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IS IT THE MOTHER LODE?

News From Klondyke That Will Amaze the Scientific World.

A Quartz Find Establishing the Permanency of Yukon Mining.

Joaquin Miller's Hard Experience---Tragic Death of a Young Brooklynite.

Yesterday's the newsfrom Klondyke—obtained by the arrival of the steamer City of Topeka in the early morning, with Dawsonians among her passengers who had left their far northern home as recently as the 9th December—assures the permanency of the upper Yukon country as a gold mining field for decades to come. It is great news, for which the mining world had been in a manner prepared through the observations of Mr. William Ogilvie, being nothing less important than news of the discovery of what is believed to be the mother lode, from which all the millions of the Klondyke placers have been separated, and the tracing of this wonderful ledge of gold-impregnated rock through a number of the rich mining streams of the district, for a distance of many miles.

Yesterday's arrivals from the northland also bring word of the narrow escape from death of Joquin Miller, the poet and philosopher of the Sierras, who now lies in a precarious condition at the home of Captain Hansen, of the Alaska Commercial Co., in Dawson; as well as of the tragic death and dramatic burial of Walter Anderson, a resident of Brooklyn, N. Y., who was accidentally shot while making his way from Circle City to the supply depot at Forty Mile, and who froze to death while being dragged on a dog sleigh, crippled and wounded, to succour.

The Topeka's passengers report the starting of the miners' delegates to Ottawa, with interesting information in connection therewith; tell of acute distress amongst those ill-provided ones who are strung along the river highway between Dawson and Fort Yukon, and furnish valuable details of the progress of mining operations in the various new or established camps. Altogether, more interesting and more important intelligence has not been received from the Northland by any other steamer arriving here in many weeks.

A NOTEWORTHY DISCOVERY

Which Assures the Permanency of the Klondyke Mining Field and Will Startle the Scientific World.

Of the finding of the gold-containing vein of rock that is presumably the mother lode of the Klondyke country, only the very latest arrivals out have the news, and it is to Mr. W. J. Jones, the well known press correspondent of Port Townsend, and his travelling companions, Messrs. D. D. Stewart and A. Calder, that the COLONIST is indebted for particulars. This great discovery, equalled only in importance by the original discovery of gold on Bonanza and El Dorado, appears to have been made as many other similar discoveries have been—by purest accident. It is important chiefly as it establishes the permanency of the Klondyke mining field, and of interest as verifying the scientific conclusions reached by Mr. William Ogilvie, the eminent geological expert and government surveyor. Those who heard that gentleman's lecture here or have since read his published views regarding the upper Yukon country, will remember one passage directly in point. It may be here quoted:

"A point to which I now want to direct attention is that the gold on Bonanza and El Dorado creeks at certain stages has the same degree of fineness. As you come down both creeks it decreases in value until it reaches a minimum of about $15.25 per ounce, troy weight. From that point it again increases as we go farther down. Now, if we draw a line through the points of corresponding value on these two creeks, we find that projecting them eastward we strike Gold Bottom and Hunker creeks. Projecting them west we strike Miller and Glacier creeks, and the heads of the gulches in Forty Mile, from fifty or sixty miles away. What do we infer from this? That there is a continuous system of gold-bearing rock running across the country in this direction. Again we find that the gold in nuggets found on Bonanza and El Dorado bears no evidence of having travelled any distance—in fact the majority of the nuggets are as angular and irregular in shape as though you had just pounded them out of the mother lode. This, I think, leads to the inference that that mother lode is not very distant from where the gold is now found, and the only debatable question in my mind is, is it in lodes of sufficient dimensions to pay for working by stamp mills, or is it a series of widely disseminated thin seams, that the miners term 'stringers,' so scattered as to render working them unprofitable. Time alone will reveal this secret."

Now for the fulfilment of the prophecy. Between the 4th and the 7th of last month, this mother lode appears to have been simultaneously uncovered by three parties and at three places—a solitary miner named Pyle, working on a bench claim at Skookum Gulch, being the first to report his great find. Almost at the same time John Cormack, a New Zealander, and H. P. Joyce, of Gray's Harbor, Washington, in drifting to bedrock on placer claim 31 El Dorado, struck what is unquestionably the same ledge of auriferous rock. So valuable did they realize their discovery to be that they staked immediately.

