Will Beautify Bastion Square

City Council Decides to Accept Generous Offer of Mr. Percy Wollaston Jr.

Little Other Important Business Was Transacted at Last Night's Meeting.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Yesterday evening's meeting of the City Council was a brief and uninteresting one, the few important matters touched upon being laid over to an adjourned meeting which is to be held this evening at 8 o'clock. A decision was reached to enter into an arrangement with Percy Wollaston, Jr., whereby the curbed plots in Bastion Square will be fenced and adorned with flowering plants.

Mayor Barnard presided, looking none the worse for his recent forced relinquishment of the reins of office. The Aldermen applauded loudly when the returning officer's declaration of his re-election by acclamation was read.

All the Aldermen were present.

The Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, re application for extension of harbor lot by J. S. Helmcken, said the government had no objection to the same.

The Deputy Provincial Secretary acknowledged receipt of resolution endorsing the project to extend a line of railway to north end of the Island.

The secretary of the Tourist Association suggested that the city use paper with illustrations advertising Victoria. Referred to finance committee.

F. W. Van Sant, superintendent of the Victoria Terminal railway, wrote regarding the cost of a drain. Referred to the city engineer.

John Haggerty and William Colston offered to supply filling in for James Bay roadway in 5,000 yards quantity for 40c. a yard. Laid on the table.

The city clerk wrote reporting having referred a number of minor communications to the city engineer for report.

The city solicitor reported having arranged for the purchase of certain sand lots at Spring Ridge for the sum of $2,000. Laid on the table.

The market superintendent reported the receipts for the past three months to be $144.05. Received and filed.

W. Symonds, re the gravel for James Bay abutment, offered to deliver gravel, and asked for a portion of the hauling. Received and filed, the contract having already been let.

Residents of Churchway asked for the extension of the sewer along that thoroughfare. Referred to the city engineer for report to streets committee.

Residents of third street asked for an electric light. Referred to electric light committee.

C. H. Lugrin complained of lack of drainage facilities on Gorge road, which was endorsed by adjacent residents. Referred, on motion of Aid Graham, to city engineer, he to do work at once if cost does not exceed $25.

Martha A. Shepherd complained of obnoxious rose bushes on corner of Young and Toronto streets. Referred to engineer for report.

The council then proceeded to ballot for a caretaker for the Ross Bay Cemetery. Henry Bronson was elected on the first ballot.

A special committee re the purchase of lot 47 at Spring Ridge, reported being unable to obtain right of way to property, and recommended getting temporary right-of-way over lot 40; further recommended that proper agreements be drawn up for acquiring property. Laid on the table.

The Finance committee reported as follows:

1. Re communication from the secretary of Victoria City Kennel Club, asking the council to devote the same sum of $100 towards defraying the cost of holding the next annual dog show of the club in Victoria in April next: recommended that the sum of $50, being the same as last year, be appropriated for this purpose.

2. Re communication from Mr. P. Wollaston, submitting a proposal in regard to the utilization of the two acres in Bastion Square for floral decoration. Your committee had a meeting with Mr. Wollaston and the city engineer and recommend that: (1) The sum of $125 be appropriated for the purpose. (2) The city engineer be instructed to fill in these spaces with fertilizing material and black soil (the latter to be taken from Elliott street) as suggested and required by Mr. Wollaston. (3) The use of the city water for the purpose of keeping the flower beds be granted free of charge. (4) The erection of fence, painting, laying out of the plots, etc., be left entirely in the hands of Mr. Wollaston, who has kindly offered to superintend and have the job completed, subject to the satisfaction of the city engineer.

The report was adopted.

The streets committee reported as follows:

Gentlemen,—Your streets, bridges and sewers committee have carefully considered the undermentioned subjects, beg to recommend to the council the adoption of the following resolutions relating thereto, viz:

Re communication from Mr. James Gaudin, of the Department of Marine and fisheries with references to the continuation of Craigflower road through the Indian reserve to the bridge crossing the flats, and its further extension to the Marine Hospital, on the understanding that this latter extension would be paid for by the Department. Resolved that the city engineer be requested to furnish the estimate requested of the said extension of the road from the foot bridge to the Marine Hospital, and carry out the work, if desired, at the entire expense and responsibility of the Dominion government, and that Captain Gaudin be so informed.

Re communication of L. U. Conyers, asking that the city extend the sewer from the north side of Yates street to the south side in front of his property at the junction of Yates street and Cadboro Bay road. Resolved that Mr. Conyers be informed that the city is unable to comply with his request.

Resolved that the city engineer be authorized to continue obtaining beach gravel from J. Haggerty, upon the same terms and conditions as are set out in an agreement for supplying gravel, between him (J. Haggerty) and the corporation, dated the 19th day of December, 1901.

