The Colonist

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 1889.

PUBLISHED EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY BY

W. H. ELLIS. A. G. SARGISON. } ELLIS & CO.

THE COLONIST BUILDING, GOV'T ST.

TERMS:

THE DAILY COLONIST

Per Year, (Postage free to any part of Canada) $10 00
Parts of a year at the same rate 1
Per week (if delivered) 25

THE WEEKLY COLONIST.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

Per Year (Postage Free to any part of the Dominion or United States $ 2 00
Six Months 1 25
Three Months 75
Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly IN ADVANCE.

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ABUSE NOT ARGUMENT.

For want of some legitimate ground upon which to oppose the re-election of Hon. Mr. Davie, our evening contemporary indulges in two columns of personal abuse and transparent falsehood in the hope of inducing some enthusiastic, but too confiding, gentleman, of opposition principles, to commit political suicide by offering himself as Mr. Davie's opponent.

We do not intend to enter into particulars in refutation of the string of accusations which the Times has now raked up against Mr. Davie, leaving that gentleman to defend himself, when he addresses the electors, as he has promised to do. But we cannot help remarking, that if Mr. Davie is so black a character as the opposition organ paints him to be, it is very strange that the Times, which has ever consistently opposed Mr. Davie in his political career, should now, for the first time, rake up the particulars which it professes to give.

THE BAD BYE-LAWS.

The Board of Aldermen have placed the question of granting a subsidy to the Victoria, Saanich and Westminster Railway in such a position as to leave out of sight altogether the merits or the demerits of the projects. The laws themselves are so bad, they fail so utterly to protect the city, that no prudent man who has examined them and understands their nature can vote for them. Those laws place the ratepayers completely in the power of the railway company. There is not a single sentence in them that affords the citizens the slightest degree of protection. Even if the road is to be all that its projectors in their glowing descriptions picture, the bye-laws should be promptly rejected. It is an insult to the intelligence of the citizens of Victoria to submit such laws to them. Those who do so take for granted that the ratepayers are a lot of simpletons, wholly unacquainted with business usages, who are ready to jump at any bargain that promises them an advantage without considering its conditions, or to sign any paper without giving a thought to its contents. It is more than likely that the men who are interested in having the handling of the ratepayers' money are trying to persuade the electors who have not seen the bye-laws that they are not as we have described them to be. These canvassers may say with apparent sincerity that the bye-laws give the ratepayers security that what the provisional directors promise they will perform, and they may declare in the strongest language that what is said about them in THE COLONIST is not true. But all that we ask of the intelligent ratepayer is to read the bye-laws for himself—to take no one's word as to their nature and significance. We are certain that the result of a careful perusal of those laws will convince the ratepayer that every word that we have said about them is the simple truth. We say again that it would be the greatest folly to pass those laws under any circumstances. Even if the road would prove as good as the promoters represent—which is very far indeed from being certain—and if the provisional directors were as honest men as are to be found in the community, no prudent man would vote for laws which do not even make a pretense of safeguarding the interests of the ratepayers.

OPPOSING DECEPTION.

The Times does not venture to say a single word in favor of the bye-laws of the promoters of the Victoria, Saanich and Westminster railway, but cunningly endeavors to divert the attention of the ratepayers from the dangerous nature of those bye-laws by accusing us of "opposing progress." We are not opposing progress when we show the ratepayers the dangerous nature of the bye-laws which they are asked to sanction. What we wish to do is to warn them against falling into a trap that has been cunningly laid for them, and to save them from parting with $625,000 without the shadow of a guarantee that they will get anything that will be of the least value to them for their money. We are not opposing progress when we oppose their mortgaging their property to a very considerable extent, for what may be a very great deal less than nothing. Does the Times wish to aid and abet the promoters of the railway in taking advantage of the owners of real estate in this city? We are quite certain that no ratepayer who has not a direct interest in promoting the Victoria, Saanich and Westminster railway will vote for those bye-laws if he is aware of their real nature. Let our contemporary submit those bye-laws to any three business men in the city not connected with the scheme and it will see whether or not in opposing the passage of those laws we are opposing progress.

CANADA'S CARNIVALS.

Several cities are trying whether a summer carnival can be made a success in Canada. St. John, Halifax, and Hamilton, have tried the experiment with apparently the most gratifying success. Thousands of visitors have flocked to these towns determined to enjoy themselves, and they have not it appears been disappointed. The proper time of year has been selected for these carnivals. July is everywhere a holiday month. The people in the towns take a rest then, and it is the only part of the summer in which the farmer and his family can allow themselves a holiday. A visit to the city where there was so much to be seen and so many pleasures to be enjoyed must have been a most agreeable change for the dwellers in the rural districts and the townspeople made a point of deferring their visit to the country until after the carnival.

