The Colonist.

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All communications intended for publication or concerning matters of news or opinion should be addressed to THE EDITOR, accompanied invariably with the name of the writer. All other communications, in reference to subscriptions, advertisements, etc., matters of business, should be addressed to the BUSINESS MANAGER.

A MYSTERIOUS ENEMY.

Unwelcome Attentions Paid to Ex-Alderman Kelly by an Unknown Miscreant.

A Bomb Thrown on April 13 and a Warehouse Fired Yesterday Morning.

At 2:30 o'clock yesterday morning a frame building on Cook street, in the rear of the residence of ex-Alderman S. L. Kelly, and belonging to that gentleman, was partially destroyed by fire, the loss being estimated at about $200. The building was used as a warehouse, but had formerly seen service as a stable, and the fire was evidently of incendiary origin.

In connection with the fire, Mr. Kelly makes public a very strange story, which he related to Superintendent Sheppard some time ago, and because of the circumstances of which he placed an additional $500 insurance on his home on the 14th of April last.

"The night before, the 13th of April,' says Mr. Kelly, "I was going home rather late—between 11:30 and 12 o'clock—when I encountered a rough-looking fellow, who pretended to be drunk, on Fort street. He was rolling along and almost rolled against me, so that I had to push him away from me. He dropped back against the fence, and a minute later rolled right towards me. I was ready for him, and brought him a good chip on the jaw with my heavy cane. It was enough for him, and he dropped his shamming drunk and started on a dead run for View street.

"I had just got home and upstairs to my room, and was telling my wife of the occurrence when I heard a loud explosion in the yard. My wife at first thought it was some fireworks that my son had, but I told her it was not—it was downstairs, and I went out to investigate. I could see nothing, but I could smell a strong odor like that of Chinese paper burning. The two dogs, which were lying on the steps when I came in, had run away; they were worse scared than I was.

"The next morning I made a thorough search and found the cause of the alarm. It was a piece of iron pipe about a foot or a foot and a half long, and had evidently been loaded with powder and paper wads. When it was thrown over the fence and exploded it went through the lattice. The man, who I believe was the same I encountered on the street, evidently threw the bomb over the fence intending it to go through the window.

"The next morning I reported the case to Chief Sheppard and also to Mr. Percy Brown, to whom I went for an additional $500 insurance. I could give no description of the man and did not know that I had an enemy. If I have any, I can meet them face to face in the daylight, but it's pretty hard to have them throw bombs at you at night. When I was working at the fire with a garden hose, before the firemen came, I smelled the same strange smell as of Chinese paper burning, and that's what makes me think the bomb-thrower and the incendiary are the same. The fire was started near a barrel in which I had some German lamps stored away, and the fire bug evidently got in by breaking the window and cutting through the gunnysack nailed on the inside."

J. Van Bramer, of Cocos Island treasure fame, left for California by the Puebla yesterday.

A PROMPT CURE.

GENTLEMEN,—Having suffered over two years with constipation, and the doctors not having helped me, I concluded to try B.B.B., and before I used one bottle I was cured. I can also recommend it for sick headache.

ETHEL D. HAINES, Lakeview, Ont.

For Over Fifty Years.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children when teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhœa. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind.

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ONLY LEGAL SPARRING.

The City Council Holds a Special Meeting to Hear Complaints Against Telephone Poles.

But the Whole Afternoon is Occupied in Discussing a Question of Procedure.

Legal skirmishing over the method of procedure made the special meeting of the City Council yesterday, to hear the objection of Hon. Amor De Cosmos to certain poles to be erected by the Victoria & Esquimalt Telephone Company, a much longer one than was anticipated, and even then there was really no business done. There were present His Worship the Mayor, Ald. McKillican, McTavish, Henderson, Miller, Munn, Styles and Bragg, representing the Council; Hon. A. N. Richards, Q.C., and Mr. B. H. T. Drake, for Hon. Amor De Cosmos; and Mr. E. V. Bodwell, Mr. E. Crow Baker and Mr. R. B. McMicking for the Telephone Company.

The Mayor opened the meeting by reading the correspondence asking for the conference. He then asked Mr. De Cosmos, or his counsel, to make their objections.

