams. Mr. Goodwin's eleven—Earsman, Fuller, Goodwin, Hibben, Medway, Murray, Pauline, Wilkinson, Wilson, Woollaston and Wallis. The game commences at 2 o'clock sharp.

An eleven representing the V.C.C. will meet the officers of H.M.S. Warspite on the canteen grounds, to-day; next Saturday the Victoria's play in Seattle.

POLO.

VICTORIA POLO CLUB VS. H.M.S. WARSPITE.

A match took place on the club ground, yesterday afternoon, between the above teams) and resulted in a victory for the home side by eight goals to two; thus the Victoria club were enabled to reverse their previous defeats in a fairly decisive manner. The team for the Victoria Polo Club consisted of Messrs. N. P. Snowden, C. St. A. Pearse, C. Ward and H. E. Newton, of whom the first named rendered most valuable service to his side by his dashing play. The losers were represented by Dr. C. Pearson, Lieuts. Ethelston, Cooper and Sir R. Arbuthnot, who were all untiring in their efforts to avert defeat, from start to finish.

THE GUN.

With such shots as Minor, Maclure, Short and Hewlings, the Union Gun Club hope to make a good stand against Tacoma, at the City of Destiny, to-day. The match is on blue rock pigeons.

THE KENNEL.

In Victoria, there are a number of members of the Canadian Kennel Club, who will be represented by proxy at the annual meeting, which takes place at the Rossin House, Toronto, on the 14th inst. It is expected that a representative for Vancouver Island will, on this occasion, be appointed, which will have the effect of increasing the interest of dog fanciers.

The World Enriched.

The facilities of the present day for the production of everything that will conduce to the material welfare and comfort of mankind are almost unlimited and when Syrup of Figs was first produced the world was enriched with the only perfect laxative known, as it is the only remedy which is truly pleasing and refreshing to the taste and prompt and effectual to cleanse the system gently in the Spring time or, in fact, at any time and the better it is known the more popular it becomes.

(From THE DAILY COLONIST, Sept. 5.)

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Charged With Stealing.

James Sako was arrested by Sergeant Hawton and Officer Redgrave, yesterday morning, on the charge of stealing a gold watch from Captain Myers. The case will be heard in this morning's police court.

To Show the Sights.

The members of the local I. O. O. F. lodges have chartered a large number of carriages for this afternoon, and will devote themselves assiduously to giving the brethren from over the Sound a thoroughly good time.

No Foul Play.

A Tacoma special to the Post-Intelligencer says: The coroner's jury, in the case of Kenneth McKay, aged 26, of Victoria, B.C., found dead this morning, at Roy, find that there is no foundation for the rumor that he was drugged and poisoned. McKay's father, who is a prominent citizen of Victoria, came to Puget Sound in early days, in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The Contemplated Census.

A reply was, yesterday morning, received by the city clerk from the Chief Census Commissioner, confirming the published dispatches as to the population of the city of Victoria, which is 10,900 more than when it was previously taken. The subject of a municipal census will, no doubt, come up at the next meeting of Council, in view of the suggestion to that effect made by Alderman Munn. A number of applications from would-be enumerators are in the hands of the city clerk.

Portland Industrial Exposition.

The prospectus of the Portland Industrial Exposition, which opens on the 17th inst, is to hand, and is replete with such information as is of interest to intending visitors. The prospectus is got up in book form and is beautifully illustrated. The directors announce that they enter upon their work with a confidence and determination, largely based upon the prestige heretofore achieved, and assure the public that no expense or exertion will be spared to make the exposition the greatest, grandest and most attractive ever held upon the Pacific Coast.

To and From Seattle.

The steamer Olympian will carry the members and friends of the W.C.T.U. to Seattle, on an excursion, to-day, and while a brass band accompanies the pleasure-seekers, they will, no doubt, have a quiet, enjoyable day. The members of the I. O. O. F., in Seattle, return the compliment paid them a short time ago, and will arrive over about 1 o clock this afternoon, by the City of Seattle. Next Saturday, the Knights of Pythias from all over the Sound will come to Victoria, four steamers being now under charter for the excursions.

Fined $20 and Costs.

The five Chinamen arrested by Sergeant Walker and Officer Walker, on the charge of looking on, while others were gambling, came up before Mr. A. L. Belyea in yesterday's police court. On being asked whether they were guilty or not, two of the prisoners pleaded not guilty, while the other three said guilty. The two denied having anything at all to do with the gambling den. But this statement was contradicted by the evidence of the officers, and the three who pleaded guilty, and who testified to the fact that all were playing fan tan. This was sufficient for his honor, who fined each $20 and $2 costs.

