Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1887.

MR. SMITHERS' DEATH.

The announcement of the death of Mr. C. F. Smithers, president and general manager of the Bank of Montreal, was received with universal regret. Apart from the feeling of personal loss which must animate all who knew him or who had business dealings with him, the death of the foremost banker in Canada will prove no small loss to the commercial community generally. The deceased gentleman was born in London, England, in 1822, and was consequently in his 65th year. After engaging in commercial pursuits there he went to Dublin where he went into business and came out to Canada in 1847. He became accountant in that year in the Bank of British North America and was subsequently appointed manager of the same institution, first at Brantford and afterwards at St. John, N. B., and then sub-manager of the head office. He left the bank in March, 1858, being appointed inspector of the Bank of Montreal and afterwards assistant general manager. When Mr. E. H. King was made general manager, he resigned and went to New York, engaging in business as a commission merchant. He returned to Montreal to accept the position of Montreal agent of the London and Colonial Bank, which only lasted some eighteen months. Returning to New York, he was made agent of the Bank of Montreal there, the firm being Smithers and Watson and afterwards Bell and Smithers. In 1879 he returned to Montreal to take the general managership when Mr. R. B. Angus resigned, and when Sir George Stephen resigned in 1881 he was made president and general manager. These honorable positions he held to the day of his death, being engaged with the bank's business at his home up to within two days of his decease. He leaves a widow and large family, all grown up, the youngest being about 19 years of age. The eldest son is in the firm of C. H. Smithers & Co., of New York; the second son is managing partner of the firm of Unger, Smithers & Co., one of the largest exchange and bond dealing firms in New York; two younger sons are in the bank at Montreal, and another is a partner in the firm of Messrs. James Burnett & Co., stockbrokers. Mr. Smithers had been in very poor health for some time past, suffering considerably with rheumatism, but it was only a short time ago that a complication in the form of a disease of the kidneys gave rise to the symptoms which rapidly caused his death. Mr. Smithers' reputation as a banker stood second to none, and his memory and foresight were considered remarkable in banking circles. He was conservative in all his methods and very earnest and strict in his official duties, and his influence upon financial methods in this country has been very marked and beneficial. His equal as a banker is certainly not in sight. It is rumored that the place will be filled by Mr. Watson of New York and that Sir Donald A. Smith, the present vice-president, will succeed to the presidency.

AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR.

It is not improbable that the assault made upon William O'Brien and his American companions may prove to be the cause of further complications with the United States. The Washington *Evening Star* of the 19th instant has the following significant editorial:

"The refusal of the Toronto police to interfere either for the protection or the assistance of sundry visiting strangers, who were exposed to the mad fury of a mob in the streets of that city yesterday may lead to something more disagreeable than a few newspaper comments. The reporters of American journals who accompanied Mr. O'Brien were not with him for any revolutionary purpose. They were there to do their duty to the public by writing descriptions of what they saw and heard. They were taking no part even in the bloodless agitation of the Irish Nationalist cause, and their whole offence consisted in following the obnoxious orator from place to place and trying to preserve the peace. In such circumstances, they were entitled to the hospitable treatment accorded to other visitors who conduct themselves decently. They had the right to walk through the streets unmolested and to claim the aid of the constabulary when assaulted by ruffians. If this subjects of the Queen had been pursued as these men were, and for no cause, in the city of Washington, Philadelphia or New York, and the local police had not only stood idly by and watched them receive blows and wounds, but had refused to assist them when stricken down, and in need of hospital care, there would have been a correspondence as long as the moral law between Her Majesty's government and ours, and the city or state authorities would have been very likely to make an example of the officers. A few such performances as yesterday's in Toronto will make the American policemen, whose faults we are occasionally disposed to criticise with some harshness, show up handsomely by contrast with the Canadian officers."

The Toronto *Globe* next day thus refers editorially to the matter:

"The Washington *Star*, the principal paper of the United States capital, hints that diplomatic troubles may arise from the assault upon the peaceable American citizens who accompanied Mr. O'Brien on Wednesday evening. This is the 'serious result' which we anticipated at the beginning of our comments yesterday. Certainly the Imperial government would be likely to make close enquiry into the circumstances under which British subjects, going about their ordinary business, were assaulted by a mob in the streets of any foreign city, and, if the facts were found to be such as the Washington *Star* reports of the Toronto riot, satisfaction would be demanded and given. Our contemporary has, however, been somewhat misinformed. Its denunciation of the rioters is not a particle too severe, but it is not true that the few police who were present failed of their duty. On the contrary, they did it nobly, and nothing but their gallantry in resisting the hoodlums pressing into the shop where Mr. O'Brien sought refuge, saved him from murder or next thing to it.

