GUARDIAN ANGELS.

Professional Protectors of Bibulous Gentlemen.

A Useful Institution Not Altogether Confined to the Gay French Capital—An Expensive Luxury.

A correspondent in Paris recently discovered in the cafes a class of attendants which he described as a bizarre novelty in Parisian business methods. He said that these attendants were known professionally as "Guardian Angels." They have become, he wrote, quite numerous in the more thickly populated quarter of the French capital. The attendants get their title because they are called upon to keep watch and ward over and insure the safe conduct home to working people who frequent the smaller cafes, and without the protection of the angel might fall a prey to the petty criminals who lurk in the streets at night to rob inebriated working-men and others more or less helpless wayfarers.

New York, says the Sun of that city, has for a long time had its counterpart of the Parisian guardian angels. He is a curious, entertaining and beneficent servant of the public that was brought into existence by the amazing growth of hotel life, in this town during the last few years, and by the increase in the number of the fashionable restaurants. Here, however, it is only these fashionable hotels and cafes which can support the luxury of angels. They are too expensive a feature apparently to justify the proprietors of the saloons in the tenement districts in employing them. The guardian angel of Gotham is an affable and well-informed special police officer detailed by the police commissioners, and reporting regularly to Acting Superintendent of Police Byrnes. He works harmoniously with the other serviceable attendant of the swell cafe who is called the bouncer. The bouncer is a professional boxer whose duty it is to maintain order and to get obstreperous visitors out of the establishment without any fuss or feathers and without attracting too general attention. The angel, on the other hand, makes it his business to see that no harm befalls the cafe or hotel patron who has become a little too convival for his own good, and needs the assistance of just such a guide, philosopher, and friend as the angel is to keep him from parting with his valuables.

"The idea of having a guardian angel," said the angel of the Hoffman House, "may strike men about town as something of a practical joke, and they may believe that the angel is a myth. But they are mistaken, for ain't I here to prove that guardian angels are regular institutions? Many men in this town are thankful for the help of the professional angel. We see that they are sent safely home if they get too much aboard, or we get them accommodations at the hotel if they aren't able to get home. We take them to a Turkish bath and straighten them out before putting them to bed, and in numerous other ways perform a service that a square man isn't very apt to forget, which I happen to know not one in a hundred fails to remember in a substantial fashion on other days besides Christmas."

A striking illustration of the opportune serviceableness of the guardian angel was furnished recently at the Hoffman House, just before a public reception. A handsome man, dressed in black, came from the private dining-rooms and staggered along the tiled corridor. His face was flushed with wine.

"Heavens!" cried the angel, with a start as he caught sight of the guest, "we must get that man to a room quick."

The man was hustled into the elevator and taken to a room in a hurry.

"What's the excitement about?" asked a bystander, when the angel returned.

"A good deal more than you think," returned the little guardian. "That man would be disgraced in his profession were he to be seen in that condition at the reception upstairs. He is one of the best known professional men in this city. The nature of his calling makes it imperative that he should never be seen in public under the influence of wine. It was a narrow escape, though. But he's all right now. Nobody will know any thing of it. He will be straight as a string again when he leaves for home, depend upon it."

The existence of the professional guardian angel is a boon to many men of means who have a habit of getting occasionally too convivial to take care of themselves. They depend upon the friendly surveillance of the angel, and give themselves up freely for the time being to the delights of the flowing bowl.

"Not once in a thousand times," said a professional angel, "does a friend who does this service for a fellow citizen fail to get the cab hire as soon as he reaches his charge's home. A man mean enough to back out of paying a fare back under such circumstances is too mean to spend enough to get so full. Sometimes we don't collect at the man's house at all. We just escort him in and say in an explanatory way, 'Mr. Pillycarp ate something at dinner that disagreed with him and couldn't get home before, ma'am, but he's all right now; or he will be all right in the morning.' The next time we meet the good fellow a word is enough to bring the incident back to his memory, and he pays the cab hire promptly. Often a man will be exuberantly generous. He'll want to crack a bottle of wine with us, and he hands a five or ten dollar note over, with the remark: 'Go bot that on the horse you think will win, with my compliments and best wishes.' Men like that don't forget such a favor. They talk about it to their friends, and if their friends chance to feel like having a little personal jubilee on their own hook they come and get the professional angel to lend his good services as protector and friend during the hilarious experiences of the jubilee. Yes, siree, the angel is an institution that it would be impossible to dispense with in these civilized days, whether we are in the Paris of France or right here in the Paris of America."

