The Colonist.

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W. H. ELLIS, Manager. A. G. SARGISON, Secretary.

TERMS:

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HEARD IN THE HOTELS.

To one who possesses that much to be desired "little spare time," and who has as well that peculiar mental turn which enables him to find a never failing source of pleasure and information in the quiet study of his fellow man, there is much enjoyment to be derived from an occasional stroll through the corridors and reading rooms of the local hotels.

From the peculiar situation of the city there come to it from time to time men who possess the necessary knowledge and experience regarding the world and its ways to furnish forth many an "o'er true tale" or quaint quip to amuse or instruct. It is proposed to give from time to time a few of these as they are caught by the rambling reporter on his ceaseless quest for "something new."

While waiting for a late boat to bring in possible interviews or personals, a few night ago, a COLONIST news gatherer met a striking illustration of keen appreciation of human nature, given by an old timer whose long grey beard and hard hands told of many years of toil and perhaps adventure.

A man was talking in that loud mouthed "I am the I am" style peculiar to some men. He was registering a kick regarding some proposed legislation in the matter of debts, and as a clinching argument wound up by saying:

"It's better to frame laws so that two rogues may escape than one innocent man should suffer."

Upon which the old timer looked up and gently remarked to his companion:

"Whenever I hear a man talk like that I generally figure that he calculates to be one of them *two*."

And there was silence for the space of a half hour.

Douglas McPherson, a well-known Texas rancher, spent Sunday in the city, proceeding to the Mainland this morning. He comes from a portion of the state not far distant from Paris, the scene of the recent negro burning, and says that the published accounts of this and kindred outrages fail entirely in doing justice to the spirit of vindictiveness everywhere manifested toward colored offenders.

"It is not so much eagerness to see justice done," he explains, "that prompts the majority of Texas lynchings as people imagine. Texans want excitement, and if they could have bull fights, I think such exhibitions would win considerable popularity. Next to a bull fight a prize fight would find favor—or a lynching. Say what you will, my people—for I have lived among them for eight years—do not civilize as quickly as they should, and it will take just about the strongest legislative medicine that our manly Governor can propose to prevent the state becoming a disgrace to the nation."

A few evenings ago the well-known name of a Montana cattle king caught the eye of the late reporter at the Hotel Victoria. A glance at the clock showed the hour of midnight, but with an item in view the night clerk was called and a card sent up. About five minutes later the clerk returned with a pale face and the card.

"Did you find him?" asked the prowler.

"No; I—I—say, do you know that man's from Montana, and I saw a big bulge in his hip pocket to-day, and I hear him snoring. Can's you call to-merrow? You see, I've got a family and—"

The interview was postponed.

"Anything new to-night?" was asked of a well-known business man interested in railroads in the lobby of the Driard.

"Nothing," was the answer, "I was before the Railroad committee and they have been working me hard all day."

"Well?"

"Well—I'll try to work them to-morrow."

They were sitting around the stove in the Oriental, discussing the latest news from the North, and one of the company happened to remark that the navigation of the Skeena appeared to be on the eve of solution, the Hudson's Bay steamer having proved a success.

"Of course you know their scheme for getting over the 'riffles,'" the Northern canner volunteered; "they make fast their lines to big trees ahead, and then with the steam windlass gently haul the ship over the dry land and keep repeating the operation till deep water is reached. Very ingenious, isn't it?"

Everybody agreed with the exception of the miner just down from the Kaslo country. He took three or four puffs meditatively and observed: You call that ingenious? Why, up on the Columbia they have a wrinkle that knocks that silly. You see, low water is a thing constantly to be looked for, the bed of the river shifting all the time, and so all the steamers are equipped for emergencies. They have a swinging derrick rigged amidships with a large stone-weighed dipper, and whenever the channel grows shallow they put the contrivance in operation. The big dipper scoops up the water astern, then swings easily round and empties it out over the bow. On the flood tide thus created the steamer passes up, the water being used over and over again till a deeper channel is obtained. See?"

