

## The Colonist.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1892.

## A FAINT REPETITION.

Some timid people appear to be alarmed at the noise which in some places is being made about annexation, and others, on the other hand, who are restless and dissatisfied regard the talk about political union with the United States as the presage of the "good time coming." But the faint-hearted people need not be frightened, neither is there any real cause for the disgruntled and the soreheads being jubilant. In this matter of annexation, history, as it is wont to do, is only repeating itself, and that, too, in a very mild and harmless way. There are persons now living who remember when an agitation in which men of brains and social and political standing took part, raged in British North America. These men believed that the free trade policy of England, then only just established, was unfavorable to the colonies, and that they were in other respects unfairly treated by the Mother Country. These men saw no way of escaping the ills which they believed that they were suffering from, and other ills with which they were threatened, except by joining the Great Republic. This is what they said:

In surveying the actual condition of the country what but ruin or rapid decay meets the eye? Our Provincial Government and civil corporations embarrassed; our banking and other securities greatly depreciated; our mercantile and agricultural interests alike unprosperous; real estate scarcely saleable on any terms; our unrivaled rivers, lakes and canals almost unused. Whilst commerce abandons our shores, the circulating capital amassed under a more favorable system is dissipated, with none from any further source to replace it.

Here is blue ruin certainly. The calamity howlers in these days would not have the face to draw so dismal a picture. The manifesto of which the above passage is an extract proposed to the people of Canada as the only way to better their condition "annexation—the friendly and peaceful separation from British connection and a union on equitable terms with the great North American confederation of sovereign states." This manifesto, addressed to the people of Canada, had appended to it the signatures of three hundred and twenty-five solid men, many of whom afterwards distinguished themselves in their several spheres. The first name was that of a young man already well known for his energy and talent, J. J. C. Abbott. Names followed which are now well known all over the Dominion and as being borne by good men and true, such as Torrance, Redpath, Molson, Workman, Dorian, Holton, Macpherson, Penny, Macdonald, Ross, Galt. The sympathizers with these men could then be counted by the thousands. But the movement in favor of annexation soon dwindled away, and the men who believed that Canada was on the verge of ruin continued to work, and the labors of very many of them were richly rewarded.

Forty-three years ago Canada, so far from being ruined, entered upon a career of prosperity which greatly increased her wealth and added immeasurably to her importance. Annexation was not the remedy of the evils the signers of the manifesto saw and deplored. It was that which made Mr. Abbott and the knight and Premier of the Dominion, and the Redpaths, the Molsons and the Workmans eminent in the mercantile world. Many of these men are now living. They see what a mistake they made, and no doubt smile at the folly of which they were then guilty.

If Canada passed through the crisis of 1849 triumphantly, if her progress showed that the predictions of those who were ready to resort to annexation to escape what they believed to be impending ruin were ridiculously false, have we not warrant to conclude that the fears of the infinitely smaller annexationists of these days are equally groundless, and that the progress of Canada under the British flag will be even greater in the forty years succeeding 1892 than it has been in the forty years that have elapsed since annexation was recommended by the discontented and despairing men who signed the manifesto of '49?

## A GRATEFUL PEOPLE.

The pension policy of the United States is without parallel in the history of nations. The people of that country pay to men who suffered and bled to preserve the Union, and to their relatives, the enormous sum of \$139,155,987. The amount appropriated was \$140,847,417. This leaves a small balance, which we are told by the Commissioner, was not paid out for want of time. The sum which the United States pays in pensions is more than five times as much as is required to maintain its military establishment. It is indeed nearly, if not quite as much, as is needed to pay the immense standing army of any of the great military powers of Europe. The number of pensioners on the roll is 876,004, and the roll is not yet filled. New names are being continually added to it. There were added to the list in the year closed on the last day of June, 222,937 new pensioners, and 2,477 pensioners previously dropped were restored to the pension list. During the current year provision is made for a considerable increase to the pension list, for the sum appropriated is \$144,856,000 and this is estimated to be about ten millions and a half dollars too little. For the year ending June, 1894, the estimate for pensions is \$165,000,000, but Commissioner Ream says that if as many allowances of pensions shall be made during the fiscal year to come as during the last fiscal year, this amount, great as it is, will not be sufficient.

