INVESTIGATE TOPP INCIDENT

COMMITTEE OF CITY COUNCIL IS NAMED

Meanwhile the Ex-City Engineer Continues Doing Sooke Survey Worl

A special committee, consisting of the mayor and Ald. Okell, Moresby and Gleason, was appointed at Friday's evening's meeting of the city council to investigate all the circumstances surrounding the appointment of C. H. Topp to do certain preliminary survey work in connection with the Sooke lake project, after some discussion which followed the reading of this letter from the city solicitor:

"Referring to your request for a report upon the employment of Mr. Topp. I have looked up the correspondence, and have consulted with the city barrister. On February 10 Mr. Topp wrote the council making application for permission 'to undertake the necessary surveys preparatory to the Sooke water problem.' On February 18 he was written by the clerk that his application had been accepted, and that he was commissioned to carry out the survey. I am told by Messrs. Gore & McGregor that he commenced work on the 21st of February. On the 3rd of March a letter was written to Mr. Topp by the clerk, stating that his appointment was vetoed by the mayor. At that time Mr. Topp had been at work about ten days. He was employed from day to day, and I do not think the wording of the letter of the 3rd March was sufficient to prevent his going on. It should have requested him to stop work and give the result of his work to the council.

"I would recommend now that the matter can be cured by a notice to stop work. Mr. Topp will have to be paid for the work that he did, of course on condition that he turns the result of that work in to the city.

"It has been suggested that Mr. Topp did not start work until after he had received the notice of the 3rd March. Of course, that is another phase of the matter altogether, but the information I got from Messrs. Gore & Mcregor is that he went out on the 21st."

James L. Raymur, water commissioner, reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Topp to the effect that work had been started on February 20, and that he would have the field work completed in the course of a few days.

Replying to a question, the city solicitor said there was a good deal of doubt about the validity of the appointment of Mr. Topp. The water commissioner had apparently been entirely ignored in the matter, notwithstanding that the by-law states distinctly that he shall have full power subject to the approval of the council. He advised that Mr. Topp be ordered to cease work at once, so that the water commissioner could assume that control he ought to exercise.

Replying to Ald. Gleason, Mr. Raymur said he understood that Mr. Topp's charge was $20 per day. The eight workmen would be getting $3 and $3.50 per day.

Mayor Morley felt that in the interests of the city at large there should be an investigation. The city solicitor's report was based on information received from the office of Gore & McGregor, and he (the mayor) had every reason to believe that work had not been started until the veto had been declared. If this proved to be the case he believed that Mr. Topp would not be able to collect for his services.

Ald. Moresby asked the city solicitor whether the second action of the council did not affect the veto. He mentioned in this connection that he had seen the written opinion of one of the best lawyers in the city to the effect that the council could override the mayor's veto and the latter could veto again and so the matter would go on ad infinitum.

The solicitor was of the opinion that there was involved in the veto as a fundamental proposition the ending of a matter and therefore the council could not reopen it by any action it might take.

Ald. H. M. Fullerton thought that as Mr. Topp had only a little more work to do he should be allowed to finish it. If he could not collect for his services, well and good, but it would be very foolish to stop him at this date.

Finally at the mayor's suggestion the committee, constituted as above, was named to hold an investigation into the matter.

DEPOSITS EXCEED BILLION DOLLARS

Morgan, Rockefeller and Kuhn, Loeb & Co. Control Another Bank

New York, March 25.—By acquiring one-third interest in the National Bank of Commerce of New York which the Equitable and New York Life Insurance companies admitted having sold to interests controlled by Morgan, Rockefeller and Kuhn, Loeb & Co., that combination now controls banks in New York having deposits exceeding a billion dollars.

The price paid the insurance companies for their holdings in the National Bank of Commerce was $9,000,000.

A North Sea codfisher carries a set of lines 7,200 fathoms in length, and having the amazing number of 4,680 hooks, each of which must be baited.

VOTE FOR NORTH VICTORIA

(From Saturday's Daily.)

A meeting of the North Victorians was held last night in the Colquitz hall, S. Saanich, for the purpose of expressing an opinion in favor of the incorporation of a municipality to be known as North Victoria. F. H. Rosher presided.