The audience saw, and marvelled greatly.

On Government street last evening the first hand organ of the season mournfully sang the Boulanger March. The crowd passed by, nor stayed to listen to the sad, sweet strain or drop a nickel in the ready tin cup, in which one solitary two-bit piece shone like a burnished bait. The depositor of the lonely quarter was an old man who "winters" regularly in Victoria and summers far from the city's bustle on the banks of a creek in the Omineca district.

"You people here in Victoria don't seem to care much about music," he remarked, as he stood beside the wheezy organ in front of his hotel, "or else you get too much of it. Why, up North they'd give a good deal for music like that sometimes. Tmind two years ago a young fellow came up with George Kenny and brought an organette with him. We packed it out to the creek, and every night for a month we had concerts attended by every man in a radius of ten miles—red or white. And then he sold the machine for $200. I tell you miners like music."

There is a young man whom every amateur athlete in Canada delights to honor, and who recently came to British Columbia to live. He has so many championships that he sometimes forgets a few of them himself, and the story is told that when after cleaning up the billiard, cricket, polo, tennis, rowing, swimming, fencing, bicycling, canoeing and numerous other honors last summer, he returned to his father's house covered with glory and gold medals.

"Well, Harry, did you win *everything*?" asked *pater familias*.

"I think so: there's nothing else that I can get in without becoming a professional," was the sad rejoinder.

"And what will you do now?" pursued the father.

"Well, do you know," and the clouded brow brightened, "I've been thinking seriously of going to work."

And a short time after he went to work with the same ambitious spirit that had carried him to the front rank in athletic circles. He is working hard now and will make a name for himself in his chosen profession.

Mayor Curtis, of New Westminster, and Messrs. T. J. Trapp and A. M. Herring form a deputation which is over to look after the interests of the proposed bridge over the Fraser at their town. They will hold a consultation with Premier Davie to-day, and are prepared to lay the entire plan before the Government for consideration. Mr. Curtis expresses himself as feeling confident that the desirability of the bridge will be so apparent that the district will receive material assistance in its erection.

As Mr. A. M. Herring, of New Westminster, was standing in the lobby of the Driard last night he was handed a telegram stating that the rear of his drug store had been burned. No particulars of the amount of loss or the origin of the blaze were given.

"I have just heard" said D. J. Munn, last evening, "that the Upper Columbia river will soon be open for navigation, and that by the 15th of this month boats will be running again. I shall go up as soon as possible."

COUNTY COURTS ACT.

An Important Bill Introduced in the Legislature by Hon. Mr. Davie, Attorney-General.

Amount of Debts That May Be Collected in the Lower Court Considerably Reduced.

The County Courts Act amendment bill introduced in the Provincial Legislature by Hon. Mr. Davie contains a number of very important clauses, making a number of changes in procedure.

The first seven sections define the County Court of Vancouver and provide for the carrying on of suits, actions, etc., in the county of Vancouver, the County Court Judge of New Westminster to have jurisdiction until such time as another judge is appointed.

Section 8 provides that the next seven sections of this act shall be in force only in respect to such court or courts as shall be determined by order-in-council. Section 9 reduces the amount of a disputed bill which may be sued for to $200. The old amount was $1,000. Debts or claims which are "liquidated," or ascertained by the act of the parties or by the signature of the defendant, are not to exceed $400.

Section 17 covers the amendment re attachment of wages promised some days ago by Hon. Mr. Davie. It reads:

"Section 146 of the said act is hereby amended by adding thereto the following: Provided always, that no debt due or accruing due to a mechanic, workman, laborer, servant, clerk or employe for or in respect of his wages or salary, shall be liable to seizure or attachment under this act or any other law or enactment relating to the attachment or garnishment of debts unless the debt exceeds the sum of $40, and then only to the extent of the excess; provided further, that nothing in the above proviso contained shall apply to any case where the debt has been contracted for board or lodging, and in the opinion of the judge the exemption of $40 is not necessary for the support and maintenance of the debtor's family."