The American people carry this immense burden with very little complaint. If they

believed that the money was all defrayed in paying honest claims no one would murmur. But it is generally believed that a very considerable proportion of the pension fund goes to reward deception and fraud. But, even though this is certain, one cannot help admiring the magnificent way in which the people of the United States have made provision for those who have fought for their country. It cannot be said after this with truth that republics are ungrateful.

## AN AMERICAN ESTIMATE.

We find that we are not alone in regarding President Harrison's message as the deliverance of a small-minded man soured by disappointment. The Seattle Telegraph says that his observations on the policy of the victorious party "show him to be a man immeasurably smaller than even his most determined opponents supposed." As to the message generally that paper says:

While the President has undoubtedly the right to enter upon this field of discussion if he sees fit, and his naturally natural turn towards it, we do not think that there is any reason for him to pose before the country as a man whose superior position entitled him to lecture the voters upon what he thinks was an erroneous expression of opinion. When to this review he adds the advice that the work of dealing with the tariff reform demanded by the people by oversteering the policy of the incoming Congress, and hence places himself upon record as opposed to the granting of any present relief, he assumes the attitude of a partisan, which we do not think is in keeping with his position as the representative head of a great nation.

With regard to the attitude which the President sees fit to assume towards Canada our Seattle contemporary remarks:

A very extraordinary sentence in the President's message is that in regard to our relations with Canada. "If, as we must suppose," says the head of this nation in its most official declaration, "the political relations of Canada and the disposition of the Canadian Government are to remain unchanged, a somewhat radical revision of our trade relations should be made." He further on says that it is not part of the duty of this nation to interfere with the political condition of Canada. These are extraordinary statements to be made by the head of no nation concerning an integral portion of another nation, and they are utterly unwarranted by anything that the President urges upon congress, for the substance of what he says in this particular is that this country ought to be made independent of Canadian canals. The President also suggests that it may be desirable to rescind the right of Canadian railroads to haul goods in bond through the United States, which privilege he intimates is that enables Canada to bear the weight of the "crushing subsidies" that she has given her railways and steamship lines. Remarkable language for the President of the United States, and still more remarkable for him to suggest, seeing that the carriage of goods in bond is a greater benefit to Canada than to the United States, and that the so-called Canadian roads are largely owned by American citizens.

We think that it is fortunate for the people of the United States that President Harrison's lease of power is very nearly expired. A first magistrate who takes such an unfriendly stand towards a neighbor as President Harrison does towards Canada, and by consequence, Great Britain, could not be expected to keep the country whose affairs he administered out of irritating disputes and unpleasant and perhaps dangerous disagreements. The American people, as a whole, are not quarrelsome, but a quarrelsome President would, before very long, place them in a situation out of which they could not disentangle themselves without either making humiliating retractions, or engaging in a war without adequate cause. As it is, very little weight will be attached to the offensive expressions and ill-tempered utterances of a man who, in a very few weeks, will be completely shorn of power. The Telegraph very truly says: "The message is not by any means a statesmanlike document. It is the verbose deliverance of a man who is anxious to show that though the people have voted no confidence in him he is of opinion the people are wrong. The document is nothing more than a political harangue, and is everything else than such a deliverance as was contemplated by the constitution."

## SLOW SERVICE.

It is difficult to understand why it is that the citizens of Nelson do not get their mails more frequently and more regularly than they do. Twice in three weeks is very slow communication indeed. We cannot understand why the Post Office authorities do not avail themselves of the most rapid route as long as it is open. We have evidence before us that the way is still clear to Nelson, for the Minister of the 3rd inst. reached here on the evening of the 8th, by way of Seattle. The Post Office authorities instead of neglecting the men who are developing the Kootenay country, and thereby benefiting the whole Dominion, should do all that is possible to make their position pleasant. Giving them frequent and regular communication with the outside world is one of the most effective ways of doing them this service. Why then not let them have their letters and papers as quickly as it is possible to deliver them?