One Marriage a Failure.

The story of an unhappy marriage, which is soon to be told in the courts, promises to prove decidedly entertaining to those who listen to it from the spectators' gallery. The wife alleges cruelty; the husband excessive extravagance, which caused him to lose his temper. In his case, a dry goods bill for $509—three months' purchases—having underlined items such as "hose, $3.50 per pair;" "cloth, $5 yer yard," etc., will figure as an exhibit. He also intends to prove that when he is said to have grievously assaulted her, she turned upon him, ran him down stairs, and stood him on his head in the ash box.

The New Market.

It is expected that the new market building will be ready to have the shop fronts put in at the beginning of the week. The skylight at the top of the structure is all ready for the glass, which has not yet come to hand. The ornamental brackets are being put up along the inside promenade, the handsome arches of which will shortly be erected. The work of the front will be cemented to present the appearance of stone while the capitals in that material are rapidly passing through the hands of the carvers. The gutters and drains inside the market proper are being dug, and, in all probability, the place will be ready to be opened by about November 1st.

The Wonderful Sara.

Arthur P. W. Goldsmid, manager of the Vancouver Opera House is in the city today, arranging for an excursion to the terminal city for the Bernhart engagement. A special boat will be run, leaving this city at 1 p.m., if 200 passengers can be guaranteed. All the right side of the house has been reserved for Victorians who will go over to see and hear the wonderful Sara, and seats are on sale all the way from $1 to $6. There has been considerable talk based upon the statement that it was the C.P.R. that brought Berhhart to Vancouver. This is denied by Mr. Goldsmid, who says Victorians may blame themselves for not having the great actress one night at least. The Bernhart management wrote three times to Victoria, but without receiving a reply on either occasion.

Notes from Cowichan Lake.

Lately this part of the country has received considerable notice from prospectors; men arriving on the look-out for mineral claims almost daily. Frank Ernest, one of the most successful prospectors in the Kootenay country, and his partner, George Schroder, of Ainsworth, B. C., arrived back from a prospecting trip up the lake, where they had been in the hope of finding hidden mineral wealth. Little is definitely known at present as to the success they met with. They left here on Friday last for Victoria, and took down with them several samples of ore. Mr. Ernest has a number of claims in the Kootenay district, on several of which he has done considerable work. Mr. Fraser's new steamer, the "Cora May," is now almost ready for her trial trip. She is a credit to her owner. The machinists have been working steadily at her the past week, and they expect to hand the steamer over to her owners Saturday. When in running order, she will make daily trips up and down the lake, and will prove herself a boon to the numerous campers out. Capt. C. Johnson, of Victoria, arrived on Saturday last to take command * * * Messrs. B. W. Pearse, of Fernwood, and R. S. Perfect, of Victoria, broke their camp on Sunday and left by Monday's stage for home. Captain Veath of Victoria is here, and is making himself well acquainted with the trout.—Cor.

DEATH BY DROWNING.

Captain Robert Dexter Meets His Fate in the Cold Waters of the Harbor.

No Suggestions of Foul Play—The Career of the Deceased Pioneer.

Captain Robert Dexter—"Bob Dexter" to hundreds of personal friends—was found drowned in the harbor, a few yards from the Custom House landing, at 11:30 a.m. yesterday, and an inquest will be held this morning, although there is no suspicion that death resulted from any other cause than pure accident.

The captain had not been missed. He was about town as usual on Thursday, and dined with his old friend and partner, Supt. Sheppard. Then he was seen on Government street shortly before midnight, when he spoke to a companion of expecting orders from Ottawa to resume work with the dredger in the harbor. It was his habit to "turn in" late—he had his cabin on board the dredger—and sleep until about noon. For this reason no thought of Bob Dexter entered the head of Watchman McCormack, when he saw a body floating a few yards from the landing, and between two old mud scows, about half an hour before noon. The corpse was in deep water, doubled up, the back alone appearing above the surface. The watchman at once secured it, towed it ashore, and notified the police. Officers McDonald, of the city force, and McNeill and Campbell, of the provincial, took charge of the body, which was, with difficulty, raised to the wharf, and delivered over to the undertaker.