Section 5 of the County Courts Amendment Act, 1892, is repealed, and the following substituted:

"In all cases in the County Court when the claim is for a debt or liquidated money demand, the defendant may be required by the summons to file a dispute note in the office out of which the summons issued within eight days after service; such dispute note shall not merely plead the general issue, but shall state briefly and in separate paragraphs the several grounds of defence to the action, and in default of such dispute note the plaintiff shall, upon proof of the personal service of such summons, be entitled to have final judgment entered and execution issued thereon in the same manner as upon default of an appearance in an action in the Supreme Court; but, upon such terms as the Judge may seem fit to impose, any such judgment may be set aside by the Judge, upon being satisfied that there is a defence to the action on the merits or that it is reasonable that the defendant should be let in to defend."

After a woman passes a certain age she would just as soon get married on Friday as on any other day.

CROWN LANDS SURVEYS.

Annual Report of the Surveyor-General as to the Work of His Department.

Maps Issued for the Year—Results of the Work of Parties in the Province.

In the Provincial Legislature yesterday, Hon. Mr. Vernon, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, presented the annual report of Crown land surveys for the year ending December 31, 1892.

The report of Mr. Tom Kaine, surveyor general, shows that during the year the following maps have been published for general use. Exploratory surveys in the northern portions of the Province, 2,000 copies; the southwest portion of British Columbia, including Vancouver Island, 5,000 copies; the central portion of British Columbia, 2,000; township sheets for use of surveyors, 700.

The first mentioned map, and one now in press, are the work of the COLONIST Printing and Publishing Company, Limited, of Victoria. The map in press referred to shows the country from the International Boundary Line to the "Mission," on Okanagan Lake, and includes a portion of the Similkameen Valley to the west, and extends eastward along the Boundary Line to Cascade City, taking in Rock Creek, Kettle River and Boundary Creek, with the numerous mining camps scattered throughout this growing district. As this portion of the Province is rapidly coming to the front, the map will doubtless prove of some benefit, and as it is drawn upon the same scale as that showing the country immediately to the northward of the "Mission" published last year, a continuous map of the whole Okanagan Valley, from the International Boundary Line to Sicamous Narrows, may be had by simply pasting the two maps together.

Certain delays having occurred in forwarding the work in connection with the general map of the Province, prepared by Mr. J. H. Brownlee, D.L.S., it was considered advisable to further postpone its issue until all the recently acquired information derived from the exploratory and other surveys performed this year could be added, and the work made as full and complete as possible. If something unforeseen does not occur, the issue of 10,000 copies ordered by the Government will be ready for general distribution at the Lands and Works Department in the course of about a month. This map is printed on strong paper, in black and three lithographic colors, and no doubt will be the means, if properly distributed, of advertising the Province to a great degree throughout the known world.

During the year a very large number of private surveys have been completed. There were 376 field books deposited and 662 claims plotted. The area of pre-empted claims was 50,466, area of purchase claims 38,070, area of mining claims 471.82, area of timber leases 72,048, land grant Kootenay and Columbia 189,440, total area of claims 350,495.82 acres.

The report says:

"Thirteen survey parties have carried on field operations under your instructions during the past season, and, besides preparing extensive tracts for settlement purposes, have added a large amount of information to that already on file in the department.

"The survey upon which Mr. Ralph has been engaged during the past three seasons is of a character quite out of the ordinary rectangular methods adopted upon the Crown land surveys. This work required the delineation upon the ground of a line running from the mouth of Muir creek, on the southwest coast of Vancouver Island, to the summit of Crown mountain, situated near the centre of the island, a little below the 50th degree of north latitude, between which points, distant from each other upwards of 140 miles, some of the roughest country in the Province is to be found. The determination of the bearing upon which to commence this line was a work requiring considerable care, and involved the calculation of the latitude and longitude of the initial and terminal points by trigonometrical survey from already well established stations. When it is considered that it was well on towards the close of the third season before the surveyor knew "how he was coming out," in addition to the exceedingly rough country passed over and the constant care required in making the proper correction for convergence of meridians, the line, as now determined, is a standing monument of scientific skill and physical endurance.

