NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

The Liquor Commission at Westminster—Vancouver's City Solicitor—A Coal Combine.

Sheriff's Rate in Surrey—McLean Bros. Win—Embezzling Case at Nanaimo.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Nov. 22.—The Vancouver and Westminster Tram Co. are making arrangements to run their cars over the Vancouver city line for the convenience of theatre goers and others.

Eli Higgins was arrested this morning at the instigation of Dobson Bros., on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences.

Oppeire, the Dago who smashed a window and afterwards resisted arrest, got seven months, the limit fixed by the law. Magistrate Jordan said he was going to deal out rigid justice to this class of useless citizens as long as he had the power.

An undenominational Orphans' Home was opened to-day.

His Imperial Japanese Majesty's representative, Consul Kito, paid an official visit to the warship Kongo in company with influential citizens and members of the press, this afternoon. A salute of seven guns was fired in his honor.

Mr. A. S. Bule, a barrister of Toronto, has entered the office of Corbould, McColl, Wilson & Campbell.

Lieut.-Col. Haggard, a brother of the novelist, is at Hotel Vancouver

It devolves upon the present Council to appoint a City Solicitor. They will endeavor to postpone the matter until it is taken up by the Council of 1893. It is possible that Mr. Hamersly may be re-engaged under different arrangements. It is a lucrative and honorable post, and will be eagerly sought after if Mr. Hamersly is not reinstated.

The council chamber was packed with curious people last night in anticipation of Ald. McGuigan's promised outburst of indignation and withering satire. The Doctor said he would postpone his attack to a more fitting occasion.

A. Chisholm has sold the Goat Cave Mine to Mr. McIntosh, M.P.

McCutcheon, who embezzled money from Nanaimo, was taken back yesterday.

War has been declared against the coal combine here by a combination of "shut-out" coal dealers. Coal is arriving to-day from Whatcom and it is said will continue to arrive until the war is over. It is said that the Vancouver and Wellington coal companies are responsible for the combine, the cause being that they were obliged to do it to protect themselves from the numerous bad debts due to their supplying small owners. Those buying coal in Vancouver must pay spot cash for it.

H. P. McCraney & Co. are to build three large brick warehouses, with railroad sidings, to satisfy increased demands in that line. They will be two-story with basement, 25 by 68, 25 by 68 and 25 by 116 feet.

VANCOUVER, Nov. 23.—An application to guarantee the interest on $600,000 of city tram bonds was considered at a special meeting last night of the Council, and will be brought up again on Monday.

The Prohibition commission has been sitting all day in the Council chamber. The evidence rather showed that the sentiment of the public generally was of indifference to the rigid enforcement of the license law. Prohibition was not considered practicable. They would, in the event of its adoption, compensate manufacturers for various reasons. The following gentlemen have given evidence so far: Mayor Cope, City Clerk McGuigan, Police Magistrate Jordan, Chief of Police McLaren, License Inspector McLeod, General Superintendent H. Abbott, F. Schofield, J. P.; Collector of Inland Revenue Miller, Capt. Mellon, Dr. McGuigan, Isaac Preston, Prof. Odlum, License Commissioner Devine, *et al.*

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Nov. 22.—Seven of the aldermen at present in office will retire from the service and the outlook is that the new council will be composed almost entirely of new blood.

The case of McLean Brothers vs. the Richmond municipality was decided to-day in favor of the plaintiffs, who get $6,000 of the amount claimed, with costs.

Acting-sheriff Armstrong has fixed a rate of three mills on the dollar, to be struck in Surrey Municipality to meet the interest and charges of the collection of the dyking debentures. The total assessment of the municipality is $1,036,614.50, which at the rate above mentioned will give $3,109.84. This comes pretty close to the amount required, which is $2,936.32.

There is every prospect that the Royal City will soon have a good live branch of the Imperial Federation League.

The past season has been the dullest on record in the brick-making industry at Port Haney. Carter's yard was the only one which turned out brick during the summer, burning kilns aggregating about 1,000,000.

The train service on the Great Northern is still interrupted by a break in the bridge near Salvanah in Washington, and it is not expected that any trains will be running into South Westminster till Thursday. There are a large number of men employed in repairing the damage, and work is being hurried along as fast as possible. The damage to the line east of Fairhaven has been very extensive, particularly in the vicinity of Marysville.