We are very glad to find that these carnivals have turned out so well, and we trust the summer carnival will be a permanent institution in Canada. So much has been said and written about Canada's winter carnivals that people abroad might be excused if they came to the conclusion—which many of them did—that this country has no summer worth mentioning. Canadians know that summer in their country everywhere, except in a few of the largest towns, is a most delightful season, but they have by a singular perversity taken a great deal of pains to keep outsiders in ignorance of that very important fact. So much has been said and written and photographed about winter in Canada that it is associated in the minds of most of the dwellers in other lands with furs and blanket coats, with snow and ice and with tobogganning, skating, snow-shoeing, and other winter sports. But these summer carnivals will impress upon the minds of strangers that Canada has a season of sunshine, when the air is balmy, when flowers bloom and fruits ripen, and when vegetation of all kinds flourishes luxuriantly. They will also learn for the first time that Canadians have their summer as well as their winter sports and enjoyments, and that life is much more enjoyable at that season than when the ground is covered with snow and when the thermometer is below zero. Heretofore there have been in every part of Canada provincial and county exhibitions and although many of those who attended them made the visit one of pleasure as well as of business, they had not the attractions for those bent upon enjoyment having a good time—that the carnivals afforded. Besides every country nowadays has its exhibitions, but carnivals are comparatively rare. We trust therefore that the success of the carnivals in the cities we have mentioned will encourage others to follow their example, and that the summer attractions and summer pastimes of Canada will become as widely known as its winter sports.

THE WORLD'S FAIR OF 1892.

The Great Paris Exposition is still in full blast, yet people on this side of the Atlantic are talking about another World's Fair. It is to be held three years hence, and it is to celebrate the anniversary of the discovery of America. Although this, perhaps the most important event in the world's history since the birth of Christ, affects to a greater or less extent every country that the sun shines on, its influence has been greatest on this continent. The changes which the discovery and settlement of the New World have wrought on the continent of North America are little short of miraculous. A greater or a more complete transformation can hardly be imagined. Even the face of nature is not the same as it was four hundred years ago. It is, then, fitting that the great nations which have grown from infancy to vigorous youth in the four centuries that have elapsed since Columbus first set his foot on the soil of the Western continent should take the leading part in celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of that event. The proper place in which that celebration should be held is in, or very near, the greatest city of the greatest of these new nations. The claim of New York to be the city in which the World's Fair of 1892 is to be held is clearly superior to that of any other city on the continent. It is of itself the best exponent of the progress that has been made in North America since its discovery. It is one of the many wonderful results of that progress. Although America is so young New York is already the fourth city of the world.

Washington and Chicago are contending for the honor, but it is evident that they will have to give way to New York, which by universal consent is allowed to be, from every point of view, the greatest city on the continent. It is proposed to make this exhibition a national enterprise. The Government of the United States will undertake its management and invite the co-operation of other nations. It will no doubt be a magnificent exposition not only of the continent's progress, but of the world's industry. There will be time enough between it and the present Paris Exposition to create a desire among the nations of the world for another magnificent show. The peoples of Europe will be by that time quite as eager to cross the Atlantic to see the great American Exhibition as the people of America have been this year to make the voyage the other way to see what Eastern industry and Eastern civilization had to show them.

There was some talk last year about having a World's Fair in Montreal two or three years hence, but we have a notion that the Canadians who have been in Paris this summer came home with the conviction that such an enterprise is at present beyond the resources of the Dominion of Canada in its present stage of development.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

WE hear that the canvass in four of the Railway bye-laws is a whispering one. The ratepayers are buttonholed and their votes solicited privately by interested parties. There is, the electors will observe, no public advocacy of either the bye-laws or the road. Open advocacy would evoke opposition. A button-hole canvass, the advocates of the bye-laws regard as the safer way of hood-winking the ratepayers. The electors can in such a canvass have but their side of the story. This slyness and secrecy are of themselves suspicious. Honest men who have a good cause want publicity. It is only those who have much to hide and who intend to deceive that resort to the hole-and-corner style of advocacy.

THE EXPLANATION EXPLAINED

TO THE EDITOR:—I have noticed Mr. J. Stuart Yates' explanation as to the standing of Mr. John Grant in the V. S. & N. W. R. Co. He might, however, have gone a little further in his explanation and informed the public that Mr. Heywood, Mr. John Grant's father-in-law, is the purchaser of Mr. Grant's interest. The public could then draw their own conclusions.

RATEPAYER.

DR. BLACKIE'S VISIT.