Hon. Mr. Richards wanted to know if the telephone company had filed any application as to the placing of their poles. He contended that this was the proper course to pursue, as then the Council could know what they were doing and he (Mr. Richards) what to oppose. Under common law he maintained that no poles could be put down or any obstruction placed to prevent anyone owning property from having free access to the public highway. The company, however, maintained that they were acting under a private statute, which gave them the power they claimed. But there was another well-known principle of law, which was that when private rights were encroached upon there should be compensation. Strange to say, this company had obtained its charter without any provision being made as to compensation, but instead, the Council was placed in the position of a court of arbitration, which would have to protect not only its own rights but also those of private parties. He had argued before the Court that the consent of the Council must be obtained, and in order that the Council could give a proper judgment, the Company should present its application by way of petition, setting forth full particulars, the size of posts, number of wires it was proposed to string, and, in fact, every detail, so that parties who should be affected would know exactly how the placing of these poles would act upon them and their property. He submitted that before the Council should give permission, this formal application should be made. Another reason why these details should be before the Council was that whatever the present Council should grant, the company would claim *ad infinitum*. If the application had been made, and the Council then assented to it, the records would show what was granted exactly, so that there could be no further dispute about it.

Mr. Bodwell regretted that there should have been a misunderstanding between himself and his learned friend as to the method of bringing the case before the Council. He argued that the statute had given the company absolute right to place their poles on the public streets, but the company came here to-day because they were unwilling to do any injustice to any one, and were desirous that Mr. De Cosmos should have every opportunity of presenting his objections. The statute gave the company undoubted and unqualified rights along the public streets, so that no private individual had any rights in the matter at all. The reasonable construction to be placed on the statute was that as a matter of city government the Council should have a right to approve generally of the putting up of the poles by the company. The order of court was made without prejudice to any of the contentions raised before the judge, and did not affect the legal status of the case. Touching upon the question of the poles, he argued that they were not dangerous and not inconvenient. The Council and its officers had approved the action of the company, and this having been done the plaintiff in the actin had no cause for complaint. If Mr. De Cosmos wanted the pole moved this way or that way ten feet or so, or had any other reasonable objection to make, the company would be pleased to consider it, but so long as the City Council was satisfied, then Mr. De Cosmos had no business to ask to have the poles cut down to half their length or anything of the kind.

Mr. Richards again argued that a formal application should be made.

Mr. Bodwell thought his learned friend ought to act with some show of fairness, instead of coming here to raise questions of mere legal technicality.

Mr. Richards still wanted the formal application for the purpose of record.

Mr. Bodwell claimed the statute did not require anything of the kind.

The Mayor thought if Mr. Richards had any objections to the poles he ought to state them.

Mr. Richards—Where is the application? Show me and I will then oppose it.

Mr. Bodwell—My learned friend forgets we have our permission from the Council.

Mr. Richards—The resolution of the Council was made without hearing the other side. It amounts to nothing.

The Mayor thought the Council was assembled to hear the objections raised on behalf of Mr. De Cosmos.

Mr. Richards—The Council should demand a formal application from the company, setting forth all particulars and details. The present application was a most unbusiness-like one, which any law clerk of six months standing would see was not a business proposition. Why don't you make a proper application?

Mr. Bodwell—This is our application, and I don't propose to make any other unless the Council order me to do so.

Mr. Richards—But the Council should order you to do so.

Mr. Bodwell—All this is outside the question. If Mr. De Cosmos has any objection we will meet it. For the rest, we are quite satisfied and will take the responsibility, which falls on us not on the Council.

After further discussion as to the form of the application, the Mayor wanted to hear what Mr. Richards had to say—what were the objections to the poles?

Mr. De Cosmos—Are you blind Mr. Mayor?

The Mayor replied that he had fairly good use of his eyes.

Mr. De Cosmos did not see how the poles could be defended at all. He did not see what right a set of scoundrels had to go and injure his property.

Mr. E. Crow Baker said that as one of the members of the telephone company he objected to any such language. He demanded that it be withdrawn.

Mr. De Cosmos alleged that the poles up by his residence had been voted an "infamous nuisance" by every hackman that had been up there. The Chief Justice had also agreed they were a nuisance.

Mr. Baker insisted on the language used by Mr. De Cosmos being withdrawn. He thought the Mayor should insist on it.

The Mayor hoped Mr. De Cosmos would withdraw his offensive remark. No doubt Mr. De Cosmos had spoken in heat, but he would probably on consideration withdraw.

Mr. De Cosmos, however, did not withdraw.

