Eight Hour Law In Operation.

Rossland Camp Reduces Loss of Time by Requiring More Prompt Attendance.

Trial Proves Less Work Result of Change—How Contracting Was Stopped.

From the Rossland Miner, Dec. 23.

Commissioner Clute put in a long day's work, commencing at 10 o'clock yesterday. Several important witnesses were examined. The attendance of spectators at the sittings is very small.

The first witness examined was Alfred Parr of Ymir, a miner for 14 or 15 years, a citizen of the United States now, but was born in Dublin. He is the financial secretary of the miners' union at Ymir, which has 235 members, 70 per cent. of whom are British subjects, the balance being Americans and other nationalities. All the mines at Ymir with the exception of the Ymir mine paid $3.50 per eight-hour shift for machine and hand men and $3 for muckers and outside men. Little or no work was done by contract. The working mines of the district when working all hands employed men as follows: Ymir, 60; Porto Rico, 52; Yellowstone, 40; Tamarac, 28; Arlington, 32; Dundee, 38; Fern, 40; and numerous small claims employed from six to eight men. The Ymir company had advertised for en in Spokane and some 12 had been contracted for there and brought to Ymir. He could not say what their nationality was. About a dozen men made contracts in Sudbury, Ontario, with Tom Mitchell for the Ymir mine and came to the mine and worked about 10 shifts, when they all quit. They were not induced to quit by the miners' union. There was no attempt made by the union to coerce the men or to make them leave off working, and no threats were used. The Ymir mine is the only mine in the camp that does not work full blast under the eight-hour law. Some of the other mines mentioned were temporarily closed down at present for one reason or another.

Albert Leon Houston of Rossland, a miner of 15 years' experience, then testified. He was an American citizen, but had resided here nearly four years and had been employed in mining most of that time. He was now president of the local miners' union. The percentage of members was strongly British, principally where he had been working in the Le Roi mine the percentage of British subjects was about 70. He did not think contract work could be used in the stopes in the Rossland mines, but it could be used in drifts, shafts and raises. Occasionally more than usual wages could be made on contract work, but often less. The commissioner and the witnesses went into the whole question of the contract system and the witness finally said that the system had not been thoroughly tested in this camp yet. The majority of the men opposed contract work. The men had a right to work by the day or by contract as they saw fit. He had encountered no difficulties in meeting with any of the mine managers and discussing any labor question with them. The witness said he had worked under both the eight and ten-hour systems in practically the same place in the Re Roi. The same amount of time and work actually was put in under the eight-hour as under the ten-hour shift. Under the ten-hour plan the men went to work on company's time and it took them from 20 minutes to half an hour to get to their places in the mine and the same time would be taken at lunch time and in the last half shift. Under the eight-hour law the men are always at their place ready to work when their time commenced. When 200 to 250 men are working they cannot climb down 500 or 600 feet in less than 15 minutes. It takes about half an hour for all the shift to get down to work. Now the men climb down and up in their own time, whereas they formerly went to and came from work in the company's time. More work has been accomplished under the eight-hour law than under the ten-hour. The men had better advantages to work harder under the new law, the company furnishing more tools and were more prompt in supplying the men with what was needed. The work done both before and after the eight-hour law has been measured by the mine superintendent. The men prefer the eight-hour system to the ten-hour. The witness said he would prefer to retain the eight-hour law even if he had to make some sacrifice, but the majority of the men would prefer to work the full 10 hours rather than lower the standard wage. Under the present eight-hour system they blast every 16 hours in place of every 10 hours as they did under the old system. In the shafts and other portions of the mines three eight-hour shifts are worked every 24 hours. That is the drills are worked for 16 hours at a stretch and for the remaining eight hours out of the 24 the mine is practically idle and no work is done.

Herbert E. Abell was sworn and said he had worked as car man and mucker for several years at the mines. He got $2.50 per eight-hour shift, the same as he received under the old system. He thought a man put in more work under the new system than under the old. Formerly they were very lax in getting to work. Usually the mine was smoky, and the men used to loiter around till things got ready. Now a man is supposed to be at his post at the time work commences. He then works eight hours straight away, with the exception of twenty minutes for lunch. Under the ten-hour system the men were away from work at lunch time for two hours, and this time counted in the ten-hour shift. Under the old law 212 skips was the record day's work for hoisting. Under the new law from 160 to 260 skips have been hoisted in the eight hours, without any change being made in the number of men working. On the surface now they accomplish the same work at the Le Roi in nine or ten hours that they used to do in twelve hours. The witness said he was a married man and was now organizing secretary of the Miners' Union. He was a British subject and was born in Toronto. He solicited members for the local union and was paid a salary of $105 per month for his services. The witness described his method of inducing men to join the union, and said they generally "came down after he talked with them a few times. The cost of living here was high. For himself, wife and a twelve months' old baby he paid per month: Rent, $12; groceries, $25 to $30; fuel, $6 to $7; clothing, $12 to $15; and for meat, $12 to $15. A married man who got $2.50 a day and worked seven days in the week for a year would be in debt at the end of the year if he and his wife live as they should. Witness strongly favored working six days in the week only, and said he knew of many men who would prefer it, but some of the unmarried men preferred to work the full seven days. About 95 per cent. of the workers in Rossland were union men. There were 400 or 500 idle men in the city at the present time, and most of these were union men. He knew of no case where Canadian miners applying for work had been discriminated against by the foremen. They got the same show as anyone else.