The maps and charts showing the area of the district and the proposed lines of the tramway were explained to the meeting by the secretary, W. J. Scott. These showed S. Saanich to contain 56.7 square miles as against 13 square miles in S. Vancouver, 24 in Point Grey, 4 in Oak Bay, and nine in North Victoria. Under the present system of municipal administration there was but one councillor to over eleven square miles of territory. The meeting was addressed by the following gentlemen: Messrs. Pointer, Dunn, Richards, Freeman, Brydon, Councillor Grant, and ex-Reeve Quick. On a vote being put to the meeting an unanimous "yes" for North Victoria was returned.

—Referring to the announcement in Friday night's issue regarding the disposal of the business of Messrs B. Williams & Co., to J. N. Harvey, Ltd., the Times has been requested by W. T. Williams to state that this announcement is entirely premature.

—Building permits were issued Friday by the building inspector to J. W. Gidley for a dwelling to be erected on Russell street to cost $2,950; to H. A. Mortimer, dwelling on Carnsew street to cost $3,000; and to Mrs. L. Hole, dwelling on Burnside road to cost $1,800.

—The Sisters of Rebekah will hold a social on Tuesday evening in the Odd Fellows hall, Douglas street. The social will take the form of a Dutch auction. Ladies are requested to bring boxes. Refreshments will be supplied.

—The East End Athletic club is making preparations for their club dance, to be held in the A. O. U. W. hall on Friday, April 7. Bantly's orchestra will render the music for the evening and a special committee have it in hand arranging the selections.

—Knox Girl's Club met on Wednesday evening at the home of Miss Renouf. After the general business had been transacted arrangements were made for a social to be given by the club shortly after Easter. Particulars will be given later. Next meeting to be held at Mrs. McCoy's home on April 5th.

—The Ladies' Aid connected with the Church of Our Lord will hold a sale of work in the schoolroom on Tuesday, April 4, at 2.30 o'clock. This timely notice is given in order that the many friends of the church in question may make arrangements to reserve a portion of that afternoon for the at home. There will be some excellent chances of securing Easter presents.

—At the request of the Pacific Coast Construction Company, contractors for the erection of the Dallas road sea wall, the city council on Friday decided to instruct the city engineer to close that thoroughfare between Boyd and Lewis streets. This is done to obviate the possibility of an accident, as the roadway is occupied for a considerable part by the material being used in the construction of the wall.

—The Anti-Tuberculosis Society will hold its annual rummage sale on April 7-8 in Institute hall, View street. Householders and store-keepers are earnestly requested to send cast-off clothing, furniture, crockery, millinery, old music, books, magazines, boots and shoes, ornaments, and, in short, any articles that they can spare, which will be most gladly received.

—The city council on Friday decided to grant the Salvation Army $100; the Victorian Order of Nurses, $300; the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, $150. The request of the B. C. Agricultural Association for a grant of $806 to make good last year's deficit will be left over for the consideration at the time the estimates are taken up.

—The regular meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary society P. R. J. hospital will be held on Tuesday next at the hospital, Friday having been found an inconvenient day for the sewing committee to meet. This committee will meet henceforth on Tuesdays, in the workroom, and the business meeting on Tuesday next will be held in conjunction with the sewing. As there are matters of importance for discussion all active members are asked to attend.

—The Canadian Club luncheon on Tuesday next, when Dr. J. A. Macdonald, editor-in-chief of the Toronto Globe, will be the guest and deliver an address in the Institute hall, View street. The Institute hall, where the luncheons are usually held, being engaged for that date for another purpose. Because of this change of plans the club wil be put to considerable additional expense, and for that reason the officers hope that the attendance will be large.

CALUMET DIVIDEND.

Boston, March 25.—A quarterly dividend of $6 a share, compared with $7 a share three months ago, was paid to-day by the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company. The disbursement to-day makes a total of $114,850,000 paid in dividends to stockholders since the formation of the company.

JUMP PROVES FATAL.

Hamilton, Ont., March 25.—A privileged patient named Lockhart killed himself in an attempt to escape from the Hamilton asylum by jumping from a window on Wednesday night. The dead body was found three hundred yards from the window on Thursday morning.

Particulars of a little known English industry—the cultivation of peppermint—were given by J. C. Umney in a paper read on Tuesday before the Pharmaceutical Society, London. In the Mitcham district, he said, between 400 and 500 acres was devoted to peppermint. The total annual output of pure English oil was 20,000 pounds.