Mr. Richards then argued against the poles, which, he claimed, were unsafe from their height. Suppose one of these poles with 200 wires on it were blown over and injured a building, would a company like this, organized to make money, pay damages? No, not if they could wriggle out of it. Another thing, suppose a man were to go up one of these poles and fell down and was killed, the company wouldn't compensate his widow. If a post were only twenty feet high and the man went up it and missed his footing, he could hug the pole and slide down; but up on these posts, 90 or 100 feet high, he would be in danger. These poles, too, were not stayed, and being so high might fall. He had heard no reason why the company wanted these enormous poles. It was intimated the company might want to use these poles for other purposes than telephoning, but, if so, the company had no authority to do so. Why was it necessary to put so many wires on Government street? The company ought to be compelled to go on the side streets except for such wires as were actually needed on Government street. Another view of the case was that the poles were unsightly, and destroyed the beauty of the street and the effect of the handsome buildings erected by public spirited men. The wires ought to go underground. He urged the Council to beware how they bound posterity by granting concessions now which did not seem to amount to anything.

Mr. Richards then wanted to call some evidence on oath.

Mr. Bodwell had no objection, but pointed out that the objections were general, not specific, and were such as could not be urged generally on behalf of Mr. De Cosmos.

Ald. Miller objected to the amount of legal sparring that had been done. When the legal gentlemen were ready to get down to business, he was sure the Council would be ready to hear them, but in the meantime it was getting near dinner time and he thought the Council should adjourn.

Mr. DeCosmos said if the Council would meet again he would bring maps and other information which would enable the Council to come to an intelligent conclusion. He suggested that behind all this there was something else, viz, that the Mount Tolmie Railway company might want to use these poles.

Ald. Bragg—They are not going to use wires at all.

Mr. De Cosmos didn't know but thought, perhaps, if Ald. Bragg was an agent of the company he might be aware of what the company was going to do.

Ald. Bragg replied hotly, that Mr. De Cosmos was a master of insinuation, and he (Ald. Bragg) would like him to understand that he was not an agent of the Mount Tolmie company or any one else.

Mr. Richards asked again for the formal application.

Mr. Bodwell wanted to know what special injury these poles did Mr. De Cosmos.

Ald. Miller asked if the Council could come to a conclusion after hearing the lawyers. Would it not have to be referred to the city barristers?

The Mayor—This will be a matter of fact, not of law.

After some discussion the meeting adjourned to 2 o'clock on Thursday.

CONFIRMED IN THE TEMPLE.

The Temple Emanu-El was on Sunday afternoon the scene of a unique ceremony, especially interesting because it is the first of the kind which has taken place in Victoria. This was the confirmation of six children and their admission to full membership in the Jewish congregation. The invitation kindly extended by the Rabbi had the effect of drawing a large congregation made up in great part of members of other religious bodies. Rabbi Philo conducted the ceremonies and the confirmation class consisted of Misses Rosie Philo, Kate Phillips and Addie Wolfe, and Masters Michael Phillips, Isidore Cohen and Joseph Sylvester. The class assembled on the platform beside the Rabbi, who opened the proceedings by an address, in which he impressed upon them the solemn nature of the occasion. Invocations for divine guidance were then offered, first by one of the boys, and next by one of the girls, and the bouquets of flowers carried by all the class were deposited at the shrine. Then the scroll containing the law of Moses was taken from the arch by the teacher of the boys class, and "this ancient banner of truth" being unfolded, Miss Rosie Philo read a passage of the law in Hebrew, giving the translation in English. The whole class then joined in an invocation in Hebrew. They were catechised at considerable length by the Rabbi, and faultlessly answered the questions put, and after further prayers the Rabbi declared the whole class confirmed and adopted as members of the Jewish community, and in token thereof laid his hands upon them, the children going up to the shrine in pairs for that purpose. The class were then dismissed to receive the congratulations of their friends in the temple, and after the intermission returned to their seats upon the platform, where they were addressed by the Rabbi, who pointed out to them the duties of the religion they had just professed. Miss Philo then made an address, expressive of the thanks of her classmates to those friends who had assembled to witness the ceremony; and Master Phillips made a similar address of thanks to the Rabbi, the members of the school committee and the lady teachers of the Sabbath school, who had assisted in preparing them for the confirmation. The proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem by the whole congregation, at the invitation of Rabbi Philo, in honor of the Queen's representative, Lieut.-Governor Dewdney, who, with Mrs. Dewdney, had accepted the invitation to be present.