## KEEP AT IT.

We are very sorry to observe that there is a hitch in the proceedings of Victoria's Mock Parliament. That institution is one of the means of preventing the best of the young men of this city falling into the intellectual lethargy that is only too prevalent. Any kind of life is better than mental drowsiness and inaction. There may be too much spouting and foolish disputes about order in debating societies, but these evils, annoying as they are, are blessings compared with intellectual torpidity. They are evils, too, which good sense and time will cure. It is a mistake to stick too rigidly to parliamentary forms. A few simple rules of order, easy of observance and rigidly enforced, are quite

sufficient. Anything that stands in the way of the discussion of questions of interest should be removed without compensation or delay. Rational discussion is what the society is organized to promote, and every member should do his best to secure that object. It will be a reproach to the young men to allow the society to go down. They have plenty of brains and there are hundreds of subjects awaiting discussion and that ought to be discussed. The time is not far off when many of the young men will be obliged to deal practically with questions that now interest civilised men everywhere, and they will be all the better able to deal with these for having thought over them and inquired into them before they come before the people for practical decision.

## COUNT LESSEPS.

It has leaked out that Count Lesseps has always been a reckless and a not very high-principled financier, and that his Panama system is but a continuation of the method he pursued when pushing his Suez Canal project. It is said if the judges in his case pursue the course usually taken in important criminal cases in France, and inquire closely into the antecedents of the accused, they will find that Lesseps was not by any means a novice in the ways of financiers who depend for success upon their wits as much as upon their cash capital. It is said that when he started the Suez Canal his resources were quite inadequate, and that he raised successive loans on a system which was afterwards applied with expansions in financing for the Panama Canal.

He had then for a partner Lemal Pasha, who was a most unprincipled man. He forced the miserable Egyptian peasants to work on the canal without pay, and under the lash of a taskmaster. It is said by the London correspondent of the New York Times that "no American or English projector could have ventured upon working with the vile allies with whom de Lesseps co-operated for years." The Suez Canal turned out to be a magnificent success, and no unpleasant inquiries were set on foot to find out by what means that success had been achieved. But the Panama Canal has been an ignominious failure, and naturally people are desirous to know what was done with the money which they are never to see again. This is how the disgraceful revelations came to be made. Had the Panama Canal been anything like as successful as the one at Suez, no one would have heard a whisper about the millions that had been spent in bribing the Legislature and the press, and the great engineer would have been held up to posterity as the purest as well as the greatest of projectors. As it is the indications are that the Panama failure will take from M. de Lesseps the reputation which it was believed he had honorably gained in the East.

The evidence taken before the Parliamentary commission, so far, has confirmed much that has been said about the practices of the Panama projectors, but there seems to be a clashing of jurisdiction between the law court and the Chamber of Deputies. Whether the result will be to make the investigation more searching or to aid those interested in hiding the truth to suppress evidence, does not yet appear.

## ABOUT ALASKA.

The report of the United States Secretary of the Interior contains some interesting information respecting the Territory of Alaska. The Governor reports that the population of Alaska, white and native, are loyal to the Government and are getting on fairly well. There seems to be something wrong about the courts of Alaska. The gentlemen who preside over them are called "commissioners" and they get only one thousand dollars a year. The Governor complains, and no doubt with very good reason, that capable men are not to be had for that money. The principal business of the courts seems to be adjudicating upon vessels which have been seized for one cause or another.

Up to June, 1892, the report says, six vessels were attached for illegal sealing. Three cases are still pending; the schooner La Nimfa was condemned and appealed; the schooner Ethel condemned and sold; steam schooner Challenge condemned and sold. Since July 1 three other seizures have been made, being those of the British steamer Coquilham, British schooner Winnie, and whaling bark Lydia. The two former cases are pending, the latter was fined for violation of revenue laws and discharged upon the assurance that the vessel would repay this money as they have done in every case heretofore.

I could fill The Review with valid reasons showing that we are better off in Canada than we would be under Uncle Sam's wings, and I challenge Mr. Carpenter or anyone else to give one valid reason showing that we would be benefited by annexation, with the one exception, i.e., the removal of duty from lead, and this the D. F. (with a big D) will doubtless adjust soon after March 3.