At 1:30 Mr. Clute adjourned the enquiry until 3 o'clock. During the morning session the commissioner argued several points out with the witnesses in an informal way, and succeeded in obtaining just exactly what the men's views were on many points.

At the afternoon session the first witness examined was John C. Douglass, of Camp McKinney, a miner and a delegate to the miners' union convention in this city. About 150 men are employed in the camp, about 90 per cent. of the miners being union men. The prevailing wages are as high or higher than in any place in British Columbia. One company pays $3.50 for all underground men. No alien labor has been brought into the camp. The principal mines are the Cariboo, Waterloo, Fontenoy, Minnehaha, Lemon, Granite and Banner, Kamloops and Sailor, which are producers. The Nellie L., Shannon and Dalton, Mammoth, Pendera and the North Star are not producers, but are doing development work. About 60 per cent. of the men employed are British subjects, the balance being of various nationalities, except Japs, Chinese and Italians. Witness stated that he was an American citizen. The passage of the eight-hour law has not retarded development work in the camp; more men are employed to-day than ever before. There are sufficient men in the camp to meet the demand. Men only come there who want to work. There are few attractions in the camp for idle men. Witness thought a man could do as much work in eight hours as in ten; he could, and he had worked under both systems. The ten-hour shift was too severe; men could not stand it and do their work well. The men were satisfied in Camp McKinney and the owners were getting the best results, and everything was working smoothly.

John M. Long, superintendent of the Josie, the No. 1 and the Le Roi mines, appeared and put in a written statement concerning the interference of the miners' union with the working of the mines mentioned. A contract had been let to one Hughes on the No. 1 mine in August last. A guarantee of $4 per day for the work was given. The men only worked one day. Devine came to the witness and said the union had voted against contract work by 250 to 60, and that he must call out the men. Subsequently the work in question was finished by day work. Witness said that a specially good price was offered in the case mentioned, as the management was anxious to hurry on this particular piece of work. The men would probably have made more than $4 per day. They had been trying to let a shaft by contract within the last ten days. By submitting the matter to some of the men working in the mine, John F. Keefe, one of the men, went to the walking delegate of the miners' union and asked if contracts were allowed in the camp, and was informed by the walking delegate that contracting was not allowed in the camp. The nature of the ground here makes it suitable for contract work. The mine is being developed. No shipments have been made yet. The usual practice in letting contracts was to submit them to the best men in the mine, as what we require is speed. The men are asked what they will do the work for. Contract work is advantageous to good men, not for second-class miners. Had never been in a camp before where contracts were forbidden. The tendency of the contract system was to increase wages for first-class men.

Under the eight-hour law in the No. 1 and the Josie the men start down about five minutes before the whistle blows; sometimes they only start when the whistle blows, but the rule is that they should be at their places in the mine when work starts.

Eight-hour shifts in shaft work had been the rule in the mines mentioned for some time prior to the act coming into force. More work could be done in ten hours than in eight. From five to twenty feet a month less work is done under the new system. Under the old system the men lost forty minutes in the day and forty minutes in the night shift going to and coming from work. While two shifts a day are worked the actual loss of time under the new law is one hour and forty minutes per day. The longer hours would likely tell upon the hammer men, but machine men should be able to work right along. Relatively, the witness thought that a hammer man would do more work per hour in a short day than a longer one. A man could not do as much work in eight hours as he could in ten.

Mr. Devine asked, through the commissioner, if Mr. Long was ever a member of a miners' union, and the witness replied that he was at one time a member of a union. In reply to further questions by Mr. Devine, the witness stated that he had never been notified by the miners' union under their official seal, nor had he corresponded with the union on the subject of contract work. The witness further added that he had been approached by the president of the miners' union and Mr. Devine, and requested to discharge a miner named Stewart. They said they could not give the reason, but Mr. Devine stated that Stewart would not join the miners' union. Stewart afterwards stated that he had joined the union.