TO THE EDITOR:—Your correspondent "Scotsman" should be careful in correcting others to see that he is perfectly correct himself. Dr. J. S. Blackie, appeared in the St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, under the auspices of the Sunday Secular Society (I think that is the correct definition of that body), and lectured, and has never been heard of since. He did sing "My Nannie's Awa" or some such song on a Sunday, but never in a pulpit of Glasgow.

A GLASGOWITE.

TAXPAYERS BEWARE.

TO THE EDITOR:—Taxpayers beware, and mind how you vote on the municipal by-law and New Westminster railway scheme! You cannot afford to waste money or increase your liabilities on works outside the municipality. By guaranteeing interest on money to be borrowed you injure your credit, and cripple your resources for what is required for water, for sewerage, and many other necessary and useful purposes, and consequently increase the rate of interest for what you have to borrow. Besides this, as a rule, short railways don't pay, and when they require an expensive "steam ferry" with all the necessary detentions they cannot compete with the steamers already established nor save much time on the journey to New Westminster. Let those who have confidence in the scheme find the money; but let not the citizens of Victoria mortgage their property on wild cat schemes outside the municipality.

CEPHAS.

COMOX NEWS.

The work of prospecting for new seams of coal and continuation of the present known seams, is being energetically prosecuted under the immediate superintendence of Mr. E. Smithurst.

The order prohibiting the carrying of liquor into the Union Mines is being strictly enforced. A passenger with a bottle of whiskey in his possession, cannot get a passage on the train unless the whiskey is left behind.

At the present time the labor supply is above the demand, and several men are returning, being unable to obtain employment.

Mr. Louis Page, the "dauber," as he facetiously calls himself, has quite a large contract to paint the 100 houses now forming the settlement. The work is progressing favorably and the prospects are steadily improving.—Free Press.

COWICHAN NEWS.

Mr. W. Sutton has opened his sawmill and started a logging camp at Cowichan River. He received a boom of logs from the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co. to-day.

Several prospecting parties are out around Cowichan Lake, where it is supposed gold exists in paying quantities, but as yet no word has been received from the mineral hunters.

Mr. Duncan has commenced operations clearing out the mouth of Cowichan river, $2,000 having been set aside for that purpose. This will be a great improvement to that section of the country, as at present no craft of any size can go up the river.

Two road parties are working in the district; one under the superintendence of Mr. Jordan is repairing Cowichan Lake road, and another under Mr. Bailey is cutting a road from the river to the lake for the purpose of opening up the farming land around the lake.—Courier.

ALBERNI.

Settlers have been in somewhat straightened circumstances owing to outside communication being cut off on account of the fires raging in the mountains. Last week just before the arrival of the Maude many of the settlers had to borrow provisions from their more fortunate neighbors. The two stores had but three things to offer for sale, soap, gum boots, and lard, rather poor articles it must be admitted on which to subsist.

Mr. Armstrong, the mail carrier, started for Nanaimo last week, but was obliged to turn back on account of the bush fires. The road is in a fearful condition. The cribbing along Cameron Lake and the mountain has all been burned and will take considerable time to repair, besides costing a large sum of money.

The crops at Alberni are on the whole in a good condition. An extra large quantity of hay has been gathered, and the potato crop along the canal, notwithstanding the continued drought, is in a good condition owing to enough water being absorbed through the soil. The same can also be said of the oat crop.

The health of the settlement is excellent with the exception of Mr. Miller, who has been ill for some time. Mr. Miller had the misfortune to accidentally amputate the large toe on his right foot with an axe, about two weeks ago, and has been laying in agony ever since waiting an opportunity to be removed to Victoria. He went down on the Maude on Sunday.—Free Press.

THE BEHRING'S SEA CRISIS.

Lord Salisbury has Determined to Put an End to the Dispute.

LONDON, Aug. 6.—The naval review and other stirring home events have rather diverted the public attention from the Behring's sea crisis. The papers to-night, however, are full of reports of Canadian indignation at the United States' aggression and British inaction. They have good reason for saying that the latter charge is, at least, premature. Lords Salisbury and Knutsford have been giving the subject their most earnest attention for the last few days and have determined to put an end to what the Times to-day calls a "wanton outrage." The question asked in Victoria as to whether the British flag is any protection to Canadians at all, will find a speedy and conclusive answer. Nevertheless, no speedy outbreak of hostilities is to be feared. It is believed firmly here that in the United States public opinion must fail to support the outrages and that, as the Times says, England's inevitable remonstrance will open the door to a speedy and satisfactory settlement.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, August 8.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

A Deadlock.

A deadlock exists in the Vancouver board of school trustees over the appointment of a principal for the East End school. The board met on Tuesday evening, but adjourned without coming to any decision.