Resolved that the building inspector's attention be called to the sections of the by-laws, named in the city solicitor's letter to Alderman Fell, upon the matter of the removal of nuisance, and that he, the building inspector, be instructed to proceed to remove the nuisance existing on the lots on Yates street, opposite the Dominion Hotel, upon which old lumber is piled, and upon all other lots in the city similarly situated.

Resolved that the sewer in Waddington alley be extended for 100 feet southerly.

The report was adopted.

The finance committee recommended the payment of accounts amounting to $2,191.09. Adopted.

Tenders for certain plumbing work at City Hall were received from John Colbert, $110; J. H. Warner & Co., $118; Andrew Sheret, $93; Watson & McGregor, $120; A. F. Mallette, $126; B. F. Geiger, $112.

The tenders were referred to the purchasing agent and plumbing inspector for report.

The council adjourned to meet again this evening at 8 o'clock.

PROVISIONS OF THE NEW GAME ACT

Amendments to Measure Made at the Last Session of the Legislature.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Following is the Game Protection Amendment Act passed at the last session of the legislature. It is published for the information of sportsmen;

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the "Game Protection Act, 1898,' Amendment Act, 1904."

2. In this Act the term "deer" shall be construed as meaning unadvanced animals of the species black-tailed deer, and shall mean both old and young of these animals.

3. It shall be unlawful at any time to kill except for actual use, on Vancouver Island, to buy or sell any deer, or portion or part of a deer, either alive or dead, or the skin or hide of any deer, and it shall be unlawful, except as hereinafter mentioned, to export from British Columbia any deer or skin or hide of any deer.

4. Section 4 of the "Game Protection Act, 1898," is hereby repealed, so far as it prevents the exportation of deer skins or hides from any port in British Columbia between the 21st day of March, 1904, and the 1st day of July, 1904, both days inclusive.

5. It shall be unlawful at any time to take, catch, kill, or have in possession any trout or any kind or species under the size of six inches in length, and it shall be unlawful to take, catch, kill or have in possession any trout of any kind or species, except steelhead trout (Salmo gairdneri), between the 15th day of November on any year and the 25th day of March in the following year, and it shall be unlawful to take, catch or kill any steelhead trout (Salmo gairdneri) above tide water between the 15th day of November in any year and the 25th day of March in the following year. This section shall not apply to children under (15) years of age.

6. It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on good cause shown, by proclamation in two successive issues of the British Columbia Gazette, to declare a closed season for deer, elk, wapiti, moose, caribou, beaver, mountain sheep and mountain goat, or any one or more of same, in any part of the Province, for any period of time.

7. Any person offending against the provisions of this Act, or of any regulations under it, shall be liable for each offence, on conviction thereof in a summary manner before any justice of the peace, in accordance with the provisions of the "Summary Convictions Act," to the following fines for the following offences, namely: For killing or selling a deer, or part or portion of a deer, or deer hide or skin, on Vancouver Island, $50 for each animal or skin or hide bought or sold; for exporting any deer, skin or hide of deer, the sum of $20 for each deer, or skin or hide of deer; the sum of $5 for each skin or hide in possession of any deer skin or hide, after the 1st day of July, 1904, $20 for each skin or hide so found in his possession; any person killing or taking any deer, elk, wapiti, moose, caribou, mountain sheep or mountain goat, in any part of the province in which and during the period of time for which the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall have proclaimed a closed season under section 6 hereof, the sum of $50, with costs, to be levied by distress, or imprisonment for any term not exceeding sixty days, or to both fine and imprisonment; for every violation of section 5 a sum of not less than $20 and not more than $50 for each offence, with costs, to be levied by distress, or imprisonment for any term not exceeding sixty days, or to both fine and imprisonment: Provided further, that in case of a conviction being obtained and a fine levied under this Act, half of the amount so angled fine shall be paid to the informer or informers upon whose information such a conviction is obtained.

8. The "Game Protection Act, 1898," is hereby repealed, only so far as it conflicts with the provisions of this Act but no further, and all powers to magistrates and constables given in that Act are ratified and shall be exercised for the carrying out of this Act.

Smelter Returns.—During the month of January the Tyee smelter ran 14 days, 3,313 tons of Tyee ore being smelted, giving a return (after deduction of refining charges, of $40,171. Everything is progressing most satisfactorily at Mount Sicker camp. The Tyee company, since making the alterations in connection with its aerial tram line, has now increased the output considerably. With heavier cables the number of buckets has been increased, and in consequence the company is sending a larger quantity of ore to the smelter than formerly. Without any trouble it is possible now to ship 180 tons during the ten hours of the day. With this amount being shipped steadily and the supply which is received from other sources, the smelter at Ladysmith is kept running at its full capacity. This allows of the management at the Tyee mines to keep their development work well up.