Like the Epidemics Commission, the Royal Commission on the Liquor Traffic gave scant notice of their intended sitting in New Westminster. About noon to-day Mayor Townsend was notified that the commission would sit at 2 o'clock in the City Hall. With such short notice it was impossible to give wide publicity to their coming. Commissioners Judge McDonald and Rev. Dr. McLeod arrived a few minutes after the hour mentioned and set to work. J. C. Brown, M.P.P., Mayor Townsend, Chief of Police Houston, Police Magistrate Atkinson, Rev. E. Robson, William Moresby, I. B. Fisher, Mrs. James Cunningham and others gave evidence, mostly in favor of prohibition. I. B. Fisher spoke strongly against prohibition, taking the stand that free men should have the right to drink if they wished or let it alone. The Mayor spoke in the same strain, though not so forcibly. The commission rattled through their work in less than two hours, and then left for Vancouver.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Nov. 23—The Maple Ridge Dyking commissioners have awarded the contract for dyking 9,000 acres of land, to T. W. Patterson, of Victoria. The exact contract price is not officially announced; but the amount is between $50,000 and $60,000. The dyke will commence at a point on the Lilloost river, about three miles from its mouth, and follow the south bank of the stream to its confluence with the Pitt river, along the east shore of the latter river to the Fraser, and thence along the Fraser to Port Hammond, making the dyke a total length of 14 miles.

The steamers Brunette and Blonde, of the Brunette Saw Mills Co., have been lying in Boundary bay for two weeks, waiting for suitable weather to bring round their booms of logs to the river. The steamer [illegible] was sent to their assistance, last S[illegible]day, and has not been able to get bac[illegible] owing to the continuous gales. In a b[illegible] gale one of the booms broke up, but t[illegible] logs were rounded up again, after some [illegible] trouble.

The Secretary [illegible] the Westminster Slate company was n[illegible] last night that the contract for [illegible] supplying slate to be used on the roof [illegible] the new drill shed at Victoria had be[illegible] awarded to his company. The valu[illegible] of the contract is something in the n[illegible]ghborhood of $1,500, and the number of slates contracted for is 30,000.

Dr. Fagan has entered suit against the city for $350 damages to his horse and buggy, by reason of a water works excavation into which the horse tumbled and broke his knees.

A despatch from Spussum this morning says that a snow storm, accompanied by a heavy gale of wind, is in progress, and the ground is covered with snow to a depth of 14 inches. A train load of cattle, which should have reached the city to-day, is detained by the snow.

Justice McCreight has been granted six months leave of absence, and will take a trip South as soon as he disposes of the cases before him. Justice Walkem will be resident Supreme court judge during Judge McCreight's absence.

A fisherman named Wagner is missing. He is supposed to have fallen into the river while drunk.

The officers of the Japanese warship Kongo paid the city a visit to-day.

The committee appointed by the Board of Trade to report on the proposed Mud bay canal will, to-morrow, make a trip over the ground to get an idea of the route and to approximate cost. The committee is composed of G. E. Corbould, M.P.; D. S. Curtis and C. E. Woods. The idea is to bring before the Dominion Government the vast benefit that a short canal from the Fraser river to Mud bay would be to the district. The distance by canal from the nearest point on Mud bay to a point on the Fraser river, a mile and a half below the city, would be only five miles, a saving of 75 miles over the round-about route by Point Roberts.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Nov. 22.—W. H. H. McCutcheon, real estate agent, appeared before the magistrates this afternoon to answer a charge of embezzlement of $225, the property of King & Casey. It appears the prisoner had collected money from Berteaux Bros., of Northfield, and kept it, instead of handing it over to King & Casey. He was remanded till to-morrow, but admitted to bail in $1,000.

Mr. Pollard is about to open a fancy store in this city.

Arrived—S.s. Wellington.

NANAIMO, Nov. 23.—Capt. Johnson declines to make any statement as to the collision between the steamers Cutch and Joan on Saturday. He says he courts an inquiry, as it will be the means of defining the right of road.

W. H. McCutcheon, arrested at the instigation of King and Casey, is wanted by more than one person here.

The Caledonian society will celebrate St. Andrew's Day (November 30th) by a grand supper in the Palace hotel.

The taking of evidence of the crew of the Sergeant, in the salvage claim, was concluded yesterday. Other evidence has to be taken.

On the arrival of the commissioners on the liquor traffic Dr. Praeger informed them that they would have to undergo inspection before they could enter the city. Judge McDonald strongly objected, and said he would not submit to such a gross indignity. Dr. Praeger politely pointed out that the law had to be obeyed by all, the result being that the judge bared his arm and was vaccinated.