"The survey into Townships and Sections of a portion of the Watsonkwa or Bulkley River Valley, carried on by Mr. A. L. Pourdrier, has shown that there exists a comparatively large tract of country, valuable not only as agricultural and grazing land, but also on account of the large beds of coal and lignite there deposited. The Government has, during the past season, expended a sum of money in opening up a road from Hazleton into this country, and doubtless many settlers will avail themselves of this route in their search for suitable homes.

"Messrs. Hermon and Hawkins have continued the township outline work commenced last year, situated at the extreme north end of Vancouver Island, and have subdivided into sections a large tract of land, which they report as being eminently suitable for agriculture and cattle raising. Numerous applications respecting this tract of country have already been received, and doubtless many settlers seeking for homes will be attracted to that portion of the Province.

"Messrs. Cotton and Palmer have laid out into townships and sections the valley of the Bella Coola river, from its mouth up as far as any land was found suitable for settlement purposes. As this point is rapidly finding favor in the eyes of settlers—being one of the nearest outlets of the great Chilcotin country—it is a matter of importance to have the country prepared for the requirements of pre-emptors.

"The 'Commonage,' near the city of Vernon, has been subdivided into sections by Mr. J. P. Burnyeat, and doubtless will be, on account of its situation, rapidly taken up when it is thrown open for settlement. As the situation of this tract is somewhat better than the general run of vacant Crown land throughout the Province, it is a question whether it would not be advantageous to dispose of it in some other way than by means of the ordinary pre-emption method.

"Sectional surveys have been carried on by Mr. E. H. Latimer along the valley of the Shuswap river, from the vicinity of the 'Camel's Hump' to where it empties into Mabel Lake, and have opened up for settlement quite a large area of country.

"The subdivisional survey of Malcolm Island has been completed by Mr. D. T. Thomson, who has also performed additional surveys upon Cormorant Island and upon Vancouver Island in the vicinity of the mouth of the Nimkish river.

"The land in the vicinity of the southwest coast of Vancouver Island, lying between the mouth of Muir Creek and Cape Beale has of late been attracting the preemptor and lumberman, and in view of that fact it has been considered advisable to have an accurate traverse of the coast performed between those points, and all existing claims carefully noted. Mr. Henry Fry was entrusted with this service, and has furnished the department with sufficient information to enable it to make a reliable map of that section of the country.

"Mr. N. B. Gauvreau continued the exploratory work commenced two years ago by Mr. Poudrier, and has covered a large tract of country lying in the northwest portion of the Province, situated between the Stikine river and the northern boundary of British Columbia.

"The scattered and hitherto unconnected surveys situated at the mouth of the Skeena river, where the fishing interests of the Province are largely represented, have been connected together by traverse, and a reliable map of that locality is now on file in this office. No report of this survey is appended, as, from its nature, none was required. The same may be said of the survey of two Government townsites situated on Slocan lake, performed by Mr. C. E. Perry.

"The geological information respecting the Province of British Columbia is very valuable, and has been gathered by the continuous efforts of the Geological Survey branch of the Department of the Interior, represented by such well-known and scientific men as Richardson, Dawson, Selwyn, Macoun and McConnell, who have covered nearly the whole Province, and whose labors extend over a period of more than twenty years.

"This authentic and reliable information has been acquired without any expense to the Province, and must represent in field-work alone an outlay of considerably over one hundred thousand dollars. The fact that portions of it are published in each of the twenty voluminous and costly annual reports, containing a large amount of matter irrelevant to the Province, renders its usefulness of such a character as to be scarcely of any advantage to the average settler, lumberman or miner.