"The bravery of the constables was the only thing about the whole business that was not disgraceful to the authorities of Toronto. Not the three or four police men who were there, but the officials who failed to get a large force on the ground promptly and who have as yet failed to capture the well-known hoodlums who participated in the riot, must be blamed. It is the business of the law-abiding citizens of Toronto to insist that the law shall be put into motion, and the utmost possible punishment inflicted upon the ringleading ruffians. If that be not done promptly, our Republican neighbors may justly complain, and justly insist on getting full satisfaction for the brutal treatment of their fellow citizens. Toronto is isolated from all the rest of Canada by this disgrace, and now her citizens may begin to appreciate the consequences of the firebrand teaching which has been dealt out for eighteen months past."

Is this to be another fishery trouble?

SIR EDWARD WATKIN'S BOOK.

Sir Edward Watkin, in his book of Recollections of Canada, says that when he was introduced to Sir John Macdonald in 1861 he formed the opinion that in tact, fixed purpose and resource he was ahead of all other statesmen in the country, and after watching his career for a quarter of a century, Sir Edward has no reason to alter that opinion. "Sir John Macdonald is *the* statesman of Canada, and the ablest man on that continent. I wish he had administered the colonial affairs of the whole Empire. Had he done so for the last ten years we should have escaped our mistakes in South Africa and the everlasting disgrace of Majuba Hill. Why is it such men are excluded from the House of Peers?" A large portion of Sir Edward Watkin's book refers to the long controversy respecting the bestowal of honours on those who brought about Confederation. Before the English government offered honors to the Canadian statesmen, Mr. Disraeli asked Mr. Watkin to accept a knighthood, but he declined on the ground of the dissatisfaction that would arise in Canada if the honor were conferred upon him before the labors of Mr. Cartier and others had been recognized by the home government. Mr. Cartier had previously declined a C. B. The way in which his name was omitted from the revised list in the London *Gazette* gave the deepest offence in Canada at the time. During the controversy Mr. Watkin suggested to Dr. Tupper that a baronetcy should be conferred on Mr. Cartier. Dr. Tupper agreed, and early the following year he wrote to Mr. Watkin saying that the Queen had conferred a baronetcy upon Mr. Cartier and a C. B. on Mr. Langevin, the Duke of Buckingham saying he was much pleased that Dr. Tupper had made the suggestion. Dr. Tupper replied he was satisfied that the Duke had conferred a signal service on Canada, which would be productive of much good. These honors having been bestowed, Mr. Disraeli knighted Mr. Watkin.

RELIC OF BARBARISM.

The bull fight in the City of Mexico, which was attended by President Diaz and several of his cabinet, and at which four horses were killed, two matadores severely injured and several picadores disabled, is nothing more than a remnant of the savagery and cruelty which is characteristic of barbarism. The illustrations drawn from Rome and the arenic combats there prove nothing to the contrary. True it is that at the time of the gladiatorial combats and wild beast shows in Rome, the former mistress of the world was at the height of splendor, of luxury, of elegance and of material wealth, but at the same time Rome was but one vast brothel where lust and crime held high revel and where the ancient Roman was smothered in Tyrian purple and drowned in Falernian wine. The spirit of conquest and the admiration for personal bravery had degenerated into a savage thirst for the blood of hired bravoes, and the descendants of those who had bound up the wounds of Horatius or gazed with knit brows upon the cruel gash in Lucceis' bosom, now found their highest delight in seeing two Gauls or Germans contend in the death-struggle, or in gazing upon the agonies of a Christian maiden torn by wild beasts. Let the admirers of bull-fighting plead for their favorite sport, if they will, upon the proper ground, that of the fibre of coarseness and cruelty which runs through human nature especially in the Latin races; but let them not defend it by citing classic models, or mistaking the moral leprosy of Rome as a sufficient excuse for brutalizing and degrading the spirit of the present age. There can be found no single apology or excuse for this kind of sport, so called, unless it be found in the lowest element of human nature, a love of cruelty. There is no high or lofty courage displayed, as in most cases where the bull attacks horse and man the nobler animal, the horse, has to suffer. It is nothing but sheer, malignant cruelty to all the animals concerned, and its only purpose is to pander to the debased and depraved tastes of those whose zest for ordinary pleasures and amusements is worn out, and who require bloodshed to stir their feeble passions or to kindle their interest. It is upon no higher or more elevated plane than ratkilling or badger-baiting, where the hunted animal is not intended to have, and does not have a chance for his life, but where the mangled bodies and oozing gore of the poor victims satiates the unnatural appetite for horrors, which is the leading passion of the degraded spectators. So long as bull fights continue to form a leading feature of the Mexican people's amusements, their genuine civilization may be seriously questioned. Civilization, in the highest sense, must include refinement and delicacy of feeling, and they can never exist where such a barbarous recreation as bull fighting is popular, or where wild enthusiasm is excited by the sight of a wounded horse being dragged out of the arena, or of a tortured bull staggering around the ring, harassed by the darts of the picadores, bleeding from every pore, and finally done to death by the sword of the matador—butchered to make a Mexican holiday.