RAPID RUNNING.

The High Rate of Speed Attained by Fast Trains.

When railroads were first introduced the engineers, as we call them—or the engine-drivers, as they are called in England—ran their trains almost as they liked, making up time when they had fallen behind, picking up such information as they could as to the state of the track ahead of them, and for the most part plunging ahead with their machines without much more than a surmise whether they should bring up at their destination or at the bottom of some high embankment.

Some of the results of this want of system, says Youth's Companion, would have been amusing if they had not been disastrous. Mr. Laurence Oliphant, an English traveler and author, tells in one of his books a rather grim story of a trip which he made by rail in 1855 from Chicago to New York. Over a part of the distance the train made the extraordinary speed, for that time, of fifty miles an hour, and presently it ran off the track.

Fortunately the cars were imbedded in a soft clay ditch and no one was seriously hurt, and in the midst of the commotion Mr. Oliphant says he heard the engineer thus admonish the switchman whose carelessness had caused the accident:

"Now, Tom, this is the third time you've forgot to set that switch, and the last time there was twenty people went under, and the rest was bruised. So mind what you're about and don't forget that switch again, for if you do I'll tell the boss!"

In the course of time it was found necessary to limit the running of trains to a very strict system, which almost makes the engineer a part of his machine; but even as late as within the past two years races between express trains running between London and Edinburgh have been run, and great interest has been shown in the results of the contests.

In France steam races are not permitted. Instead, an official test of the power, speed and steadiness of locomotives on different lines of the Republic has been made lately and a prize awarded to the winner, locomotive No. 604 of the "Chemin de Fer de l'Est," or Eastern railroad.

In this test several locomotives without any load to pull attained a speed of from seventy-five to eighty-five miles an hour. The locomotive No. 604 just spoken of accomplishes regularly the feat of hauling at full speed the heavy trains of the Swiss express between Rheims and Delle at a single pull, a distance of about two hundred and forty miles.

The engine always arrives after this long haul with steam still on and in perfect running condition.

The maximum speed which French passenger trains are permitted to make is about seventy miles an hour, and this is uncommon.

In England the fastest schedule time is sixty miles an hour, though in some of the "races" seventy-five miles an hour have been made. There are regular freight trains in England which make a speed of from thirty to forty miles an hour.

In Germany the ordinary speed of passenger trains is only about thirty-five to forty miles an hour, and this is probably about the average rate of speed in other European countries.

In the United States the speed of trains varies so much on different railways and in different parts of the country that it is practically impossible to strike an average. Thirty to forty miles an hour is regarded as a very good rate, but a speed of from sixty to seventy-five miles an hour is often attained by fast trains under special circumstances.

A MEXICAN CENTAUR.

The Strange Creature Killed in the Woods of Arkansas.

According to an Arkansas journal Dr. Collins of Little River County, that State, killed a most remarkable quadruped near his place in the spring of 1877. From the time of the war up until the year named, several persons claimed to have frequently seen an animal in the form of a large red deer, with the head and neck of a man. On the day that the animal was killed, Dr. Collins' wife and a negro girl were going along an unused path when they saw the queer creature peering at them through the underbrush. They made haste and informed the doctor what had occurred. He took his gun and started in search of the beast, which he soon overtook and shot. Closer inspection showed that the head, instead of being that of a man, more nearly resembled that of a baboon. Its eyes were large and very prominently set to the sides of its head. A long fringe of brown beard covered the chin and neck. Dr. Collins says that when he came up with the creature and leveled his gun at it it seemed to be aware of its great danger, the large eyes melting into tears as it saw the utter hopelessness of the case. When shot it uttered a heart-rending scream and leaped high in the air, expiring with awful groans which closely resembled those of a man in distress. It is generally believed that the creature was a species of Mexican centaur, a semi-legendary creature of the post-conquest era.

A Housebuilding Fish.

In Lake Nyassa, in the interior of "Darkest Africa," there is a kind of blackfish which every year builds what the natives term a house. In the mud at the bottom of the lake it makes a hole some two or three feet broad, heaping up the mud removed from the hole so as to form a little wall around it. The depth of the hole and the height of the wall measured together make a basin from fifteen to twenty inches deep. In this lake within a lake this queer little fish erects a mudhouse, the average-sized specimen measuring fourteen inches across the bottom, rapidly coming to a point in the shape of a broad cone. A hole four inches in diameter, always on the south side, serves as an opening for egress and ingress. A dried specimen of this queer domicile preserved in the Royal Museum at Berlin has two doors, and a partition separating it into two rooms.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, March 26.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Cariboo Returns.