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 12.—The inquest over the bodies of the victims of Ford's theatre disaster commenced to-day in Willard's hall. Col. Ainsworth, chief of the record and pensions division has been placed on the defensive by implied accusations that he was responsible for the presence of clerks in the old building.

NEW YORK, June 13.—A special to the Times from Mexico says: "Private advices from Nicaragua represent that there is grave danger of a collision between the United States marines and the populace. The troops, it is stated, have landed and thrown up fortifications at Antae in order to protect the canal company's property. The Government of Nicaragua will endeavor to prevent an outbreak, but the situation is serious."

B. C. MINING AND RAILWAYS.

Mr. Clive Phillipps Wolley's Experiences and Opinions in an Interview.

The Kootenay Country a Division of the Empire to be Proud of.

(London Mining Journal.)

Since we published an account of an interview with Mr. Horace J. Cannan, of Golden, British Columbia, in our columns some weeks ago, no inconsiderable amount of attention has been directed on this side to the resources and industrial possibilities of British Columbia. Mr. Cannan, it will be remembered, supplemented what appeared in our interview in a paper recently read before the Mining Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, and on that occasion our readers may recollect that one of the principal speakers in the short discussion which followed the delivery of the address was Mr. Wolley. Mr. Wolley, who has just returned to this country, has spent some years in British Columbia, and is the proprietor of The Miner, of Nelson, West Kootenay, one of the leading papers of that colony. He has had unusual facilities for obtaining correct information, and has had opportunities of verifying much that others have only had the chance of learning from hearsay.

Mr. Clive Phillipps-Wolley, who is an English barrister by profession, owns considerable agricultural property in Shropshire, and has besides a ready and fluent pen, which has already done good service in the interests of British Columbia, although his literary efforts by no means begin and end with the interests of the colony. We believe that at present he has in the Press three volumes of fiction and sport, his prospective publishers being Blackie, of Edinburgh, and Longmans, of London. He is the author of two books dealing with British Columbia—"The Trottings of a Tenderfoot," and "A Sportsman's Eden," published by Bentley. With both volumes the critics have dealt in the most appreciative spirit. Mr. Wolley was also one of the earliest travellers in the Caucasus, and we believe that the oil properties now in the hands of one of the Rothschilds (between Tiflis and the Caspian) were first drawn attention to by his work "Sport in the Crimea and the Caucasus" (Bentley and Son).

Of course it was a matter that might be taken for granted that sooner or later Mr. Wolley would gravitate towards the Mining Journal office, more particularly as we have lately interested ourselves in a somewhat prominent degree with the development of the mining and railway interests of that colony. He courteously consented to place his views at our disposal, and the following report will be read with interest:

"Well now, Mr. Wolley, what do you know of mining?"

"As a miner or engineer, nothing; as the owner and editor of the principal newspaper in West Kootenay, and as an eye-witness of the rapid development of the country in which my paper is, a good deal."

"You have, I suppose, seen the country yourself."

"Yes. In June of last year I got into miners' clothes, and tramped all through the country 'with the boys,' living in their camps, and carrying my pack with the rest."

"Why did you do this?"

"Because, as one of themselves, I thought I was more likely to get at the real truth over a pipe at night, or on the trail, than I should have been had I gone in as an ordinary newspaper man or investor in mines."

"I presume you are interested in some of these mines."

"Not to the extent of one red cent. I have an income of my own, and an occupation of my own, and have no axe to grind in Kootenay."

"Then why take the trouble to advertise the country?"

"Because, though a British Columbian by settlement, I am an Englishman first of all, and though I am perfectly aware that the Americans are excellent fellows and giants in developing a country, I am still eager to see my own countrymen get their legitimate share of the richest properties in their own colonies."

"Then you think the Americans are getting more than their share of the good things of British Columbia?"

"In mining, yes; but there are other industries—lumber, fish, fruit, hops, coal and iron, and a certain amount of cattle ranching—in which our fellows more than hold their own, and when it comes to sport none but the English are in it."

"Then sport is excellent there?"

"Too good; it tempts men who should be working to play. Workers, as a matter of fact, are somewhat scarce. Money is made too easily, and opportunities for sport are too tempting."

"How comes it that the Americans are more wide awake to the chances offered in British Columbia than the English?"

"There are several reasons: First, the Americans' favorite amusement is money getting. Most of us have got money, and hardly look on getting more as an amusement; but the more important fact is that Kootenay lies alongside Montana. Montana is the great silver field of the States, and the men of Montana have had a lifetime's experience in that particular form of silver mining which is being pursued to-day in Kootenay."