Sale of the Hastings Mill.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser reports that the sale of the Hastings Mill property has at last been consummated and that the details of the transaction are now being completed.

The Medical Association Meeting.

Two hundred delegates to the Canadian Medical Association's annual meeting at Banff left Montreal on Tuesday evening by the C.P.R. Toronto sends a large delegation and Ottawa and London are also represented. There is a large number of Americans with the party, Washington, New York, Chicago and Detroit each sending several delegates.

Real Estate.

Mr. R. E. Jackson has disposed of ten acres of land on the corner of Moss and Belcher streets to Mr. Forrest Angus for the sum of $22,000.

The Belmont farm, owned by Messrs. Wilson & Dalby, was yesterday transferred to a couple of young Englishmen through F. G. Richards, Jr., for the sum of $9,000.

Cutting and Wounding.

A man named Mooney was arrested by Sergeant Walker last night for cutting and wounding another man in Chinatown on Monday night. The prosecutor, who first gave the police details of the affair, cannot now be found, and should he not turn up to-day Mooney will be charged with vagrancy. He is an old offender.

For San Francisco.

The steamship Walla Walla sailed for San Francisco at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon, with the following passengers from this port: John Bain, Harry Marbouef, Mrs. A. C. Rennick, Miss Cumning, Hon. T. B. Humphreys, J. A. Haskell, Mrs. T. Brown and four children, Miss Webster, Miss R. Johnson, A. A. Green, wife and daughter, Rev. W. N. Shearman, Lieut. Bayfield, Isaac Bechtel and two children, Miss G. Saucum.

Resolution of Sympathy.

The hon. provincial secretary has received the following resolution from Surrey municipality council:

"That the reeve and council of the corporation of the District of Surrey hereby desire to express the profound sorrow they felt on learning of the demise of the Hon. Att'y General, Mr. A. E. B. Davie, also to assure the Government of the sympathy of this council and people of Surrey with them in the loss the province at large has sustained by the death of Mr. Davie."

JAMES PUNCH, Reeve.
H. THRIFT, Clerk.

The Mayor Speaks.

Last night, at the meeting of the council, Mayor Grant signified his intention of keeping strictly to the rules of debate in future and of obstructing any attempt on the part of any of the aldermen to speak out of order in any way. The remark met with general approbation, the members of the council recognizing the importance of keeping strictly within the rules of order, a habit which of late has been sadly transgressed.

The Salmon Run.

The Columbian says: "The salmon run last night was excellent, and as a consequence the canneries were running full blast to-day. The hump backs have kept off surprisingly well this year, only a few having made their appearance up to date, and it is hoped they may fail to put in an appearance. The first coho was caught yesterday, but it was only a straggler, and not expected for a month yet. If a good coho run follows the sockeye, there is no telling what dimensions the park may attain."

The Pitt River Bridge.

It is quite evident that the C. P. R. does not consider the Pitt river bridge very safe at present, as a locomotive is not allowed to haul a passenger train across. The plan now followed is: The engine hauling the train uncouples and runs slowly across; another engine which has been following, couples onto the train behind, gives it a good strong shove, uncouples before reaching the bridge, stops and allows the train to pass over by itself. The first locomotive then couples on to the train again and proceeds. It is quite possible this may mean a new bridge in the near future.—Columbian.

City Police Court.

In the city police court yesterday, before Hon. A. N. Richards, P. Maloney, charged with stealing a watch, was discharged, as there was no evidence against him.

Peter Hanrihan, charged with drunkenness, was allowed to leave the court, on condition that he puts in an appearance to-day for sentence.

Peter Sinnot, charged with shooting at John Sharp.

The evidence in this case was the same as the circumstances already published.

Supt. Sheppard desired to obtain further evidence and the further hearing of the case was postponed till Saturday.

The Dominion Illustrated.

The Dominion Illustrated for August 3 is filled with good things. We have the first instalment of a series of illustrations of the Wimbledon Team and the scene of their triumphs; six fine views of St. John, N. B., and some excellent pictures of British Columbia. Mrs. Arthur Spragge continues her interesting contributions on "Our Wild Westland." She describes Col. Baker's Ranche, the Kootenay district and other points on the Pacific Province. The reading matter is up to the usual high standard. The Dominion Illustrated is published by the Dominion Illustrated Publishing Co., 73 St. James street, Montreal.

Harrison Lake.

A strange phenomenon is reported from Harrison Lake, and one that is puzzling the brains of the oldest navigators of these waters, as well as the Indians who have lived on its shores for many years. The water in the lake has continued to rise steadily for two weeks, and during that time has raised 3½ feet. This is unaccountable, as there has not been a drop of rain during the past month, and the rush of water from the mountain lakes is not greater than usual, besides which the Fraser river has been falling slowly all this time. Of course there must be a reason for this singular phenomenon, but it cannot be discovered. Any of the river steamers can now pass up Harrison river and into the lake without difficulty, while a month ago only the smaller vessels could find water enough to float them.—Columbian.