Thomas H. Hughes, the sub-contractor referred to by the previous witness, was then sworn. He said he was a working miner in the No. 1 mine. He took a contract to do the work at the rate of $22 per foot and was guaranteed $4 per day. This was in August last. He only worked one day, as Mr. Devine told him that the union had passed a resolution against all contract work. Witness said he was a member of the Coeur d'Alene union, but not the local one here. He was an American citizen. His two partners on the contract quit the work after the first day, and he came to see Devine and find out what was the trouble. He asked Devine if the union had stopped contracts, and Devine said it had. He (the witness) replied he did not think it right, as he had a chance to make $5 or $6 a day. Devine answered that the majority of the boys were against it; that it might benefit two or three, but would hurt them all in the long run.

To Mr. Houston, the president of the miners' union, the witness said he would work harder on a contract than he would in the company's time, and thought any other man would do the same.

To Mr. Devine the witness said he had some hot words with him at the time of the interview mentioned. Witness repeated the conversation as already given.

James Devine then gave his version of the matter referred to by Hughes. "I told him," said the witness, "I had nothing whatever to do with the contract. I said it was poor business management for a company to pay $6 or $7 per day when there were others willing to work for half that sum. I said I understood that the union had voted on the contract system, but that I had nothing more to do with the matter than any other individual. The union vote was a private one.

Mr. Long was recalled and asked by Mr. Houston how a contractor using a machine could do more work for himself and partners than for the company. The witness said there were several things to do besides drilling; men could help themselves considerably if they chose.

John L. Keefe testified that about ten days ago the foreman of the Josie asked him if he would take a contract in No. 1 shaft, but witness replied he would see the union first. He met the walking delegate (H. E. Abell) and asked him if the union allowed contracts, and the delegate replied no, and the job was refused.

H. E. Abell, the walking delegate referred to, was recalled, and agreed with the statements made by the previous witness concerning their meeting.

A copy of the constitution of the Rossland branch of the miners' union was put in by the president. The question of contracts is not touched upon in the constitution.

Bernard McDonald, general manager of the B. A. C. properties, including the Le Roi, the East and West Le Roi and the Columbia-Kootenay, was then called. He produced a statement showing the nationality of all the men employed by the B. A. C., including the miners mentioned, and also figures showing the amount of capital invested by the B. A. C. in the mines of the camp, and some further figures showing the effect of the immediate working of the eight-hour law.

Mr. McDonald said he had been mining for 26 years, a practical miner for nine years, working as a mucker, single and double hammer drilling and machine drill, as well as on the pumps and timbering, later as foreman, mine superintendent and general manager. At this stage Mr. Clute said he would take Mr. McDonald's evidence later, and the witness was excused.

R. E. Palmer testified that he was a mining engineer graduate from McGill in 1887; had been engaged in mining for about six years; is the mining engineer of the Le Roi mine. The witness verified the statement already put in showing the increased cost of working in the Le Roi mine under the eight-hour law than formerly. The total daily increase was $88. The witness said that if the sorting space was enlarged and four or five sorters put on, some of the increased costs of shipment calculated would be reduced somewhat. It had been found necessary to make extensive changes to meet the changed circumstances, but these would not be concluded for about six months, and in the meantime the increased cost would have to be incurred.

The further sittings of the commissioner were adjourned at 6:45 last evening until 10 o'clock this morning, when Mr. McDonald and several other witnesses will be called.

TO CIVILIZE RUGBY.

McGill University Taking the Lead in Refining the College Sport.

From the McGill Outlook.

The humane effort to reform football once more, and free it from all elements of danger and roughness, seems to get with cordial endorsement. It is supposed that when the game can be played without risk of any one being hurt, and without any rough scuffling or tackling, the persons who now oppose the sport will attend in large numbers.

Some of the proposed changes are as follows:

1. At the beginning of the play the ball shall be put in the centre of the field, and the umpire shall think of a number between 1 and 50. The two captains shall guess at the number, and the one coming the nearest to it shall be allowed to move the ball five yards into the territory of the other team.

2. Before the ball is put in play after a down the captain shall line up his men and count them off as follows:

"Onery, Onery, ickory an!
Pilleson, Pholeson, Nicholas, John!
Queevy Quavy,
English navy,
Sticklum, staklum, I-o-u buck!"

The player on the word "buck" shall be known as "it." He shall kneel beside the ball, and the members of the opposing team shall line up opposite. The player known as "it" shall repeat "Simon says Thumbs up," or "Simon says Thumbs down," indicating the movement as he speaks the words, and the players of the opposite team must imitate his movements. But if he merely says, "Thumbs up," without the "Simon says," and an opposing player put his thumbs up, that counts 1, and after three such mistakes, the ball is advanced five yards. If, however, after 20 trials the opposing team does not make a total of three errors, then the ball goes to the opposing team and is advanced on a "tag" play.