In order to reach his sleeping quarters on the dredge, the captain was obliged to descend from the wharf to a landing raft by a short, upright ladder, then ferry himself out in a large boat, with an endless rope attached. The supposition is that, in going down the ladder, he fell, striking his head on the raft, very possibly, and becoming insensible. Had he not been stunned, it is difficult to imagine him drowning easily, as he was a powerful swimmer, and thoroughly at home in the part of the harbor where he met his death. The watch in his pocket had stopped at six minutes past 2, so it is safe to suppose that was the hour of the fatal accident. The strangest part of the affair is the floating of the body so quickly; in fact, it must have retained buoyancy from the time the deceased fell in the water. While not frequent, such cases have been known to occur before.

The late Robert Dexter was the son of a well-to-do farmer in Cambridgeshire, England, and at the time of his death was about 56 years of age. He came to this city in 1858, and shortly afterwards followed the army of the gold-seekers to the Fraser river, and then to Cariboo. He was part owner of the Barker claim in 1862, and shared the ownership of the Foster Campbell with Supt. H. W. Sheppard. He was also one of the principal prospectors and owners of the Waverley bed rock tunnel, on Grouse creek, which is still running. While he made plenty of money in these mines, he was so enthusiastic a prospector that it all went as quickly as it came.

In 1872 he returned to Victoria, and, in early life, having gained a practical education as a seaman—having risen to the rank of a mate on the Black Wall liners—obtained employment on the Government dredge. For a time he was in charge of the work on the Esquimalt coffer dam, on the completion of which work he returned to his old love, the dredge, which he has commanded for the past twelve years.

A GIRL'S DOINGS.

Hattie May, of Seattle, Leaves Her Home, and Takes Up Quarters in Victoria.

H. Fried, proprietor of the Driard baths and barber shop, on Trounce avenue, was arrested last evening by Supt. H. W. Sheppard, upon a warrant charging him with taking a young girl named Hattie May out of the custody and protection of her father, August May, of Seattle, in other words, with the abduction of the girl. Fried was taken at once to police headquarters, where he was detained for an hour or so, $2,000 bail then being accepted for his appearance in the police court to-morrow. Fried's bond for $1,000 and two sureties of $500 each—Messrs. Whittier and Haywood—were taken as satisfactory.

The case is a complicated one and the charge of a nature as serious as it is unusual. The chief, in fact, only witness for the Crown so far identified with the prosecution is August May, a carpenter of Seattle, and the father of the girl. His story is, briefly, as told below: He says that, with his wife and family, he has made his home in Seattle for several years, finding it none too easy to support himself and those dependent upon him. For this reason, Hattie, whose age is a little over fifteen and a half years, was provided with employment in the box factory of Messrs. C. Holbeck & Co., three days in the week. One morning, about two weeks ago, she went to work as usual, but returned at nine. She remained in the house a few minutes only, and then went out, it was thought to return to work. She was expected home between 5 and 6 in the evening, but not making her appearance, a search was instituted for her, without the desired result. The next day the city was scoured, but with equally poor success. Two days from her mysterious disappearance, her elder sister received a letter, conveying the surprising news that Hattie was going to Victoria to be married. Then, following this first letter, came a second, also to her sister, informing her that she was not married, but living in this city in the family of a man named Fried. The sister replied to this that she had better come home, or her father would go over to Victoria for her. No answer being received, May did come to Victoria, and first hunted up Fried, who denied any knowledge of the girl. Then he applied to the police, and Supt. Sheppard detailed an officer to accompany him to Fried's house. There he found his daughter, who said that she was willing to return with him, but wanted a little time to pack up her things. She asked him to call in the morning and she would be ready. He called in the morning and met Mrs. Fried, who informed him that Hattie had changed her mind and was going to stay; and further, that the law of Canada was different from that of his home, and he couldn't compel her to return with him. He again consulted Supt. Sheppard, who showed him that he was powerless to interfere unless authorized by a warrant. Then Belyea & Gregory, Bodwell & Irving, and, finally, the Attorney-General, were consulted, with the result of Fried's arrest. May says he does not want to be hard on anyone, he only wants his child; but he alleges that Fried and his wife enticed her away from home, and tried to retain possession of the girl against his wishes and the law.