NO CASE MADE OUT AGAINST LEHRMANN

Magistrate Dismisses Charge Brought by C. W. Kirk, Victoria West, Coal Dealer

H. A. MacLean, K. C., made an eloquent address in the police court Friday afternoon on behalf of his client, F. R. Lehrmann, who was discharged from custody and acquitted of a charge of stealing coal from C. W. Kirk, coal merchant, Victoria West.

Mr. MacLean held that the prosecutor was trying to cover up his own business sins by prosecuting his former employee. He said the case was one with much more importance behind it than appeared on the surface from the evidence. For years the Fairview Greenhouse Company had been purchasing coal from the prosecutor in the case, he said, and when Lehrmann left Kirk's employ the latter endeavored to have him stay on. Lehrmann had told the Fairview Greenhouse Company that Kirk was shortweighting them, and to cover up this, said Mr. MacLean, the prosecutor had Lehrmann arrested and prosecuted.

The accused was not put in the box, but two witnesses from the Greenhouse gave evidence of delivery of coal.

The prosecution held that theft had been going on in Kirk's yard and that accused had been selling coal without authority of his employer.

The magistrate, reviewing the evidence, dismissed the case and accused was released.

Frank Higgins appeared for the prosecution, and J. P. Mann watched the case for the Fairview Greenhouse Company, Ltd.

COAL LAND CASE TO BE TRIED AT SEATTLE

Three Men Accused of Conspiracy to Defraud U. S. Government

Seattle, Wash., March 25.—Charles F. Munday, a prominent Seattle attorney; Earl E. Sigley, former private secretary to the late M. J. Heney, Alaska railroad builder, and Archie W. Shiels, will be placed on trial in the federal court next Tuesday morning on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the government of coal lands near Katalla, Alaska. Algernon H. Stracey, named as one of the conspirators, is thought to be hiding in Canada or England.

R. D. Townsend, special assistant to the attorney-general, who will represent the government, arrived yesterday from Spokane, where he had argued on a demurrer in the White and McKenzie coal cases before Judge F. H. Rudkin.

The men under indictment are accused of inducing dummy locators to file on lands for the benefit of the Alaska Development Company and the Pacific Coal and Oil Company. The penalty for violation of the statute is two years in the federal penitentiary and $10,000 fine.

The Munday trial is expected to last over a month and about 100 witnesses will be called by the government.

LOSE LIVES IN FIRE.

Colon, March 25.—Several lives are reported lost in a fire that destroyed fifty houses and three churches here, and the local fire brigade and forces from the canal zone found great difficulty in checking the flames. As a last resort dynamite was used to blow up several buildings. The material damage will reach $300,000.

MILLION DOLLARS IN BYLAWS.

New Westminster, March 24.—Three by-laws totalling nearly $1,000,000 passed at a meeting of the Burnaby council. The largest one is the Burnaby Roads Improvement Debenture bylaw for $500,000. This will be for improving the roads already built, the opening of new roads being charged up to general revenue. The debentures will probably be at 4½ per cent, 40 years.

A bylaw to raise $30,000 for a general water system throughout Burnaby will be submitted to the people.

At the request of the Board of School Trustees it has been decided to submit a bylaw for $75,000. This will provide for the purchase of seven school sites at an average of $10,000 and $5,000 for the purchase of a site and the construction of an office for the school board.

TWO LIVES LOST.

Louisburg, C. B., March 25.—Two Newfoundland fishermen lost their lives in the wreck of the mail steamer Bruce, plying between Port Basques, Nfld., and Cape Breton ports, which struck on a ledge at Port Noval point, on the island, 20 miles northeast of Louisburg.

Thomas She, of Carboneau, and Jas. Pike, of St. Lawrence, who were on their way to Vancouver, B. C., lost their lives, but the rest of the ship's company, including 120 passengers and the crew, numbering 30, were saved.

The two fishermen had assisted the crew in quieting the fears of the other passengers, and in getting the women and children safely ashore. It was while thus engaged that they fell into the water. The work of taking off the passengers occupied nearly three hours, and all were exhausted when the last boat load reached shore. The men built a fire around which the half-frozen men and women congregated. Some of the passengers suffered from cold, and their feet had become frozen while standing on the ice-covered decks.