3. On the "tag" play the member of the team who stands highest in his class is given the ball to run with it. The opposing players must touch him as he runs and say, "Tag, you're it." Still if he has his fingers crossed at the time, or is touching wood, he does not have to stop. For this purpose wooden strips are laid across the field every ten yards. If, however, he is caught without his fingers crossed or touching wood, he must put the ball down. Any opposing player who is slapped three times on the back by a member of the runner's team is called "out" and cannot "tag" the runner.

4. Any player who takes hold of an opposing player, or who displays brusqueness and lack of refinement, shall be put into a compartment at the side lines known as the "boneyard," and shall not be released until his captain shall answer ten questions without laughing.

5. After a touch-down has been made the professor of rhetoric shall give five hard words from the back of the book to the full-back of the team scoring the touch-down. If the full-back spells the five words correctly, his team is credited with two points, the same as if a goal was kicked. If he fails on any word the ball goes to the opposing team on the 25-yard line. The ball must never be kicked, as it might strike one of the players and injure him.

6. On resuming play after a touch-down, all the players except one, form a ring and join hands, singing,

"London bridge is falling down,
Falling down, falling down,
London bridge is falling down,
So farewell, my ladies."

The captain of the team against which the score has been made is blindfolded and put into the circle. After a time he advances and takes hold of a player who is asked three questions. He must guess at the name of this player. If he guesses correctly he is allowed to advance the ball 15 yards. If he fails the ball goes to the other team at the centre of the field.

7. Both spectators and players are expected to be quiet and orderly at all times, especially during the mental tests.

Are free from all crude and irritating matter, concentrated medicine only. Carter's Little Liver Pills. Very small; very easy to take; no pain; no griping; no purging. Try them.

Mass for the Century's End.

Proclaimed by Papal Decree Establishing Also a Holy Year of Preparation.

Likewise Ushered by Midnight Celebration—Basis of Local Disputant's Contention.

A church publication recently received the papal decree proclaiming midnight mass to usher in the coming Holy Year, and also a midnight mass for December 31, 1900, to mark the century's end. This paper says:

In order to sanctify the night of Dec. 31, 1900, the International Committee for the Solemn Homage asked the Holy Father to grant permission for the celebration of midnight mass in all the churches of the world, and for the faithful privilege of receiving Holy Communion at that time. The Holy Father not only graciously acceded to the request, but in order that the faithful might at the beginning of the Holy Year greet the author of time, he extended the concession so that the midnight mass may be said on the Dec. 31, 1899, as well as on Dec. 31, 1900. During this mass the Blessed Sacrament may be solemnly exposed, with the prudent permission of the Ordinary, and the faithful may receive Holy Communion. This is the most extraordinary permission of the whole reign of Leo XIII., and it shows how intently his wishes are fixed on the celebration of the Holy Year as well as on the International Homage to the Redeemer of mankind.

The Universal Decree is as follows:

"It is most becoming that we who are about to celebrate the commencement of the Holy Year, happily proclaimed by our Holy Father, Leo XIII., should, in the depth of night, rise to greet the author of time, and, prostrate before His altars, to offer the most acceptable Victim, who is the Immaculate Lamb, assisting at the Sacred Banquet, so that at this most opportune time we may find the assistance of His grace and mercy. 'For our salvation is nearer. Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.' And, if the kingdom of heaven, which is the Church on earth, is likened to the ten virgins going forth in the night to meet the Bridegroom, each one of us may, on the occasion of this solemn festivity, consider more attentively these sacred words: 'Trim your lamps; for behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye forth to meet Him.'

"Since, moreover, at midnight of the last day of December of the coming year the present century will come to an end, and a new one begin, it is very appropriate that thanks be given to God by some pious and solemn ceremony for the benefits received during the course of the present century and owing to the urgent necessity of the times, that greater favors be implored in order to begin auspiciously the new era.

"Therefore, in order that the approaching year, 1900, may begin happily through the supplication of the assistance of God and His Only Begotten Son, our Redeemer, and that it may end, after a prosperous course, by ushering in a still more happy century, as it is right for us to expect, our Most Holy Father, Leo XIII. graciously concedes that, with the prudent consent of the Ordinary of every place, at midnight on the 31st of December, both of the closing and of the coming year, in all churches and chapels where the Most Blessed Sacrament may be exposed to adoration; and permission is given to read or to sing at the same time the 'Coram Sanctissimo,' one Mass of the Feast of Circumcision of Our Lord and the Octave of the Nativity; and permission is given, by special favor, to the faithful to receive Holy Communion either during the Mass or after it; all necessary conditions to be observed.

"All things to the contrary, notwithstanding.

(Signed.)

"C. Bishop of Praeneste Card. Mazzella,
"Prefect.

"Sacred Congregation of Rites.
"D. Panici, Secretary.
"Nov. 13, 1899."

HEROES OF THE BATTLEFIELD.

Individual Acts of Bravery Causing Names of British Soldiers to Live in History.