A telegram from Barkerville, Cariboo, last evening, contains the information that no further election returns can be secured until the arrival of the mail carrier, on Friday.

Outgoing Passengers.

The following passengers left on the steamer Mexico for San Francisco, yesterday: E. J. Redmond, R. L. Patterson, George Percival, W. Marder, O. Sanish, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Gurleaux and Miss Polley.

Contract Awarded.

Yesterday morning the contract for the construction of Brackman & Ker's new mill at the outer wharf, for which tenders were received up to Saturday last, was awarded to Messrs. Bishop & Sherburne, at a figure in the neighborhood of $10,000. Work will commence at once.

Things Material.

Last Thursday evening the ladies of the First British Columbia Spiritualist Society decided to provide refreshments at their coming dance on the 26th inst., thus giving their friends and the indulgent public an intimation that they believe in things material as well as spiritual.

Police Court.

The programme of cases disposed of, yesterday, in the police court, was rather short, and comprised one vagrant, who promised to go home to his father; two drunks, who were fined $5 each, and a woman, charged with keeping a house of ill-fame. She pleaded guilty, and was fined $50.

A Ridiculous Report.

Rev. M. L. Rugg has received a letter from a friend in Portland, Oregon, enquiring if it is safe to come to Victoria; he had read in Eastern papers that leprosy was making frightful inroads into the white inhabitants. Where this ridiculous story could have originated it is difficult to imagine.

The Titania at Home.

A cablegram received in this city yesterday contains the information that the British clipper-ship Titania, which left Westminster on November 19, has reached London, 125 days out. This is rather a long trip for the Titania, but her new master, Capt. Morgan, evidently thought it was better to go slow on his first trip.

The Appeal Dismissed.

Justices Crease, Drake and McCreight, sitting as a full court yesterday morning, heard the appeal of the corporation from the decision of Mr. Justice Walkem in the case of Brighouse v. the Corporation of New Westminster. That judgment was sustained, and the appeal was dismissed with costs, Justice McCreight dissenting.

With Ragged Sails.

The sealing schooner Annie C. Moore, returned to port, yesterday morning, in order to receive repairs to her sails, which had been badly torn by the recent gales. Her captain brought no fresh news from the other schooners now at work on the West Coast, but reported seal very scarce and the weather very rough. The Annie C. Moore has 47 skins on board.

Picturesque Canada.

The agent for this meritorious and justly popular work is now in the city, delivering another instalment of numbers. Those who have not already subscribed should not let the present opportunity slip. British Columbia will be thoroughly described and illustrated, in a number soon to come, and those wishing to have the complete set should speak for them now.

"The Grotto" Changes Owners.

Mr. W. McNiff, who has presided over the fortunes of "The Grotto," Trounce Avenue, for so many years, has disposed of his interest in the same to Mr. Steve O'Brien, who took charge on Friday last. It is the intention of Mr. O'Brien to completely renovate the premises, and make the bar and its appointments and furnishings equal to anything on the Coast. His management is a guarantee that "The Grotto" will be strictly first-class in every particular, chief of which is the character of the wines and liquors dispensed to a thirsty public.

Far Away Lands.

Rev. John Sukis (Ben Israel), who was born a Jew and is a convert to Christianity, lectured at 42 Quadra street last evening to a select few, who greatly appreciated his discourse. His subject was a very broad one—the Hindus, Brahmas, Fire-Worship, Devil Worship, the customs of the Indies and the sacrifices of the females. The text of the lecture was chosen from Isaiah ii., 10—700 years before the coming of the Messiah. At the close, the benediction was pronounced in Hebrew. Ben Israel expects to deliver two lectures, next Sunday morning and evening, probably in the Temperance Hall, his subject being the "Lost Ten Tribes," and the Black Jews of Judah. At each of his lectures he will wear the full Oriental costume.

Baseball.

The James Bay and National Baseball clubs will cross bats at Beacon Hill on Good Friday, the 27th inst., at 2.30 p.m. The National is yet a young club, but has some very promising players in its ranks, and an interesting game may be looked forward to. The old reliable James Bays are putting on a strong team, and although the Nationals do not expect to win they are quite confident that they can put up a good game against the Bays. The following players will compose the team:

James Bays.	*Position.*	*Nationals.*
Jackson	p.	Lenfesty
Hannan	c.	Huxtable
Wallandaine	1st b.	Savage
Widdowson	2d b.	Partridge
Franklin	3d b.	Askew
Williams	s. s.	Anderson
Gouge	c. f.	E. Bradley
Deasy	l. f.	Wrigglesworth
Naylor	r. f.	Gibbs
Latimer	sub.	R. Bradley

Trades and Labor Club.