The editor of the Times of this city who is so zealous in his efforts to make the people of Kootenay believe that they are dreadfully ill-used and horribly neglected, should read this letter of an intelligent American, who knows more about mining camps and mining towns in the United States than most men. He does not magnify every slight inconvenience which can be easily remedied into a serious grievance, and he is very far from believing that Kootenay has been "checked in every possible way." Whom are we to believe, the professional political grievance-monger or the practical American miner who lives in Kootenay and who has had a fair opportunity of comparing the advantages and the disadvantages of Kootenay and Idaho from a miner's point of view.

## THE ADVERTISING.

Of Hood's Sarsaparilla is always within the bounds of reason because it is true; it always cures skin diseases, and it is always a good medicine because it is true; and it is always fully substantiated by endorsements which in the financial world would be accepted without a moment's hesitation.

For a general family cathartic we confidently recommend Hood's Pills.

## NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

## The Problem of Winter Transportation to the Mines—A World's Fair Offer.

## Hard Frost at New Westminster—Insurance Rates Reduced—Murder Trial at Nanaimo.

(Special to the Colonist.)

## VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 8.—Two accident cases have been admitted to the hospital; a sailor and an employee of the Bushmills with broken limbs.

John T. Dunn and Ada A. Ashford were married yesterday.

Mr. Horn, M.P.P., has received intimation that work on the new court house here will be commenced very shortly.

Great interest is being taken in the architectural photograph of the Ho-o-den, the Japanese building that is to be erected at the World's Fair. The carpenters who are to construct the building passed through Vancouver recently on their way to Chicago, on which occasion they left the picture with Consul Kito.

The building will cost \$50,000, and will be a reproduction of the first Government building erected by the Emperor of Japan, and known as the Phoenix Hall, Tokyo.

Steamer Walla Walla took away an average cargo of overland freight last night. She brought 45 tons of mixed cargo to this port.

The Homer street Children's home, started by one or two charitably disposed ladies under adverse circumstances, is meeting with public favor. A number of orphan and motherless children are now comfortably housed in the warm, well-furnished apartments. There is a pretty little story told to the effect that the benevolent ladies, fretting and fearing that their scheme would fall through for lack of support, knelt down on the bare floor of the new comfortable sitting room and prayed.

Next day carpets and curtains came, and the donor sent word that his name was "mud," or something to that effect. Next day came a stove; again the donor's name was not mentioned. Then another sent furniture and appointments for an entire room. Everybody wants to do something now. To-morrow a permanent board will be elected.

Japanese Consul Kito has received an official letter, denying that there was a case of cholera in Tokio, and that no efforts were being made to prevent the spread of the disease.

A quantity of coal has arrived for sale from the Wellington mines, Seattle. Vancouver people during the double-barrelled combings are having an opportunity to sample all the coals on the Pacific coast.

The dolls' congress for the 21st inst. is an assured success. It is expected that from 300 to 400 dolls dressed in the height of fashion will be present. The donors of the best dressed dolls will receive suitable prizes in addition. Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney will be requested to choose two winners and return them in a sealed envelope to Mayor Cope. Those holding coupons for admission tickets corresponding with these winners will win premier prizes. A musical programme will be provided.

Judge Harrison presided at a special session of the Provincial court of revision yesterday, for the purpose of inquiring into the assessment of the properties of the Canadian Pacific and the Shawanap & Okanagan railroads. Provincial Assessor Cornelius Bourke appeared the assessment of the C.P.R. Mr. E. V. Bodwell, of Victoria, and E. P. Davis, Vancouver, were legal representatives of the C.P.R. company. The court reserved decision.

The officers of the congregation of Christ church have been served by trustees of the C.P.R. with notice of action to dispossess the boundary and site on which the building stands. The defendants, Rt. Rev. Bishop Sillitoe, Rev. H. P. Hobson, rector, H. J. Cambie, W. A. Weeks and R. A. Muskett, are given a week to show cause to the court, why this action should not be taken.

W. A. M. R. Gordon is in the hospital suffering from a severe attack of bronchitis. Mr. Star, Judge, C. O. O'P., M. U., paid an official visit to Westminster Royal Pioneer lodge to-night.

Steamer Wilmington arrived late last night with flour for the Empress of China. Steamer J. R. McDonald arrived in port last night with 300 tons of coal from Wellington mines, Seattle.