The next day, Frank Slavin, the ex-pugilist, and Captain Tippett,—who served for years in the employ of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, and at the time of the war commanded a Japanese transport under their flag—uncovered a vein of the same general character and quality—the same ledge no doubt—at Dome Hill, about midway between Indian river and the Klondyke river, and 25 miles from the Yukon, this being the most south-easterly point at which the ledge has yet been uncovered.

Taking this latter point as a starting base, the vein has been traced in its full width of 35 feet in a northwesterly direction slanting towards the El Dorado, which it crosses at No. 31, and continuing down the left side of that stream, verging away from the river, then intersecting Nugget Gulch at claim 15, Adams creek at No. 6, Skookum Gulch at No. 2, and passing through the Bonanza half a mile below that point, and across the Klondyke mountain.

Owing to the fact that there is little if any dynamite in the district, examinations of the great lode have been very primitive as yet, it being impossible to get out much of the rock, and equally impossible to secure satisfactory assays. With a little black powder, a piece of the rock was broken off at Skookum Gulch, as rich if not richer than the Comet rock, showing both leaf gold and stringers, and yielding four or five dollars when pounded on an anvil.

Where this ledge crosses the creeks, especially at Nugget Gulch, lump gold is plentiful, the nuggets invariably having spider-leg gold adhering, and testifying by their angularity that they have not travelled at all. These great discoveries, in the opinion of all old time miners as well as the experts who accompanied Mr. Jones, assure the permanency of the Upper Yukon as the greatest mining camp of the world for half a century to come.

THE POET'S PERIL.

Joaquin Miller Roughly Treated By the Frost King—The Sad Story of a Brooklynite.

Although there will be no dyspepsia, indigestion or gout at Dawson this winter in consequence of an over-abundant supply of provisions, there will not on the other hand be any starvation, the outgoing miners each having assisted those left behind by selling their outfits, and the caribou and moose having arrived to contribute themselves to the meat supply, and provide materials for candles as well. On the river from Dawson down to Fort Yukon and chiefly between Circle City and that point there are, however, about 400 men strung along who are liable to have great suffering forced upon them in a month or so, as they are both poorly provisioned and insufficiently clothed, and will not be able to advance or retreat without assistance. That the mounted police will be able to care for them is the general concensus of opinion.

It is, according to the new arrivals, ridiculous to talk of taking in relief over the avenues of egress they have followed, for the reason that these beaten trails are but twelve or fourteen inches wide and would not admit the passage inward of loaded sleds of the ordinary Coast type. It is equally ridiculous to discuss relief as a charity, national or otherwise, for what necessities may be taken in will find purchasers at remunerative prices, and would not be accepted, indeed, on other terms.

As an example of the terrible suffering of those endeavoring to pass from Circle City to Dawson, the case of Joaquin Miller is cited as an example. Miller, who has passed his three score of years, had heard of the distress by the way, and although the miners attempted to dissuade him from entering upon the terrible trip on account of his age, he would not be held back. His duty called him to Dawson, he said, and accompanied by Harold Canovan of Ottawa he started out.

En route a blizzard was encountered which sent the younger men and Miller's other companions back eight miles, although they knew shelter awaited them a mile and a half farther on. The old man pressed on and made the cabin in question, although with great suffering. From this point to Dawson the intrepid poet was accompanied by a man generally known as Montana, in whose company he again bade defiance to the blizzard with the thermometer 78 below, and ultimately reached Dawson and the hospitable home of Captain Hansen, where he is now a guest. In the trip, however, serious injuries had been sustained as a result of the exposure and intenee cold.

Miller will not again venture to brave the Frost King, and will therefore in all probability remain in Dawson until summer opens the river road back to civilization. He has done quite enough to prove his mettle.