That Clallam "Verdict."—A report from Tacoma says it is persistently whispered about that the Clallam case may be reviewed by the federal grand jury, the punishment meted out by the marine inspectors at Seattle to Capt. Roberts not being sufficient, it is hinted, to satisfy. The report could not be verified. It is the general belief in marine circles on the Sound that Capt. George Roberts will take an appeal from the recent decision of United States Marine Inspectors Whitney and Turner. Capt. Roberts left last Saturday night for San Francisco and expects to be absent for some time. His license was suspended for twelve months as a result of the wreck of the steamship Clallam. Both inspectors censure Capt. Roberts for not having made an effort to get his boat in the lee of Lopez island. It is understood that Roberts contends that such a course would have been impossible, owing to tides and currents.

Much Snow in the North.—There is more snow in the north than there has been for two years previously, and miners are hopeful that there will be a larger clean-up of gold this coming spring than has been washed up at the mines for several seasons. On the higher levels in the Yukon, where miners have been handicapped for want of water during the last couple of years, it is estimated there are millions of dollars in dirt piled up from benches heretofore not reached by water, and which has been held pending the favorable season for washing.

Backed up by over a third of a century of remarkable and uniform cures, a record such as no other remedy for the diseases and weaknesses peculiar to women ever attained, the proprietors and makers of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription now feel fully warranted in offering to pay $500 in legal money for any case of Leucorrhea, Female Weakness, Prolapsus, or Falling of Womb, which they cannot cure. All they ask is a fair and reasonable trial of their means of cure.

Very often a married woman or young girl does not know who to turn to for advice in circumstances where she dislikes to talk with the family physician about delicate matters. At such times write to Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y., for free consultation and advice, and the same will be held as sacredly confidential. It is foolish to consult women friends or persons without medical training.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription contains no alcohol, is entirely vegetable and was the first exclusively woman's tonic on the market—it has sold more largely in the past third of a century than any other medicine for women.

All other compounds intended for women only are made with alcohol, or alcohol is a large component—this alcohol injures the nerves. The little red corpuscles of the blood are shrunken by alcohol. All such compounds, therefore, do harm.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets invigorate the stomach, liver and bowels. Use them with the "Favorite Prescription" when a pill is required. One is a laxative, two, a mild cathartic.

The Czar's Battleships

Squadrons in Far East Decidedly Deficient in Matter of Homogeneity.

Chief Feature Noticable in Japan Fleet Altogether Lacking.

In the description of the Japanese navy stress was laid upon the fact that the battleships and cruisers of the fighting line are homogeneous. Each squadron of six battleships, and of six armored cruisers, is practically alike in speed and broadside fire, so that in manoeuvring or fighting there would be no drag anywhere. This is recognized as, in itself, an immense advantage, as it is especially conspicuous when the Japanese fleet is compared with the Russian fleet. For while there are several powerful vessels in the Russian fleet in the Far East, it is a noticeable fact that, considered as a whole, it is a fleet of much less unity. In the following list of battleships now gathered at Port Arthur the truth of this statement will be seen:

Name	Displacement.	Nom. Speed.
Poltava	10,960	17.5 knots
Petropavloosk	10,960	17.5 knots
Sevastopol	10,960	17.5 knots
Peresviet	12,674	18 knots
Pobieda	12,674	18 knots
Retvisan	12,700	18 knots
Cesarevitch	13,100	18 knots

The chief armament of each of the first three vessels is 4 12-inch and 12 6-inch quick-firers; of the fourth and fifth vessels is 4 10-inch and 11 6-inch quick-firers; of the last two is 4 12-inch and 12 6-inch quick-firers.

The three battleships at the top of this list are the weakest in the squadron, and compare badly with the battleships of the Japanese. Their speed, in particular, is a knot less than the Japanese battleships can develop. The result in manoeuvring would be that all the Russian battleships would be dragged down to the 17 knots of their slowest ships, as compared with the 18 knots of the Japanese. The other four Russian vessels are undoubtedly powerful, but they differ from each other in the disposition of their armament and in the position and weight of their armor plating. In the whole squadron the Retvisan and the Cesarevitch are the latest and most powerful vessels, the former having been built in Philadelphia and the latter in France.

In respect of armored cruisers the Russians compare still more unfavorably with the Japanese. Here is the list of those gathered in the Far East:

Name.	Displacement.	Nom. Speed.
Gromóvoi	12,336	20 knots
Roessia	12,130	20 knots
Rurik	10,933	18 knots
Bayan	7,800	21 knots

The chief armament of each of the above first three vessels is 4 8-inch and 16 6-inch quick-firers; of the last one is 2 8-inch and 8 6-inch quick-firers.