Mr. H. D. Hume and Miss May Conacher have been joined in matrimony. The first annual meeting of the Vancouver Missionary society took place at Christ church Tuesday night. There was a large attendance, and much interest was manifested. Rev. G. F. Clinton was elected president, Rev. H. P. Hobson, vice-president, and E. F. Flewelling, a Chinese missionary will be brought from Honolulu to work in this province.

N. Fredrickson, a Swede, working on a placer claim on Hall creek, finding that his health was giving way, sold out, and started on a prospecting trip on the west bank of the Lower Arrow lake. Whilst camped on Cherry creek trail, Fredrickson went out for a day's hunting and never came back again. His companion searched for him for 14 days and then came into Nelson to report his loss and to return his pass book to the Bank of British Columbia, where he had a balance of some two or three hundred dollars.

The first of the silver-laden sleighs arrived at Bear Lake city on December 1. Fifteen head of oxen have been harnessed up to Bear Lake city, by Wilson & Percus, to be slaughtered.

The Kootenay Transportation company has moved its headquarters to Bear Lake city. The steamer scow left Revelstoke at the same time as the Lytton, Thursday week. For some reason or other it had to tie up at Hall's Landing, and there it remained for three days. On Sunday drift ice began to run in the river, and progress became impossible. Eventually, however, the scow drifted down to the mouth of the Upper Arrow lake, where it was met by the Lytton and towed to the mouth of the lake country was without connection with Revelstoke, where mail matter and winter supplies are passing more rapidly than they can be landed by rail.

Tramp made the attempt once more to reach Revelstoke. His intention was to tow the scow as far as possible, and if the Lytton could not make the whole journey finish it with the scow. The state of affairs in the Lake country is very serious. A sudden frost may at any moment cut off the Bonner's Ferry route, as the C. & K. S. N. company cannot rely on the Kootenay river between Robson and Little Dalles open for more than a few weeks. This winter, instead of having to furnish supplies for Nelson and Ainsworth and Balfour alone, not only those places, but Pilot Bay, Kaslo, Bear Lake City, Watson, New Denver and Nakusp have to be provided for.

## WESTMINSTER.

New Westminster, Dec. 8.—Samuel Greer is still in the penitentiary, but his pardon is expected any day now.

Nine cars of stock were brought in on the Canadian Pacific railway at midnight. There are four cars from Calgary and five from Kamloops, most of them for Victoria.

The following Rugby team play Nanaimo on Saturday: Lister, Roberts, Homer, Morey, Letevre, E. M. Newbould, Hodges.

McMartin, Rev. P. Woods, Gressme, Ransom, Tovey, Dean and Main.

The election of officers for the evening year was held by Union Lodge No. 9, A. F. and M. last evening, resulting as follows: Thos. Binne, W. Alex. McArthur, S.W.; R. F. Bonson, J.W.; W. McColl, Sec.; A. O. Campbell, Treas.; J. J. Forrester, Tyler. Installation will take place on St. John's day, when the new hall will be dedicated.

The steamer Gladys arrived down from Chilliwack this afternoon. She will break her way through the ice and sail along this morning, and ice was also found on Langley slough.

Captain Peeler's thermometer registered 5 degrees of frost last night. In the upper portion of the city thermometers registered 7 degrees of frost, and ice one-fourth of an inch thick formed on exposed pools.

The rerating of the city has been completed by the Board of Fire Underwriters, and since the beginning of the month new rates have been in operation. A prominent insurance man to-day said that, roughly speaking, there had been a reduction of 10 per cent. all round in the rates.

Among the passengers from Seattle last evening was J. B. Copeland, general manager of the Great Northern railway. The object of his trip was the inspection of the line. "We are not going to make any important move up here at present," said he, "or at least until the through line is completed. The line from here will be extended to Vancouver, but just as I can't say."

Acting Sheriff Armstrong took possession of the old Ledger plant to-day on behalf of Miller & Richard, Toronto, to meet their claim of \$1,470. Some months ago the Telegram Co. had taken possession of the plant from Mr. Ewen, and as the plant of the company in Vancouver did not realize more than a fraction of the indebtedness of the institution, the Sheriff took the Ledger out of his hands, and it will be sold to meet liabilities.

## NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Dec. 8.—In the Assize court to-day the case of Regina vs. D. Tarnelli was called. The prisoner pleaded not guilty. He said he did not know whether he had a lawyer to defend him or not. He had given \$100 to J. Morello to procure a lawyer, but the latter had neglected to do so. Mr. Barker was then asked to defend the prisoner. The case progressed very slowly. The jury retired at 11 o'clock, and the fourth witness reaching the stand up to 6 p.m. It is not expected that the case will be finished this week.

Last night, about midnight, four boats containing about twenty men pulled along side the bark McNeill, lying at anchor in Departure bay. The watch on deck ordered them to keep off, but a notice was taken. He then fired at the boats, and the boats who returned the fire. A lively exchange of shots took place. It is not yet known whether any men in the boats were injured or not. The bark McNeill carried a non-uniform crew.

The Nanaimo infantry corps were inspected this afternoon by Col. Holmes. The men seemed to go through their drill, skirmishing, etc., well. Col. Holmes was well pleased.

Jean Baptiste Freer, who was injured at the East Wellington mine over five weeks ago, died in the hospital this morning from the effects of his wounds.

That Front street is to be the main street of Nanaimo is the popular belief at present. The erection of the Green block thereon, and the prospect of several other fine business structures going up gives substantial ground for the supposition.

Sailed, steamship Costa Rica.

## NELSON.

H. Twigg has returned from the head of Arrow lake, the C.P.R. survey party having been dispersed.

G. W. Richardson and R. J. Bealey have entered into partnership as financial agents, at Nelson and Kaslo.

The telephone line between Nelson and Kaslo, which was cut on Thursday, wouldn't it pay the telephone company to clear away the timber along the line.

J. A. Kirk, of Kimber & Ritchie, has finished his work in the Slokan.

The C.P.R. has expressed its willingness to provide a Pullman at Revelstoke, and if 28 men can be found who want to take in the World's Fair, to take them down to Chicago, feed them, and take them in the car, for a week, and return them to the starting point for \$80 each.

A carload of ore from the O.K. mine at Trail creek has been shipped to Helena for treatment. Some of the ore was taken from the carload and the returns from the carload are awaited with interest.

The Wallace Miner reports that a number of people of that town are going into the Kaslo-Slokan country. The good reports and good luck of several C.P.R. Alenars at present in Wallace tends to excite interest.

A big crowd of Nelson men went down to Kaslo by way of Ainsworth on Thursday.

N. Fredrickson, a Swede, working on a placer claim on Hall creek, finding that his health was giving way, sold out, and started on a prospecting trip on the west bank of the Lower Arrow lake. Whilst camped on Cherry creek trail, Fredrickson went out for a day's hunting and never came back again. His companion searched for him for 14 days and then came into Nelson to report his loss and to return his pass book to the Bank of British Columbia, where he had a balance of some two or three hundred dollars.

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While the people of Bonner's Ferry are

trying to raise money to keep an open sleigh road to the southern end of Kootenay Lake, and the Dominion post office authorities are expecting to send in our winter mail via route up the river trail to Robson, it seems strange that the C.P.R. authorities do not solve the question by the expenditure of a small sum of money, and keep an open all rail and steamer route to the outside world.

A short spur, not much over a mile in length, running from Spruce's Landing to the mouth of the Kootenay, would enable passengers to the steamers below the falls, and keep the route open all winter. It is probable that the money would be sufficient to make the small expenditure that would be needed to construct this spur, a self. The different mining companies of the Slokan—the Freddie Lee, Blue Bird and Idaho—have contracted for the shipment of about 1,500 tons to Kaslo City with Mr. George Hughes, who will be compelled to haul from the north about 500 tons of fodder for his horses. Several other mines are tending to ship ore with their own teams, and 2,000 tons of ore shipped out warded, and perhaps half that amount of inward bound freight, the steamers of the lower river and the Columbia and Kootenay Railway would be doing a better business during winter months than they have ever yet done.

## DUNCANS.

DUNCANS, Dec. 5.—C. Bayly, W. H. McKerron and A. C. Fraser came down by the Cowichan lake stage.