"Then it is the men of Montana who are developing the Kootenay country?"

"Exactly so. When I was in West Kootenay, in 1892, there were over 2,000 Montana miners prospecting in the Slocan and adjoining districts. These men earn wages in the winter in Montana, and spend them in the summer prospecting in our country, and their verdict, repeated to me over and over again by the camp fire, was that in thirty-five years' experience they had never seen such fine surface showing, or ore which ran richer in mineral than that of the Kootenay district."

"What moral do you want me to deduce from all this?"

"Just this: The man who knows nothing of the horses in a race may do worse than back the jockeys. The men of Montana are the most experienced silver miners, probably in the world; their experience has been acquired in a similar, but poorer, district than Kootenay—a district which adjoins Kootenay, and if these men showed by their actions that Kootenay is good enough for them, it should be proof sufficient to the English capitalist that Kootenay is good enough for him."

But, Mr. Wolley, are you not asked sometimes why if Kootenay is so rich she does not prove it by sending out shipments of her ore. When we see tons of stuff on the market we shall know what to think of you."

"Oh yes, people do talk like that sometimes, and I would like to kick them. Did you ever hear of a new mining country which had developed faster than Kootenay? Do you expect a country to begin shipping directly the prospectors are in? Don't you know that until now we have been almost without roads, railroads, smelters or capital, and yet we have shipped a good deal of ore, and paid handsomely on every shipment. Don't you see it pays a man better to let his ore lie and lose the interest upon the capital he would realise by its sale, rather than pay twice as much upon freight in '92 as he will have to pay upon freight in '93."

"Then there is hope that you will have railways built into the country in the near future?"

"They are already being built. The President of the Nelson and Fort Shepherd, which will tap the Slocan into the States, told me himself that the first train on that line would be in Nelson in the early days of next October. It is certain that the Nakusp branch of the C.P.R. will carry off its share from the same country into Canada, and the number of charters granted this year by the local House lead one to believe that these two routes will have to compete with many rivals, whilst, thanks to the energy of our Minister of Lands and Works, the Hon. Forbes Vernon, and those of his department, Kootenay's roads are already vastly improved.

"Then you have some live men in your local Parliament?"

"Yes. No province wants better men than Colonel Baker and Mr. Forbes Vernon. We have an extremely able Premier, and as strong and intelligent a Government as men need wish to invest their money under, and the people trust the Government.

"And as to smelters?"

"Of these the principal one, so far as I know, is at Pilot Bay, where some Americans (of whom Dr. Hendryx is the principal) are putting up a first rate smelter and refining plant of 100 tons capacity. My information on this point is rather ancient history now, but in June of last year they had 105 men at work at Pilot Bay; 200 tons of machinery was on its way in; $1,600 had already been spent on their wharf; and $40,000 had already been spent on developing the property. There is also, I am informed, a smelter of forty tons capacity erected at Golden, in East Kootenay, which is now in running order."

"And are men still coming into Kootenay?"

"I should think so! When I left, four weeks ago, the Canadian route from Revelstoke was not yet open, but an average of 400 men per week were coming in from Spokane on the American side."

"And are no Englishmen doing anything in Kootenay yet?"

"Certainly. One very energetic agent, a Mr. James Buxton, of Vancouver, has managed to put a good many good things in the way of his English clients—most of them men who knew him well enough in the old country to trust him in the new."

"So far you have been speaking of silver properties. Is it not true that you have valuable copper properties in your country?"

"No doubt we have copper in Kootenay. There are rich placer mines of gold on the Fraser, which are now being rapidly developed by local capital, free milling gold propositions near Nelson, and high grade minerals at Boundary Creek, but so far everything is in an initial stage. The Fairy Princess is there, but she is asleep still, waiting for the Fairy Prince Capital to come along and wake her with his kiss. As to the copper properties, it is the old story. England is the market for copper ores, and English capitalists so far have let the country severely alone. The American who is at work now in Kootenay understands silver ore and silver mining, and finds the market for the product of his mines right alongside him at Tacoma and Helena. Of course he deals with what he understands, selling in a market he knows instead of in a market of which he knows little."

"Then to sum up, Mr. Wolley, you believe in Kootenay and British Columbia?"