We are all familiar with the wonderful achievements of Corporal Shaw, the Life-guardsman who, at Waterloo, did such terrible execution with his sword and whose skull has long been one of the gruesome relics of a collection of great historic interest in London. But later days than Waterloo have given us instances of destruction by individuals on the field of battle which are even more appalling than Corporal Shaw's.

We begin the list with a Boer. In our last Transvaal war, when our troops were camping in the shadow of Majuba, there came forth, from day to day, a Boer marksman, who earned for himself the title of the "secret, silent enemy." Day after day, for eight days, he appeared and claimed a victim to his rifle.

Then a couple of troopers of the Fifteenth Hussars, fresh from the Afghan war, were told off to try their luck at the destroyer. He came again, warily, round his favorite spur of hill, but for the last time. From their hiding place in the long grass the Hussars saw him, and one of them, named Lent, afterwards a sergeant, took a pot-shot and brought him down at about 800 yards. Five days later the body was found, where it had fallen from the saddle, by a party of Highlanders.

Some wonderful things were done personally in the mutiny. Best known is the deed of the late Maj.-Gen. McBean, at Lucknow. McBean, who rose to his distinguished position from the rank of private, was with his men of the Ninety-third—he was then lieutenant—storming the main breach. His own valour may be best understood from the statement that with his claymore he killed no fewer than eleven sepoys, one after the other, in the slaughter in the Begum Kotee. On February 23, 1858, an officer named Evans, with eight men of the Ninth Lancers, killed no fewer than sixty of the mutineers.

In a letter from the camp (Meed Gunge) the day after, Maj. Anson, of the Ninth, said: "Cole's squadron had a good deal to do, and C.'s horse was killed. Evans, of his troop, started off with eight men after some of the wretches, and killed about sixty, Evans himself, armed with a lance, killing eleven, and each of the men seven or eight. Coles was also armed with a lance, and being used to pig sticking, killed two men right and left with great skill before he lost his horse." This is one of the most notable—and little known—performances of the precise sort of which we speak.

Ingenuity and valour combined caused a resourceful Irish trooper in 1776 to be specially noticed by the king. During the American war Private McMullins, of the regiment which is now the Seventeenth Lancers, was riding alone when he was fired upon by four rebels. In those brave days it was customary for our gallant cavalry to hang down from the saddle to such an extent that the head nearly touched the ground.

McMullins adopted this artful move in his extremity. He hung down, as if the shots had been successful, feigning death, and the deluded rebels came up. Then the Irishman became galvanized into life—shot one assailant with his carbine and another with his pistol, and fell upon the remaining two with his sword. They were so completely demoralized that they surrendered, and the triumphant trooper drove them before him into camp. For this achievement McMullins was made an non-commissioned officer, and his conduct was brought by the general officer commanding to the personal notice of his most gracious majesty.

To return to South Africa for a moment. In the immortal defence of Rorke's drift many acts of personal daring were exhibited. Quite apart from the heavy batch of V. C. men, there was the display of prowess which made Private Dunbar famous. Dunbar saw a mounted Zulu chief approaching. The warrior rushed up to the very muzzles of the rifles, but he got no farther, for Dunbar shot him through the head, the bullet hitting another Zulu who was behind the chief.

After that, with eight successive shots, Dunbar killed as many Zulus, shooting them as they came on to the attack round a ledge of hill. It was only by such desperate personal fighting as this that Rorke's drift was held until reinforcements came, and that the handful of defenders prevented a repetition, on a far larger scale, of the butchery of Isandhlwana—the Hill of the Little Hand.

Sir Evelyn Wood, V.C., in his fascinating reminiscences of the Crimean war, tells an awful, but stirring story of a Guardsman at Inkerman. When Capt. Burnaby, of the Grenadiers, charged into the center of the swarming foe, he was closely followed by Private James Bancroft. Several Russians furiously fell upon the private, who drove his bayonet through the chest of the nearest of three men, but before he could withdraw it he was bayonetted through the jaw. Though he staggered back, still he kept his eye on the man who had dealt the blow, and shot him dead, killing the third man with the bayonet.

Two other Russians then fought Bancroft at the same moment, and he felt, pierced in the right side. Jumping up again, however, he knocked down one of his enemies, who, not being much hurt, clutched Bancroft's legs as he fought the other man. The Guardsman killed both—him on the ground by kicks with the heel of the boot, and the other with the bayonet.

"It is curiously characteristic of our nation," says Sir Evelyn, "that a sergeant, ignoring, or possibly not perceiving, that the Russian on the ground was trying to hold Bancroft, still another Russian could shoot him, shouted out forbidding Bancroft to kick 'a man that's down.'"