The steamer will be a total loss.

STORES ARE INVADING RESIDENTIAL AREA

City Solicitor Decides That the Council Has No Power to Interfere

The city solicitor at Friday night's meeting of the city council handed down a written opinion on the application of Luke Pither and other property owners on upper Yates street, that the building inspector be instructed to refuse a permit to a man who proposes to run a small candy store on that thoroughfare, opposite Scoof street.

The solicitor advises that there is nothing in the statute to prevent the erection of the building if it complies with the building and sanitary regulations. The by-law does, however, give the city power to prevent the erection in residential sections of buildings such as paint shops, dye works, stables or structures to be used for such purposes as would constitute a nuisance.

It was decided to take no action relative to the refusal by the building inspector of a permit to Thos. Potter for the erection of an hotel on the site of the present Lion saloon, on Chambers street opposite the George Jay school. Mr. Potter applied for the permit but failed to secure it, the building inspector giving as his reasons for such refusal his belief that a hotel is not required there, that it would be out of place so near the school, and that it would depreciate the value of surrounding properties. Mr. Potter's request will be left over for the incoming council to consider.

On the recommendation of Fire Chief Davis it was decided to have the old factory of Messrs. Moore & Whittington, on Yates street, demolished. The premises are now owned by Messrs. Finch & Finch. The fire chief claims they are a menace to surrounding buildings. A lengthy list of old structures which have been condemned by the fire chief, building inspector, sanitary inspector and medical health officer has been prepared and steps will be taken to force the owners to tear them down.

CRICKET IS ADDED TO LIST OF SPORTS

Public School Boys Will Form League—Private Schools May Also Enter

At a meeting of school trustees on Friday it was decided that cricket should be added to the list of summer sports taken part in by the public school boys. For some time the idea of forming a cricket league among the schools has been cherished by the Albion and Victoria cricket clubs, and when proposed to the trustees it met with approval.

A committee consisting of W. N. Winsby, Central school; Mr. Elliott, High school, and J. P. Salloway, Victoria West school, was appointed to take charge of the matter, and will meet shortly to arrange a schedule. It is almost certain that, besides the public schools, the University and the Collegiate schools will enter teams.

Within a month the different teams will be formed and practices commence. The Victoria and Albion cricket clubs have placed their grounds at the disposal of the boys, and the games will be played on these, as well as at the University school, if the students there enter a team.

SIX-TEAM FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEXT YEAR

Victoria Will Likely Enter—Crowds of People Take Interest in the Games

It has been announced that Victoria will enter two teams in the British Columbia Football league next season, which will bring the number of teams competing up to six. At present there are only four, two from the Island, Ladysmith and Nanaimo, and two from the Mainland, the Callies and the Vancouvers.

The league has been providing the very best kind of football and the games at Ladysmith and Nanaimo have attracted crowds of fans from Victoria. At the last game played in Nanaimo it was estimated that there were 3,000 people on the grounds. The fact that so much interest is taken in the games and that everything is run on business-like lines made the local boys take notice and they signified their intention of entering the league. Word to this effect was sent to Con. Jones.

The present season will expire early in May and the players will then take a rest for the summer months, the series commencing again next September. Two series of three months duration, will be run off each year, three months in the spring and three in the fall. Matches will be played every Saturday, and as record crowds have been the rule in the other towns there is no reason why it should not be so in Victoria.

The sting of a bee is only one-thirty-second of an inch long.

In proportion to its population Italy has more theatres than any other country.

ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR BENCH SHOW MADE

Over Four Hundred Dogs Entered—One Class Alone Worth $10,000

With over four hundred of the very best dogs in the northwest entered, the Victoria Kennel Club show will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday next in the drill hall.

J. Cole, an authority on dogs who has officiated at shows all over America, will judge. He was the judge in the world's fair at St. Louis.

Mr. Cole will also award the prizes in the Seattle show, April 12-15, which will be held in the Mammoth rink, the best building for the purpose on the coast. In Vancouver, April 6-8, Charles Lyndon, of Toronto, will judge.

Every class of dog will be well represented in the local show, but wire-haired fox terriers, English setters, cocker spaniels and pointers will be the most numerous. Of new breeds on exhibition there will be French bull dogs, Russian wolf hounds, Chesapeake bays, Chihuahuas and Dalmathians, and of the rare breeds, Dandy Dinmonts, Daschunds and old English sheep dogs.