Three of these vessels, undoubtedly, are powerful and speedy, but as a squadron of armored cruisers they compare very unfavorably with the six armored cruisers of the Japanese squadron. The first three alone could take an equal place in the fighting line with the Russian battleships. Unfortunately for the Russians these three armored cruisers—the Gromovoi, the Rossia, and the Rurik—are now lying at Vladivostock along with the Bogatyr, a protected cruiser. And there they are likely to lie for some time, unless the Russians are able to keep the harbor open till the end of March with their ice-breakers. In the early part of last week this cruiser squadron left Vladivostock in order to join the battleship squadron in the neighborhood of Port Arthur. This movement, a very important movement of concentration in the event of war, has not been carried out, for the cruisers have returned to harbor. Discretion, in this case, was the better part of valor for the Russian cruiser squadron would have assuredly have had to fight its way through the straits of Japan against an overwhelming Japanese fleet. The Japanese have been patient, but they would have drawn a line at this attempt at concentration of the Russian fleet.

The failure of this attempt at concentration has not, I think, been sufficiently emphasized. As a matter of fact, it will have a determining influence on the whole course of the war, should there be war. For as matters stand now, the front fighting line of the Russian fleet is cut in two. At Port Arthur you have the battleships, and at Vladivostock you have the armored cruisers. Now, in the navy, cruisers are the cavalry arm, so to speak, and an army deprived of its cavalry on the eve of battle would not be more helpless than a fleet without cruisers. True, there are six protected cruisers along with the Russian battleships at Port Arthur, but they are light-weights, and by sorry substitutes for the three armored, fighting-line cruisers now bottled up at Vladivostock. You may assume, I think, that they will never, at least, join the main squadron. For their chances of making a safe passage round the south end of Korea, with the 30-knot Japanese destroyers circling round them in the black night, they would not be worth the toss of a copper.

In effect, Russia has already—and before a shot has been fired—lost command of the Eastern sea. That is how I read the situation as it stands at present. It is a question of position, and Japan holds the key of the position. Not only is she so close to her naval bases, not only is her available naval strength more than equal to those of Russia, there is also the important fact that this naval strength is firmly at hand, and is concentrated in a narrow seaway which Japan can close at will. On the other hand, Russia's naval strength is dispersed, with almost no hope of concentration. There are seven battleships at Port Arthur, three armored cruisers at Vladivostock, one battleship and at least three armored cruisers in the Mediterranean. If this naval force were concentrated it would more than equal the fighting strength of the Japanese. But if there is going to be war, the Japanese will take very good care that it does not concentrate. In that case, there can be little doubt as to the naval side of the campaign. The Japanese would hold the sea.

This may be called the calamitous year in theatricals. More plays have failed, more companies disbanded, more theatres closed, more actors idle—the estimated number is 3,000—than ever known in the history of the stage.

VICTORIA ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.

A Court of Revision and Appeal under the provisions of the "Assessment Act" will be held for the Equimalt Assessment District, at Parson's Bridge on Monday the 7th day of March, 1904, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

For that portion of Victoria Assessment District known as North Saanich: At Sidney on Tuesday the 8th day of March, 1904, at 12 o'clock noon.

For the Assessment District of South Victoria: At John Camp's Saanichton, on Tuesday the 8th day of March, 1904, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon; and at the Royal Oak on Wednesday the 9th day of March at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

For the Assessment Districts of Victoria City, Coast and Islands: At the Court House, Bastion Square, on Thursday, the 10th day of March, 1904, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

E. HARRISON,
Judge of Court of Revision and Appeal.

Prizes Offered.—Jay & Co., seedsmen, etc., 13 Broad street, have on exhibition in their window a number of handsome and unique prizes which they are offering to competitors of garden and field products from their seeds. The first prizes consist of two large heavy-plate urns of fashionable design and valuable, a handsome lemonade set, a heavy plate, gold lined cup and a large celery glass with a beautiful pair of jardinieres and a large single jardiniere as second prize. There are seven prizes in all and are well worth competing for. The firm deserves credit for their efforts in the promulgation of a higher grade of garden and field products, and keep in touch with the foremost seedsmen of the Eastern provinces and England with this end in view. Those interested in either agriculture or horticulture would do well to peruse their catalogue and if they have not got a catalogue send for one.

Ladysmith's Difficulty.—Ladysmith is dealing with the same problem which confronts Victoria—lack of sufficient school accommodation. The trustees are pressing for two rooms additional, asking that they be put up at the other end of the town from the present school building. The superintendent of education is conferring with the trustees, and the latter expect the work to be proceeded with.