Among the performers at the inaugural concert of the Trades and Labor Club, which comes off in the Victoria Theatre on the first of April, are: Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Clyde, Miss McGregor and Miss Lawson, Col. Prior, Messrs Marchant, Phillips, Carpenter, J. G. Brown, Adderly, Boyd, Hookway, Kent, Deasy, Stuart and Wilkinson, the Victoria Glee Club, etc. Mayor Grant will preside and deliver a brief characteristic address. Tickets can be had at Waitt's stationery store and from the Secretary, at the rooms, corner of Pandora and Government streets. The rooms of the club at the corner of Government and Pandora streets are visited by large numbers, and the accommodations they afford are highly appreciated. The establishment ought to have a good send off. Let all who want a good evening's amusement attend as well as those who like to assist worthy objects. The club is a common place of meeting for organized as well as unorganized labor, while the capitalist and office or shopman are equally at home.

Short, Safe and Satisfactory.

The steamer Danube, which returned from all northern ports on Tuesday last, on her trip then closed, made one of the quickest runs on record. She was away only nine days, and made every call. All who came down were delighted with the accommodation recently provided.

In Chambers.

There was only one summons here disposed of yesterday morning, that of Lewis & Strauss v. Hotz. The application was for a commission to examine witnesses in Portland, Oregon, which was refused, defendants costs to abide the cause. Yates & Jay for defendants; Drake, Jackson & Helmcken for defendants.

Lost and Found.

On Tuesday evening Conductor McIlmoyle, of the Tramway Co., found in car No. 6 a purse containing a considerable sum of money. This he left at the office where it was recovered by the owner, a lady, who did not fail to give the conscientious conductor a satisfactory reward.

At the R. E. Church.

The array of talent secured for last evening's conversazione in the Reformed Episcopal school, shows—just what everyone knew before—that the directors of these pleasant social gatherings know just where to look for the best providers of musical and literary dainties. The programme included vocal solo numbers by Mrs. Turnball, Mr. J. G Brown and Mrs. McCandless; a duet by Miss Erb and Miss Haines; a piano solo by Miss Adams, who also gave, with Miss Wilson, an instrumental duet; recitations by Mr. Boyd; and a duet by Misses Worlock and Elford. Tea, coffee and cakes were provided as usual.

Victoria Rifle Association.

At the adjourned annual meeting of the Victoria Rifle association, held in the offices of Messrs. Flint & Williams, last evening, the reports of the officers for 1890 were presented and found to be entirely satisfactory, as also are the prospects for the coming season. The officers for 1891-92 are: President, Lieut. A. G. Sargison; vice-president, B. Williams; secretary, A. R. Langley; treasurer, F. R. Sargison; committee—W. H. Danby, H. Fleming, J. C. Newbury, J. C. Cornish and F. Wolfenden. It is the intention to open the year's shooting with a match for prizes in kind, donated by city merchants and others anxious to encourage rifle shooting.

Knocked off a Bridge.

On Tuesday, a man named Collins, who was walking on the railway track from Donald to Revelstoke, met with a serious accident on one of the bridges at the Loop. He lay down by the side of the bridge on one of the barrel stands to allow a train to pass, when he was struck by the snow from the snow-plow and knocked off the bridge, falling a distance of 70 feet. Fortunately he fell in deep snow and was not killed. He managed to crawl to a shack near by, and the section men took him to the Glacier House. It was found that he was seriously shaken up by the fall, and Superintendent Marpole had him sent to the hospital at Donald.—Kootenay Star.

Sporting Exhibition.

The Victoria theatre, last night, was numerously attended by local sports desirous of seeing the exhibition of science given by Harris' great Australian combination. The first set-to was by Prof. Foster's pupils, and was a fine display of local science. Abe Willis, the clever little 112 pounder, then had a few rounds with local amateurs, and highly distinguished himself. He is going to fight the winner of the Dickson-McCarthy fight. Billy Maher, in several little bouts, demonstrated that he was a clever sparrer of the Dempsey style. He is light, but very tall. Jim Hall, who is matched with Bob Fitzsimmons, delighted every one with the way in which he handled Alex. McGreggains, the coast champion. Manager Harris read a telegram from Mose Gunst, of San Francisco, that Fitzsimmons had definitely accepted Hall's challenge for a fight to a finish.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

The Case of the Six Union Miners of Wellington Again Brought Forward.