Another illustration of the perils of Yukon travelling in the winter season—a more serious illustration still—is based upon the tragic death and burial of a young man named Anderson, hailing from Brooklyn, N.Y., who came into the country last fall, and who, being ill-equipped for the rigors of the winter, endeavored to get to Circle City from Forty-Mile. On the way he was accidentally shot in the boat, and seeing that nothing else was practicable under the circumstances, his comrades placed him on one of the dog sleighs, wounded and bleeding, and pressed on.

Without the heat of exercise, and weakened by loss of blood, the poor fellow froze to death, and his companions finally discovered to their horror that they were dragging a corpse. They were themselves exhausted, and finally they left the body and just managed to get themselves into Circle City, from which point the miners returned up the river, secured the corpse, thawed out the ground in the little cemetery, and gave poor Anderson Christian burial.

He had kept a diary for his mother's reading until the very day of his death, and this little volume, relating all the tragic story of his hopes and fears and their sad ending, passed into the possession of the poet Joaquin Miller, who will convey it, with the miners' message of sympathy, to the mother who on the Atlantic seaboard is waiting for news of her boy.

DELEGATES ON THE WAY.

Representative Miners Express Their Opinion of the Regulations and the Prospects of the Camp.

A Calder, who came through with Messrs. Jones and Stewart, has been in the Klendyke country for more than three years, going north from this city in March, 1895, and forming one of the first rush from Circle City. He is a prominent claim owner of El Dorado, Adams, Gold Bottom and Hunker creeks, four of the best streams in the district, while Mr. Stewart is principally interested in the Hederson.

Calder says that very many of the mining men are doing virtually nothing on their claims this season—on account of the strike for one thing, and to show the government how the enactment of unfair regulations may be expected to restrict the output. They will undertake more enterprising development work as soon as concessions are made in connection with the proposed royalty on the output of the mines.

On Hunker creek a streak of pay dirt has recently been struck ninety feet wide and three deep, giving an average return of $4.90 to the pan, with some phenomenally rich ground, actually rivalling the sensational washings of last year from the El Dorado. All the principal tributaries of this stream and of the Bonanza are proving exceedingly rich, while the quartz interests are destined to become of equal importance as soon as the problem of transportation shall have been solved.

The gold of the district is still rated at $17.00 as a medium of exchange in the country, although the government officials will accept it only as $16.00 in payment of record fees, etc., this being nearer the mark of its actual value.

Keenest interest is now centred upon the result of the conference at Ottawa between the members of the government and the delegates of the miners who will present their petition. One of these, Mr. E. J. Livernash, is already on his way down to the Coast, having left several days in advance of Mr. Calder's party, by whom he was passed about fifty miles this side of Dawson. He is not in complete accord with the other members of the deputation it appears, and a number of the miners are also somewhat aggrieved that a non-resident and stranger among them should have been chosen to represent them in conference with the government.

It has been pointed out to them that their interests may possibly suffer through Mr. Livernash not being fitted by experience to detail the actual conditions and necessities of mining, and a few weeks ago a petition was placed in circulation calling for another mass meeting to reconsider the choice. Nothing had been done as a result of this action before Mr. Livernash was ready to leave. The three delegates will probably meet in this city and complete their programme for presentation at Ottawa.

Calder and his party passed Justice Maguire near the Little Salmon, where they were encamped waiting for the arrival of relief supplies. Both Judge Maguire and Administrator Walsh were surprised not to have had any communication from Inspector Constantine, and could not understand it until Mr. Jones acquainted them with the fact that the inspector had been told by an incoming party that they had turned back to the coast. Even this failed to appease Major Walsh's indignation, for as he expressed it,

"Constantine should have known him better than to believe that he was going to turn back for a little cold weather."

MAMMOTH CANAL SCHEME.