"Yes; you could not pay me to come back to the old country, though I have roots in it of a good many hundred years growth, unless it were to advertise to my countrymen the new country in which every man who has energy and steadiness has a chance of helping in building up a new division of the empire of which the old country may well be proud. With us law is strong, and growth visible to the naked eye. Here one only hears of falling rents and the damnable results of party politics gone mad."

Since our interview with Mr. Phillipps-Wolley we have been also favored with a call from Colonel Baker, minister of mines for British Columbia, who has also been kind enough to allow himself to be interviewed on behalf of the readers of The Mining Journal. Our report of this most interesting interview with Colonel Baker will be published next week, and will further emphasize much that has already appeared in these columns as to the great mining and industrial future which is opening up for British Columbia.

NO LONGER CHAIRMAN.

After last evening's meeting of the City Council, Mayor Beaven opened a letter which had been placed on his desk during the session. It was from Ald. Belyea, who briefly tendered his resignation as chairman of the Sewerage committee, which position he has held since his election to the Council. The Mayor was surprised, but said nothing about the communication, except that he wanted to have a talk with Ald. Belyea some time to-day.

When the fact that Ald. Belyea had resigned the chairmanship was known, a COLONIST reporter asked him if he would state why he did not desire to serve in that capacity any longer. He replied:

"In the first place, the Council tabled a report of the Sewerage committee, which recommended that the work should be gone on with under the local improvement system, and then they passed the Sewerage Loan by-law to raise money on the general credit of the city. This was overwhelmingly defeated by the ratepayers, and when the resolution, which practically meant the adoption of the committee's original report, came up to-night, it was defeated. During the campaign before the election last January I pledged myself to an early completion of the sewerage system. The majority of the Council have now declared that no sewerage work is to be done this year. The responsibility for that must rest with the majority of the Council which may have some other method not yet divulged of going on with the work. At any rate the majority do not agree with the committee, and by going off the committee an opportunity is given them of electing some one else in my place who may probably meet their views in sewerage matters."

Hood's Cures.

In saying that Hood's Sarsaparilla cures, its proprietors make no idle or extravagant claim. Statements from thousands of reliable people of what Hood's Sarsaparilla has done for them, conclusively prove the fact—HOOD'S Sarsaparilla CURES.

Hood's Pills act especially upon the liver, rousing it from torpidity to its natural duties, cure constipation and assist digestion.

TRANS-PACIFIC COMMERCE.

Mr. F. W. Ward Before the Board of Trade on Behalf of the Australian Line.

Cold Storage for the Exchange of Fish and Mutton—Victoria Freight to Come Direct.

Victoria freight, mails and passengers by the Australian line will, in future, be landed at the wharf here before the ships proceed to Vancouver. This has been the understanding, but the fact that the Miowera, after tying up at the outer wharf, left without landing any freight, and had this transhipped from Vancouver, made a doubt which was not removed until yesterday, when F. W. Ward, the representative of the owners of the line, was questioned on the subject by a COLONIST reporter.

"We were strangers on the first trip," he said, "and did not know just how to proceed. We understand the situation now, however, and each steamer will in future tie up at the outer wharf, on both inward and outward passages, and handle all Victoria business directly there."

Mr. Ward met the Victoria Board of Trade at a special meeting yesterday afternoon, at which there were present the president, T. B. Hall, in the chair, and the following members: Thos. Earle, M.P., Robert Ward, E. B. Marvin, H. F. Heisterman, Capt. J. G. Cox, E. E. Wootton, H. E. Connon, C. E. Renouf, J. Sehl, A. G. McCandless, F. B. Gregory, Charles Hayward, J. H. Todd, W. H. Ellis, M. Strouss, W. Munsie, B. Boggs, R. T. Williams, J. Davies, Hon. D. W. Higgins, C. D. Mason, R. Erskine, J. Sears, H. J. Scott, F. J. Claxton, W. Walker, Jas. Mitchell and F. Elworthy, secretary.

The President briefly introduced Mr. Ward. In doing so, he said the inauguration of this steamship line was an indication that the Australians wanted to trade with us, and we should be equally anxious to trade with them. The advantage, he considered, would be mutual. He was sure the board would be much interested in the information Mr. Ward would convey to them.