In the Balaclava charge one English officer killed in succession the wheel, center, and lead drivers of a gun which the Russians were trying desperately hard to carry off, and the records of the Crimean and other long and protracted campaigns show that such exhibitions of personal might as this were far from uncommon. Even in the present operations in the Transvaal, a juvenile trumpeter has been credited by the war correspondents with slaying three Boers with a revolver.

As might be expected, the records of the Victoria Cross furnish some rousing examples of personal prowess in battle, apart from that shee valor for which alone this priceless decoration is awarded. Only two or three instances can be quoted here. They are typical.

There was Private Norman, who, in the Crimea, at the close of 1854, was doing single sentry at a lonely spot—and at midnight, too. It was the sort of post from which some of the bravest of our troops have bolted, and for nothing. But the undaunted Norman held his ground, despite the fact that three great coated, ghostly Russian soldiers were silently stealing up to reconnoitre the British position. At the supreme moment—that is, when the lone sentinel and the trio were almost face to face—Norman rushed forward and in an instant had a couple of the enemy in his grasp. These he marched off to the picket, but the third man escaped.

Again in the Crimea, Corporal John Prettyman—"soldier an' sailor, too," for he was one of her Majesty's Jollies—practically held an important position at Inkerman, firing so collectedly and well, not wasting a bullet, that that part of the Russian advance was repulsed. The advantage gained by it was not too dearly bought at the price of the V.C., which was conferred upon this self-reliant Marine Light Infantryman.

The twenty-two wounds which Lieut. A. S. Jones, of the Ninth Lancers, received in an affair with mutineers in June, 1857, were an eloquent tribute to his own achievement on the field of battle, though Maj. Anson had to dismiss the affair by saying that "Jones, with a small party, captured one of the enemy's guns, and it was fired four times against them with success."

Lieut. Gen. C. T. S. Gough, V.C., has by his prowess on the battlefield made a name for himself that all good soldiers envy, and the same can be said of many of our prominent naval and military men.

It is put on record that Trupeter Monaghan and Private Anderson, of the Second Dragoon Guards, who in 1858 rushed to the rescue of their colonel, who had been attacked in the jungle by sepoys, alone forty of the enemy, with the help of the commanding officer, who had himself already accounted for half a dozen of the mutineers. Monaghan and Anderson got the V.C.

All the cases which have been given are but illustrations of that amazing exhibition of pluck and resource on the part of the British soldier and sailor which have from time to time compelled the admiration of the world.—Tit-Bits.

NEW DENVER.

New Denver, Dec. 22.—As a result of the votes taken last Saturday night by the full attendance of the miners' unions in the camp, particularly at Sandon, the delegation from the miners have been in conference during the week with the representatives of the mine owners. No definite conclusion has yet been arrived at, so far, at least as the general public is permitted to glean. There have been various rumors of a settlement, but they are without foundation. The compromise offer from the owners was $3.25 for hand-drillers.

R. F. Green, M. P. P. for the Slocan division, was here on Saturday and Sunday eliciting the views of his constituents as to the needs of this vicinity. Chief among these were urged the Silver Mountain wagon road and the enlargement of the public school, with an additional teacher. In addressing the miners at Union hall on Saturday evening, Mr. Green stated that the eight-hour law would never be repealed, as out of a total membership in the legislature of 38, no less than 28 have pledged themselves to its individual support.

The heavy thaw of the past day or so caused some dangerous slides to come down.

New workings have been opened up on the Bosun ground, just above the No. 1 shaft, with the alleged purpose of tapping the big ore chute which was last summer uncovered a few score feet away on the Fidelity claim. Though in but 40 feet or so a great deal of ore has been taken out, the full breast of the tunnel being in ore. There is no doubt but that with the labor trouble settled, the new Bosun company could make a shipping record almost equal to the Payne.—Nelson Tribune.

Governments Turned Out.

Changes Following Adoption of Federation in Australian Colonies.

In Two Cases the Chief Executive Refuses to Grant Dissolution.

The defeat of the Sir George Turner ministry in Victoria, Australia, particulars of which were received by the Aorangi last evening, adds another to the list of long-lived Australasian ministries that have gone out of office during the past month or two. Federation was no sooner accomplished than the record of defeat began, and impartial disaster followed each of the premiers who had been instrumental in procuring its endorsement by the will of the people. Mr. Reid, who was admitted on all sides to have an almost prescriptive claim upon the federal premiership, went first, in New South Wales, by a vote on one of those comparatively unimportant side issues which so frequently decide the fate of long-lived ministries. The federal question did not enter into the matter any more than it did in the other colonies. In Tasmania, for instance, so staunch a federalist as Sir Edward Braddon left office on an issue very closely resembling that which decided the fate of the ministry in New South Wales. In South Australia the same fate was meted out to Mr. Kingston; and in Queensland Mr. Dickson, the political heir of a long line of holders of the premier's office, had been similarly defeated. Last of all, in Victoria, the administration of Sir George Turner, after holding office with credit during one of the most trying periods of the country's history, and after doing yeoman service in the cause of Australian federation has been seen to go to pieces before an admittedly weak attack, and on a narrow adverse majority of 11 votes. In Western Australia the federal question is likely to give even the historic Forrest administration trouble, if not to precipitate the dissolution that the opposition leader demands; while in New Zealand the fate of the Seddon ministry depended upon the results of the general elections set for the 6th December. Premier Seddon had stated his position plainly. He was absolutely opposed to New Zealand joining the Australian federation. New Zealanders, in his opinion, should federate with their fellow-colonists for defence and perhaps one or two other purposes, but beyond that he believed in maintaining the individual nationality of New Zealand.