Company Organizing to Pass Ocean Steamers to the Lakes Through Southern and Middle States.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Representative Davidson, of Wisconsin, has introduced a bill to incorporate the Maritime Canal Company of North America, to be subject to the control of the interstate commerce commission and to begin operations within five years. The company is authorized to construct a navigable channel connecting the great American lakes and navigable waters tributary to the Atlantic ocean, of a depth of 30 feet; and the locks, which are not to exceed ten in number, between the great lakes and the Atlantic tide water, are required to be large enough to admit craft 550 feet long, 65 feet wide and 28 feet draught.

ESTERHAZY ACQUITTED

Court Martial Finds Him Not Guilty of Conspiring Against His Country's Interests.

The Accused in Consequence Becomes a Popular Hero—No New Facts for Dreyfus.

PARIS, Jan. 11.—This was the second day of the court-martial of Major Count Ferdinand Walsin Esterhazy, and the proceedings were secret. Col. Picquart continued his testimony and, it is said, there was great excitement in court when Col. Picquart was confronted with General Conse, sub-chief of the general staff.

The secret deliberations which followed the address of Major Esterhazy's counsel terminated at 8:15 p.m., when the president read the judgment as follows: "The president put the following question to the court: 'Is Major Esterhazy guilty of having had dealings with a foreign power or its agents to incite them to commit hostilities, to undertake against France or procure the means of doing so?' The votes were recorded in conformity with article 131 of the military code, commencing with the officer of the lowest rank. The president, in giving his opinion last, said the court declared unanimously on the aforesaid that the accused was not guilty."

The president then ordered Major Esterhazy to be liberated, enjoining upon the government to have the verdict read to the accused before the military under arms at the court house. The crowd outside, who were kept moving by the police, greeted him with cheers of "Vive le commandant Esterhazy." Directly Major Esterhazy entered the prison the police cleared the streets.

Comte Esterhazy doffed his uniform inside the prison. Nevertheless, when he emerged the crowd followed cheering and the police got him a carriage. In the course of an interview he said he had been chiefly touched by the manner in which he was greeted after the judgment by the officers of the courtmartial, who shook him by the hand. The Comte also said that he was deeply touched by the spontaneous ovations from the crowds.

The acquital of the Comte d' Esterhazy has been received by the public with the greatest enthusiasm and he is quite a popular hero. All complaints as to the secrecy and unsatisfactory nature of the trial appear to be forgotten. The Soir says: "The verdict gladdens the hearts of and gives every satisfaction to France."

M. Mathieu Dreyfus still maintains his brother's innocence and intends to continue the campaign until he finds the real culprit.

Some of the German and Austrian papers are reviving the story that Dreyfus was in Russian pay and that the facts in the case were suppressed for fear of endangering the Franco-Russian Alliance.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—The morning papers comment upon the farcial character of the Esterhazy trial, as leaving the question of the guilt of Dreyfus the same mystery as before.

OPERATIONS IN AFRICA.

British Regiments Preparing for Service There—A Host of Dervishes to Be Looked After.

DOVER, Jan. 11.—The greatest enthusiasm and activity prevails at Shorncliffe, from which camp the Third Hussars have been ordered to Cairo. Large drafts from other British regiments are also preparing for foreign service.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—The Cairo correspondent of the Daily Chronicle says: It is believed here that the British operations are due to the presence of the French at Farhoda rather than to the Dervish advance. The Dervish movement is hampered by lack of transportation, but it is believed that 40,000 Dervishes are covering Omdurman (opposite Khartoum) and that 20,000 more are at Metemneh and Shendy. It is estimated that one-eighth are armed with rifles.

The Birmingham Post, the organ of Mr. Chamberlain, says: "The treaty which Mr. James Rennel Rodd, the principal secretary of the British agency and consulate-general in Egypt, negotiated with King Menelik of Abyssinia, contains a clause binding Menelik not to allow any obstacle to emanate from Abyssinia territory with the object of blocking the Egyptian advance upon Khartoum. As quid pro quo King Menelik secures a certain rectification of the frontier when Khalifa is subdued."

THE KOREAN AFFAIR.

Promotion for the Menaced British Officer—The Sphere of Russian Influence.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—A special from Shanghai says it is reported there that Mr. McLeavy Brown, British superintendent of Korean customs, has been offered the British consul-generalship at Seoul, the Korean capital, and that the Russo-Japanese agreement as to Korea involves the re-consideration of Port Lazareff, on the west coast, as within the sphere of Russian influence.