"In view of the above facts, it has been considered advisable to collect all this scattered information, and after classifying and arranging it in such a manner by the addition of sufficient reliable data as to clearly set forth all the natural productions of each district, with their accessibility, to publish it in convenient form and append a small geologically colored map of the Province, which would greatly explain the text and materially enhance the value of the whole work."

Speaking of the triangulation of the sea coast, the report says:

"In this connection might be mentioned the accidents which have recently happened to the warships Amphion and Warspite, and to the merchantman San Pedro. If casualties of this nature, involving large expenditures of time and money, occur in comparatively well-known waters, what may be said of those which are likely to occur in unsurveyed channels and harbors where the pilot is compelled to steer the ship by pure guess work and leave the rest to Providence?

"In the foregoing arguments, lands in general have been referred to; but any scheme of survey for British Columbia must take especial cognizance of the perpetuation of boundaries of mining lands alienated from the Crown. Some system having that end in view has been found necessary in other mining countries; its importance cannot be over-estimated and should command prompt attention.

"In the Kootenay district alone, mining properties whose value mounts high up in the millions are being developed, while fresh discoveries of precious and economic minerals are continually announced. But there are claims whose marks have been swept out of existence by snow-slides and fires: where these lands adjoin, no explanation of the entanglement which will ensue is needed. Such difficulties will, without doubt, retard mining development more than any other cause except absence of ore; for, if there is anything a mining man will not buy, it is a law suit. The result is a loss, not only to those immediately concerned, but to the Province at large; because, as every dollar of taxable value created is a gain to the whole country, so also is the reverse proposition true.

In order to show the value of some of the country under consideration, it may be stated that the assessed worth of the most valuable block in the city of Victoria, that bounded by Government, Yates, Broad and Fort streets, with the buildings included, is considerably under one million dollars, a sum far below that realized a short time ago from the sale of the "Silver King" mineral claim. Although the block referred to is not of a size equal to that of an ordinary mining claim, still, if claims in a comparatively undeveloped state realize such large amounts, it is safe to draw the conclusion that there are portions of the Kootenay district as valuable as equal areas located in the heart of the city of Victoria with the buildings included. A country like the above, therefore, should be well surveyed.

"It is therefore evident that some means should be devised whereby the position of mining locations, having been once determined, can be accurately re-determined at any time, if inextricable confusion, endless litigation, and consequent depreciation of value are to be avoided. It is thought that the inexpensive method, hereinafter set forth, of establishing mining monuments and connecting claims thereto, would prove efficacious in largely lessening difficulties arising from disputed boundaries.

"It might here be suggested that there is no reason why the same standards of measure should not be used in laying out a mineral claim as is required in subdividing for sale or pre-emption the ordinary Crown Lands of the Province. In the latter surveys a 66 feet chain divided into 100 links of 7.92 inches is used, and for obvious reasons is the most useful and expeditious. The Land Acts provide true and unalterable methods of renewing lost corners, a matter which seems to have been overlooked when the Mineral Act was framed, and which is a most important omission as will be discovered as soon as an obliterated corner to a valuable mineral claim is required to be replaced.

"If the land in a mineral country were subdivided into sections as provided by the Land act, and each section partitioned into sixteen legal subdivisions containing forty acres each, and numbered according to a general rule, there would be no difficulty or possible conflict in conveying any one of these legal subdivisions according to its number, even though it did not happen to be actually surveyed upon the ground. This would give the free miner, whose interest alone seems heretofore to have been considered, an area of forty acres measuring twenty chains by twenty chains (1,320 by 1,320 feet.) The provisions of the Land acts would apply in renewing lost corners, the whole mineral country would assume a regularity heretofore unknown, and even if a miner were compelled to take two legal subdivisions to acquire a fair length upon the lode, provision could be made for this purpose."

Concluding, Mr. Kains says:

"In closing these notes, attention is again called to the fact that the systematic survey of the whole Province, roughly outlined herein, is not intended to be executed in a short time.