An Unwilling Witness.

There was a little scene in the police court yesterday morning, when the case of Peter Sinnet, for shooting with intent, came up. Jack Sharp, the man shot at, and the principal witness in the affair, was giving his evidence, when Chief Sheppard demanded possession of a cap, which, since coming into court, the prisoner had concealed about his person. After refusing several times, the witness gave the cap up, asking the Chief of Police for his own in exchange. The cap—a small silk one—has a distinct hole in the crown, which Sharp confesses was done by the shot fired at him by Sinnet, although he denies that Sinnet had any intention of hitting him when he fired. The man was treated as an unwilling witness, and it was with great difficulty that he could be made to tell any of the circumstances of the case. He was threatened with imprisonment for contempt of court more than once. The case has been remanded until Saturday.

A Celebrated Lecturer.

The Rev. J. A. Dowie, of Melbourne, Australia, will preach in the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening next. During the whole of next week he will deliver lectures, afternoon and evening in the church, connected with his mission, and will give practical proofs of his faith healing powers. His meetings have been thronged since his arrival in America, and no doubt many people will be eager to hear the well-known reformer.

Funeral of the Late Mrs. Barnard.

The mortal remains of the late Mrs. F. J. Barnard were interred in Ross Bay Cemetery yesterday morning. At 9:30 o'clock a large number of sympathizing friends of the bereaved family assembled at Duval Cottage, where the services for the dead were conducted by Rev. Mr. Macleod. The casket was then removed to the hearse and conveyed to the cemetery, followed by many friends of the deceased lady. The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Hon. John Robson, Hon. P. O'Reilly, Edgar Marvin, sr., Jno. Irving, Rout Harvey, Wm. Wilson, Dr. Hannington and F. C. Gamble.

The Princess Louise.

There was a large crowd gathered on the C. P. N. Co's wharf last evening to witness the departure of the str. Princess Louise. The advertised time of sailing was 7 o'clock, but owing to delays it was 8:30 before she sailed out of harbor. Her decks were thronged with excursionists for Alaska, and three hearty cheers for the voyageurs went up from those assembled to see her off. Everything that the company could do to cater in any way for the pleasure and enjoyment of those making the trip has been done, and they cannot fail to return on the 20th inst. highly delighted with their excursion.

THE BLACK DIAMOND.

Her Crew Make Affidavits—The Vessel to be Docked.

Yesterday morning Mr. Frank was busy getting together his crew of white men and Indians, and at noon Captain Thomas, Mate Gault, and two A. B's., A. Tychser and L. Mollet, were taken to Davie & Bodwell's office, where each wrote out and swore to an affidavit detailing the whole of the circumstances of the capture, and virtually the same as the report of an interview with Captain Thomas that appeared in Sunday's COLONIST. After swearing to the affidavits the men were paid off. The Black Diamond was brought up to Spratt's wharf yesterday morning, where she will stay for a week before being sent into dock. The owners took possession of all papers aboard her, and on the arrival of the flagship, expected here on the 10th inst., they will place the whole matter before the admiral, and forward their claim for compensation and protection in the future through him to the Imperial government.

CORONER'S INQUEST

A Verdict of "Found Dead" With a Rider of Censure to Medical Men.

Last evening the coroner's inquest on the body of the late H. McNab Stuart was resumed at the City Hall.

After the jury had taken their seats, Dr. Renwick was called, but did not appear.

Dr. W. Redmond, sworn: On Friday, the 2nd, I examined the body of deceased. It was much swollen and discoloured and particularly about the head and neck, which was of a dark blue colour. Sanious fluid was issuing from mouth and nostrils. I didn't notice any marks of violence on the body except a small abrasion below the left nipple. The body was in an advanced stage of decomposition. The swollen condition of the head and neck and bloody fluid from nostrils are indications frequently met with in cases of narcotic poisoning. I can form no conclusion as to the cause of death. A post mortem examination would have been attended with very great difficulty.