Talks on Fertilizers

PEATY SOILS

By B. Maynard, Victoria, B. C.

Many peaty soils even with the best of care and cultivation prove very unproductive, or may become so after being under cultivation for a number of years; this chiefly owing to their being naturally very deficient in potash and phosphoric acid, particularly the former; these essential plant foods must be supplied before satisfactory crops can be obtained.

In a previous article two methods commonly practiced to improve the fertility of these soils, were discussed, both of which are troublesome and expensive, also very impracticable and not lasting in their effect. An illustration also was given showing the excellent results of potash fertilizing. In this article the writer will give further illustrations of the benefits derived from the use of potash on these soils taken from experiments personally observed.

A farmer, who has a large tract of peat, originally very productive, had become much discouraged owing to this seemingly complete run down condition, which, in spite of his utmost endeavoring, he could not overcome; at last being advised to use potash, experimented on potatoes and oat and wheat hay. The first plot of potatoes received nothing, the second muriate of potash at the rate of about 75 pounds per acre; the third plot received about 150 pounds per acre. The crop of No. 1 blighted badly and was not worth harvesting. Plot No. 2 showed but little blight, crop fair. Plot No. 3 no blight at all, crop double that of No. 2. The oats and wheat were treated with kainit—crude potash salt—both showing a great improvement, straw also is one is 2 8-inch and 8 6-inch quick-firers. more stiffer and brighter than elsewhere. This past year, the same man conducted a series of experiments with oat hay on the same soil. Plot No. 1 received nothing. Plot No. 2 muriate of potash, superphosphate and nitrate of soda. Plot No. 3 superphosphate and nitrate of soda. Plot No. 4 received muriate of potash only. For results Plot No. 1 produced a very small crop of almost worthless hay. Plot No. 2, produced the heaviest crop of the series, quality good but inferior to No. 4. Plot No. 3 produced a heavy crop of poor hay. Plot No. 4 gave a heavier crop than No. 3, and quality less in quantity than No. 2, quality however, superior, this plot showing the greatest profit from the outlay. The nitrate of soda used in these plots proved rather an injury than a benefit, causing a rank growth of weak straw. In fact on all these plots, where potash was not used the straw was weak and badly discolored. It should be noted that the potato plots mentioned above had been manured the previous year and cropped to roots. It is particularly noticeable that there was absolutely no result from the manure. On an adjoining farm the application of muriate of potash gave as large a crop of wheat as 25 to 30 tons manure, soil clay peaty.

Another experiment on a thirteen-acre field covered a period of four years, to determine the lasting effect of potash on these soils is of interest. This soil had been cropped for many years, having at the time of experiment been a crop-producing power of about 25 bushels of oats per acre. The owner applied sulphate of potash at the rate of about 75 pounds per acre, and sowed down the next three years, oats being grown continuously. The first year he harvested 1,000 bushels per acre, the second year the crop dropped to about 750 bushels, the third 45 bushels, the fourth year to 25 bushels, or to what the soil was capable of producing previously. The fifth year he sold the property to the purchaser again applied potash with the result that he obtained 1,200 bushels off his 13-acre piece; he had used potash ever since, resulting in a yearly average of fully 90 bushels per acre, his annual outlay for potash being about $2.20 per acre.

During the four years' experiment it is very clear that the loss from the gradual decrease in crop was far in excess of the amount saved by not using potash. The second year the falling off was 30 bushels per acre, the third year 45 bushels, the fourth year 65 bushels as against an annual saving of $2.25 per acre. On looking at it from another point of view, one application of potash gave an increase the first year of 65 bushels, the second year 35 bushels, the third year 20 bushels, a total increase of 120 bushels for an outlay of $2.25 per acre, being an increase of 1,500 bushels on his thirteen-acre field, for an outlay of potash of $29.25. The reader can figure for himself what 1,500 bushels of oats are worth. Furthermore, by the regular use of potash these thirteen acres are producing as much grain as forty-seven acres of the same land would produce without its aid.

The reader can figure out how much is saved by not having to plow, harrow, seed and reap thirty-four additional acres, to say nothing of their rental value.

From the above the reader may get the impression that potash is all that these soils need. It, however, must be borne in mind that many of them are sadly deficient in phosphoric acid without which potash cannot be effective. In others a very acid condition may prevail, liming should then be resorted to as well. The writer later, hopes to treat of further experiments relating to these soils.