"The treatment specified should be applied to those portions undergoing development; but its extension over our whole territory must be considered in connection with the Greater British Columbia of the future, containing many times its present population and wealth. Such a survey as a whole would be the work of many years—even decades; but if faithfully carried out would stand as a lasting monument of work well done for the future peace, progress, and prosperity of the fairest Province of the Dominion."

FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY.

Statistical Information of Work Done During the Shortest Month of the Year.

A Very Slight List of Marriages—The Fire Loss Continues Insignificant.

The "figures for February" completed in the various public offices yesterday will this morning take their place in the statistical scrap book—with the exception of the returns from the Inland Revenue department and the City free library, both of which are invariably compiled on the first instead of the last day of each month. The other returns, given hereunder, contain no specially notable features, unless perhaps it may be the startling decrease in the number of marriages:

CUSTOMS COLLECTIONS.

Duties collected	$50,019 54
Other revenue	11,107 23
Total	$61,126 77

IMPORTS.

Free	$ 36,074 00
Dutiable	199,019 00
Total	$235,093 00

EXPORTS.

Produce of Canada (value)	$15,608 00
Not produce of Canada (value)	7,579 00
Total	$23,187 00

THE FIRE RECORD.

The months of January and February show exceedingly small losses by fire in this city. During the first month the Fire department responded to eight alarms. The total loss amounted to $800. February was a still more fortunate month, with only two fires, and a loss of $25. The Chief of the Fire department considers that the holding of investigations into the origin of suspicious fires tends materially to keeping down the losses. The Fire department took every precaution to protect the city during the cold spell. One of the engines was drawn by four horses; the large hose wagon was placed on runners and the team of horses belonging to the truck was placed on the chemical engine. A sleigh, loaded with extinguishers, was placed in service, and night and day men were kept on duty, shovelling snow off the hydrants and cisterns throughout the city.

CRIME AND CRIMINALS.

The prisoners taken in charge by the city police during the month were registered at the lock-up as answerable for the "offences" below enumerated: Drunks 18, larceny 10, assault 3, malicious damage to property 1, carrying concealed weapons 1, for lodgings 2, in possession of stolen property 2, burglary 1, for safe keeping 2, in possession of intoxicants 1, aggravated assault 3, obscene language 1, uttering counterfeit money 1, infraction of city by-laws 23, and obtaining goods by false pretences 1.

The Provincial jail returns are in abstract as follows:

Daily average number of prisoners	36
Received during the month	17
Discharged during the month	3
Highest number in one day	43
Remaining in custody	43

The offences for which the prisoners were committed are thus enumerated: Assault 2, B. N. O. act 2, drunk and disorderly 1, infraction of Indian liquor act 1, indecent exposure 1, larceny 9, obtaining goods by false pretences 1. Thirteen of the seventeen prisoners were summarily sentenced to terms of from one to twelve months at hard labor, and four committed for trial, all of whom have expressed their desire to be tried under the Speedy Trials Act in preference to waiting for the Court of Assize to be held in May next.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births	23
Deaths	29
Marriages	4

SHIPPING.

In this department the departure of the sealing fleet has played an important part; the record of vessels entered and cleared from this port being:

ENTERED.

Deep Sea	50
Coastwise	101

CLEARED.

Deep Sea	62
Coastwise	101

AN UNLIKELY STORY.

Canadian Orangemen Said to Be Arranging to Fight Against Home Rule.

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 28.—A special to the Journal from Montreal says: There are 20,000 Orangemen in Canada who are even now preparing to help their brethren in Ulster should the Home Rule bill pass the House of Commons, and the Lords. Orangemen thoroughly believe that trouble will occur in Ireland if the measure becomes law, and a prominent member of the Orange order in Quebec states that Orangemen are prepared to assist Ulster with money or with men if necessary. The different lodges all over the Dominion are in active correspondence, and a large sum of money is already subscribed. Negotiations have been opened with Australia, where there is a large body of Ulster Protestants, and a contingent is promised from there to go to Ireland. Some of the Steamship Companies here have been asked for rates for several thousand men. The Orangeman who gave the information is employed on the Canadian Pacific, and he says there are hundreds of men on that road ready to strike work and go to Ireland. "What is to prevent the Irish in the States from returning to Ireland?" he was asked. He answered: "They are no good. The Orangemen in Canada would like to get at them. Of one thing there is no doubt, the Orangemen here are willing and prepared to go to Ireland in case of trouble."

