Reduced Rates On Sound Route

Rate War Commenced Between Rival Victoria-Seattle Steamers.

Steamer Tacoma In Ice—Princess May Resumes Service to Skagway.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The rate war has begun on the Victoria-Seattle route. The fare was cut by the Alaska S. S. Co. to $1.25 and $2 for the round trip. The Canadian Pacific service met the cut. It seems that not long since Mr. Peabody of the Alaska S. S. Co. approached the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. and stated that his company was getting a minor share of the business, having a smaller steamer, and the Alaska S. S. Co. asked that it be allowed a differential rate. The Canadian Pacific railway refused to accede. To the request the company answered to the effect that the Alaska S. S. Co. should improve its service or leave the route. Then, on Monday, a telegram was received by Capt. J. W. Troup, manager of the C. P. R. B. C. service, to the effect that the Alaska S. S. Co. would bring into effect the reduced rates of $1.25 and $2 for the round trip on March 1. The C. P. R. agents were notified to meet any cut the Alaska S. S. Co. might make—and they have. The departure of the steamers Whatcom and Princess Beatrice from Seattle yesterday morning marked the beginning of the rate war, which may continue all summer; the prospects are that it will. Mr. Blackwood, local agent of the line, did not receive instructions from the management of his company, and no cut was made here yesterday afternoon, not until just before the steamer sailed. To-day, however, tickets will be sold by both companies at the reduced rate.

In an interview given to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Superintendent Frank Burns of the Alaska S. S. Co., places the onus of declaring the cut on the Canadian Pacific Co. To this an emphatic denial is given by Capt. J. W. Troup and E. J. Coyle, general passenger agent, who, in company with B. W. Greer, G. F. A., was in the city yesterday. Mr. Burns is quoted as saying: "If the Canadian Pacific people are looking for a rate war, they will get it. We are not courting any trouble of any kind, nor shall we make any formal announcement until the C. P. people show that their announcement was made in earnest.

"I expect that there will be considerable business between this city and Victoria this summer, and we shall do our best to get a share of it. The Canadian Pacific people have made various statements of late regarding what they were going to do in connection with the business in question, and, I understand, have made promises to the merchants at Victoria that they will see to it that the money expended in conducting a line of steamers between these ports will all be spent in the Canadian city.

"Whether or not they can make good on this statement remains to be seen. We have a year's lease on the wharf which we are using at Victoria at present, and so are certain of being in a position to make a fight for the business for that length of time, at least. What will come afterward remains to be seen."

Mr. Burns stated, continues the Sound paper, that it cost in the neighborhood of $110,000 a year to operate the two boats of the company between here and Victoria, and all of that money was spent in Seattle, as it represented expenditure for wages, fuel and other supplies. If the company should allow themselves to be driven out of business by the Canadian line this money would be lost to this city, as that company spends practically nothing this side of the line. The Puget Sound Navigation Company operates two steamers between this city and Victoria during the summer, the Whatcom and the Rosalie. The latter is taken off during the winter months.

The only other local company, says the Post-Intelligencer, carrying passengers between the two points is the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, and they only make the stop on the regular five-day run to and from San Francisco. At the offices of this company it was stated yesterday that while the matter had not been considered as yet, it was probable that they would meet the rates made by the other lines, although the business between the points in question was only incidental, so far as they were concerned.

PRINCESS MAY.

Resumes Service on the Skagway Route —Tees and Queen City Sail.

Steamer Princess May, Capt. McLeod, the popular Skagway liner, resumed service last night after being laid off for the winter season. The Princess May has been thoroughly overhauled at Esquimalt and placed in readiness for the season's trade. She had a fair amount of freight and much travel, considering the earliness of the season. It is expected that her accommodation will be well taken up when the steamer leaves Vancouver. The Amur, Capt. McCoskrie, is expected today from the north.

Steamer Tees, Capt. Hughes, sailed last night for Naas and way ports on the northern route, and the steamer Queen City, Capt. Townsend, sailed for the way ports of Vancouver Island between Victoria and Alberni. Both had a fair amount of freight and an average complement of passengers. It is expected that the steamer Danube will replace the Tees on the next trip northward.

TACOMA IS SAFE.

Blockade-runner Found to Be in the Ice in Soya Straits.

As stated some days ago in these columns, several steamers were reported to have been caught in the ice of Soya straits, or La Perouse straits, as the water is sometimes called, and it is now learned that the missing Tacoma is one of the ice-imprisoned vessels. The Merchants' Exchange at San Francisco has been definitely notified from Nagasaki to this effect. This will be good news to several people in Victoria, for some of the officers' wives are residents of this city.