The Chief Justice and Justices Crease and McCreight took their places on the Supreme Court bench at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, to hear as a Full Court the application of Mr. Charles Wilson for a rule nisi for a new trial in the case of the Queen v. Joseph Carter and five others, coal miners at Wellington, tried and convicted, and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for unlawfully besetting and watching No. 5 shaft of the Wellington collieries.

The six defendants were present in person, and were represented by their counsel Mr. Charles Wilson, and Mr. A. L. Belyea of Belyea & Gregory.

Mr. Wilson, in explaining his motion, said that the trial of the six defendants had taken place on the 29th of September last, at a Court of Oyer and Terminer, before the Chief Justice and a jury. Afterwards the record was, by a writ of *certiorari*, moved into the Supreme Court, and the record being in this court, the learned counsel submitted that their lordships had jurisdiction to hear this motion. At the trial, the prisoners were allowed to go on their own recognizances, to appear for sentence when called upon. They did appear, and then the objection was taken that the Court having adjourned without a day, that Court was at an end, and the men could not be punished. His lordship yielded to the objection, and the men again went out on their own recognizances. The grounds for the present motion were, briefly: (1) That a panel of special jurors was returned by the sheriff for the trial of the cause, which panel was not properly arrayed. But 44 names had been selected by the sheriff from the grand juror's roll for the purpose of the special jury, and each of the defendants could not therefore strike out fourteen names, thus availing himself of the right given by the statute. The contention was that these men could not be tried by special jury, inasmuch as the statute did not provide the necessary machinery. Another contention was that there were too few names returned to enable the right of challenge on behalf of the defendants to be availed of. Still another point for consideration in connection with the motion before the Court was the constitutionality of the Jurors' Act. Had the province the right to legislate as it had in regard to special juries in criminal cases.

As the Chief Justice had another engagement at 3:30 o'clock, the court adjourned at that hour until 10:30 this morning, the prisoners, as before, being allowed out on their own recognzances.

Capt. J. McIntyre, of Port Townsend, is in town.

AT THE LYCEUM.

Proceedings at the Meeting Held Last Night It Breaks Up in Confusion.

Last night, a meeting was held at the Lyceum, on the call of Hon. Amor De Cosmos, to "organize a Committee of Public Safety, to apply for such legislative aid as will prevent the city from being overwhelmed with a crushing public debt." The attendance was by no means large, and the old church building, though comfortably heated, had an air about it of chilliness beyond that which is accustomed to be associated with temperature. At 8 o'clock the platform was empty; at a quarter past, Mr. DeCosmos came in, and, shortly thereafter, mounted the stage, swinging in his hand a parcel of books and documents. These he deposited on the table, and, throwing his spectacles way back on the top of his head produced a pair of eye-glasses, which he swung at the tips of his finger and thumb. The boys cheered him. This he acknowledged, and proceeded, in a *sotto voce* sort of style, with his address. In the multitude of his deliverances were distinguished the words "overwhelmed with the crushing weight of municipal debt. (Applause.)—If any gentleman will come forward and take the chair, I shall be glad to see him do so.—It appears from this meeting that the number of overwhelmed ratepayers and property-owners is small.—You have an opportunity of appointing your chairman, gentlemen; but if you don't, I shall take it for granted that you don't want an organization. I think Mr. B. W. Pearse, an old resident and property-owner, would make a good chairman."

Mr. Pearse, in taking the chair, said that he was unacquainted with the object of this meeting. He had been invited to attend, but had been in doubt as to what was proposed. He had been informed that it was the desire and intention in some quarters that the city should spend the large sum of a million dollars in subsidizing an American line of railway to be connected with Victoria. Of course it would be a most desirable thing to get an American line in on reasonable terms. But there was such a thing as paying too dear for one's whistle, and the proposed outlay, at 4 per cent., would involve an annual charge of $40,000. This, in addition to what was being spent on sewers and keeping the streets in order, would be more than the city could afford. In fact, the revenue would be utterly inadequate and the taxpayers, as Mr. DeCosmos had said, would be overwhelmed with a crushing weight. The people of Canada had already done the grandest thing in the history of the world in building the Pacific railway. It was an Imperial as well as a Dominion work, and we ought to be loyal to it as much as possible. It was true that the C. P. R. had not done justice to Victoria. In many cases it had utterly ignored its just rights (hear, hear). But that was no reason why, at an enormous expense, we should do our best to destroy the value of that line. It was a great national undertaking, and in the event of anything happening to the Suez canal, one of world wide importance. A great American statesman had, he noticed, said, the other day, that, if anything happened to England, it would be a great calamity to the entire world, and to civilization generally. Were anything to be done, in the way of subsidizing a railway, it ought to be done, only upon the legitimate vote of the rate payers.