The grand entertainment a few evenings since in the Opera House, under the auspices of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Y.M.C.A., in spite of the bad weather was an immense success, the hall being well filled and the programme well executed.

PORT SIMPSON.

PORT SIMPSON, Nov. 12.—The public hospital at Port Simpson was formally opened on November 9, most of the white residents of the town being present. After a look over the building, which occasioned many commendatory remarks by the visitors, Mr. Clifford took the chair, and the following programme was carried out:

Singing the doxology.
Prayer by Rev. T. Crosby.
Scripture reading by Rev. F. Pyemont.
Singing Watts' hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."
Address by Rev. T. Crosby.
Historical outline and financial statement by Dr. Bolton.
Chairman declares hospital open for reception of patients.
"God Save the Queen."
Benediction by Rev. F. Pyemont.
Intermission—Refreshments.
Election of board of directors from the benefactors of the institution.
Election of officers by the directors present.

The board consists of Messrs. C. W. D. Clifford, president; John Clewin, Government agent, 1st vice-president; Rev. T. Crosby, 2nd vice-president; Dr. A. E. Bolton, secretary-treasurer; J. L. M. Alexander, of Port Simpson; George Williscroft, of Georgetown; Rev. G. F. Hopkins, of Bella Bella, and R. H. Hall and W. H. Dempster, of Victoria.

Two urgent surgical cases had been taken in before the formal opening, and eighteen cases had been cared for in temporary quarters pending the completion of the building.

The institution will be open to all classes needing hospital care. Reasonable charges will be made for board and nursing when the patient can afford to pay, and it will be entirely free to the poor. The location, equipment and management of the hospital assure its being of great benefit to the district.

CLOVERDALE.

On Sunday evening, the 20th inst., a fire was noticed by parties gathering to the Presbyterian evening service, in the farmhouse of J. W. Robinson, about half a mile distant from the town. The alarm was quickly given, and a rush for the fire took place, but it was of no avail as the flames were masters of the situation. The house was a large two story frame, built in T form, and well finished throughout. The loss will foot up to $3,000 or $4,000, partially covered by insurance.

OMAHA, Nov. 22.—A despatch from Alda, Neb., just received, states that an accident occurred on the Union Pacific railway by which four persons were killed and three injured.

FROM CHINA AND JAPAN.

The Thermopylae Narrowly Escapes a Typhoon—Immigration of Japanese Girls to America.

Victoria Sealers Come Home—The Latest From the Yokohama Daily Press.

The Carmanah Point wire, which had been in difficulty somewhere between Otter Point and Jordan River since Friday's gale, proved faithful yesterday morning long enough to report that the Empress of China, inward bound, passed the Cape shortly after 4 o'clock. This would bring her off Victoria just about 9 o'clock, and when that hour arrived the big, white liner was at anchor.

She had had a pleasant run across, no typhoons or sou'westers disturbing the serenity of the trip. The former continue to scatter destruction along the Chinese coast, the Victoria bark Thermopylæ just missing one, very fortunately, by putting into Hongkong, which port she left the day the Empress sailed, the 11th inst. The Bokhara was lost in another, and the Gretna, bound from Cardiff to Hongkong, in a third, on October 25. Captain Maxwell and the crew of the Gretna were picked up near Rifleman Shoal, by the Sakata-maru and taken to Saigon.

Of the passengers by the Empress the most conspicuous, though far from the most distinguished, were a party of Japanese girls, 30 in all, who are to be distributed among Chicago, Portland, Seattle and Port Townsend. Some of them cannot be over 16 or 17 years of age and are remarkably pretty, while the eldest of the little company is still in her twenties.

Among the passengers on the Empress it was commonly understood that the entire "consignment" were destined to fill houses of immorality in the American cities, and when a male Japanese who seemed to act as manager or guide was questioned, he promptly replied that the girls "would be all right," and admitted that the reports were not far astray.

Asked as to how the laws of Japan, so strict where the exportation of women is concerned, were evaded, the Japanese having any knowledge of English smiled as with one accord.

"Married women can go anywhere," one of them volunteered, "they

JUST GET MARRIED

and then come away." Of course the "husbands" are left in Japan.

Four Victoria sealers, who left here early in the season on the Carmolite, formed another interesting party. They had taken the steamer at Hongkong, by instruction of the British Consul, and were very glad to reach home again. A fifth companion, David Att, by choice remained in China. The new arrivals were Joseph Sears, Thomas Darcey, Thomas Wilson and William Burns.