It is thought that two other ships are in the same vicinity. All the vessels are said to carry contraband of war for Russia, and at the time of meeting the ice they were en route through the straits to Vladivostok. Further advices are that the Japanese guardships are close at hand to seize the vessels as soon as they are released. It is not likely the Tacoma will be seen in this port again for some months, and probably never again.

WHISTLER'S LOST SKETCHES.

It is not generally known, says Success, that the late James McNeil Whistler once lost some of his best South American sketches. He told the story to Arthur Jerome Eddy, as follows:

"I went out to Valparaiso in a sailing ship. I was the only passenger. During the voyage I made quite a number of sketches and painted one or two sea views—pretty good things, I thought at the time. On arriving in port, I gave them to the purser to take back to England for me. On my return, I did not find the package and made inquiries for the purser. He had changed ship and had disappeared entirely. Many years passed, when, one day, a friend, visiting my studio, said: "'By the way, I saw some marines by you in the oddest place you can imagine.'

"'Where?' I asked, amazed.

"'I happened in the room of an old fellow who had once been purser on a South American ship, and saw tacked on the wall several sketches which I recognized as yours. I looked at them closely and asked where he got them.

"'"Oh, these things," he said; "why, a chap who went out with us once painted them on board ship, and gave them to me. Don't amount to much, do they?"

"'"Why, man, they are by Whistler!"

"'"Whistler," he said, blankly, "who's Whistler?"

"'"Why, Whistler, the artist—the great painter."

"'"Whistler, Whistler—I believe that was his name. But that chap wasn't no painter. He was just a swell who went out with the captain. He thought he could paint some and gave me these things when we got to Valparaiso. No, I don't think I care to let them go—for, somehow or other, they look more like the sea than real pictures."'"

FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY.

Statistical Information Indicative of Progress During Past Month.

Following are some interesting statistics of the month just closed:

Customs.

Following are the statistics obtained at the customs house, showing the volume of business done at the port of Victoria during the month just closed:

Import Values.

Dutiable	$166,185
Free	13,849
Total	$180,034
Export Values	ST
Domestic	$ 40,848
Foreign	202,248
Total	$243,096
Duty	$49,489 68
Chinese	16 00
Other	77 10
Total	$49,582 78

Public Library.

Following are the statistics showing the volume of business done at the public library during the month of February: Books issues, 1,471; highest number issued in one day, 100; average number, 61; new members, 16; ladies, 9; gentlemen, 7. The following new books were received during the month: "Resist Not Evil," from Mr. W. McAmble; Statutes of Nevada; "Life After Death"; "In Tune With the Infinite"; "Mind Power and Privileges"; and "Etidorphus," from W. H. Marcon.

Fire Department.

Following is Chief Watson's record of fires and losses during February: February 3, fire at Goodacre's, outside limits; 5, Capt. Wright's, inside limits; 5, overheated flue at Mr. Bickford's, Fort street; 7, chimney fire at On Hing & Bros.'; 8, mattress on fire in rear of cabins, Discovery street; 9, burning paper in basement of Five Sisters' block; 10, fire at F. Garland's, Oaklands, loss $1,200; 10; chimney fire at 87 Herald street; 10; chimney fire on Chatham street; 11, fire on roof of corner Amelia and Cormorant streets, loss $12; 12, fire on roof, W. Mable, Victoria West, loss $2; 12, barrow of coal in shed of C. P. R. wharf; 16, roof of house, Blanchard, near Pioneer; 17, roof of Geo. Coldwell's, Victoria West, loss $5; 23, defective flue in Moffat's grocery store, Douglas street; 24, fire at Blygh's dry goods store, loss $1,200; 27, 9:05 p. m., incendiary fire at residence of Rev. G. K. B. Adams, loss $60. Loss for month, $2,495.

Bank Clearings.

The total bank clearings for the week ending February 28, as reported by the Victoria clearing house, were $700,425. The following comparative statement of total clearings is given as follows: 1905, $2,169,799; 1904, $2,746,221; 1903, 2,092,797; 1902, $1,925,137; 1901, $2,181,391.

HOW SHE GOT PRESENTED.

A prominent New York manufacturer of sporting goods has a daughter who, during a recent trip abroad, made an effort to be presented at the royal court of Italy. After due investigation, she was refused admittance on the ground that her father sold merchandise. She cabled at once to her father, and the next day received the following reply: "Absurd! It isn't selling. At any price, they are practically given away. See catalogue." The court attendant stretched a point, and presented her as the daughter of a great philanthropist.