Mr. Redfern, having been appointed secretary, asked for pencil and paper.

Mr. DeCosmos, going to the table—"paper and pencil, here's plenty of them," at the same time removing the band from his package.

Mr. DeCosmos, having invited Mr. Finlayson to the platform, produced a bundle of papers, saying that he had called this meeting with a view to preventing the property of the citizens of Victoria being sacrificed by the municipal authorities. (Voices—"can't hear"—"speak out—louder.") If those gentleman can't hear and don't want to hear they can go out, the hall costs them nothing and they can do as they please. This is going to be a great city, and is fast getting beyond the old landmarks. The old proprietors intend to stay here and leave their property as lightly burdened as possible for their children. But they were not satisfied with the rules or the rulers who governed the city. (Laughter). They were wanting to be governed by the laws of right. He demanded that the $10,000 worth of real estate in Victoria (a voice—"ten millions")—well, ten millions, be not overwhelmed. We ask the corporation of Victoria to make laws (loud hand clappings). You won't upset me, young men. What we ask is simply that the law be changed, and that instead of real estate bearing all the burdens and receiving very few benefits—(Here the speaker was interrupted by loud cheering that greeted the advent of Mayor Grant and a number of the City Council).

Mr. DeCosmos went on—I observe that some persons who have just arrived are being cheered. There are many persons who are not so received who have made their way as good as any who have been accidentally raised to the position of Mayor (hisses). I don't care for your hisses (cheers).

After pausing a few moments, Mr. DeCosmos continued—Mr. doorkeeper just let those venerable personages come in and take their seats. I ask you, Mr Chairman, to invite to the platform those whom you really think to be representative men.

The Chairman then invited to the platform Mayor Grant, Mr. Graham, Hon. J. H. Turner, Mr. Earle, M.P., and others, whose names were greeted with cheers.

Mr. DeCosmos—I would suggest Mr. Alexander Wilson.

Mr. Wilson—"Go on, I am all right."

Mr. DeCosmos—My object, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen (tap, tap, went a chorus of heels). Stop that! These few men in the council do not run the city of Victoria. They are nobodies.

Amid calls for "Grant—John Grant,"

Mayor Grant came to the front of the platform, on which Mr. DeCosmos sprang to his side and violently gesticulated. "Just one word," said the mayor. "Mr. DeCosmos says the question is whether or not the city shall be ruled by a few men."

Mr. DeCosmos again jumped forward.

Mayor Grant—Anyone not in accord with the principles—

Mr. DeCosmos—Keep quiet.

The Chairman here came to the front.

Mr. DeCosmos, descending from the top platform—"Allow me! If anyone wishes to approach the speaker of this meeting with a resolution, all he has to do is to say so. (Roars of laughter.) Mr. Grant may be mayor of the city, but I don't intend to allow myself to be overwhelmed (an impressive wave of the hand over his head) by Mr. Grant, or anybody else, when I know my rights are being overriden by the Corporation. I have beaten the Corporation from end to end during the last three years. If they say they did not sink $30,000 in the Johnson street sewer, I'll prove it to them, and will make the Corporation pay back every dollar of it. (Cheers.) Things have changed from what they were fifty years ago. If I can only get the opportunity I will tell why I called the meeting to-night. ("Go ahead,") Mark, my words will be reported, and (with a commanding gesture) I don't care (snapping his fingers) two-pence, sixpence, tenpence or a shilling for all or any of them (voices—we know that, go ahead Amor, give it em!) They have sent Grant here. (prolonged stamping).

The Chairman—"Give Mr. De Cosmos a fair hearing; he ought to have fair play."

Voices—"Let De Cosmos speak out louder so as we can hear him."

Mr. De Cosmos—"I see one or two people of position here, (voices—"Anacortes"!) mark my word, I'll win my way and I'll win to-night too."

Coming again to the front of the platform the speaker went on—"The question is, shall we and our properties be overwhelmed with taxes or not? (The audience began to snap their fingers in concert).