The following are a few of the best entries in each class:

Cocker Spaniels.

J. W. Creighton's Champion Jesmond Pearl. Mr. Creighton has 11 other entries in this class.

C. S. Bolton, of Vancouver, enters Black King and other noted winners.

Clumber Spaniels.

H. W. Beaven, of Duncan, enters a brace.

Airdale Terriers.

F. D. Elkins, of Vancouver, Clonmel Solaire.

N. McConnell, Vancouver, Killarney Queen and Killarney Regent.

Central Park kennels, Vancouver, Camosun Prince, Camosun Virginia.

Chesdale kennels, Colby, Wash., Chesdale Lad.

A. L. Brownley, Victoria, Western Jock.

Collies.

Mrs. Florence Brydon, of Seattle, South Forth Safety.

J. J. Jackson, Sapperton, B. C., Sedley Scout.

W. Blackstock, Victoria, Kilmarnock Tytton.

James MacIntosh, Victoria, Prince and Ferntoch Perfection.

George S. Smith, Vancouver, Vancouver's Pride.

Four of the above mentioned collies were imported especially from England for these shows.

Irish Setters.

G. A. Goodwin, Victoria, Killarney Mollie and Killarney Rose.

F. O. Ehrlick, Totem E.

Andrew Fairful, Miss Jess and Nellie.

English Setters.

D. E. Whittaker, Sensation and Prince.

T. W. Edwards, Reve Montez.

Hickford and Withers' kennels, Mallwyd Major, Arbutus Swallow and others.

T. H. Austin, Seattle, Stylish Queen.

J. A. Robb, Handsome Spot and Belle II.

G. F. Dunn, Freckles.

J. Sylvester, an imported English dog, Spot.

Gordon Setters.

J. A. Robb, Tramp.

T. Smith, Countess Beaves.

B. H. Johns, Don.

Pointer.

Imported dogs, Lady Rhoda Kent, Red Wing and Fancy.

Local dogs, Hickory Queen, Spots Princess, Derby West, Victoria Speck, Lady Glenrea, Red Bank, Brentwood Bubble and King Hickory.

Scottish Terriers.

D. B. MacLaren, Jeane and Scottie.

Central Park kennels, Vancouver, Camosun Wuffy.

Mrs. Major Wilson, Huntley Jock.

Mrs. Bradley Dyne, Champion Sandowne Browne, Glen Morriston and Beautiful Boggy.

Bull Terriers.

Mrs. Thornton Sharp, Vancouver, Lyncott Lidalla.

Central Park kennels, Camosun, Haymarket and Terror.

Lewellyn Morrison, Seattle, Nipper Morrison.

S. H. Jeatte, Victoria, Maple Leaf.

Wire-Haired Fox Terriers.

Rev. J. W. Flinton, Tiley Brigand.

Duchess of Newcastle, England, Mimie.

W. D. Bruce, Vancouver, Marco and Medain of Ormé.

P. Alberto, Vancouver, Prince Rogue.

A. E. Dempster, Victoria, Bunch.

W. H. B. Medd, Mt. Tolmie, Uncle Chips and Cigarette.

Reginald Hanson, Trewanta Weazelle, Trewanta Stopper and Trewanta Trappist.

Smooth Fox Terriers.

W. M. Coates, Vancouver, Lady Rustem.

R. Large, Foxton Friar.

B. O. Taylor, Clinker.

Mrs. C. E. Thomas, Live Wire.

Mrs. Jane French, Fannie.

Boston Terriers.

Prize winners Ramona, Midget, Chamion Markessa, Duchess, Buster and Ramona Girlie.

Irish Terriers.

Western Topsie, Carhcough Salis and Barney.

Pomeranians.

In this class are entered the best prize winners in the west, among them Golden Gate, Gladiator, Edgely, Nymph, Wee Fraser and Orange Blossom.

Great Danes.

San Pinchower and Oronia, Seattle.

Rainbow Cleo, Victoria.

Daschunds.

Teco, Bismarck and Waldo.

St. Bernards.

Knight Errant of Avalon and Champion Star of the North.

Bull Dogs.

Lady Beatrice, Arch Wasa and Nipper.

Fresh Water Spaniels.