The first question was for their companions, the next for the Maggie Mac. On the other side of the water as well as this, the missing sailors have friends who are anxiously watching for them. Sears and his companions express confidence that the Carmolite, at least, will be returned to the owners. It is the generally expressed opinion in Japan that all the captured fleet will be restored.

The Empress' saloon passengers were forty in number, and only a few left the ship here. Among those who did were Miss Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. D. Galbraith, the former a prosperous lawyer of Erie, Pa.; Mr. L. Millward, Mr. Nonchere, Miss Scidmore, the Washington writer who was here some months ago; Mr. Henry D. Pierce, an Indianapolis barrister, who has also had some acquaintance with journalism, and Mr. A. J. Souza, a prominent Portuguese resident of Kobe, now on his way to New York.

Passing on to Vancouver, were Mr. Adams, Mr. Codman, Mr. Crisp, Mr. and Mrs. J. Douglass, Mr. A. M. A. Evans, Frau von Fallot, sons and daughters, Mrs. Gisman, Mr. O. Harvey, Mr. F. E. Hughes, Mr. Higinbotham, Mr. Leap, Mr. B. K. Miller, jr., Mr. Moffatt, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. McAlpine and children, Mr. J. Newcome, Mrs. Darcy Paul, Mrs. Randolph, Miss Riley, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Sargent, Mr. Taft, Mr. P. N. Thompson, Mr. G. Turner and Mr. W. W. Rockhill.

The last mentioned gentleman is well known the world over as

A TRAVELLER WHOM NOTHING DAUNTS.

He has just completed an extended journey on horseback and on foot through China and India, in the interest of the Royal Geographical society and of sport. He is now on his way home, well satisfied.

In the second saloon were Mrs. Bond and family, Mr. Fukata, Mr. M. Jaspersen, Mr. Michaeloffski, and Mr. Tomita. There were about two hundred and twenty-five Chinese, fifty of whom, one of them the widow of the deceased Mee Wah, disembarked here. The cargo was chiefly composed of tea.

The reigning sensation in Japan, according to the files of the Mail and Advertiser received, is known as the "Barrister's Examination Scandal." A number of examination papers, it has been proved, were sold by those to whom they were entrusted, candidates for the bar being the purchasers. A prosecution was taken in the courts, a conviction secured, and the wrong-doers severely punished.

The court of inquiry held in the matter of the

LOSS OF THE BOKHARA

at Hongkong concluded their labors on the twenty-second of October, the pith of their conclusions being contained in the following extracts from their finding, a very comprehensive document prepared by R. Murray Rumsey, retired commander R.N., president of the court, and assented to by his associates, J. H. Woolward, staff-commander R.N; A. E. W. Hodgins, master steamer Thales; John R. Hill, master steamer Batavia, and Hugh Craig, master steamer Menmuir:

"Upon the evidence the court has formed the following opinion: That the loss of the ship is to be attributed to her being drawn over to the eastern side of the Formosa channel either through 'head-reaching' while 'lying-to' or through a current setting more southerly than was expected and calculated for, or possibly to both of these causes, that the captain was zealous and unremitting in his attention to his duties. The ship was not run too long and the precaution of lying-to was taken in good time. But we cannot help thinking that he committed an error of judgment in too readily concluding afterwards that the ship was drifting on a safe course.

"The Court desires particularly to bring to notice the humane conduct of the people among whom the survivors were cast, the fishermen who took them off Sand Island, the native priest at Pehoe who relieved their immediate wants, and the Mandarin at Ponghou, who, it appears, treated them with the greatest kindness and hospitality."

As many friends here will learn with gladness Dr. Lowson, formerly of the Abyssinia, was not among the lost but one of the two surviving passengers. The Bokhara, when she left Shanghai, besides a valuable cargo of silk and general merchandise, had on board treasure to the amount of HK. Taels 36,399 for Hongkong, [illegible],740 for Bombay, and gold bars to the value of HK. Taels 125,458 for London.

FROM THE NATIVE PRESS.

The Choya Shimbun advocates the opening of a special national exhibition in Tokyo next year. The idea is to attract European visitors to the Columbian Exposition of Chicago. The Shimbun calculates from past experience that a national exhibition does not require more than 450,000 yen in all, and that more than 80,000 yen would be realized by the sale of tickets and of the temporary buildings, so that the net outlay would not exceed 370,000 yen.