Having adjusted his spectacles, Mr. DeCosmos said: "You can howl as you like, but if I had some of you for a short time you'd get what you want. I don't fear any man. Now, gentlemen, the question arises, shall we continue to give——?" (Voices in the audience—"Order!") Don't be alarmed; whether physically or morally, I'm ready and willing. If I can't fight my way through a crowd, no one can" (cheers).

As he came once more to the front, Mr. DeCosmos' feet tripped and he fell to the floor, amid tumultous cheers.

"Order! Order!" cried the chair.

"Aye, Aye!" said Mr. DeCosmos, stalking down the middle of the room. "Is Grant going? I'll follow him up."

While Mr. DeCosmos was at the door, the meeting broke up in confusion.

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED.

Having Disposed of a Few Items of Business Which Would Not Stand Over.

Aldermen Hunter and Coughlan were the only members of the City Council not in attendance at the regular meeting of the Board, held last evening, with the Mayor in the chair.

After the routine business had been disposed of, his Worship announced that he was very anxious to hear what was said at Mr. DeCosmos' meeting, and would, therefore, thank Ald. McKillican if he would preside. It would be a short meeting, anyway.

Ald. Renouf—Wouldn't it be a good idea for us to adjourn, and go over in a body?

Ald. Robertson—I think it would.

The Mayor (to Clerk Dowler)—What's the programme for to-night, anyway?

Mr. Dowler—There is very little business—a letter from Mr. Rithet, the resignation of the park commissioners, and a few other matters.

Ald. Robertson and Richards (in duet)—Well, let's dispose of the important things and adjourn.

Mr. R. P. Rithet's letter was accordingly taken up first. It read as follows:—

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18, 1891.

To His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen of Victoria, B. C.

GENTLEMEN:—By the steamer this morning, I received the DAILY COLONIST of the 12th inst., containing the affidavit of J. G. McDonald, in which my name is mentioned several times. I am at a loss to understand what object that party had in making such an extraordinary affidavit; he is entirely unknown to me, and as regards the contents of the affidavit, so far as the statements therein refer to me, I can only say that they are false in every particular. At the time mentioned in the affidavit, December 1889, I was not in Victoria, but in San Francisco, I do not think it necessary to take up your valuable time in going into any other details, as I am sure the general denial will be sufficient.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,
(Signed) R. P. RITHET.

On motion the communication was tabled for further consideration.

ALD. SMITH—I think a Committee of the Council should investigate the whole matter.

The MAYOR endorsed the suggestion.

A report from the Street Committee was read and considered. In it various street improvements were dealt with. It was stated that Louis street being too narrow for taking over by the corporation, no repairs could be made thereon. The widening, or rather extension, of Birdcage walk is now under consideration. Frederick street should have a six-foot sidewalk, but the work cannot be undertaken until the Committee has more funds at its disposal. Herald street requires a box drain at once. The question of extending the sidewalk along Cadboro Bay road to the Jubilee Hospital should be deferred for consideration, pending the widening of the road in response to the petition sent in by the Jockey Club. The Committee required a new horse, and the report advised the purchase of a good animal that could be secured at a figure under $275.

The report was adopted.

ALD. MUNN remarked that he could not see why the moving of that building on Douglas street should not proceed a little more rapidly. Many people had spoken to him about the manner in which it monopolized the street.

ALD. SMITH—The time limit expires to-morrow, and if the house is not then moved, the man will be summoned.

A report from the Park committe contained recommendations that the cricket and polo clubs be allowed to use a portion of the Hill, provided that the turf be not cut up and no monopoly be granted. That the contract for the crib work on Dallas road be given to the lowest tenderer, Mr. Cox; and that in future the supervision of Dallas road be vested in the Street, not the Park, committee.

ALD. HOLLAND was anxious to know why the present Park committee wished to give up Dallas road.

ALD. RICHARDS replied that the committee, of which he was a member, considered Dallas road one of the main thoroughfares of Victoria, and therefore a road which properly should be looked after by the Street committee.

ALD. ROBERTSON concurred with Ald. Holland in his view of the matter.

ALD. RENOUF thought it would be well for the Park committee to look after that portion of the road lying between the Park and Menzies street; and the Street committee the part from there on to the Outer wharf.

The discussion of the report was terminated by a motion to adjourn the debate, and the Council rose at 8:40, to sit again on Thursday evening.

PORT ANGELES & SOUTHERN

Incorporated With a Capital Stock of $2,500,000—Principal Office, Seattle.