HON. EDWARD BLAKE has addressed the following letter to the Toronto *Globe*:

"Allow me, as a citizen of Toronto, to express my deep feeling of humiliation at the disgraceful and cowardly course which have been pursued towards Mr. O'Brien.

I hope that many who have not sympathised with his visit will yet feel it their duty to reprobate these transactions, and to do what they can to secure for him the common rights of free speech and personal safety."

A CLERGYMAN'S HORSE AND BUGGY FOR SALE.

TO THE EDITOR:—Some seven or eight months ago the people of an adjacent district raised by private subscription and public income about $135, which was handed to a clergyman of the Episcopal church to enable him to complete the purchase of a horse and buggy. I now understand that he has offered the horse and buggy for sale, and it is further rumored that he does not propose to return the amount subscribed by his parishioners to form a fund (as it should do) towards furnishing any future impecunious minister who may be stationed there with the means of locomotion.

I admit, sir, that had the subscribers to the fund imagined that their clergymen would in so brief a period sever his connection with so interesting and promising a field of Christian labor, or that, on taking his departure, he would show an utter disregard for the comfort and convenience of his successor and the spiritual welfare of his flock, by applying to his private uses money raised for such a specific purpose, the amount subscribed would have been insufficient to purchase a wheelbarrow instead of being large enough to buy the dashing turnout the clergyman has since indulged in.

In the hope that this paragraph may meet the eye of some person influential enough to bring the clergyman to a realizing sense of his duty in the premises, I remain, A SUBSCRIBER TO THE FUND.

THE CO-OPERATIVE COLONY.

TO THE EDITOR:—Will you please publish the following in reference to your article of to-day, headed "Socialistic." Your informant has evidently misled you:

Declaration of principles of the members of the Puget Sound Co-operative Society:

Article 23rd.—That the sentiment of *Religion* is good in the proportion that it inspires a feeling of duty to every creature within the sphere of one's life—a duty in thought and a duty in action, and that religion belongs strictly to the individual and not the governing body.

Article 24th.—That MARRIAGE is the moral and physical foundation of the home, and the anchor of stable, upright conduct. This relation should be held SACRED, and should be supported and encouraged by relieving it of the heavy burdens now almost crushing it under prevailing social conditions, and every man should have *one wife* and every woman *one husband*.

I would also suggest for you to procure No. 27 of *The Model Commonwealth*, published at Seattle, containing declaration of principles, etc., in full. After its perusal you would surely be guarded against any further imposition as regards the P. S. Colony. H. P. CRAMER.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

Whale extract is recommended as an economical substitute for beef extract. A whale weighing 200 tons yields 5,000 pounds of extract. Every pound of extract means 100 pints of soup. It has not the slightest oily or fishy taste.

The lowest temperature that M. Wroblewski has produced, by allowing liquified hydrogen to escape, is 211° C., or about 380° F. At this temperature, he adds, neither gases nor liquids exist, but everything is solidified. The metals lose their electric resistance, and the current passes through matter without developing heat in it.

THE NANAIMO DISASTER.

THE INQUEST.

(Specially Reported for THE COLONIST.)

Coroner Walkem resumed the enquiry on the late explosion at 11 a. m. on Thursday the 26th. On the opening of the court Mr. Eberts stated that Mr. Watson, the inspector of mines for Washington Territory, had visited the mine that morning, but before giving any opinion on the cause or locality of the explosion, it would be necessary for him to visit the face of the "new slope," which was unapproachable at present from the presence of water.

The Coroner—It will take some time I understand to remove the water from the bottom of the slope?