"Maude is a timid girl," said George. "Yes," said Estelle; "she'd jump even at a proposal."

ICE BRIDGE AT NIAGARA.

Grandeur and Majesty in Frozen Masses—The Frost King's Fantastic Tricks.

Stalactites and Stalagmites, Ice Mounds and Frozen Spray.

(New York Herald.)

The ice bridge at Niagara Falls this winter is the greatest that has been known for years. The fame and beauty of it has spread for many miles, and from all parts of New York and from adjacent parts of Canada thousands have gone, and many more will journey, before the season is over to behold one of the most wonderful sights in the world—the great cataract in the glory of its full winter dress. Railroad trains are arriving and departing, crowded with travelers from far and near, and the New York Central has been compelled to put on extra cars to accommodate the rush.

The Prospect House, on the American side, is open and in full swing, and has as many guests almost as it ever has, even in summer. The Inclined railway is running, the guides are on hand, the much-maligned hackman is ubiquitous, but on runners instead of wheels; the curiosity and souvenir shops and photographers are all doing a good business, and the town is full of strangers. The good people of Niagara have not been able to go to sleep, as usual, for an all-winter's nap—like a hybernating bear—but have to hustle to entertain the unusual rush of tourists. There never has been anything quite like it in winter at Niagara Falls before.

Rarely has the rushing torrent of the Niagara river been so choked with boulders of ice as it is now. They lie piled in Titanic heaps, as though, in some mighty battle of the giants, the combatants had used as missiles these monstrous frozen rocks and left them as they are—heaped in tumultuous masses. The snow that has fallen since the ice gorge began has rounded and smoothed over the rough edges of the ice, and the ice bridge now extends in an unbroken stretch of a quarter of a mile from where the angry stream swirls toward the American side up almost to the boiling cauldron into which the water makes its giant plunge from the cliff above.

All around the foot of the cataract the never-ceasing spray has frozen as it fell and built up monstrous mounds of ice, which have grown higher and higher during the prolonged cold snap, until now some of these curiously-shapen hills of solid snow and frozen vapor tower ambitiously to more than half the height of the cataract itself. The gracefully-swinging curves of one of these frozen mounds must be fully a hundred feet in height, its apex being only about sixty feet below the top of the falls.

On all sides, from the ice fields, rise strange, fantastic stalagmites of solid ice, formed, like the mounds, from the accumulation of frozen vapor; while from the shelving rocks above hang monstrous icicles and stalactites. The weird grandeur of their effect is increased by the great clouds and jets of vapor which rise here and there. In the frosty air they look exactly like clouds of steam bursting from the frozen sea below, and you find it difficult to convince yourself that the surging flood beneath the ice is not literally at boiling heat, and that the white vapor is not indeed jets of steam. And as you gaze, awe-struck, upon the wondrous scene, you hear nature's musical accompaniment to this frozen epic—the deep diapason of the cataract's hoarse roar.

Nothing can be grander or more majestic than the wonderful cataract in its winter garb, nothing more striking than the stormy torrent below, struggling through its fetters of ice, every moment breaking off huge pieces and sending them angrily down into the whirlpool where poor Capt. Webb and so many more brave but foolhardy men have lost their lives.

It gives you a momentary shiver as you stand upon an ice hummock and look off towards the wicked, black torrent, realizing that the same rushing, treacherous waters are surging under the ice beneath your feet. You remember to have read how suddenly the Niagara ice bridge has broken up in previous years, and you turn to your guide and ask him if there is always a warning and sufficient time to clamber back to shore. He reassures you, and points to the men and boys with sleds and toboggans and barrel staves coasting down the sides of the smaller ice hill, and then, with a smile, to the temporary houses which have been erected on the ice. But you know there is a spice of danger, and it adds to your enjoyment.