Articles incorporating the Port Angeles & Southern Railway Company have been filed with the auditor, at Seattle, by C. E. Mallette, of Port Angeles, and Lauren Ingels, N. M. Singleton, W. D. Williams and F. S. de Wolfe, of Seattle. The capital stock of the company is $2,500,000, divided into 25,000 shares of the par value of $100.

The route of the road, as laid down in the articles, is from Port Angeles to Port Discovery bay and Port Townsend. Five trustees were elected to manage the affairs of the company until Sept. 2, 1891, as follows: Lauren Ingels, C. E. Mallette, N. M. Singleton, W. C. Williams and F. S. de Wolfe. Seattle will be the company's principal place of business.

A MEXICAN CENTAUR.

The Strange Creature Killed in the Woods of Arkansas.

According to an Arkansas journal Dr. Collins of Little River County, that State, killed a most remarkable quadruped near his place in the spring of 1877. From the time of the war up until the year named, several persons claimed to have frequently seen an animal in the form of a large red deer, with the head and neck of a man. On the day that the animal was killed, Dr. Collins' wife and a negro girl were going along an unused path when they saw the queer creature peering at them through the underbrush. They made haste and informed the doctor what had occurred. He took his gun and started in search of the beast, which he soon overtook and shot. Closer inspection showed that the head, instead of being that of a man, more nearly resembled that of a baboon. Its eyes were large and very prominently set to the sides of its head. A long fringe of brown beard covered the chin and neck. Dr. Collins says that when he came up with the creature and leveled his gun at it it seemed to be aware of its great danger, the large eyes melting into tears as it saw the utter hopelessness of the case. When shot it uttered a heart-rending scream and leaped high in the air, expiring with awful groans which closely resembled those of a man in distress. It is generally believed that the creature was a species of Mexican centaur, a semi-legendary creature of the post-conquest era.

A Housebuilding Fish.

In Lake Nyassa, in the interior of "Darkest Africa," there is a kind of blackfish which every year builds what the natives term a house. In the mud at the bottom of the lake it makes a hole some two or three feet broad, heaping up the mud removed from the hole so as to form a little wall around it. The depth of the hole and the height of the wall measured together make a basin from fifteen to twenty inches deep. In this lake within a lake this queer little fish erects a mudhouse, the average-sized specimen measuring fourteen inches across the bottom, rapidly coming to a point in the shape of a broad cone. A hole four inches in diameter, always on the south side, serves as an opening for egress and ingress. A dried specimen of this queer domicile preserved in the Royal Museum at Berlin has two doors, and a partition separating it into two rooms.

DIED.

GOLDSMITH—In this city on the 19th instant, Thomas Alexander, infant child of Oliver Thomas and Martha Jane Goldsmith, aged four months.

FREDERICKSEN—At his residence, Mary St., Victoria West, on the 23rd instant, of consumption, Marie Fredericksen, a native of Norway, aged 41 years.

Atlantic Ocean Steamship Sailings

ALLAN	(From Halifax to Liverpool		Mar. 21
DOMINION	do		April 4
BEAVER	do		Mar. 28
ANCHOR	(from New York to Glasgow		April 11 Every Saturday
WHITE STAR	(From New York to Liverpool		Every Wednesday
CUNARD	do		Every Saturday
INMAN	do		Every Tuesday
GUION	do		Every Wednesday

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Or to D. E. BROWN, Asst. Gen'l Pass. Agent, ny21-w Vancouver.

MAIL CONTRACTS.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the 1st May next, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails on proposed contracts for four years in each case, between HARRISON HOT SPRINGS and AGASSIZ, RAILWAY STATION, and NANAIMO and RAILWAY STATION from the 1st June next; and until Friday, the 15th May, between KETTLE RIVER and OKANAGAN MISSION from the 1st July next.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contracts may be seen and blank forms of tender may be obtained at the Post Offices at Agassiz and Harrison Hot Springs, at Nanaimo, at Okanagan Mission, Penticton, Keremeos, Osoyoos, Rock Creek, at Mr. Spraggett's store, Kettle River, and at this office.

E. H. FLETCHER,
P. O. Inspector.

P. O. Inspector's Office,
Victoria, B. C., 20th March, 1891. mr27-3 w

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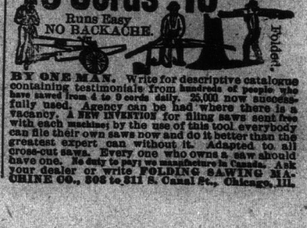

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