Farmer's Sudden Death.—The death occurred at Someos on Tuesday of Arthur Robinson, a well-known farmer. On Thursday of last week Mr. Robinson cut his leg above the knee. The wound was not considered dangerous, and it was anticipated that he would be about again in a few days. His death was the result of heart trouble. The deceased was highly respected and honored in the community, where he had lived for many years. He had for a long time given a great deal of attention to strawberry culture. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias. A widow and a number of sons and daughters survive him. One of his daughters lives in Victoria. The funeral will take place today from the Church of England, Somenos, at 2 p. m.

Tacoma street railway men have been detected in a conspiracy to rob the company. One of the clerks at the office resold trip tickets at 2½ cents each that had been twice used, to conductors who in turn, disposed of them to passengers at five cents each. Five warrants of arrest have been issued.

The Chinese Big Celebration

Celestials Gave one Another Yesterday "Kung" Hee Fa t' Choy.

Chinatown Gay With Bunting, Red With Crackers and Odorous With Punks.

Why the faithful Chink who kindles the matutinal fire and prepares to the best of his Oriental ability the breakfast for his Occidental employers did not materialize Monday morning was perfectly apparent to the most casual observer amongst the hundreds of visitors who thronged Chinatown on that day. It was China New Year's, and Victoria's big Chinatown was gaily bedight with bunting and other decorations indicative of joy. The dragon rampant of the Celestial kingdom flaunted on yellow or red ground in banners, bannerets, burgees and gonfalons from many a tail flagstaff, while other standards bore new year welcome in the Chinese writing.

Every Chinaman who could sport the long clothes of high state dug them up from the bottom of the sandalwood chest and put them on. It was a sight for an artist. Here was a tall, dignified Chinaman, inclining, with increasing years, to a suspicious embonpoint, marching up Cormorant street arrayed like King Solomon in what looked to the profane eyes of the foreign devils like a night shirt that had been in the wash with a dry goods stock whose colors had run. It was an indescribable shade of silk, and was slit from the ankle to the knee at the sides so as not to trip its owner in his progress. Beneath the gorgeous surtout peeped out a pair of shapely limbs swathed in a canary-colored silk pantaloons, wrapped around the calf puttee fashion, and caught up at the tops of a pair of new China walking pumps, figured silk uppers and white basement, about two inches thick. On his head he wore the tyee cap of woven black silk, with the red knob to indicate that the wearer was another. He carried an umbrella that would have turned Sairey Gamp green with envy for its size and bagginess.

This was only one of the magnificoes of the quarter going to shake his own shoes to his friends in their premises, give them the imperishable tao-tao, and with smiles and genuflexions innumerable wish them "Kung hee fa t'choy!" which is the Chinese for a happy new year.

In all the business establishments the doors are waited upon by a smartly attired boy, pages, who, on the approach of a grandee throw wide the portal and stand back, salaaming until the rude Anglo-Saxon spectator imagines they are searching the floor for a lost dime.

The tyee enters as if he had paid the rent for the whole street and had the receipts in his pocket, looks around the room at the people assembled. Then seeing all of them grabbing their own hands and wrists and bowing to him violently with smiles of the last stiffer and brighter than elsewhere. This past year, the same man conducted a series of experiments with oat hay on the same soil. Plot No. 1 received nothing. Plot No. 2 muriate of potash, superphosphate and nitrate of soda. Plot No. 3 superphosphate and nitrate of soda. Plot No. 4 received muriate of potash only. For results Plot No. 1 produced a very small crop of almost worthless hay. Plot No. 2, produced the heaviest crop of the series, quality good but inferior to No. 4. Plot No. 3 produced a heavy crop of poor hay. Plot No. 4 gave a heavier crop than No. 3, and quality less in quantity than No. 2, quality however, superior, this plot showing the greatest profit from the outlay. The nitrate of soda used in these plots proved rather an injury than a benefit, causing a rank growth of weak straw. In fact on all these plots, where potash was not used the straw was weak and badly discolored. It should be noted that the potato plots mentioned above had been manured the previous year and cropped to roots. It is particularly noticeable that there was absolutely no result from the manure. On an adjoining farm the application of muriate of potash gave as large a crop of wheat as 25 to 30 tons manure, soil clay peaty.

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During the four years' experiment it is very clear that the loss from the gradual decrease in crop was far in excess of the amount saved by not using potash. The second year the falling off was 30 bushels per acre, the third year 45 bushels, the fourth year 65 bushels as against an annual saving of $2.25 per acre. On looking at it from another point of view, one application of potash gave an increase the first year of 65 bushels, the second year 35 bushels, the third year 20 bushels, a total increase of 120 bushels for an outlay of $2.25 per acre, being an increase of 1,500 bushels on his thirteen-acre field, for an outlay of potash of $29.25. The reader can figure for himself what 1,500 bushels of oats are worth. Furthermore, by the regular use of potash these thirteen acres are producing as much grain as forty-seven acres of the same land would produce without its aid.