The Indian named Joseph Susep, of the Somers ranch, charged before H. O. Wellburn, J. P., at the court house with obstructing and occupying a road allowance between the Quamichan and Clemelem ranches by erecting a fence there, was ordered to remove the same forthwith.

DUNCANS, Dec. 7.—Two Indians charged with intoxication before Indian Agent Lomas to-day, were remanded until to-morrow (Thursday) morning, when it is anticipated that they will be brought before the court by the liquor agent.

DUNCANS, Dec. 8.—The subject of the Cowichan Pleasant Evening society's debate at the Agricultural hall to-night, is "Do snowflakes ever melt? Or do ghosts exist?"

T. H. Woodbridge left for Victoria on to-day's train.

## KASLO.

(From the Miner.)

The changes in the steamboat service are a subject for congratulation, and further developments are awaited.

The real estate is thick with new buildings, real estate deals, mining deals and new townships, and a good deal of money is changing hands.

It is rumored that provisions may be scarce before the winter is over, and some of the careful ones are laying in a stock.

Mr. J. A. Kirk, who is a great rush to the Lardeux country, and preparations are being made. Messrs. Davies and Nagle have already sent lumber up to construct a building on the site, and intend putting up another building.

From Golden to the Fraser, Messrs. Bodwell & Irvi the applicants, have given that application will be an approaching session of the assizes incorporated company, to operate a railway from Golden, following the valley, and Kootenay rivers, with structure branch lines, telegraph and telephone lines, to maintain all necessary operation or transmission of

What the Commission on the Panama Canal 'Swindle' Are Developing.

The Government Want a Thorough Inquiry—Resignation of the Attorney-General.

PARIS, Dec. 9.—The Panama commission considered to-day the report of the three members sent to examine Kohn and Reinach's books. The report was to the effect that the sub-committee found records of the withdrawal from Baron de Reinach's private account of more than one million francs in the first six months of 1888.

Mr. Arton, who is believed to have sold all the Canal stock dirty, and at that time had cashed the checks for most of that sum. M. Ribot, premier, and M. Bourgeois, minister of justice, were introduced to the commission. Both said the Government was anxious to co-operate with the commission in throwing light as rapidly and as fully as possible upon the Canal company's affairs. The documents concerning the withdrawal of the keeping of the courts and the minister of justice, would be communicated unreservedly to the commission. M. Bourgeois added that certain objections which had been raised to such publication of the documents was concerned.

M. Brisson, chairman, on behalf of the commission, thanked the members warmly for their welcome promises of assistance, and gave assurances that the documents in question would be treated as the Government desired. The documents number 488, and contain the complete record of the Panama Canal Company. M. Humbert, the liquidator of Baron de Reinach's estate, has requested that the commission be represented at the examination of Baron de Reinach's papers. The commission agreed to send a representative if the Government approved of the proposal. M. Quezman De Beaupre, attorney-general, and the president of the Chamber of the Court of Cassation. His resignation excites comparatively little surprise, as his conduct has been from the first variable and theatrical in matters connected with the Canal company.

DARKEST AFRICA.

Report of the Massacre of the Jacques Expedition the Cause of Much Unrest.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 9.—The Congo company has sent a strong reinforcement from Stanley Pool to Katanga. The latest news concerning the Jacques expedition received by the company was dated August 27. Capt. Jacques and his men were with the company and well at Mpala, near Lake Tanganyika. The report that the expedition had been massacred caused much uneasiness.

A Remarkable Case.

GENTLEMEN.—About five years ago I noticed on my hands a great number of soft, spongy growths, which I at first paid no attention to. I never witnessed anything like it, and was quite alarmed. We were never without a doctor, and he told me that the growths were not dangerous, but that they were a sign of a disease, and that they would not be cured until I had taken a course of treatment. I did this, and the growths were cured, and I have never been troubled since.

MRS. W. M. CRAIG, Brighton, Ont.

A Port Townsend special says: "Seven smuggled from British Columbia, were sent to Port Townsend by Harry Smith, D. S. Ham Smith. The Chinese had previous from a Victoria as the Celestials were being apprehended. Two of them were sent to China by the United States and the trials of