After the evidence of the doctor, the coroner said that in justice to himself he would like to say a few words. According to the statute, he had it in his power to call in an outside physician to make a post mortem examination, and not the regular medical attendant of deceased. In the present case this was precisely what he had done, having been in possession of very good reasons, which it was not necessary to divulge, for not asking Dr. Renwick to do it. Dr. Milne had positively refused to do anything in the matter, and the body, becoming putrid, had to be buried without the examination being held at all. He would state that there had been a great deal of opposition against his holding the enquiry into Stuart's death. His only idea throughout had been to do justice to all parties concerned, and he certainly thought that it was to the advantage of the friends of deceased to find out how he had come by his death. The papers had stated that he had insulted the medical and legal gentlemen at the inquest. They had not heard the whole of the case. They did not know that on the morning of the inquest Mr. Walls had gone to him and offered him a bribe to suppress the enquiry. He had offered to pay his fee as coroner if he would quash the proceedings. Mr. Blanchard, who had dispensed the medicine deceased was taking for heart disease, had also come to him and asked him as a favour not to hold the inquest, or, at any rate, not to have the stomach opened. Both these requests he had refused.

At this point Chief Sheppard rose and said that it was absurd to imagine that Mr. Walls' action could be construed into any attempt to hush up foul play. Mr. Walls was incapable of anything of the kind.

The coroner said that he had no idea when he made the remark of accusing Mr. Walls of anything of the kind. Resuming, he said that the refusal of the doctors to carry out his orders was a provincial affair. He had taken the advice of the Deputy Attorney-General on the subject, and intended to consult still further with him. He would make his complaint before two justices of the peace and find out if anything could be done in the matter.

After a long discussion as to the possibility of coming to any conclusive verdict from the evidence before them, the jury decided that no good end could be gained by having the body exhumed, and therefore returned the following verdict:

"We come to the conclusion that the deceased was found dead in his bed. We are utterly at sea in the matter of giving a verdict as to the cause of death owing to the fact that two medical gentlemen have not obeyed the orders of the coroner."

Sugar Works Burned.

TOPEKA, Kan., Aug. 6.—The Topeka Sugar Works, the largest plant of the kind in the west, which were only completed last year at an expenditure of $250,000, were burned last night. The works were situated six miles west of the city, and had very little water available. It is supposed that the fire originated from the friction of the machinery, as the works had just started preparatory to entering upon its fall business. Insurance $40,000. The company had just contracted for 1,800 acres of sugar cane at $2.50 per ton, which was about ready for delivery, and which will greatly increase the loss.

Shoe Lasters' Strike.

SOUTH BERWICK, Maine, Aug. 6.—All the lasters in Cummings' shoe shop have struck, the firm having declined to recognize the new price list presented by the men.

LITTLE LOCALS.

It is estimated that $4,000 will suffice to place the Amelia in running order again.

The fire at Spokane destroyed some of the best business blocks in any city on the Pacific coast.

An unavoidable delay precluded the possibility of turning ice out of the new works till to-day.

Prof. Reilhofer's celebrated combination of Tyrolean Warblers and Specialty Artists will appear the coming Saturday afternoon at The Victoria.

Miss Margaret J. Duncan, a young girl aged 21 years, in the employ of Mr. D. Gordon, M.P., at Nanaimo, died of diphtheria on Tuesday.

It will be interesting to know that our cabinet photos will remain at the popular $6.00 per doz. The Hastings Art Studio. J. Savannah & Co.

A general meeting of Mr. T. Davie's election committee will be held at the committee rooms, Fort street, on Friday evening next, the 9th inst., at 7:30 o'clock.

No one ought to miss witnessing the great entertainment that will be given on Saturday next by the world-renowned Tyrolean Warblers at the Victoria Theatre.

A number of Chinamen left here in the ss. Islander this morning for the purpose of taking passage to the Flowery Land by the ss. Batavia from Vancouver.

An "electricity is life" man is pursuing his "harduous and himpoverished" avocation at Frank Campbell's corner, surrounded by gaping crowds attracted by the novelty.

Vancouver Lodge, I.O.G.T., has elected the following delegates to attend the Grand Lodge meeting to be held in this city early in October: W. L. Oakley, W. H. Gallagher, J. M. Duval, Miss Julia Clark and Miss Ida Donohue.

Mr. H. T. Thrift, C.M.C., Surrey municipality, is calling for offers on $10,000 to $15,000 worth of debentures proposed to be issued by the municipality of Surrey for the construction of the dyking works.

PERSONAL.

J. R. James of Centralia is at the Driard.

H. G. Lewis leaves for Cape Beale on Thursday.

H. E. Croasdaile returned from Vancouver last night.

Mr. and Mrs. Stenson of Hamilton, Ontario, are at the Driard House.

Wm. Sivewright has left for Donald to take charge of the school at that place.

C. G. Kelso arrived in the city from Hallock, Minn., last night, and is at the Driard.

Chas. Stuckert, representing the Enterprise Brewery of San Francisco, is in town.

Ex-mayor Dalby and Mrs. Dalby returned to Victoria by the Sound steamer last evening.