Mr. F. W. Ward first referred to the pleasant surprise afforded by the Board on the occasion of the arrival of the steamer, and said that that experience had been a sample of the kindness he had met with ever since. He was here in the effort to make this new line part of the great commercial highway of the Empire and of the world. This was only a flying visit to Victoria, as he proposed to go back to Vancouver, and return on the ship on Wednesday, to make a considerable stay here. In Australia the feeling was that this enterprise must be put at once upon a commercial basis, and justify its existence by the promotion of a large interchange of commodities between the two countries. With such a foundation they could later afford to indulge in expressions of pride at the sentimental value of the road. The communication he felt sure, from what he had seen here, had come to stay. He felt that commerce could be built up between the two countries just as a city was built up, brick by brick and house by house. It was practically impossible to obtain in Australia any statistical information as to present or possible trade between Canada and Australia, but the trade with the United States afforded a fair means of reckoning. The Australian trade, direct and traceable, with the States was larger than with any other foreign power, and this in spite of the hostile influence of the McKinley tariff. That trade amounted to, roughly speaking, about $20,000,000 a year, and was well worth cutting into. The greater part of that trade was done by New South Wales and New Zealand, which for twenty years had regularly subsidized the steamers. Here was to be found cause and effect; and he thought that Canada being directly connected with Queensland and New South Wales, would be able to build up considerable business. In trade matters the United States were, in his opinion, just a bit selfish—they had allowed the subsidy for the present service to be paid entirely by the two Australian colonies for the past twenty or twenty-five years, and the subsidy had at times gone as high as $450,000. The direct return trade from Australia had always been considerably below the export to the States from that country, who thus had to pay gold to the States.

The subject of reciprocity between Canada and Australia had been talked of, and it might be practicable to obtain it. This would have some remarkable effects. He read from the New South Wales statistical register for 1892 some interesting figures. These show an import of £600 of dressed lumber from Canada, and £9,197 from the United States; of rough lumber from Canada, £9,700; and from the United States, £107,493, or about eleven times as much. A reciprocity tariff would alter that. In doors there was nothing from Canada, and £14,226 worth from the United States; shooks and staves, £123 from the States; laths, £353 from Canada, and £2,455 from the States; shingles, £955 worth from the United States and nothing from Canada. This record particularly concerned the Province of British Columbia, which with a reciprocity tariff could take this business right away. There was another article of produce which this Province had—the article of fish, and more particularly salmon, which king of fishes had never yet found its way to Australia except as an article of commerce, though half the courage and enterprise he showed in ascending the Canadian rivers would take him clear across to Australia. (Laughter.) He felt that a reciprocity treaty would give Canada the whole Australian trade in canned fish; and in fresh fish a large immediate trade might be established. He hoped that one of the holds of the ship could be insulated and packed with fish. It was intended on the return trip to fill the refrigerators with salmon, and to so distribute these in Sydney as to best advertise them. They would be a novelty and a delicacy, and he was sure there would soon be a demand. The returns showed no imports from Canada, but the fish from here were probably included in the total of 1,516,912 lbs., valued at £27,314, which came to Sydney from San Francisco. In this line Canada could not fail to take the market were there any treaty arrangements.

The islands of the Pacific, he thought, also would be a good market for Canadian fish. The Hawaiian Islanders were great consumers of fish and liked the American article, which they got from the United States under a one-legged reciprocity treaty—the United States having the leg—and the only advantage which the Hawaiians had when the treaty was instituted had been removed when the United States admitted sugar from all places free. The agents of the line in Honolulu assured him that the market for fish there was constantly increasing, and it must be remembered that the present treaty which gave the U. S. the market would not last for ever. It must be remembered, too, that there were other well populated islands in the Pacific. It would be well worth the while of the Canadians to cultivate trade with the Fiji Islands, for instance. They had an output of between three and four million dollars a year. There is as much fertile land in Fiji as in the British West Indies. The native population is over 100,000, and there are some 10,000 or 12,000 Indian coolie laborers and something more than 2,000 of a white population of officials and planters. The place awaits developments, and in a peculiar sense is a complement of Canada. Canadians want sugar, and the now modestly disposed Fijian wears cotton. (Laughter). Bananas, regarded in Australia not as a mere fruit, but as part of the daily food, could now be obtained in Fiji at a nominal price. When cotton could be sent from Canada to China and Japan there was no reason why it should not be sent also to Fiji. The lines mentioned were only a few of those in which profitable trade could be done.