Mr. Eberts—Yes, it will, but in the opinion of Mr. Watson he could not conscientiously come to any conclusion in the matter until he had inspected that particular part of the working. In the meantime he is compelled on account of an accident which has happened in one of the collieries in Washington Territory to return there at once. As representing the government I am anxious that a full and searching enquiry should be made.

Coroner Walkem—In the meantime, Mr. Eberts, we must go on and take what evidence is available at the present time. It might not, from various circumstances, be forthcoming at a future time.

Mr. Eberts suggested an adjournment to 1 p. m., which was agreed to.

AFTER RECESS.

On re-assembling the foreman of the jury stated that it was the wish of the jury that some competent expert who was a resident of this province should examine the slope in its present condition before any alterations or clearing up were done, as the timbering and other changes would effectually conceal evidences very material to the forming of a competent opinion.

Coroner Walkem—Perhaps you would suggest the name of some gentleman in whom you have some confidence?

The Foreman—Yes, we would like Mr. Prior, of Victoria, to examine the mine. He can make the examination any time within the next two weeks.

Mr. Eberts—Every effort will be made to meet the suggestions of the jury. Mr. Prior was already summoned to attend this inquest, but urgent business took him to the upper country, and he has telegraphed the coroner to that effect. He will be back about the end of the week, when he will be consulted on the subject.

The Foreman—Very good.

Coroner Walkem—Before proceeding, I may say, Mr. Eberts, that I have received a telegram from Mr. Litchman, secretary of the executive board of Knights of Labor in Philadelphia, requesting me to allow Mr. Jas. Young to represent the widows and orphans of the Knights of Labor killed in the explosion. Of course, there can be no objection to this.

Mr. Drake, Q. C.—It is in the province of anybody to appear here and ask questions. The Vancouver Coal Company are anxious for a full enquiry into the matter.

Coroner Walkem—Yes, I quite understand that.

The taking of evidence was then resumed.

Joshua Martell, recalled:

To Mr. Young—In case many of the places gave off the same amount of gas than that of mine did and the air current was choked for one hour, I would consider the mine very dangerous; I could not say that in case of a stoppage of air for five minutes that the place would be dangerous, as there could not be much collected in that time; if dust is a cause of explosion there was always plenty of that in my place; my place being 20 feet high there would be ample time for a considerable quantity of gas to collect in it before I would notice it; during the time I worked here I never saw the air current checked; I have no idea how often the dust was watered or when it was watered last; I do not know of my own knowledge that it ever was watered; the day of the explosion my place was dry and dusty as usual; I have put stoppings in the slope; they are constructed of two lines of timber five feet apart and about two feet between each timber: the timbers are from 6 to 8 inches thick; they are lines with boards on the inside of the timbers or uprights, and the ends of the boards are let into the coal on each side and then the spaces between the boards are filled up with dross; all the stoppings are put in the same way; they have been down to the water since the explosion; I have no opinion as to where the explosion was; the explosion might have come out of the No. 4 level; that place is where the most force seems to have been expended; it may have occurred at the bottom of the slope, where the water is now standing, as there appears to have been force coming up from there; there is no appearance of it having come from my place.

To Mr. Drake—When I mean the air is checked I mean that the air is nearly all stopped, then gas would accumulate if the air was stopped.

To the Foreman—I have been down to the face since the explosion in the new slope, and have visited all the stalls on the north side; I was in McDonald's stall and two stalls below his; I noticed traces in all the stalls of fire, but more particularly in McDonald's; the coal in the box standing at the face in McDonald's stall was charred and the bark on the timbers was burnt black; I saw a coat which was nearly all consumed except one sleeve and the side; the boards in this stall were covered with soot; there were no other indications of fire.

To Mr. Hugo, juryman—I did consider the coal dust dangerous, and I consider gas dangerous in a naked light; when working in gas, to consider myself safe, I like the brattice to approach within three yards of the face; if the brattice was eight yards from the face I would consider it the duty of the bratticeman to attend to it; I would not allow it to be that distance; I have said that dust is an element of danger; I do not remember when it was watered; if my brattice was short I would have remembered that; I did not think that dust was dangerous unless the air was charged with more or less gas at the same time; I fire my shots with saltpetre squibs; I never saw the gas shoot out with sufficient force as to throw out my squib in that stall; I have seen such a thing occur in that pit.

To Mr. Drake—My opinion as to coal dust, which I have given, is a matter of theory and not of experience; I never saw coal dust ignite; the theories in regard to coal dust explosions have been gained by reading previous to this explosion.

To Mr. Eberts—There seemed to be soot deposited everywhere in McDonald's stall; the coal had evidently been on fire.