DECIDE ON FULL PAID DEPARTMENT

Council at a Special Session Practically Settles Civic Question.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

At a meeting of the streets, sewers and bridges committee, held yesterday evening—practically a private session of the city council—it was decided as far as majority vote goes, to consent to the inauguration of a full paid fire department system.

According to a statement submitted by the underwriters a saving of $4,500 at least will be made in insurance premiums to the business house of the city, not to take into consideration at all the possible reduction on residential insurance premiums. The matter will be further considered at Monday evening's meeting of the council.

The present cost of the department is $17,340. Under the new ruling the cost will be $21,600. The figures for the suggested full-paid department are as follows:

Chief	$100 00
Assistant chief	75 00
Three captains, at	65 00
Two engineers, at	70 00
Thirteen men, at	60 00
Eight men, at	55 00
Electrician	70 00
Total	$21,600 00

RENNENKAMPFF'S RETREAT.

Through Bitter Cold Disheartened Men Were Driven by Japanese.

Qubeenepuza, Feb. 28, via Mukden, March 1.—One of the coldest and most cheerless operations of the winter's warfare in Manchuria was the thirteen-mile retreat of the Tsinkhetchen division the night of Feb. 26 from Da pass to Oubenepuza. All day Gen. Rennenkampff's soldiers, wearied by a week of continual fighting and disheartened by the abandonment of Tsinkhetchen, had flung off attack after attack by overwhelming numbers of Japanese in order to cover the withdrawal of supplies which had been accumulated in large warehouses at Solun. This village is five miles north of the village of Oubenepuza, where the road from Da pass to the eastward joins the main Tsinkhetchen-Fuchun highway.

Unable to Stem Tide.

At 6 o'clock in the evening of Feb. 26 the commander of the battalion on the Da pass road sent word that he was unable longer to hold out against the Japanese advance in that direction, but the commander of the division was determined to hold on until the last wagon should have left Solun.

Word was received at 9 o'clock that the withdrawal had been safely effected, and then the dreary retreat began. The wind was high, the snow was falling heavily. Every moment the cannonading of the Gao pass road became heavier and the bursting of shrapnel illuminated the heights to the eastward. It became evident to every man of the command plodding through the deepening snow that the danger of being cut off was imminent. Only the coolness and courage of the commander avoided disaster.

Turn on Pursuers.

The retreat was so timed that the rearguard reached Oubenepuza just in time to meet the force retreating on the easterly road which had been driven in on the village, and, the forces uniting, fixed bayonets, turned about and in utter desperation drove the Japanese back two miles.

On Feb. 27 the Japanese renewed the attack, but the Russians repulsed the repeated assaults. Today, Feb. 28, there was desperate fighting, but the Russians had succeeded in retaining possession of the village. The Japanese right, with fanatical bravery, made several night attacks, and charged under cover of darkness and a fierce snowstorm almost up to the muzzles of the Russian batteries, which met them with case shot and shrapnel.

SCHOONER DISABLED.

San Francisco, March 1.—A cable to the Merchants' Exchange states that the schooner Eldorado, bound to Shanghai from Astoria, was compelled to put in at the port of Honolulu owing to disabled machinery.

Lever's Y-ist (Wise Head) Disinfectant Soap Powder is a boon to any home. It disinfects and cleans at the same time.

Farmers Pass Many Resolutions

Present Numerous Matters For Consideration of Agricultural Department.

Government Urged to Lend Support to the Fruit Growing Industry.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

At yesterday morning's continued session of the Central Farmers' Institute the questions of bonusing of co-operative manufactories for the canning and packing of fruit, the introduction of three optional courses in connection with all high schools, and the preservation of the forest wealth of British Columbia were considered, besides the reception of a report from the special committee appointed to investigate and report on the stumping powder question.

The following resolution, moved by D. Matheson and seconded by A. F. Earle, was carried unanimously after some discussion:

"Whereas agricultural products are among the most important industries of the province; and whereas the establishment of co-operative fruit preserving and canning factories, pork packing establishments and allied industries ought to be encouraged; be it resolved that the provincial government be urgently requested to amend the Farmers' Institute Act by extending the principle now in force under the Dairy Association Act of loaning to such co-operative associations such sum of money as may be agreed upon by the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council."