The circumstances as related on the other hand differ very materially in the color put upon them. It is said that Hattie became acquainted with Mrs. Fried's sister in Seattle, and accompanied her on a visit to Victoria. On her arrival she told the Frieds that her father abused her and her sisters, and compelled them to work for his support, being too lazy to do anything for himself. She wanted to be away from him, and asked Mr. Fried to take her in. When the father called, he was at once permitted to talk to the girl and she was told she could go with him or stay, as she chose. She said she would stay and the father forthwith launched out into such a torrent of abuse of her and the Frieds that a policeman had to be called to take him away. Both Mr. and Mrs. Fried deny emphatically any attempt to influence the girl against her father, but say they could not put her out on the street. They say they did everything else. They have retained Mr. W. J. Taylor for the defence and will fight the case. When the counsel for the Crown was discussing the question of bail last evening, he said that he would not object to light bail, providing the girl was returned to her father, or else placed in the custody of some respectable third party, pending the decision of the courts as to who should be her custodian. To this Mrs. Fried replied that she could go where she choose. The girl, who accompanied Mrs. Fried to the police station, enquired of the legal gentleman attending them if she could be arrested. He at once replied "No," and advised her to seek lodging at the Refuge Home until her troubles were disposed of. She said nothing, but walked rapidly away, and it is understood, secured a room for the night, at a Douglas street hotel.

The defence allege that criminal proceedings in the case are entirely unnecessary and improper. They say an application for the production of the girl, under *habeas corpus*, would have brought the matter forward in the proper light, and given the courts an opportunity to decide whether the father should retain possession of his child, or she should choose her own companions and mode of life. It was to effect an amicable settlement that Bodwell & Irving, acting for the father, arranged a meeting with the Frieds and Hattie, in their lawyer's office, which, however, the father did not attend.

The principal figure in the case—Hattie herself—is a slight but shapely girl, a decided blonde, with fine features, eyes and hair. Her good looks, her father says, he fears may prove the curse of her life.

THE CHINESE FLEET.

It is reported that, alarmed by the threatened appeal to force by the powers, the Chinese Government has ordered a strong squadron to Nankin and another north of the Yang-tse-Kiang. It is uncertain just what this action means, but English opinion seems to accept it as a movement to protect foreign interests. It is the first intimation that Li Hung Chang has given of what he will do in the present crisis. He is Admiral-in-chief of the northern squadron from which these naval forces are drawn, and much interest has been felt to know what his course would be. The fleet under his command is effective, so far as the ships and their armaments are concerned, and the crews are of good material and have been drilled in the European fashion. The whole squadron consists of one barbette iron-clad of nearly 10,000 tons, two armored turret ships of 7,430 tons each, two belted cruisers, four steel protected cruisers of the latest type, four torpedo cruisers, twenty-three first-class and four second-class torpedo-boats, ten lightly armed modern gunboats, a number of older-type gunboats, each carrying one thirty-five ton Armstrong muzzle-loader, beside training and gunnery ships, dispatch boats, transports, etc. The armored ships and cruisers are armed with powerful guns by Krupp and Armstrong, of from eight to twelve inches caliber, beside secondary batteries. The weakest point of the squadron is in its officering. Last year most of the European officers resigned on account of the jealousy of the Chinese officers. It was stated at the time on Chinese authority that they were crowded out because the Government had no further use for them, native officers having become competent to fill their places. Some engineer officers were retained. According to European opinion the Chinese officers are not up to their work, and the administration of the fleet is poor.

James Saho, charged with stealing a watch from Capt. Myers, came up in yesterday's police court and was remanded till Monday. In the meanwhile the prisoner was released on his own recognizances.

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MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, 2nd of October next, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's mails, on a proposed contract for four years, six times per week each way, between Victoria, B. C., and Port Townsend, Wash., from the first November next.

The conveyance to be made in a good and sufficient steamer, subject at all times to the approval of the Postmaster General.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contracts may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the offices of Victoria, B. C., Port Townsend, and Seattle, Wash., and at this office.

E. H. FLETCHER,
P. O. Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office
Victoria, B. C., 2nd of Sept., 1891. sep3-3t

Office of the Black Jack Quartz Mining Co., L'd.

Assessment No. 5.

NOTICE is hereby given that at a meeting of the directors of the above company, held on 18th August, an assessment of two cents per share was levied on capital stock of said company, payable forthwith to the undersigned at the office of the company, Barkerville. Delinquent, 18th Sept.; day of sale, 19th Oct.

WM. H. PHELPS,
Secretary.

Barkerville, 19th Aug., 1891. sep4-2t-wy