Lindale O'Hara and Champion Paddy.

The dogs will be benched on Thursday morning and judging will commence at 1.30. The drill hall will house a valuable collection of animals, the wire-haired fox terriers alone being worth $10,000. The Duchess of Newcastle, England, is sending one of her dogs, Mimie, to all the shows in the circuit.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

Vancouver, March 24. — Accidental death was the verdict of the coroner's jury at the inquest held into the death of the late Joseph Cahill. The evidence showed that the deceased on March 12 had to watch the Chinamen on board of the S. S. Purley, which was unloading at Hastings mill. While walking down the gangplank he slipped and fell, striking a pile with his head. He was picked up by the watchman, J. Prittle, who at once notified the police. The unfortunate man was removed to the General hispital, where he died as the result of his injuries, a fracture of the skull being the cause. Before the jury retired, Coroner Jeffs called the attention of the jury to the danger of the narrow gangplanks leading from the ships to the wharf, and recommended that some steps be taken to have these gangplanks made safe.

SECHELT SINKS WITH ALL ON BOARD

(Continued from page 2.)

Among the passengers were J. W. Burns and wife, of Sooke, who had been here attending the marriage of their son, William Burns, and Miss Catherine J. Stevenson. Mr. Burns, the Presbyterian missionary at Sooke, had been about four years there, and was returning to preach his farewell sermons, as he had been transferred by the missionary authorities to Pender Island. He was accompanied by his wife, who had just arived from Alberta to spend the summer in this country.

Mr. Burns had the reputation of being a most devoted and earnest missionary and was beloved by his people. Only last Sunday Rev. Robert Connell, of this city, visited the Sooke mission to conduct the quarterly sacramental services and received a large number into church fellowship, twelve of whom were young people, the fruit of Mr. Burns' ministry. Rev. W. Leslie Clay, chairman of the home mission committee of the Victoria Presbytery, speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Burns' life and work.

Chief Engineer Hicks was not very well known here, having come from the Terminal city on the Sechelt. The remainder of the crew consisted of a fireman and two deck-hands, the names of whom could not be learned this morning.

The Sechelt was a vessel built on similar lines to the Iroquois, operating between the islands. She had considerable deck-house and many of the skippers along the water-front were of the opinion that she was top-heavy. If this was the case the steamer would have, in yesterday's gale, proved an easy prey for the elements. It was dead tide in the passage when the Sechelt was making it, and with the wind from the southwest she must have been badly used. When listing, with the wind blowing hard on her starboard side, a sudden squall very likely filling, struck her shelter deck and capsized her.

The steamer was eighty-two feet in length over all; seventy-five feet between perpendiculars and fifteen feet in depth with a gross tonnage of seventy-three tons. She was propelled by a set of compound surface condensing engines with cylinders of ten and sixteen inches, producing a 14-inch stroke. Steam was furnished by one boiler, and at full speed the steamer made slightly better than ten knots. She was fitted with one of the latest steam winches for handling heavy freight and all other steam fixtures of the most modern design.

For the comfort of passengers the Sechelt was well fitted up and proved popular with the travelling public. She was of the shelter deck type and was built on excellent lines. On her main deck she could carry any kind of freight and in the saloon there was room for many passengers. The smoking room and ladies' cabin, which were separate, were finely finished and furnished with upholstered chairs and settees. The vessel was steam heated throughout.

RAILWAY'S RECORD.

Pennsylvania Carries 136,000,000 Passengers East of Pittsburg Without Fatal Accident.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 25.—Not a single passenger out of 136,000,000 carried on the Pennsylvania railroad in 1910 was killed in a train accident. This is brought out in a report issued by the company, giving accident statistics for the years 1908, 1909 and 1910 for the lines east of Pittsburg and Erie, including the Pennsylvania railroad proper, the Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington, the Northern Central railway, the Cumberland Valley, the Maryland, Delaware & Virginia railway, the Baltimore, Chesapeake & Atlantic railway, the West Jersey and the Long Island railroad.

Combining the statistics for 1908, 1909 and 1910, it is shown that in that time the number of passengers carried on the lines east of Pittsburg and Erie was 371,858,277—more than four times as many persons as there are in the United States, and only one of them was killed as a result of a train wreck.

TO TAX UNMARRIED WOMEN.