On a resolution introduced by E. Nordschaw, of Bella Coola, recommending the placing of a bonus on bears shot in British Columbia, considerable discussion ensued. Mr. Nordschaw recounted the annoyance these animals are to the farmers and his motion carried unanimously, as follows:

"As the bears are becoming destructive to stock, and in several instances have even attacked people, so that it is not considered safe to travel through certain parts of the province during the summer months;

"Be it resolved that the Central Farmers' Institute suggest to the Governor-in-Council the placing of a bounty of $5 on bears killed in the settled districts."

The following resolution, moved by D. Matheson and seconded by F. R. G. De Hart, was then passed:

"That in view of the fact that a large quantity of fruit and produce has been exhibited upon the Vancouver, Westminster and Victoria markets purporting to come from districts in which it was not grown; be it resolved that the fruit inspectors be requested to do all in their power to put a stop to the abuse."

Respecting the proposed improvement in the high school curriculum, the following resolution was carried without discussion:

"Resolved, that there shall be three distinct courses in the high schools, namely, commercial, science and arts, that pupils on entrance may have choice of either of the courses; that pupils may take any special subjects from other courses in addition; and that the development of the individual pupil, according to his or her ability, may be the aim of the work in the school."

On the question of stumping powder the special committee appointed to report submitted the following:

"In our opinion, if the government will use its influence with the manufacturers to supply bona fide farmers for the purpose of clearing the land with stumping powder of standard strength at the rate of $5 per box of fifty pounds at the factory in quantities to suit, the arrangement will be eminently satisfactory to farmers of this province.

"The committee also recommends that a resolution be adopted setting forth that in view of the value of cleared lands in comparison with unimproved lands, both in the matter of added value and increased revenue, that the government be requested to take up this question, which is of vital importance to the farmers, and try by this means to give the required assistance."

Respecting the possibility of consolidating some of the country schools, a motion introduced by D. Matheson and James Evans, requesting the government to try the experiment in the most advantageous district, was carried unanimously.

The following resolution, submitted by J. B. McLaren and A. F. Venables, was also carried:

"Be it therefore resolved, that the government be asked to use all means in its power to prevent destruction of forests, whether by fire or by wasteful methods of lumbering.

"And be it further resolved, that the government be asked to use its influence with the Dominion government, or otherwise, to make a reserve of a tract of forest as a national park to the end that at least a remnant of our original forest may be preserved for posterity."

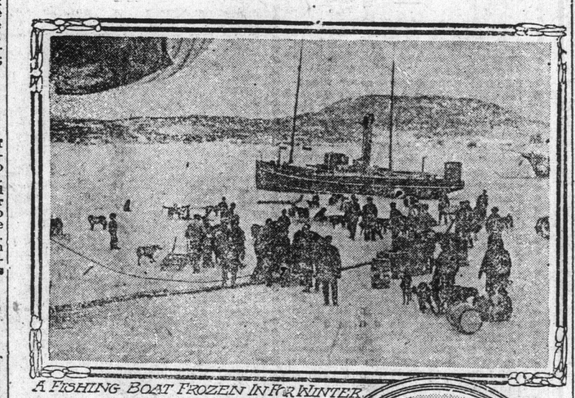
It was decided also to ask the government for the use of school buildings for institute meetings, when others are unavailable.

At the afternoon session the following resolutions were passed: Endorsing the work of the board of horticulture; asking the government to inspect and license entire horses, when found sound and free from blemish; asking for the use of schoolhouses in which to hold institute meetings where other places are not available; asking that pupils to high schools may have a choice of subjects; requesting that the secretary of local institutes be provided with copies of all acts relating to agriculture; also asking that speakers sent to the dry belt be persons acquainted with the conditions prevailing there, suggesting that more assistance be given to the provincial fruit inspector; suggesting certain amendments to the Noxious Weeds Act; asking for police protection on the ranges, also to provide that there shall be not less than one bull to every 30 cows or less; asking that steps be taken to ascertain what amount of land can be brought under cultivation; the source and supply of water in the neighborhood of Kamloops; suggesting that the poll tax be collected by the municipalities; asking that $25,000 be given by the government to the Dominion exhibition at New Westminster; to ask the Dominion government to grant aid to the tobacco-growing industry; asking for government assistance in the purchase of stumping powder; that a tax be put on dogs; that a wagon road be constructed connecting Comox with Alberni; that the black crow have a price put on his head in certain sections; that the Assessment Act be amended so that the work may be more equitably done; asking that a creamery instructor be appointed; suggesting that steps be taken to prevent Northwest creamery butter being sold as government creamery; endorsing the work of the B. C. Fruit Growers' Association.