A movement is on foot for the abolition of the legal prohibition of gambling. The agitation is confined to professional gamblers and to a section of the soshi class. It is now rumored that the Kokumin Kyokai has consented to bring the matter up for discussion in the coming session of the Diet.

"For our own part," says the Mail, "we do not believe in the accuracy of this rumor; but the Yomiuri Shimbun is evidently disposed to think otherwise."

Dysentery is epidemic in the central districts of Japan, and rinderpest is working terrible havoc among the cattle in many parts of the empire.

AN OUTSIDE OPINION.

"Among the passengers by the City of Peking we note the name of Capt. de Levron. This is, we believe, the redoubtable commander of the Zabiaka, the Russian cruiser into the hands of which so many misguided sealers have fallen. In all probability Capt. de Levron has been called home to afford the Russian Government some information with reference to recent occurrences in Behring's Sea. Apropos the captain of the Zabiaka, it is amusing to read that a Victorian sealing skipper 'thinks de Levron not at all a bad fellow if you take him the right way.' A month or two ago some trustworthy hints as to the best method of taking the Russian commander, would have been highly acceptable to some masters of schooners. Most of those who had to do with him thought him a very nauseous dose indeed."—Japan Advertiser.

"AN OBJECT ALL SUBLIME."

Lately advertisements were placarded on telegraph posts in Yokohama to the effect that all the beggars in the town were requested to call at the branch office of the Seiri club, 43, Hasakicho, Sanchome, Yokohama. At first sight such an announcement looks somewhat strange, but further inquiry shows that an excellent project is on foot. Messrs. Nagaoka Keizaburo, Yebihara Boku and Yamaguchi Yukimitsu have established a club at Hachioji for the purpose of collecting all the indigent persons in the empire, and providing for them some appropriate occupations. The promoters intend to separate the applicants into three lots. The first, over 60 years of age; the second, under 15 years of age; and the third, deformed. The young persons belonging to the second category are to be sent to Hokkaido, where they will settle, while houses will be provided for the others, and occupations found at which they may be able to work. A branch office has been established in Yokohama, and already a sum of over a thousand yen is available. It is stated that there are over 500 beggars in Yokohama alone. After the posting of advertisements as described above, the police authorities of Yokohama took steps to investigate the matter, and finding that the details of the scheme were not satisfactory, the projectors were ordered to suspend further proceedings until their system could be placed on a sounder footing. They are said to be very indignant about this interference. Their object being to succor the unfortunate, and to put an end, as far as possible, to the public scandal of begging, they do not see why any official obstacles should be placed in their path, and they have accordingly sent a deputation to wait upon the Governor of Kanagawa and submit to him a statement of their grievance. Doubtless their purpose is excellent, but when private associations undertake to assume charge of the lives of their fellow-nationals, it is the unquestionable duty of the authorities to see that satisfactory and trustworthy measures are adopted.—Mail.

STAGE ELOPEMENT.

A Well-Known Married Theatrical Manager Elopes with an Actress.

NEW YORK, Nov. 23.—Frank Richards, known all over the country as an able manager of theatrical concerns, has eloped with Georgie Lake, the actress. Richards leaves a wife and child in Boston and Miss Lake leaves a husband here in New York. The husband is Julien Mitchell, the theatrical manager, and a nephew of Maggie Mitchell, the actress. Miss Lake is a sister of Jim Corbett's wife. The couple were, up to last night, at Woodbury, a little town in Jersey, about 25 miles the other side of Philadelphia. Mr. Richards was for several years night editor of the Boston Globe. He always bore an excellent reputation and was very popular with actors and actresses. He was married some seven years ago to a Miss Morris, of Chicago, who had left her home, where her family was quite prominent, to join Augustin Daly's Company here in New York. Miss Lake was at one time very well known on the stage, but for a little over a year, she has not been before the public. She had the best parts in most of Hoyt's plays, and was considered a very bright woman. She is 25 years of age, and Richards is 37 years of age.

HOPEFUL LINEN WEAVERS.

One Class of the Irish People Who Hail With Gladness the Change of President.

BELFAST, Nov. 23.—The election of Grover Cleveland has revived the hopes of a class of the Irish working people, whose industry has been practically wiped out by the McKinley bill. The industry thus effected was that of the linen hand-weavers of Ulster, to whose hands the most beautiful designs and textures of linen in existence are to be traced. Notwithstanding the introduction of machinery, the hand-weavers were still enabled, through the demand for their work, to make a decent living, although thirteen shillings a week was considered enough for that, and that sum was about as much as they could earn. The McKinley bill cut such inroads into their profits, that seven shillings was as much as they have made recently. The possibilities of the repeal of the bill has started new hopes among these people.