Mr. Dickson, the Queensland premier, found himself and his ministry in an awkward position from which there was no escape. The railways standing committee bill, a government measure having for its object the establishment of a body somewhat similar to the Board of Arbitration once instituted in this province, was carried on the second reading by a majority of one. For this one the government was indebted to a member of the Independent Labor party. After the defeat of a proposal to enlarge the scope of the committee, the premier moved that the speaker leave the chair, and Mr. Dawson, leader of the Labor Opposition party, moved the next order of business—virtually taking the leadership out of the hands of the premier, who accepted the position and opposed the resolution as tantamount to a vote of want of confidence. The motion was defeated by the same majority of one, the Independent Labor member coming to the assistance of the government. To quote the Sydney Morning Herald: "Manifestly a premier who has only this slender and variable a majority upon which to rely cannot hold office with credit to himself or even with due regard to the fundamental principles of constitutional government." Premier Dickson accordingly placed his resignation, and those of his colleagues, in the hands of the lieutenant governor, and asked for a dissolution of the house. This was not granted, and Mr. Dawson, the leader of the Opposition, was sent for, he succeeding after some trifling delay, in forming a ministry as follows: Premier and Chief Secretary, Mr. A. Dawson; Attorney General, Mr. C. B. FitzGerald; Home Secretary, Mr. H. Tunley; Treasurer and Postmaster General, Mr. W. Kidston; Mines and Public Instruction, Mr. W. H. Browne; Lands and Agriculture, Mr. H. F. Hardacre; Railways and Works, Mr. Fisher. It is not anticipated that the new government will experience any difficulty in "carrying on."

In South Australia the long-expected has also happened. The premier (and attorney-general) was catechised at some length in the assembly, and Mr. Burgoyne, the chairman of what is known as the Country party, acting in conjunction with the leader of the opposition, then called for a division, which resulted in 25 voting with the government and 26 against it, the announcement of the result being received with cheers. The Labor party supported the ministry in half-hearted fashion; while the Country party was divided. Mr. Borgoyne stood aside, and Mr. Solomon, the straight opposition leader, was invited to become premier.

In the neighboring colony of Victoria there was a scene of excitement prior to the adoption of a want of confidence motion applied to the ministry of Sir George Turner, which passed by 47 to 36. Sir George Turner promptly waited upon Lord Brassey, the governor, and informed his Excellency that an adverse vote had been carried against the ministry, submitting also ministerial reasons in support of an application to the governor to dissolve the house. Lord Brassey could not see his way clear to grant a dissolution, and, accepting Sir George Turner's resignation, sent for the opposition leader, Mr. McLean.

A PARADOX IN ARMS.

Weapons of To-day Less Deadly Than Those of the Past.

In one remarkable respect the events of the present struggle have falsified the predictions of many would-be prophets, though not of men who have really studied war. It has always been a superstition with the half-informed that with the great improvement in weapons which has come in modern times, the loss of life on the battlefield would increase in exactly proportionate ratio. M. Bloch, for example, has told us that "between the combatants will always be an impassable zone of fire, deadly in an equal degree to both the foes. * * * The firing lines will advance one after the other; battalions will march after battalions; finally the reserve will follow. Yet with all this movement in the two armies there will be a belt a thousand paces wide, separating them as by neutral territory, swept by the fire of both sides, a belt in which no living being can stand for a moment."

How hopelessly at sea was this anticipation has now been proved by hard facts. The British forces in South Africa, opposed to fine and steady marksmen, courageous by nature and race, have never yet failed to cross this "solemn, ominous gap" between the lines. They have again and again, in equal or inferior force, stormed the entrenched positions of a stubborn enemy provided with one of the finest rifles in existence. And they have done it with a loss in each case which is far below that sustained in similar actions of the past.