The hon. minister of agriculture was then invited to attend and the most important of the above resolutions placed in his hands.

The hon. gentleman promised that everything which had been laid before him should have the serious consideration of the government, and everything done to carry out the wishes of the farmers would have his endorsation.

The meeting then adjourned, to meet at 9 o'clock today.



A FISHING BOAT FROZEN IN FOR WINTER.

PHOTO. BY A. MAYCOCK. DR. WINFRED GRENFELL.

New York, Feb. 25.—Bronzed by his seafaring life among the Labrador fishing fleet, of which he is medical missionary, Dr. Wilfrid Grenfell is telling scores of New York audiences of his unique work among the sailors and the deep-sea fishermen of the far North.

It is good to be here now, he says, but it won't be long before the fever is upon him and the longing to get back to the water. Six months of the year he spends afloat either on his own boat or one of the two marine hospitals in Labrador, of which he is superintendent. Between seasons he visits his home in London or comes to America to tell the people about the work toward which many generously contribute.

Besides the Labrador fleet and the several coast hospitals located at St. Andrews and elsewhere the Mission to Deep-sea Fishermen maintains another fleet among the North sea trawlers, among which Dr. Grenfell first started his work. It was the mission boat of the fleet that was fired upon by the Russians. The captain of this boat is a warm personal friend of Dr. Grenfell, and a former skipper of his.

When asked what were the greatest difficulties he had to contend with in his work Dr. Grenfell said: "The imperfect surveying of the coast and the opposition of persons who have been misinformed as to our work.

"During the six months that the sea is open, from May 1 to November 1, fishing is the one occupation. Six weeks' cruises are the rule and millions of dollars' worth of fish are each season sent out from this region. But on March 31, at 1 o'clock sharp, the men are on the seal-hunting ground. The season opens on this day and on the very dot of 1 they are on deck, ready for business. Some 500,000 seals are taken during the season. They are either clubbed to death or shot. It is a most exciting and very dangerous sport.

"You may think that we are not up-to-date in this far-away Northern country, but already wireless telegraphy is being installed along the Labrador coast, and this will be of inestimable benefit to the fishermen, for it is hard to tell how the fish are running, and one thus installed would be able to gather the rest in a hurry.

"Thus far the wireless has been installed as far as Belle Isle, and there are five stations north of that, which will bring wireless 200 miles nearer the pole. All of our hospitals are fully equipped, as are our mission boats also, with the latest conveniences and devices known to science.

"It is from contact with the white persons that the Esquimaux contract sickness. Each season as the fishing boats or steamers from the coast come in they bring with them a train of colds, influenza and the like. Last year there was a terrible epidemic of influenza which took off forty-one out of a village of 300 before it could be checked. Very often we have epidemics of pneumonia, which lays fast hold in the virile constitutions of the men of Northern countries."

SALARIES OF COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

An agitation has arisen in the East in the press to have salaries of the County Court judges increased over what they are at the present time. It is pointed out that the salary of a judge in Ontario in 1873 was $2,800 per annum. Notwithstanding that the price of living has greatly increased, the salaries are today lower than they were then. It is stated that the judges of the Maritime Provinces many years ago made a demand to be placed on the same basis as the Ontario judges. The problem was solved by cutting down the latter, and down they have remained ever since. The arguments in favor of Eastern judges apply with much more force in British Columbia, because the conditions of living are much more expensive here than there. It is true, to equalize matters somewhat, the British Columbia Legislature has been in the habit of voting to each County Court judge $500 for acting in the capacity of stipendiary magistrates. That British Columbia should be obliged to practically make good this amount is unfair to the Province. The Dominion Government should pay a decent salary in the East and pay a proportionately higher salary in this Province, having in view the difference in conditions of living.

Orangemen Join In Protest

Deprivation of Free Control of Education In New Provinces Resented.

Petitions Circulated For Signature Throughout All Canada Warn Government.

A strong agitation is being inaugurated among the Orange societies of the Dominion against the proposed establishment of separate schools in the new provinces to be formed in the Northwest Territories.

Arrangements are being made for the circulation of petitions from every lodge in Canada, for presentation to the federal parliament, during the present session.

This movement apparently originated before public announcement was made of the terms of the autonomy bill, some substantial suggestion of its tenor having seemingly reached the heads of the order or those associated with it at Ottawa.