A Dangerous Cold.

DEAR SIRS,—My little girl last winter had a very bad cold which almost resulted in congestion of the lungs After doctoring with her for three months without success I tried Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam, and two bottles of it cured her. She is now strong and healthy.
MRS. SAMUEL MULHOLLAND, Hamilton, Ont.

M. QUAD'S HUMOR.

The Kicker Editor Finds His Tenth Victim—A First Class Funeral Given.

Mr. Bowser's Gas and Water Bills—His Views on Clocks and Clothespins.

(Copyright, 1892, by Charles B. Lewis.)

THE ARIZONA KICKER.

No. 11.—We are not the editor of The Kicker, who is also mayor of the town, state senator and the owner of the fastest running mule in the territory. We are not the horse editor on a salary of nine dollars per week. We are not the marine editor on a salary of seven dollars. We are simply the agricultural editor on a salary of six dollars, but gaining on it all the time. To us has fallen the sad duty of detailing the occurrences which caused such intense excitement in the town last Saturday, and which have been telegraphed all over the country. This duty devolves upon us because the editor is in bed with a knife wound in his right side; the horse editor is laid up with a bullet hole through his hand; the marine editor is nursing a gash in his cheek, and we are temporarily in charge of the greatest family newspaper in the west—subscription price two dollars per year, strictly in advance.

HE WAS AFTER RICH RED EDITORIAL BLOOD.

It is a well known fact that the editor and proprietor of the Kicker has for several years possessed a private graveyard. He began with one "plant," and under the most adverse circumstances, but by the exercise of diligence, perseverance and good judgment, he had, up to a year ago, increased the number to ten. Two years ago he bought an acre of sandy ground and enclosed it with a neat picket fence. The ground was sodded and set out with shrubs, vines and flowers, the graves were placed in regular order on each side of the main avenue, and the spot has really been the only one in the neighborhood to interest sightseers. It is the only private editorial graveyard in the west, and about the only recreation our chief has had for two years past was in working about the enclosure with spade and rake.

Last March, when the tenth misguided critter was laid away to rest, our chief expressed the earnest hope that he would be the last. Bad men were getting scarce, our esteemed contemporary wasn't worth powder and lead, and it did seem as if the hope of the great editor might be realized. But the skeleton of Fate was stalking over the mountains and rattling its bones as it headed this way. East Friday night there arrived in this town a man named Jim Kelso. He was from Hardyville, over by the Black mountains. No one knows exactly why he came, but he was sized up by everybody as a bad man. Saturday forenoon at 10 o'clock, as our chief was about to enter the Kicker office, he found the stranger at the door. Inside the office the horse editor was dashing off a half column on the mule as a factor in civilization. The marine editor was preparing statistics to prove that steamers drawing eight feet of water could not pass over the 4-foot shoals of the Little Colorado river, and the agricultural editor (who is ourself) was finishing up an article destined to revolutionize the cactus industry of the great west. All was peaceful and serene.

Our chief, as has been hinted at on two or three previous occasions, has contracted a curious habit. If standing on the street to converse with a man he instinctively or intuitively, or whatever it may be called, spits tobacco juice on that man's boots, it is simply a habit or notion. He does not know when he does it, and the action has no meaning. The stranger stopped him to ask about real estate matters, and they had not been talking over a minute when our chief expectorated after his usual fashion. Mr. Kelso at once whipped out a bowie knife and proceeded to business. The horse editor and marine editor rushed out at the first alarm, and for a moment things were mixed up. Our chief was heeled as usual, but didn't want to shoot unless obliged to. He crawfished half way across the street, trying to explain as he fell back, but Mr. Kelso wouldn't have it. He was after rich red editorial blood, and when it was seen that nothing else would satisfy him he was dropped in his tracks. He had wounded all three men and was fully bent on murder. A coroner's inquest was held in the afternoon, and of course our chief was fully exonerated. While not seriously wounded, he was advised to remain quiet for a few days. Acting upon his instructions we called upon Pete Taylor, the popular undertaker, and had the late deceased fixed up with one of those favorite $27.50 coffins, hired five carriages for a funeral procession, and he was buried in the private graveyard, and his mound temporarily marked "No. 11." Within a month he will have a handsome headboard, which will harmonize with the other ten, and the trailing arbutus will be in training to trail over his last resting place.