J. S. Chase, the well-known Chicago lumber merchant and mining speculator, is at the Clarence.

General Tripe, of Devonport, England, will leave for the Orient by the ss. Batavia on the 9th inst.

A. R. Williams, proprietor of the Soho Machine Works, Toronto, leaves by this morning's boat for Vancouver, and will stay at the Windsor.

Dr. Dickson of Cowichan Lake is staying at the Driard. Mr. Dickson reports fishing on the lake as exceedingly good just now, several parties having lately killed some very large trout.

Dr. Bayfield, of Reading, Cal., is at the Clarence. He has been on a tour through Vancouver Island since his arrival here, three weeks ago. He leaves for home to-morrow.

MARINE.

The schooner Aurora left yesterday for Plumper's Pass.

Dom. steamer S. J. Douglas leaves for Cape Beale and Alberni to-morrow.

A gang of Chinamen are discharging the cargo of the German barque J. H. Hustede.

German barque J. H. Hustede has been chartered by Robt. Ward & Co. to load salmon.

The ss. Barbara Roscowitz left here for the north on her run to the canneries at 8.30 last night.

It has been ascertained that the deserting sailors of the Hustede were smuggled to Port Townsend by boarding house runners from that place.

Steamship Sardonyx, on her trip from the north, will bring down as much canned salmon as she can conveniently carry.

The steamship Michigan, from Portland, arrived at 7 o'clock last night with a large freight for Victoria consignees. From here the Michigan will go to Nanaimo, Vancouver, and Westminster.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

B. C. RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

NEW WESTMINSTER STAKES.

New Westminster Rifle Range, Brownville, Aug. 7.—At the opening hour this morning the smoke was so thick on the range that firing on 500 yards in the third had to be postponed. The fourth match was then taken up. This was the "New Westminster stakes" match, the first prize, in addition to the money prize, being a challenge cup presented by the citizens of New Westminster. The second prize is the "Occident Challenge Cup," presented by the late J. Howison, in and addition to a money prize. The ranges were 200 and 400 yards, five shots at each range. The score was as follows:

	Score.	Prize.
Pt. Fraser, N.W.R.	47 cup &	$10 00
W. H. Forrest, Vanc.	47 cup &	7 50
Lt. Cotton, N.W.R.	46	5 00
Pt. Fletcher, N.W.R.	46	2 50
H. Chamberlain, N. W. R.	44	2 50
Gr. Langley, B.C.B. G.A.	43	2 50
F. A Grant, Vancouver	42	2 50
Gr. W.H. Cullin, B.C.B.G.A.	42	2 50
Gr. Wolfenden, B.C.B.G.A.	42	2 50

Four forty-two's were counted out. The highest possible scores were made to-day at 400 yards by Lt. Cotton and Private Fletcher of the New Westminster Rifles. The New Westminster cup was held by Gr. Langley last year, who won it with a score of 44, short Snider rifle.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S CUP.

Open to members of the active militia of the military district, and to officers retired therefrom retaining rank. Ranges 200, 500 and 600 yards, 7 shots at each range. Prizes: 1st prize, challenge cup, presented by the Hon. C. F. Cornwall, late Lieut.-Governor, and $10; 2nd prize, $7.50; 3rd prize, $5; six prizes, each $2.50. Following is the score:

Pvt. Proud, N. W. R.	99
Corp. Winsby, B. C. G. A.	91
Pvt. J. Chamberlain, N. W. R.	91
Pvt. H. C. Chamberlain, N. W. R.	88
Pvt. Fooks, N. W. R.	86
Lieut. Cotton, N. W. R.	84
Gr. Newbury, B. C. G. A.	82
Pvt. Fraser, N. W. R.	79
Gr. Cornish, "C" Battery	78

The first stage of comp., 15 now completed.

The cup has to be won twice before becoming the property of any competitor. It was won last year by Private Sharp of the N. W. Rifles.

LACROSSE.

The Victoria Lacrosse Club is in receipt of a challenge from the Westminster Club to play a match in the Royal City on Saturday next. An answer has been forwarded stating that it would be impossible for the Victoria team to play on such short notice; but expressing a willingness to arrange a match for Saturday, the 17th inst., at Victoria, or if preferable, the Victoria team would visit Westminster on Saturday, the 24th, and play the Royal City team.

FOOT-RACE.

W. Millington and Frank Leroy will run one hundred yards at Beacon Hill on Saturday evening for $50 a side.

A large amount of money is being wagered on the McIntyre-Watson race.

PEACE RIVER.

An Old Trader's Account of the Region.

Unfit for Agriculture—Unprofitable for Stock—The Indians Becoming Extinct—The Fur-Bearing Animals Decreasing in Numbers—The Last Herd of Buffalo—Mining on the Peace River.