Madison, Wis., March 25.—A bill to tax $5 annually every unmarried woman over 25 years of age and to create a "matrimonial commission" consisting of the governor, superintendent of public property nd chief clerk of the public property and chief clerk of the assembly by Assemblyman Hansen of Manitowoc. The matrimonial commission is charged with the duty of bringing together kindred souls when application is made for an affinity by any lovelorn maiden.

REORGANIZING MEXICAN CABINET

MINISTERS TENDER RESIGNATIONS TO DIAZ

Washington Officials Believe President Will Soon Retire

Washington, D. C., March 25.—Reorganization of the Mexican government and the retirement of President Diaz is expected here to-day to be the result of the resignation of Diaz cabinet. It is asserted that the action of the American government in mobilizing troops on the Texas frontier precipitated the present situation. As the retiring cabinet has always been unpopular, it is believed that the move will prove a big factor in restoring order.

Washington officials profess to believe that the resignation of President Diaz is sure to come.

Formal notification of the resignation of the Mexican cabinet was received here to-day by Ambassador De La Barra in a telegram from Enrique Creel, minister of foreign affairs at Mexico City, Creel, wired:

"The cabinet has resigned. President Diaz has reserved the right of accepting the resignation according to his convenience. The decision has been well received by the public, which feels that peace soon will be firmly established throughout the entire country."

Vice-President May Resign.

Mexico City, March 25.—Belief that Ramon Corral, vice-president and right hand to President Diaz, will soon disappear from public life, is general here to-day, following Corral's resignation with the other members of the Diaz cabinet, who surrendered their portfolio's late yesterday.

Corral, whose personal unpopularity is believed to be in a large part the cause of the insurrection, has held both the offices of vice-president and minister of the interior. As incumbent of the latter office, his resignation went in with those of his colleagues. It is hourly expected to-day that his retirement as minister will be followed by a resignation of the vice-presidency, and the stormy petrel of Mexican politics soon will leave for Europe, there to remain until peace comes again to Mexico.

MINER BEARS A CHARMED LIFE

Death in Two Horrible Forms Faced Him in Mine and He Escaped

Phoenix, March 24.—Dan Kovich lives to tell the tale of one of the strangest escapes in the history of the Phoenix camp. Through the arching of two rocks over him, which supported many tons of ore, he was held a prisoner for four hours in a chute in Granby mine and escaped unhurt.

Kovich had climbed over the gates and was going up a chute in direct violation of orders, when the ore suddenly began to move and rushed down upon him. In a moment he was pinned under many tons of it. His head and every limb in his body was held as if encased. His precarious condition was discovered soon afterwards but a dozen miners required four hours to extricate the prisoner. When released he walked off unaided and practically unhurt.

His escape is the more wonderful from the fact that he was carrying three sticks of dynamite in his hand when the accident occurred and on was cut in two by the rocks without exploding.

LEGALIZES PICKETING.

Sacramento, Col., March 25.—After the senate had been in continuous session for nineteen hours while the sergeant-at-arms and his assistants with the aid of the police and the sheriff were searching for two absent senators, a reconsideration was obtained yesterday on the anti-injunction" bill introduced by Senator Caminetti. A little later the bill was passed a second time by the senate. The main feature of the measure is that legalizing picketing in strikes.

THIRTY YEARS' SERVICE.

W. H. Keary Resigns Secretaryship of Royal Columbian Hospital.

New Westminster, March 24.—At a meeting of the board of management of the Royal Columbian hospital, W. H. Keary, who has been connected with the institution for thirty years, tendered his resignation, which was regretfully accepted. Mr. Keary had formally resigned at the previous meeting of the board, but it had been hoped that he would reconsider his decision and action on the matter had been deferred. The secretary, however, absolutely declined to withdraw his resignation and this had perforce to be accepted.

J. J. Jones, who has also been a member of the board of management for many years, having been appointed by the provincial government, also resigned, giving as his reasons for severing his connection the unjust insinuations contained in an open letter published in an evening paper by the Mayor some weeks ago.

Until the end of the present month Miss Mabel Wells will act as secretary of the hospital.

Mr. Keary has left for England, where he will spend some time on business. The date of his return has not been fixed, and it is probable he will remain in London until after the coronation.

A motocycle driven by a petroleum engine was invented as far back as 1892.