To the Coroner—From what I have read I have come to the conclusion that coal dust is not dangerous or explosive unless gas be also present.

To the Foreman—I have said that I noticed soot in McDonald's stall. It was dry dust of some kind. The soot produced by Mr. McGregor is of the same description as that I found in McDonald's stall.

To the Coroner—Soot is not the product of the combustion of gas. This soot is the result of the combustion of coal.

James Stove (being duly sworn saith)—I was in the mine on the day of the explosion. I worked in the stable and engine room backwards and forwards. The explosion occurred about five minutes to six; it was supper time; I was in the engine room with John Jones at the time of the explosion; I had just come into the engine room and I had passed the man at the handle of the engine on my way to take a seat; when I was going to sit down I saw a red flame coming down from No. 2 shaft into the engine room; it immediately took my lamps and put it over my head and laid down as flat as I could, and I was mighty glad to get there; it was all over in a minute when I saw another flash, which nearly smoothered me—and nearly knocked me over—I then got down as close to the earth again as possible; then it stopped a little and I crawled out of the engine room down towards the slope; I made a remark which attracted John Smith who was lying in the middle of the slope; he called to me that his arms were broken; then I picked him up as well as I could and supported him until I got him to a post, when I propped him up; this was at the end of the engine room; after putting him there I looked up and saw a glimpse of a light coming from the engine room; then I went back into the engine room where I found my hat and lamp lying on the floor; then I went above the engine room to where the brattice is and lit my lamp at the fire which was coming through the brattice; then I returned to Jack Smith and I saw Jim in one corner of the engine room holding on to a post; I got him down to where Smith was; when I got down to them I, by the aid of my light, saw Jack Lynch lying alongside of the post where Smith and Jim were; then there was a Chinaman on the opposite side with his leg broken; then I went off in the direction of the shaft, and just as I got there the cage came down; I was burnt with the second flash; the first flash did not do me much harm; on the cage that came down were Mr. Robins, Mr. McGregor and Mr. Marlett and some others whom I do not remember; Mr. Robins asked me if I was much hurt; I went up on top as soon as possible and then home; I do not know what caused the fire at that part of the shaft.

Archie Corvie, sworn—I first commenced mining near Glasgow, in Scotland; I have encountered gas in the mines there; when we encountered gas there we put in brattice and carried air in; if small quantities were present we brushed it out with a sack; I have worked in the coal mines in California; I never saw gas there but once during the time that I was there; when we met the gas there it was in a large quantity; the gas there is given off very quickly; have been working in the shaft on the Esplanade over two years; on the day of the explosion I was working in the first stall on the diagonal slope; I was down there on the morning shift on the day of the explosion; have worked about six months in the diagonal; I have worked in the neighborhood of where Blundell was working; have heard no reports of accummulation of gas in that vicinity while I was working there; when I was working in the slant, which is about three weeks previous to the explosion, I heard a report that there was gas there and that some of the miners had to retire; the height of the cross-cut is ten or eleven feet on one side and five feet on the other; I have never encountered gas in any quantity in this mine; the stall in which I was in might have given off gas, but I never perceived it, and had it existed, I would probably have found it out, as I worked with a naked light; the day the foreman told me that he had found a little gas in my place and drove it out and that it was not safe; my partners were Frank Tully, William Seales and Teague; I have never heard my partners complain of gas, nor have they stopped work on that account; I never knew of gas being there; I heard Martell say that his place was giving off a little gas; have been in mines where so much gas was given off as to drive all the men out of the mine; I heard part of Mr. Marlett's evidence; I heard him state yesterday that his place gave off a good deal of gas; I have heard of no other complaint of gas existing except in Marlett's stall; the tamping in Scotland is done with a mixture of soapstone and fine clay; the tamping in this mine is done with coal dust wetted, except in an upright hole, when it is tamped with clay; the ventilation was good in this mine; it was always good; the current of air was running at a good speed; I have worked off the old slope; the ventilation was always good down there; I have not been down the mine since the explosion; have been working in coal mines off and on for thirty-five years; the slope was pretty dry near my stall; there was plenty of coal dust; it appeared the same on the day of the explosion as before; the slope had not been watered to my knowledge.

To Mr. Drake—The ventilation was as good in this mine as any I ever worked in; I have worked in mines in Scotland which gave off no gas; there is very little gas accumulation in this mine; as far as I know the fireman always attended to his duty; there is no more dust in this mine than there is in Mount Diablo, California