C.P.R. FREIGHT RATES.

The Northwest Will Benefit a Quarter Million Annually by the Crow's Nest Agreement.

TORONTO, Jan. 12.—(Special)—The Globe, referring to the reductions on January 1 on freight, under the Crow's Nest agreement, says that on a shipment of 15,000,000 bushels of wheat this reduction would amount to $150,000 in September, 1898, and to $300,000 in September, 1899, and it would be absurd to compare this reduction with that voluntarily made by the C.P.R. on its line east of Fort William.

IS M'KINLEY ADRIFT?

Mr. Smalley Says So and That His Only Resource is a Hold on the Lion's Tail.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—The Morning Post in an editorial to-day on the lines of that of the Times of Monday morning upon the despatches of Mr. Geo. W. Smalley, the Times New York correspondent, says: "President McKinley is drifting hopelessly and trying to satisfy everybody. In the meantime the Dingley tariff policy has proved a ridiculous failure. There remains always as the last political asset of a discredited American administration the possibility of pulling the well-worn tail of the British lion. But even that has lost its novelty.

GERMANS AND HOTTENTOTS.

Their Forces Meet in South Africa With Disaster to the Savages.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—The correspondent of the Daily Mail at Capetown says the German troops, after a long forced march, have engaged and defeated a section of the rebellious Hottentots in Damaraland. Commander Von Erstorff was wounded.

OLD SACQUES EXCEPTED.

Another Ruling on the Ludicrous Sealskin Regulations.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—The following order has been issued by Assistant Secretary Howell to the collector of customs at Suspension Bridge, N.Y.: "Admit sealskin garments as personal effects if they are shown to have been used by the owner prior to the 20th ult." Many women were after the collector to get permits to cross into Canada with their furs and when the telegram was received they were happy.

MR. HUDDART'S COMPANY.

Petition for Liquidation of the Canadian-Australian Steamship Enterprise.

MONTREAL, Jan. 12.—(Special)—A London cable to the Star says: The New Zealand Shipping Co., Limited, has presented a petition for the liquidation of Mr. James Huddart's Canadian-Australian Royal Mail Steamship Company, Limited. The application will be heard on the 19th inst.

A UNIONIST GAIN.

Seat for Plymouth in the Commons Lost to the Radicals.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—A parliamentary bye-election was held to-day in Plymouth to fill the vacancy caused by the death on December 24 of Mr. Charles Harrison, the Radical member. It resulted in the election of the Conservative and Liberal Unionist candidate the Hon. Ivor Churchill Guest, who defeated the Liberal and Radical candidate Mr. F. S. Mendell by 1,836 votes.

THE LONDON FIRE.

No Clue to the Incendiary Who Caused the Loss of Many Millions.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—As a result of the investigation which has been in progress for several weeks past into the great fire which occurred recently in the Cripplegate district of London, involving the loss of $3,750,000, the jury to-day after five hours' deliberation found that the fire was the work of "some person or persons unknown."

VALIANT SPANISH OFFICERS.

One Hundred of Them Smash Newspaper Windows and Cuff the Office Boys.

HAVANA, Jan. 12.—At ten o'clock this morning about 100 army officers, incensed by the violent attacks made by some of the local papers on the general-in-chief and the principal officers of the Spanish army in Cuba, went to the printing office of the daily journals La Discussione and El Reconcentrado, and began smashing the windows and destroying the printing outfits, as well as cuffing the employees. A mob of thousands followed, shouting, "Long live Spain," "Long live the army," "Long live the volunteers."

Giblin Joins the Rush.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—Giblin, the famous cantab and international footballer, has left for the Klondyke.

YUKON REGULATIONS.

Radical Changes Pending According to Report in Montreal.

MONTREAL, Jan. 11.—(Special)—Great interest is taken in the fact learned here, though not publicly announced, that the government will make radical changes in the Yukon mining regulations. It is urged that a definite announcement be made at the earliest possible moment.