The reader can figure out how much is saved by not having to plow, harrow, seed and reap thirty-four additional acres, to say nothing of their rental value.

From the above the reader may get the impression that potash is all that these soils need. It, however, must be borne in mind that many of them are sadly deficient in phosphoric acid without which potash cannot be effective. In others a very acid condition may prevail, liming should then be resorted to as well. The writer later, hopes to treat of further experiments relating to these soils.

Farmer's Sudden Death.—The death occurred at Someos on Tuesday of Arthur Robinson, a well-known farmer. On Thursday of last week Mr. Robinson cut his leg above the knee. The wound was not considered dangerous, and it was anticipated that he would be about again in a few days. His death was the result of heart trouble. The deceased was highly respected and honored in the community, where he had lived for many years. He had for a long time given a great deal of attention to strawberry culture. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias. A widow and a number of sons and daughters survive him. One of his daughters lives in Victoria. The funeral will take place today from the Church of England, Somenos, at 2 p. m.

Tacoma street railway men have been detected in a conspiracy to rob the company. One of the clerks at the office resold trip tickets at 2½ cents each that had been twice used, to conductors who in turn, disposed of them to passengers at five cents each. Five warrants of arrest have been issued.

Lumber Trade Not Affected.—The Pacific Lumber Trade Journal says that the war between Japan and Russia will not affect the lumber trade of the Pacific coast very much. The total shipments from Washington, Oregon and British Columbia to the two countries did not exceed 40,000,000 feet in 1903—or just about enough to keep one small mill busy. Indirectly, however, the war will be of benefit, because of the vast quantities of provisions and supplies needed will put a great amount of money in the pockets of the farmers and merchants, and in this way enable them to build and make improvements requiring the use of lumber.

Booming British Columbia.—United States Consul McNally, stationed at Liege, Belgium, reports that a representative of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is shipping Belgian coal miners to British Columbia, offering as an inducement employment at wages from 15 to 20 francs ($2.90 to $3.86) a day. As the average wage per day in Belgium is about 5 francs (96 cents), these workmen are only too willing to emigrate. The men are obliged to pay their passage, but whether it is advanced to them by the company, to be repaid later on, he is unable to state. He is informed that the British consular offices in Belgium are most active in "booming" their American possessions, and that they give free illustrated lectures on the subject.

POLYNESIA STRIKES SUBMERGED WRECK

Furness Liner Has Hole Twenty Feet Long Punched in Her Side.

St. Johns, Newfoundland, Feb. 17.—The ice blockade along the coast was raised sufficiently today to permit the steamer Glencoe to leave. The disabled Furness line steamer Polynesia, which is now at Harbor Breton, will probably be brought here for repairs. She has a twenty-one feet long and eight feet wide on her starboard bow which resulted from contact with a submerged wreck. Several members of her crew were injured. Two men had their legs broken, while another had his chest crushed and a fourth sustained a dislocated shoulder. When she was towed into Harbor Breton her decks were covering with four feet of ice. She is leaking badly and makes fifteen feet of water a day. Her upper works have been frozen.

WEEKLY WEATHER REPORT.

10th to 16th February, 1904. Victoria Meteorological Office.

The chief features of the weather conditions during the week have been the prevalence of abnormally low pressure not only on this coast but extending southward to California while over Northern British Columbia and the Territories the barometer has remained high and the weather very cold. The Pacific storms, therefore, which at this season of the year usually spread inland to the north of this have been deflected southward, in some cases extending to California before crossing the mountains. This southerly course has caused a considerable amount of cold north and east winds, and sleet and rain on Vancouver island and the Lower Mainland, while reports from California heavy though most beneficial rains have occurred upon several days.

The most severe storm of the week in this vicinity occurred on the night of the 10th, when the wind blew at a velocity of 45 miles for some hours. This storm appeared to hover on the coast, and by the night of the 11th the barometer had fallen to 29.04 inches and was followed by a strong southeast to southwest gale. Upon Sunday the 14th another severe gale moved down the coast, and though not of the same importance in this vicinity, at Cape Flattery the wind reached a velocity of 68 miles and hour.

Throughout this week the weather in Northern British Columbia has been decidedly cold, and in the Territories and Manitoba zero weather has been continuous. Upon two days temperatures of 40 below zero were reported at several stations.

Victoria—Amount of bright sunshine recorded was 13 hours and 13 minutes; highest temperature, 46.0 on 15th and 14th; lowest 34.2 on 10th, 11th and 14th.

New Westminster—Rain, .92 inches; snow, 2.22 inches; highest temperature, 44 on 16th and lowest 26 on 10th.