Thus, in the notification introducing the subject to the attention of the various branches of the organization throughout Canada, the following language is cited, over the signature of Dr. Sproule, M. P., one of the supreme heads of the order:

"We believe an effort is about to be made to impose separate schools for all time on the people of the new provinces now being established in the Northwest Territories. It behooves every lover of liberty, and especially every Orangeman, to lend a helping hand to prevent this injustice being perpetrated on a liberty-loving people. Being comparatively weak and helpless, they must largely depend on others to fight their battles for them. The effort made in 1896 to compel Manitoba to grant separate schools nearly drove the people of that province into rebellion, and had it not been abandoned would doubtless have resulted in serious consequences. In view of this it is not a little short of criminal folly to attempt to deprive the people of these new provinces of the right to control their own educational affairs."

The petition which the people are asked to subscribe to bears a preamble stating, in effect, that:

"We, the undersigned electors of the Dominion of Canada, do pray that in granting provincial autonomy to the Northwest Territories, the Dominion parliament will not, by any enactment or otherwise, withhold from the newly-created provinces full and unrestricted freedom of action in all matters affecting the establishment, maintenance and administration of schools."

Duplicates of these petitions have already reached British Columbia, and preliminaries are now being considered with a view to having them systematically circulated.

The Orange lodges in Victoria are preparing to take up the matter.

PERJURY CASE IS IN STATU QUO

After Further Argument Yesterday Case Is Remanded For a Week.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Another argument took place in the Chinese perjury case yesterday morning and it is still undecided who prosecutes the two Chinese, Wong Ah Lum and Gin Duck, accused of perjury. The case has been remanded for a week. The question remains unsolved as to who appears, the counsel or the attorney-general. In the meantime the magistrate will read up a list of authorities quoted by Mr. Powell for the prosecution. When the case was called the deputy attorney-general, Mr. McLean, stated that he appeared for the attorney-general, who took the ground that there was need for investigation as to the bona fides of the case, one of the Chinese having already been tried and acquitted, and there were many charges and counter charges. The attorney-general wished to investigate and determine if the courts were being used to wreak the private vengeance of Chinese factions. Mr. McLean considered that perjury had been committed at the murder trial, but it may be impossible to bring the charge home, and it would be idle to proceed. Should it be found on investigation, though, that there was good ground for a case it would be pressed. The attorney-general would not, however, allow the courts to be used to vent private spite.

He held that the attorney-general had a right as attorney for the King to step in and take charge of any criminal proceeding at any stage. The complaint was that the King's peace had been broken; the crime was one in which the interest was that of the King.

Mr. Powell, who, as stated, refuses to accede to the interference of the attorney-general, said he considered the attorney-general had no right to intervene, though he did not dispute that official's right to intervene after indictment. A police court proceeding was not a trial merely an enquiry. After commitment the Crown took the part of the prosecutor. In the present position he held the attorney-general misconceived his position. Mr. Powell went into history, Roman and modern, regarding the position of the attorney-general and cited authorities to show that it had never been the custom of officers representing the King to participate in criminal proceedings in the inferior courts. Such an act was tantamount to degradation of the King. He held that in England today the attorney-general could not interfere in a case of this kind, though he could advise on request. He objected to the attorney-general's intervention at this stage, though he did not by any means wish to dispute that official's right to exercise control after indictment. But not before.

The case was remanded for a week to allow the magistrate to look up the authorities quoted by Mr. Powell.

AN ENGLISHMAN'S VIEW.

London Chronicle.

The American man is more consistently considerate of and generous to women than any fellow on earth, and in no country does he get sharper snubbing for his pains. The handling of husbands by wives in America amounts to an art, a profession, almost a science. Based on the theory that the more one has to do the more one can accomplish, ladies who have hard-working, enterprising spouses simply retire from active life. If he manages his office and business satisfactorily, why not take over the house and servants? What is known as "a good husband" in the States is a first-class, non-tiring money-making machine, who gives everything, asks nothing, and brags ceaselessly of his wife's perfections. Should he presume to criticize a charred chop or a flat soufflé, or complain at the size of the draper's bills, he is set down as a brute, and the wife is pitied as a first-class martyr! For such sins as the above, two men of my acquaintance were forced to live in hotels a year at a time. They had committed the crime of finding fault with the impeccable sex, and were reduced to subjection by having their homes taken from them. For my part, I think the Briton's way is best.

SHAWNIGAN STRONGLY OBJECTS

To Proposed Municipal Union With Cowichan and Quamichan.