BLACKS AT WAR.

Much Shedding of Blood in the New Hebrides and Trouble for Traders.

SYDNEY, N.S.W., Jan. 11.—Steamers which have just arrived here report a tribal war at Tanna in the New Hebrides. There is said to have been considerable bloodshed, and the natives were also causing the traders much trouble.

HANNA IS ALL RIGHT.

Long Senatorial Fight in Ohio Ends in His Favor.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Jan. 12. — Both branches of the Ohio legislature met in joint session to-day and balloted for United States senator. Mr. Mark Hanna received a majority of three votes over Major McKisson of Cleveland and was formally declared senator for both the short and long terms. Mr. Hanna's seat is therefore secure until March 4, 1905.

BRITAIN IN THE EAST.

Mr. Balfour Declares That Trade and Not Territory Is the Quest in China.

No Objection to Russia Having an Ice Free Port but It Must Be Open to Commerce.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—Mr. Balfour, government leader in the House of Commons, addressed his constituents at Manchester last evening. It was expected that he would make an important announcement of the government policy in China, but he confined himself to generalities. Mr. Balfour said the concert of Europe had not added to its reputation by its recent treatment of Crete. He declared that it would be better to have a third-rate governor of the island than none at all, and that it was strange the concert could not find one either in Europe or America. He eulogized the bravery displayed by the British troops in the Indian campaign—a campaign "more difficult than the Afghan war of 1879."

Turning to China, Mr. Balfour said British interests there were commercial and not territorial. Except as a base for possible warlike operations, the territory would be a disadvantage because it would involve responsibilities and expense in money and men. He dilated upon the fact that the extent of our trade in China gives us a special claim to prevent her pursuing a policy that would discourage trade, and added: "But the deepest traditions of our policy preclude us from using any trading privileges as weapons to exclude our rivals. If we ask freedom of trade, it is not for England alone but for the whole world."

There was no objection, said Mr. Balfour in conclusion, to Russia having an ice free port providing England was not excluded but the government would do its utmost to prevent China yielding to foreign pressure to make regulations adverse to Great Britain or "any improbable but possible attempt to dot the coast of China with foreign stations by protectionist countries, who would raise customs or rather barriers to our trade."

The burden of the whole declaration was that England's policy in China is for the benefit of the world at large. The morning papers' editorials, of all shades of political opinion, express great satisfaction with Mr. Balfour's exposition of the principles guiding the government's policy in the Far East, but they complain of the absence of definite statements.

The Morning Post says: "A great minister on a great occasion has only whetted the appetite of a people ready to give him a large and generous vote of confidence."

The Daily News says: "Mr. Balfour's exposition of Lord Salisbury's policy is excellent in intention, and the only fear is that the execution may fall short of the intention." With reference to the New York Times' "expression of regret that lack of appetite has succeeded to England's traditional earth hunger," the Daily News says: "Such regrets in an American journal are piquant indeed. But our American friends need not be uneasy. Our interests, which are identical with theirs, can be protected in China by other means than territorial annexation."

THE KOREAN AGREEMENT.

It Involves a Complete Backdown on the Part of Russia—The Chinese Loan.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—According to a special from Shanghai, it is said there that the agreement between England, Japan and Russia, with respect to Korea, involves the restoration of the status quo and the reinstatement of Mr. McLeavy Brown as chief commissioner of customs, with a Russian commissioner of customs at Gensan, the port of Broughton Bay on the east coast, and a Japanese commissioner at Fusan, in the extreme southeast.

Sir Robert Hart, director of Chinese imperial maritime customs, is negotiating with the Chinese government for a loan. The emperor took the negotiations away from the Tsung Li Lamen, the board of foreign affairs, in discust at their previous failures.

DENMARK SEEKING SHELTER.

Approaching the Great Powers for a Guarantee of Neutrality.