Kamloops—Snow, 8 inches; highest temperature, 34 on 16th and lowest 2 below on 10th.

Barkerville—Snow, 12.40 inches; highest temperature, 28 on 16th; lowest, 18 below on 14th.

Atlin—Highest temperature, 4 below on 15th; lowest, 38 below on 10th; rain 60 inches; highest temperature, 46.0 on 15th and lowest 34.2 on 10th, 11th and 14th.

Summary of weather for January, 1904:

	Rain	Snow	Precipitation	Mean Temp.
Victoria, V.I.	4.05	2.85	4.32	
Beaver Lake, V.I.	6.12	4.00	6.52	
Cowichan Lake, V.I.	8.71	21.00	10.81	
Sooke Lake, V.I.	11.53	40.00	12.33	
Alberni, V.I.	12.56	15.00	14.06	
Nanaimo, V.I.	7.33	2.00	7.53	
Kuper Island	7.66	5.00	8.16	
Vancouver	8.63	3.00	8.93	
New Westminster	7.91	19.00	9.81	
Point Garry	6.80	13.50	8.15	
Chilliwack	5.97	4.50	6.42	
Coquitlam	12.10	13.00	13.40	
Kamloops		24.00	2.40	
Barkerville		55.00	5.50	
Quesnel	0.07	24.50	2.52	
Port Simpson	13.81	14.25	15.24	
Naas Harbor	3.21	68.00	10.01	
Essington	13.67	71.00	20.77	

At Victoria only 28 hours and 42 minutes of bright sunshine were registered, the mean proportion for the month being 0.10, the same as in January, 1903, and both being the lowest on record here; the highest temperature was 55.1 on the 12th; the lowest 27.7 on 19th; and the mean for the month being 41.06. The total number of miles of wind recorded on the electrical anemograph was 6,138 and the direction as follows: Northeast, 39; east, 847; southeast, 9,67; south, 418; southeast, 2,053; west, 1,044; northwest, 110.

At Vancouver—Highest temperature, 50.0 on 13th; lowest, 20.0 on 19th.

At New Westminster—Highest temperature, 48.4 on 8th; lowest, 15.1. on 20th; mean for month, 35.87.

At Nanaimo—Highest temperature, 50.0 on 12th; lowest, 26.0 on 19th; mean for month, 38.9; number of hours of bright sunshine, 29.48.

At Alberni—Highest temperature, 49.1; lowest, 15.0 on 19th.

At Garry Point—Highest temperature, 52.0 on the 12th; lowest, 18.0 on 19th; mean for month, 37.0.

At Chilliwack—Highest temperature, 50.0 on 8th; lowest, 11.0 on 19th.

At Kamloops—Highest temperature, 45.5 on 16th; lowest 0.5 below zero on 19th; mean for month 26.1.

At Barkerville—Highest temperature, 36.0 on 7th, 12th, 26th; lowest, 14 below zero on 19th; mean for month 18.64.

At Quesnel—Highest temperature, 44.0 on 7th; lowest, 28 below zero on 19th; mean for month, 18.54.

At Port Simpson—Highest temperature, 54.7 on 26th; lowest, 10.8 on 19th; mean for month, 34.36.

When washing greasy dishes or pots and pans, Lever's Dry Soap (a powder) will remove the grease with the greatest ease.

At Tacoma on Monday night a masked man entered a pharmacy and shot down the proprietor who refused to hand over the contents of the till. Two customers witnessed the act and have identified the robber. The affair occurred at 8:30 in the evening, when the streets were crowded with shoppers.

Rat Killing Extraordinary

Seattle Wholesale Houses Use Ferrets to Scare the Pests.

Mr. Ferret Don't Smell Good to the Rats Able to Move.

There has been a mighty scattering of rats in the wholesale district during the past few weeks, says the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, all due to the importation of a few ferrits, who work while others sleep. For years past the big wholesale houses have been overrun with rats, and they suffered much damage, especially the wholesale grocery houses, which handle cereals and the like.

The rats got to be such a nuisance that something had to be done. An office boy in one of the houses, hauling up a dummy waiter, was scared nearly out of a year's growth when a big rat came riding up the rope. The rat stayed on the rope until he reached the boy's hand, when he jumped over the hand, landed on a new place on the rope and continued his free ride.

Now it is all different, and rats are as scarce as hens' teeth in the big houses, where the ferrits are doing business. A pair of ferrits are working in Schwabacher's big house, and they have cleaned the place out so thoroughly that now a reward is offered for any rat found on the premises. A man out in Green Lake furnishes the ferrits, and also a lot of information as to the best means of handling them.

The Green Lake breeder says the females are the workers. The males go along, when conditions are just right, just to boss the job, but he