H. F. Davis, who has been trading into the Peace River district for the past twenty-five years, arrived in Victoria on Monday night with his annual purchase of furs for P. C. Dunlevy, of Soda Creek. Up to last year he traded as far as Vermilion, but during the past year did not go further than Dunvegan. The former place from Quesnellemouth is about six hundred, and the latter four hundred miles. Boats are used altogether to convey the goods these distances from Quesnelle. The boats are towed by Indians a distance of 140 miles to the Giscombe portage, which is seven and a quarter miles long. From this point Crooked river is descended for eighty miles, when Parsnip river is reached, which flows north and east into Peace river, and is also followed for eighty miles. Findlay river comes in from the north and Parsnip from the south and from their junction the stream is called the Peace river until it empties into Lake Athabasca. The rapids in the Rocky Mountain canon necessitates a portage of twelve miles. The rapids are of such a steep and frightful character that an attempt has never been made to run them in boats, for inevitable destruction would be the result. The time occupied in making the trip from Quesnelle to Dunvegan occupies about a month's time, and outside of the hard work necessary in transporting the goods by such primitive methods, there is no danger attached.

PEACE RIVER LANDS.

Mr. Davis says that the Peace river country east of the Rockies is thickly timbered, chiefly with spruce and cottonwood, with small quantities of pine, poplar and birch. The timber has no commercial value, the spruce being thickly limbed almost to the ground. Back from the river there are large stretches of level prairie land, dotted with patches of wood. All attempts that have been made at agriculture so far have resulted in failure. On the low flats near the river there are small patches of soil where potatoes and vegetables have been grown, but in a distance of 500 miles on either side of the river there is not enough of that character of land to make two good farms. The land does not rise in benches, as on the Fraser river, but slopes up from the river for over a mile, and at the top is flat. Attempts have been made to grow grain on this land, but it has always failed to bring forth a crop. Between Smoky river and Dunvegan, at what is called Old Wives Lake, is one of the most desirable places in the country. Rev. Mr. Brick's (a missionary) two sons sowed barley for two years, but there was not one pound returned for a thousand pounds sown. Vegetable and roots sown resulted similarly. The heavy frosts of June and July kill the young grain and vegetables. Up to the first of July the weather is dry, rendering growth almost impossible, and from this on it rains continuously. All vegetable life except the native grasses have a poor chance of growing. Mr. Davis says that a farmer would starve to death on the prairies of Peace River, and as for the river lands, that is bottom lands, they exist in but very small patches, barely sufficient in a hundred miles to supply potatoes to a few miserable Indians. Often the budding life on the trees is killed by the heavy white frosts in June, which generally come after a thunderstorm. Swallows and other birds have been killed off in thousands by the severe frosts of June. On the 18th day of May last year, between Dunvegan and Fort St. John, on one of the finest stretches of prairie, on waking up in the morning Mr. Davis found six inches of snow, and this remained frozen all day. Snowstorms in May are of frequent occurrence. This applies to the country for a long distance south, even at Edmonton it being impossible to profitably grow grain. For four months in the year there is excellent grass for cattle, but for seven months it would be necessary to feed stock, and they would have to be stabled for six.

WOULD BE A GOOD EXCHANGE.

Mr. Davis had heard of the agitation about the Peace River lands, and thought that if the provincial Government could effect an exchange of the railway belt lands for those in the Peace River they would get the best of the bargain. He did not think the Peace River lands worth one cent an acre. They were fit only for trapping. The only possible value would be in the coal beds. There was every indication that the country had immense coal beds. He did not wish to discourage anyone from going to Peace River, but he would advise everyone who contemplated doing so to visit the region before investing or before taking in their families.

INDIANS BECOMING EXTINCT.

When Mr. Davis first visited Vermilion, Dunvegan, Fort St. John, and other places in Peace River, there was a considerable Indian population, who were of a fine physical development. Where there were a hundred then, there are not ten Indians now, and they are a miserable, weakly lot, fast becoming extinct. The cause of this physical deterioration is principally owing to the fact that the game which they formerly existed on has become exterminated. During the winter time, they are half-starved on a miserable allowance of bad flour, but in the summer they do much better, the wild berries and occasional bear and beaver meat giving them more wholesome food. Last winter Rev. Dr. Garrick, of Dunvegan, had a quantity of canned meats sent him from an old lady in England, about $150 worth. With these meats the missionary and his wife formed a soup-kitchen, and every day at 9 o'clock they fed a certain number of half-starved Indians. With this small quantity of food Mr. Davis said that Mr. Garrick accomplished more good than was done by the 300 or more sacks of bad flour which were sent in by the Government. In his opinion, it is only a matter of a short time when the Indians