A meeting of the land owners of Shawnigan district convened by Major Lennox Macfarlane was held at the Cobble Hill hall on Saturday evening last to consider what steps should be taken by the inhabitants of Shawnigan district to protect their interests in view of the fact that, despite the overwhelming adverse expression of opinion given by them in January last at a meeting held at Cobble Hill for the purpose of gauging public opinion as to the advisability of joining forces with Quamichan and Cowichan in petitioning for a joint municipality, certain persons were still persisting in an endeavor to force Shawnigan into this distasteful alliance by including it in the boundaries of the proposed municipality, trusting effect their purpose by sheer weight of votes in the two adjoining northerly districts.

Upon Mr. Frank Chapman taking the chair, the meeting, consisting of many of the principal resident land owners of the district, was addressed by Major Macfarlane, who pointed out that it had come to his knowledge that the endeavor to coerce Shawnigan had only been "scotched," not killed, and that it therefore behooved Shawnigan to stand to its arms, and to be prepared to resist any endeavor to encroach upon its independence.

The speaker, after a short resume of what had occurred at the last meeting, proceeded to deal with a statement which had come to his hands as to the financial side of the question should the proposed, but so far as Shawnigan was concerned, very objectionable municipal alliance become an accomplished fact; and succeeded, without any difficulty, in satisfying his audience that their interests would not be in any way benefited by the change. Proceeding, the speaker carried the meeting with him in a most emphatic manner by showing that the proposed municipality would saddle Shawnigan with a share of the responsibility for the maintenance of no fewer than eight bridges between Cowichan and Duncans, of which the inhabitants of Shawnigan hardly ever made use, as all the supplies required by Shawnigan were invariably from Victoria, and for the reinstatement of any of them which might be carried away by a flood or a log jam, to say nothing of any possible local Point Ellice bridge disaster.

After discussion by various residents of the district, Mr. Garnet took up the cudgels on behalf of the municipality, and stated inter alia that many of the residents of Cowichan were supporting the proposition which immediately elicited the rejoinder that three of the largest tax payers of Cowichan, at any event, were most decidedly against it; and on his alleging that more people in Shawnigan were in favor of the change than the meeting thought of, Major Macfarlane produced a resolution of protest, signed personally by no fewer than fifty residents and land owners of Shawnigan, including the genial proprietress of Koenig's hotel, vigorously asserting their desire to remain as they now are until personally able to take control of their own affairs, and stating that within a week this protest would be signed by nine-tenths of the land owners of Shawnigan.

Throughout the meeting there was an underlying expression of opinion by Shawnigan residents that they had no objection to municipalize when they thought the time ripe, but that they had a decided aversion to being coupled, without their consent, with their northern neighbors, and their rights and privileges interfered with, and their finances allocated to purposes entirely useless to them, as they evidently believed such a partnership would bring about.

The meeting showed its disinclination to buy a pig in a poke by electing Major Macfarlane, Messrs. Frank Chapman, Arthur Nightingale, George Stuart, and David Barry as an active committee to watch the proceedings of the supporters of the joint municipality on behalf of and in view of protecting the interests of Shawnigan, in pursuance of a resolution proposed by Major Macfarlane and duly seconded, to the effect that the resident ratepayers protested against being incorporated as a municipality with Cowichan and Quamichan districts, and were determined to remain as they were until the time came when they would be in a position to incorporate as a municipality of their own, which resolution on being put to the meeting carried without a dissentient vote.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Major Macfarlane for his vigilant defence of the interests of Shawnigan district, and to the chairman.—Com.

SAANICH SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

Decide to Seek Audience With Government Respecting School Act.

The school trustees of the Saanich district will seek an interview with the provincial executive on Friday with respect to the education bill now under discussion in the House.

This was decided upon at a meeting held at the Royal Oak schoolhouse last night, at which about thirty trustees were present. The deputation will be introduced by Mr. Tanner, M. P. P.

In this connection a number of suggestions were agreed upon for presentation to the government, one being that certain coal lands be set aside by the province as a provision for future school necessities, and another that, in order to meet present demands upon the treasury, the revenue or poll tax be increased from three to five dollars, or as an alternative that a special school rate be levied generally throughout the province.

These matters will be discussed with the executive on Friday.

Rigid Censorship Hides Operations

Curtain Again Rung Down on Russian Situation In Manchuria.

Belief Grows That Kuropatkin Is Now In Imminent Danger.