No one can regret this affair more deeply than our chief. He didn't want to do it, but had to. No. 11 was simply forced upon him. While no one but the small souled, weak brained, chicken hearted editor of the alleged weekly sheet down the street blames him in the least, he feels that Mr. Kelso may not have been prepared for his sudden trip, and that it might have been better to run away. It will be noticed that we were not in it. Our excuse is that we are purely an agricultural editor on a moderate salary, and our ways are full of peace and humility. We love our chief and are loyal to him, but we have our limit.

MR. AND MRS. BOWSER.

"What's this?" asked Mr. Bowser, as he entered the family sitting room after the evening meal and picked up a piece of paper lying on a stand.

"That?" queried Mrs. Bowser as she glanced in his direction. "Oh, that's the gas bill. It just came in this afternoon, and I left it where you would be sure"——

"What! What!" interrupted Mr. Bowser as he hurriedly got out his glasses to read the figures. "Four dollars and a half! Mrs. Bowser, what on earth is the meaning of this?"

"It means, I suppose that we have burned that much gas and are expected to pay for it," she quietly replied.

"Never! Never! I'll see that gas company buried a thousand feet deep under the burning sands of Sahara before I'll pay any such bill! It's nothing less than highway robbery — blackmail—extortion! What did you say to the man who left it?"

"Nothing."

"Nothing! Didn't you even protest against such bold-faced robbery in broad daylight?"

"Certainly not. The bill is only fifty cents higher than last month, and I'm sure we have burned much more gas. I consider it very reasonable indeed."

"Reasonable! Reasonable! It's rank robbery, and I'll never pay it—never! This is another specimen of the way you practise domestic economy!"

Mrs. Bowser made no reply, but Mr. Bowser walked around the room with his hands crossed under his coat tails and his neck growing cherry red with emotion. Having got started he was bound to follow out that line, and after a minute he broke out with:

"When I think of the awful extravagance and reckless waste going on in this house, it makes me fairly shiver! It is no wonder I can't get a dollar ahead to save my hide!"

"The bill from the water office for the present quarter is also there," observed Mrs. Bowser, as she carelessly glanced over the evening paper.

"It is, eh? Yes, here it is. Great Scott, and seven graveyards, but here's more highway robbery! Three dollars for water during the last quarter—three dollars!"

"Yes, that's the regular amount. Our water tax has been three dollars per quarter for the last four years."

"Never! Never! It's never been over two dollars at the outside! They've tacked on a dollar, thinking you paid the bills and wouldn't question it."

She entered the library and returned after a minute with six or seven water bills. All were made out for the same amount—three dollars. Mr. Bowser glanced at them and saw that he was floored, but it would not do to admit it.

"And why is our water tax twelve dollars a year, Mrs. Bowser—twelve dollars a year?" he hoarsely demanded as he stood before her and waved the gas bill in one hand and the water bill in the other. "Because of your reckless waste and extravagance, madam! That's what they based their figures on—a wastage of millions of gallons of water every quarter!"

She made no reply, and he sat down to get his breath. He got it in a couple of minutes and jumped up with:

"Didn't you say something to me the other day about having a plumber up here?"

"Yes. There's a leak somewhere about the bathtub."

"What! That bathtub leaking again! Over fifty dollars paid out for repairs on that bathtub within the last year, and now it's out of kelter again! How on earth I

"WHY, MRS. BOWSER, WHY?"

ever managed to get fifty-eight dollars in the bank to pay for a plain, cheap coffin in case of my death passes my understanding!"

"We have lived here for six years, Mr. Bowser, and there has never been anything wrong with the bathtub before."

"But why does it leak now?" he demanded. "Did you coolly and deliberately stand there with a crowbar and punch a hole through it? It's no wonder to me that business failures are increasing and husbands committing suicide on every hand. What's this?"

He stooped down and picked up something which had been partly hidden under the lounge and held it aloft in a triumphant way.

"It's a clothespin," replied Mrs. Bowser as she looked up. "I presume baby brought it in from the backyard."

"Another evidence that this house is run on the hottentot system! Clothespins cost money! Why aren't they taken care of?"

"They cost a cent a dozen, Mr. Bowser."

"No matter if you get a thousand for a cent! It isn't the cent we look at, but what might happen for the want of one single clothespin. For the want of this very pin you might lose one of my two dollar shirts. And now what on earth is the matter with that clock?"