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 12.—During the budget debate in the lower house of parliament yesterday, the minister for foreign affairs informed the house that the Danish ministers had been instructed to ascertain whether it were possible for Denmark to obtain a guarantee of her neutrality from the various powers. The replies, the minister added, showed that the powers fully recognize Denmark's readiness to take up a neutral position, but at the present moment there was no probability that she would be able to secure the desired guarantee.

IN FAVOR OF VICTORIA.

The Globe After Careful Consideration Praises This Route to Klondyke.

TORONTO, Jan. 12.—(Special)—The Globe, in an article on routes to Klondyke, says it is charged by a Vancouver paper with unduly booming the Victoria route and by another paper with opposing the Edmonton route. It adds: "We have endeavored to give full and accurate information touching the various Canadian routes. We are not at all concerned as to which particular route they select."

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NEWS OF THE CAPITAL.

Wrangel Customs Arrangement for Canadian Supplies for Stickeen River Route.

Six Hundred Thousand Dollars Asked by Nova Scotia—Civil Service Salaries.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Jan. 12.—Premier Murray and Attorney-General Longley, of Nova Scotia, went East to-day. They have pressed the claims of the province for the amount of the subsidy of $600,000 given to the Eastern Extension railroad now part of the government railway system.

Mr. Tarte has arranged to have all the public buildings lighted by electricity.

Alex. Macdonald, Alaskan surveyor for the United States government, has received a lucrative offer from a New York company to become their engineer but has declined.

The usual general increases in the salaries of the civil service will not be granted this year, although it is likely that there will be a larger amount given than last year. The increases will be given for meritorious work on the recommendation of deputy heads.

Lady Aberdeen gives a Klondyke dinner to-morrow to which Messrs. Ogilvie, Dawson, Macdonald and others have been invited.

At the Assize court to-day Mrs. Cote secured a verdict for $2,000 against the Catholic Order of Foresters on account of a policy on her late husband's life. The order had alleged fraud in filing the application for the policy.

Information has been received here that the United States government cannot warehouse at Wrangel Canadian supplies for the Stickeen river route, but such goods landed at Wrangel will go in charge of a customs officer there at shippers' risk.

MANITOBA AND NORTHWEST.

Discovery of Coal Reported—Sir Charles Tupper's Movements—Elevator Burned.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 12. — (Special)—Sir Charles Tupper left for the East this afternoon accompanied by Lady Tupper, Miss Mary Tupper, and Misses Jessie and Frances Tupper, who go to resume their studies at college. Sir Charles expressed himself as highly pleased with the reception accorded him in the West. He is going to Ottawa and thence to Montreal.

The Northern elevator at Cypress River station was burned to-day with about 6,000 bushels of wheat.

Col. Holmes, D. O. C., has shipped 4,000 Snider rifle which were in the stores here to Montreal. These rifles have been in Winnipeg since 1870, having been brought by Lord Wolseley's expedition.

A discovery of coal is reported from Oak Lake, near the western boundary of Manitoba.

Victor Dodd, license inspector, and G. V. Bulyea, member of the Northwest Territories government, leave Regina shortly for Yukon to secure the enforcement of the Northwest liquor license laws in that district.

The Trojan mine, of Carp Bay, near Rat Portage, has been sold to an English syndicate for $400,000.

Col. McMillan, provincial treasurer, returned to the city from Toronto to-day.

A QUEER APPOINTMENT.

One of Mercier's Notorious Colleagues Signally Favored by Department of Justice.

QUEBEC, Jan. 12.—Ministerial organs announce that Charles Langelier, Mercier's provincial secretary, is to be appointed by the federal government a commissioner for the revision and codification of federal statutes and also representative minister of justice in this district.

Filibusters Captured.

HAVANA, Jan. 12.—The Spanish gunboat Galicia has captured off the south coast of Cuba, near Manazillo, province of Santiago de Cuba, a fishing smack from Jamaica having on board a cargo of war material, medicines, groceries and clothing.

Monte Carlo's Casino.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—A special despatch from Monte Carlo says that a meeting of the shareholders of the Casino company has accepted the exorbitant terms of Prince Albert of Monaco for the renewal of the Casino lease.