Roads and paths have been cut through the icy hummocks connecting the Canadian and American shores, and along these pathways are little frame houses and booths, where tired and hungry tourists may rest and refresh themselves. There are fires in these little refreshment houses and you may sit and warm yourself if you are cold.

But it is astonishing, by the way, how much cold you can stand without the least discomfort up at Niagara. You almost expect to freeze if the thermometer goes down below zero in New York, and when your guide shows you it is six degrees below on the ice you can scarcely credit it, for you are all aglow, and the warm blood goes tingling through your veins like wine. Whether it is the exercise of scrambling over the rough ice or the grandeur of the scene, or both together, you do not know, but you certainly do not feel the cold at Niagara if you wrap up moderately well and keep your feet and ears well protected.

But if you are not cold there is an appetizing odor of hot sausages and steaming coffees coming from one of the cabins—hOT sAssjES—is the way the proprietor spells and writes it, and you go in and refresh yourself.

A little later you find another shanty where a sign tells you that they sell hot whiskey punches. You go in and try, and, lo! you have a most delightful surprise. You are on the Canadian side and it is white wheat whiskey of the most delicious flavor. You take a sip and you are glad you came. You make up your mind to give the guide an extra tip. You take a swallow of that punch and you feel that you could be kind to your mother-in-law. You take another and you forgive your worst enemy. "The world is mine!" It's worth while coming from New York to Niagara Falls just to taste that whiskey.

Then you climb back to the shore and you find as you go that you and everybody you meet are covered literally from head to foot with a silver mail of ice. It is the spray from the falls which has enveloped you and which has frozen the moment it touches you. Your moustache has turned white in an instant, so has your hair and so have your eyelashes. The effect of these moving figures, clad in ice, is exceedingly odd and picturesque.

But who can describe the work of the frost king amid the trees and shrubbery along the shores above—the wonderful transformation which has been wrought by the heavy coating of frozen spray and ice, which completely covers every and shrub, and rock and hillside?

Who can picture the weird, fantastic fairyland effects of acres of such forests of such dainty tracery? The ever rising mists, the clouds of spray from the falls, have touched every exposed object, freezing as they fell. The long continued cold snap and the frequent snowfalls have thickened this enamelling until the result is indescribably beautiful and picturesque. A drive through Prospect park, on the American side, across the Suspension bridge and through the Victoria park, in Canada, is a never ending series of delightful surprises.

The trees nearest the shore and most exposed to the spray are so completely covered that not a spot on trunk or branch, or a leaf of the original tree is visible. The sleety covering is not transparent. The spray has frozen a translucent white with a glaze of ice over it, which sparkles in the sunlight with prismatic effects, like millions and millions of priceless gems. It is as though each tree had been carved from frozen snow and crusted with diamonds and jewels by some workman of marvelous skill, who has followed all the delicate tracery of the tree in its every detail of leaf and bud.

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NOTICE

A special general meeting of the shareholders of the B. C. Pottery and Terra Cotta Company, Limited, will be held on Thursday, March 9th next, at the Company's office, 42 Government street, Victoria, B. C., at 11 o'clock a.m., for the purpose of passing a resolution to increase the capital stock of the Company to $240,000.

(Signed) JNO. NICHOLLES, (Chairman),
JOSEPH HUNTER,
S. C. BURRIS.

fe12 w-4t

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NOTICE.

The partnership heretofore existing under the name of Reid & Johnston, of Quesnelle Mouth, district of Cariboo, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All accounts due the late firm are to be paid to James Reid, who will assume all liabilities of the same.

JAMES REID.
W. A. JOHNSTON.

Witness, GEO. B. CLARKE. ja30-1m-d&w