It had stopped. He put in the key and found that it had not run down. He gave the pendulum a push, but after a few uncertain motions it stopped again.

"I presume the clock wants cleaning," explained Mrs. Bowser. "It has stopped several times lately, and I was going to ask you to have a jeweler send up for it."

"Wants cleaning! That clock out of order again! I've paid out over $40,000 within a year for repairs to that clock, and here it has stopped dead still again! Did you haul off and hit it with a sledge hammer, or did you turn it upside down and pour sand into it?"

"We've had that clock seven years, Mr. Bowser, and this is the first time it has ever had to"—

"It's no use, no use!" he exclaimed as he fell upon the lounge with a great crash. "It may be that I can keep from committing suicide, but should I go crazy and wipe out this family and burn the house to the ground and kill about forty firemen and police and pass the rest of my days as a raving maniac the world will understand all about it—all about it, Mrs. Bowser."

And after a dozen long drawn sighs and a great deal of kicking around, with an occasional "humph!" to let her know that he was still thinking the matter over, he fell asleep, and Mrs. Bowser carefully tucked him up with a baby blanket.

HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

The Idea Denied by the U. S. Secretary of State Foster.

WASHINGTON CITY, Nov. 21.—A statement in the San Francisco Examiner, to the effect that the State department has been for six weeks in correspondence with the Hawaiian minister on the subject of annexing the Hawaiian islands to the United States, was denied by Secretary of State Foster to a reporter of the United Press today.

"I don't know," he said, "whether the item means that the department has been in communication with the United States minister to Hawaii, or the Hawaiian minister to the United States. It does not make any difference, however, which it means. The department has no correspondence with anyone on the subject.

The Government of the United States and Hawaii have been in correspondence over a treaty to cure the ills which the Hawaiian people believe they suffer, because of the operation of the new tariff laws of the United States. The substance of this document was given recently the United Press Washington despatches, and it was presumed it would be included in the volume of foreign correspondence for 1891, which has just appeared, but the volume contains nothing relating to Hawaii except the formal despatches called out by the death of King Kalaukauala. It is believed, however, that the treaty will be ready to submit to Congress some time during the coming session.

HOMESTEAD'S AFFAIRS.

Conditions Upon Which Strikers May Resume—The Town in Financial Difficulties.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Nov. 22.—The strikers applying for work at Homestead are required to sign an agreement to the effect not to belong to any labor organization and be governed entirely by the regulations of the Company. The rush for employment continues. Many of those who took the strikers' places are leaving and some are discharged, but most of them leave of their own accord. The borough of Homestead is in financial embarrassment, owing to a failure to collect taxes. Measures are to be taken to relieve the stringency.

PORT TOWNSEND, Nov. 22.—(Special.)—The Navy department has established a branch hydrographic office in this city, and has instructed Lieut. H. F. Mayo to proceed here from Washington city and assume charge of the office. This will be the only hydrographic office on the Pacific Coast north of San Francisco.

TACOMA, Nov. 22.—Bonds for $1,000,000 have been floated in the East by the Tacoma, Lake Park & Columbia railway company for the construction of the first 50 miles of the proposed extension to the Columbia river.

FOR

JOHN JAMESON & SON'S

"Own Cased" VERY OLD

IRISH WHISKEY

Please see that EACH LABEL has on it this caution in full, viz:

"In order that consumers may feel assured of genuineness, we "would request attention to this our SPECIAL EXPORT LABEL, "and to our Trade Mark and Name on Corks, Capsules, and Cases "also to Age Mark."*

John Jameson & Son Ltd.

* One, Two, or Three Stars,

Which consumers are kindly requested to ask for.

Drink this JOHN JAMESON & SON'S "OWN CASED" WHISKEY; it is the finest that can be produced, and realizes the highest price on the Irish Whiskey Market.

BLACK BOTTLES { ONE STAR * Capsuled Blue. TWO STARS * * " Pink. THREE STARS * * * " Gold.

Through the usual Trade Channels, and Wholesale only of their Sole Export Bottling Agents,

CHARLES DAY & CO., London.

aug7-12t-1am

E. G. PRIOR & CO.,

(LIMITED LIABILITY).

Importers of Iron, Hardware, Agricultural Machinery and Vehicles of All Kinds.

Sole Agents for the Planet, Jr., Farm and Garden Implements.

WAREHOUSES AT VICTORIA AND KAMLOOPS.

Write for Special Catalogue and Prices. mr 1