St. Petersburg, March 2.—(2 a. m.)—The curtain of a rigid censorship has settled down over events in Manchuria. There is no news of the result of yesterday's fighting. Despatches describing the picturesque events of the night retreat from Da pass, and the all-night combat at the railroad bridge across the Shakhe river, have been allowed to come through, but nothing to show whether Gen. Kuropatkin is withdrawing or is determined to stand his ground. It is significant that no news has been received from the threatened left flank, the last despatches leaving the Russians clinging desperately to Oubenpusa against strong forces of Gen. Kuroki's veterans.

Although it is not admitted at the war office, the general impression in military circles is that Gen. Kuropatkin may be forced to withdraw. Not only is Gen. Kuroki threatening his communications, but the redoubts at Putiloff and Novgorod hills, and even the hills themselves, keys to the position of the Russian centre, appear to be crumbling away under the impact of

The Terrible Shells.

such as leveled the fortifications of Port Arthur and rendered the fortress untenable. No troops will be able to retain the position long if the bombardment continues. It develops the Russians were unable to hold permanently the southern end of the railroad bridge across the Shakhe river. The advance of the right wing seems for the moment to have come to a standstill. Magnificent spring weather set in today.

BLOCKADE RUNNERS.

Ice Filled Soya Straits Earlier This Year Than in Previous Seasons.

SS. Tacoma as reported elsewhere is safe. She was reinsured at 30 per cent, because of the anxiety regarding her. She is out nearly two months. Advices received by the Empress tell of the release of the crew of the M. S. Dollar and Siam at Yokosuka on Feb. 10. The majority of the crew of the Dollar were Chinese. She, as was reported, ran when the cruiser intercepted her and a blank shot was fired from the war vessel. The steamer ultimately hove to and was taken to Hakodate.

How difficult it is to get to Vladivostok can be seen when it is shown that but one of the northern straits, Tsrugua, is now navigable. The Soya strait was blocked by ice early in January, a month earlier than in previous seasons. Floating ice has also been seen since Jan. 18 near the Atoiya point of the Kuriles group. Ice also formed on the western shore. Drifting ice has appeared near Nemuro. Navigation in this direction has become especially unsafe.

The German steamer Sewood, however, evaded the blockade and arrived at Hakodate, returning on Feb. 13. Her captain stated to an interviewer that the repairs to the three war vessels had been completed. They were at anchor inside the harbor. Torpedo boats, destroyers and ice-breakers were also inside the harbor. The shore defences have been strengthened.

The Russians laid numerous mines in an irregular manner on the sea near Vladivostok. These mines have become dislodged from their moorings and gone adrift in all directions. Vagrant mines have appeared in Japanese northern waters and navigation is reported to have become dangerous.

OLD SEALER DEAD.

Fritz von Well, Owner of the Diana, Passes Away at Yokohama.

News was received yesterday from Yokohama of the death of Fritz von Well, owner of the sealing schooner Diana, and a sealer who has been connected for over a quarter of a century with the sealing industry in Japan. He went to Japan in 1868 as carpenter of the ship Oregonian and on arrival engaged in sealing in company with Japanese. He has been retired for some years. Von Well was part owner and eventually sole proprietor of the Diana. He had many exciting experiences with Russians during his sealing days. While on a Russian island on one occasion with his men a party of Russian soldiers appeared while they were clubbing seals. One of the sealers was killed and von Well was shot through the leg.

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Berlin Shape.
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COOKING POTS.
Berlin Shape.
Each .....80c to $1.75
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Each .....30c to $1.00
TEA KETTLES.
Flat and Pit Bottoms.
Each .....70c to $1.50
FRY PANS ..50c and 60c
COLANDERS, each ..50c
STEAMERS, each ...$1.25
COFFEE POTS ..50c to $1
TEAPOTS, ea..50c to $1.00
DISH PANS, each $1.00, $1.25, $1.50
MILK PANS, ea 20c to 50c
WATER PAILS, from, each $1.00
CUSPIDORES, each ..60c

BERLIN KETTLES.
Each .....55c to $1.00
COOKING POT, WITH STEAMERS.
Each $2.50
ROAST PANS.
Each 60c, 65c, 90c
COFFEE BOILERS.
Each .....90c to $1.75
CAFETIERES.
Each .....$1.00 to $4.00
STOCK POTS
With strainer and nickel-plated tap. Each $5.00
DOUBLE SAUCEPANS
For rice, porridge, etc. Each .....90c to $1.75
PRESERVE KETTLES.
Each .....60c to $2.50