These are the figures of the British losses, with a rough estimate in each case of the total engaged, and an approximation to the percentage which the loss bears to that total:

	Kill'd	W'd.	Total En'gd.	P.cent. of loss
Glencoe	48	221	4,000	6.7
Elandslaagte	51	213	3,000	7.1
Belmont	49	238	7,000	4.1
Graspan	24	164	6,700	2.8
Modder River	72	396	8,000	5.8

In no case has the loss reached 10 per cent. of the whole force, though there have been regiments and small detachments which have suffered altogether disproportionately. The detachment of Gordons lost one-third [illegible] heroic Marines, in the [illegible] sault upon the kopje [illegible] nearly 50 per cent. of t[illegible] ing almost all their o[illegible] ground.

At Albuera, one of t[illegible] tions of the Peninsular [illegible] Spanish army lost 7,00[illegible] In the attack on the hi[illegible] the key of the French position, the 57th Regiment lost 425 officers and men out of 570, and only 1,800 unwounded British soldiers out of 6,000 reached the top. This was an unsuccessful assault, yet the enormous losses prove the deadliness of the old weapons. In ten other instances, from 1377 to 1800, the average of losses was from 25 to 10 per cent.

The seeming paradox that modern weapons are less deadly than the old Minie or Brown Bess is thus explained: In the first place, the man of to-day is a more nervous organism than was the man of 1800 or 1850. In the second place, the effect of the artillery preparation is now infinitely greater than it was in the past, and will become even more extraordinary in the future. As the lyddite shell is to the shrapnel of the present, so the shrapnel is to the feeble round shot or shell of the past. In the very near future our field batteries will be supplied with the terrible lyddite-charged projectile, which is five times more efficacious among the stony kopjes of the South African veldt than the shrapnel with which our batteries are at present supplied. Then our 5 and 4 per cents. of losses will dwindle to 2½ and 2 per cents.

Moreover, in the past the soldiers were either long-service men or trained in continuous fighting. Such troops will take more punishment than the two or three years' soldier of the Continent today, because their discipline is greater. Our own fighting army is composed practically of six years' service men—when the Reservists are included—and is at the present time, man for man, the finest fighting force in the world.

FEEDING THE ARMY.

What It Means to Supply 116,000 Men and 51,000 Horses.

The London Times prints an interesting article on the provisioning of the British army in South Africa. The basis of the arrangement is that there shall be four months' supplies always available at the seat of war for 110,000 troops and native transport helpers, and 51,000 horses and mules. At the present moment there are only three months' supplies on hand in South Africa, but the additions necessary to bring the totals up to four months' limit are being despatched with speed, and that limit once reached, will be maintained as long as may be thought necessary. Of the enormous quantities of food which go to make up a four months' supply for this number of men and animals few persons can have even the remotest idea. The one item of preserved meat alone stands is the same quantity. Of biscuit there are 400,000 pounds, tea at 200,000 pounds, sugar at 200,000 pounds, compressed vegetables at 800,000 pounds, and salt at 400,000 pounds. One article of diet which has been found particularly suitable for troops on active service is a preparation of meat and vegetables cooked together. Of this a single contractor is sending tins at the rate of half a million each month. Of condensed milk sweetened and unsweetened, the four months' supplies represent 360,000 tins.

Particularly interesting is the item of jam. This commonly was first given to the British troops in the Soudan expedition of 1884 and 1885, and it was afterwards supplied to the Ashanti expedition. It was reported on very favorably on each occasion, for not only was it regarded with favor by the troops, but it was found to be a distinctly healthy food, especially on account of its antiscorbutic properties, an important consideration in the absence of a good supply of fresh vegetables. Jam has therefore taken its permanent place as one good thing among others for troops to fight on, and the quantities to be kept in South Africa as a four months' reserve amount to no less than 1,400,000 pounds, consigned in tins each contining a single pound. In regard to the liquids the list provides for 80,000 gallons of rum, 12,000 bottles of whiskey, 32,000 bottles of port wine, nearly 40,000 pounds weight of lime juice, a vast quantity of "sparklets" for making soda water, and 80 tons of alum for purifying spring or river water, of which the quality may be doubtful.

Of tobacco the quantity sent out by the War Office for the four months is 40,000 pounds, this, of course, being quite independent of the amount contributed by private donors. It should be said, however, that the troops have to pay for the tobacco supplied by the War Office, doing so at the rate of 1s. per pound, so that no doubt they would be doubly pleased to get free gifts from the British public. Of ordinary hospital supplies the quantities are based on the supposition that 10 per cent. of the troops are always either sick or wounded, though happily, this percentage is never reached. In the way of disinfectants, also, it is assumed that during each four months there will—may be—required 6,000 pounds of carbolic acid powder, 20 tons of chloride of lime, 10,000 gallons of lizal, and 10 tons of McDougall's disinfecting powder. Still another item on the list is that of 80,000 pounds of candles. For the horses and mules there are provided, for the same period 25,000 tons of hay, 31,000 tons of oats, and 3,000 tons of bran.

A. J. Smith and wife, of England, who are looking for a suitable location on Vancouver Island for a home, are at the Victoria.