A matter he threw out for consideration was this: If a large trade could be developed between Australasia and the Canadian Dominion, is it or is it not profitable that that trade should be chiefly controlled on the Canadian side by the province to which the line runs? He thought the Australian exporters would be better satisfied to deal with one firm here than with several in the Eastern provinces. This was, he thought, well worth considering. He invited the board or a committee to examine the statistics to see in what lines the attempt could be most profitably made to supply the Australian market from Canada with articles now coming from the United States. So far as his line was concerned they would try to build up the business on a moderately profitable basis. They hoped to commence with fruit and wool, and to make such a rate with wool that it could be sent over the Canadian Pacific railway not only to Eastern Canada but to points in the Eastern States as well. (Applause.) In conclusion he invited the Board to be represented, to as large a degree as possible, at a luncheon to be provided on the Miowera at Vancouver, just before sailing. (Applause.)

In answer to Mr. Todd, Mr. Ward said the ships had now no cold storage accommodation, but he hoped that a hold could be insulated to take fish from Canada and mutton from Australia. (Applause.) He had a letter from a Sydney shipper, who offered to place the mutton free on board at a cost of 5 farthings or 2½ cents per lb., and he thought that at a charge of 3 or 4 cents per lb. the mutton could be delivered in Victoria so hard that it could be thrown about like stones. The cold storage was kept up by machinery, and could be easily managed. It was no more difficult to manage a cold chamber in a ship than on land. They could bring grapes and fruit generally in what was not the season here in perfect condition. Had they known the condition of the potato market here they might have brought on the last trip a full supply, as first-class potatoes were selling there at £3 10 per long ton of 2,240 pounds. He hoped the Board would sample the potatoes on the ship.

Mr. Robert Ward said one great feature of the new line was the shortening of the voyage, in illustration of which he mentioned that he had received copies of letters from Australian correspondents by the mail which came on the Miowera, while the original, mailed via San Francisco, came to hand in Victoria only to-day. (Applause.) He dealt with the trade statistics published, and showed that they were defective by reason of the fact that the Canadian trade, being done via San Francisco, had been lost sight of. He felt that the trade was capable of very great development indeed. The tariff question presented itself as a prime difficulty, which ought to be removed to bring the Australian trade this way. With such a readjustment the item of timber alone would form an export of very great magnitude. British Columbia timber was preferred in the trade to any other, the latest confirmation of this fact being a letter he had to-day from Australia. This board had already grasped the idea put forward by the last speaker as shown by the resolution passed last week, calling upon the Dominion Government to take into consideration this question of tariffs. He moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Ward for his address.

Thos. Earle, M.P., seconded the resolution. He thought the action of the Dominion Government in connection with the subsidy to this line was a guarantee that they would do everything possible in the matter of rearranging the tariffs so long as the internal domestic economy of the Dominion would not be injuriously affected. He would do all he could personally in the matter. (Applause.)

The President in putting the resolution, which was carried unanimously, expressed the hope that as many members as possibly could would accept the invitation to go up to Vancouver and return on the ship.

Mr. F. W. Ward acknowledged the vote, and the meeting closed.

SUPREME COURT.

(Before Mr. Justice Drake.)

June 13, 1893.

King v. Paulson *et al*—This was an action in which the plaintiff claimed the sum of $5,499.55, money alleged by him to be due under a contract by which the defendants agreed to pay him a certain sum per acre for discovering to them a tract of timber land situate on Campbell river and its tributaries, Vancouver Island. The defence set up was that the money was not due until the leases for the land were granted by the authorities, and that such leases had not yet been obtained through no fault of the defendants. The judge held that the money was not due until the leases had been granted, and as that time had not yet arrived the plaintiff had no cause of action and ought not to have commenced the suit. Under the rules of court, however, the judge said that if he were to non-suit the plaintiff it would be equivalent to judgment for the defendants and would prevent the plaintiff setting up a claim for the money when the leases were issued. The defendants' counsel stated that they were willing and ready to pay the money as soon as the leases were obtained, but they contended that they had been wrongly brought into court and should not have been put to the expense of the action. In the result the judge dismissed the plaintiff's action with costs, but made an order that this dismissal would be without prejudice to his rights to bring another action when the leases shall have been issued and the defendants refuse to pay the amount due. The evidence disclosed that such a contract as was alleged had been made, but the officers of the Land Department on being examined stated that the leases had not been yet issued, partly by reason of the fact that a portion of the lands were in the Island railway belt, and, further, that some unavoidable delay had been occasioned by reason of a defect in the survey that made it necessary to supply certain details before the matter could be settled and the formal lease issued. Mr. E. V. Bodwell appearing with Mr. D. M. Eberts, Q.C., for the defendants; Mr. S. Perry Mills for the plaintiff.