VICTORIA'S POLICE FORCE.

One statement that was made in evidence yesterday by Police Constable Clayards, in the investigation now going on as to the conduct of certain members of the police force, that ought to bring home to the citizens the absolute necessity of taking hold of this body and placing it upon something like a proper footing. The witness was asked by the cross-examiner:

"Why didn't you report him (Sergeant Walker) to the police commissioners, as it was your duty to do?"

Witness—"Was it? Is it my duty? It might be in a large police force where there is proper discipline and where there are people to back you up, but it don't go here."

We do not doubt for a moment that the witness was speaking the plain truth, but we hope this investigation will not be dropped until the public know exactly why it is unsafe for a member of the Victoria police force to do his duty, who the persons are who make it unsafe for him to do so, and why they should not be punished as they deserve. It is evident the constable spoke with some bitterness in making his statement, and certainly there has been enough revealed already to show cause for bitterness on the part of a subordinate officer of that force, who wishes to do his duty faithfully.

The whole thing simply amounts to this, Victoria cannot any longer afford to have it said about her that her police service is rotten from top to toe. That force must be entirely remodelled; efficiency and faithfulness must be insisted upon; police commissioners must be compelled to do their duty by carrying out the law of the land as it is laid down for their guidance, and winking, and conniving, and glossing over active and passive offences of the members of the force; the detestable collusion between the force and certain elements of the population must be put a stop to with all necessary rigor, and from chief to probationer every man must be held to his obligation to render honest, active, constant and impartial attention to his duty in all its details.

RIP VAN WINKLE'S RETURN.

One of the first things that Mr. J. H. Turner did, on setting foot in Canada after months of absence in England, was to express his views on British Columbia politics to a newspaper reporter. Mr. Turner, apparently, grows garrulous as he grows older. He seems also to forget that while Mr. Turner may be alive Turnerism is dead forever and forever. If he could only appreciate that fact, it would from many a blunder free him and foolish notion. Mr. Turner told the newspaper man that the credit of British Columbia has been impaired in London because the Legislature, of which he was at the time a member—an assenting member, too, we believe—had passed the eight-hour law "which is considered as imperilling certain securities." What a pity it is that Mr. Turner cannot restrain his penchant for talking nonsense, and that, too, at the most inopportune times. The eight-hour law was supported by every member of the party led by Mr. Turner; it has since had the sanction of the Conservative convention, and it has the editorial approval of the Colonist, the most faithful of all the organs of the Turner party. Mr. Turner, like Rip Van Winkle, will not be known by the politicians when he returns to his home again, nor will he know anything of the politics of the province; his recollections will all be of a year or two ago. Marvellous changes have taken place since the days of Mr. Turner's premiership, and more marvellous changes still will take place before his party friends can hope to return to power again.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIR.

Some interesting tests of new and old Douglas fir beams, taken from trees grown in different portions of the province, have been made under the direction of Professor Bovey in the testing laboratory of MacGill University, Montreal, to determine strength. The results were remarkable, and go to prove the popular statement often heard, that this wood is amongst the strongest that grows, and in toughness of fibre surassed by none.

Twenty-five beams were chosen, some of them newly cut and specially selected, others newly cut but not specially selected, and others old beams that had been in use, some of them in water for years. The test consisted of placing loads upon the beams till they broke under the strain, and the enormous pressure brought to bear upon some of those beams before they failed is really astonishing.

The first beam tested stood a weight of 45,000 lbs. before breaking, the beam tearing apart on the tension face. Another bore the pressure of 51,600 lbs. before it failed at the support by the tearing apart of the fibres; but these are thrown into the shade by the tremendous resistance of a cross-grained beam, full of knots, which took 69,400 lbs. dead weight to crush it by the tearing apart of the fibres in the tension face. Still another stood 59,540 lbs. before yielding. Others stood tests varying from twelve thousand up to the figure already mentioned. All these were new beams.

In the tests of the old beams the result were even more astonishing, one of those breaking the record before it broke itself. Four old stringers were taken from trestles. One had been in position for nine years in a dry country with very little rain fall, and subject to a hot sun in summer, yet it bore the enormous weight of 55,400 lbs. before failing by longitudinal shear. Contrasted with this tough old stick was another taken from a trestle near Port Moody, which had been in position for six and a half years, in a place that has the heaviest rainfall in this province. This beam failed at 47,560 lbs. by the tearing apart of the tension face fibres, followed by longitudinal shear.

But here comes the test that proves British Columbia Douglas fir to be one of the most remarkable arboreal products in the world, and well illustrates its value in commerce. This beam was cut from a log grown on a bench near Spuzzum, about 500 feet above sea level, and had been in position eleven years in a district with a climate similar to that of Nova Scotia. It contained several knots and season cracks. At 41,000 lbs. material at one end of the beam was crushed in. The ends, partially decayed, were sawn off and the load was then increased to 76,900 lbs., when the beam failed by longitudinal shear.

It would be very interesting to have the results of similar tests with other woods to compare with those just mentioned, but we think the foregoing are sufficient to prove that British Columbia fir is altogether an extraordinary wood, of high commercial value. It therefore behoves this province to take the greatest care of those magnificent forests, and do all in its power to prevent the destruction of those timber reserves by fire or any other means except the legitimate uses of trade and commerce.

We are indebted for the foregoing facts and figures to an excellent article in the special October number of the Canadian Lumberman.

STICK TO THE STATUTE.

The trial which was concluded yesterday in the city police court was at least instructive. It proved conclusively the weaknesses of the present system of dealing with the problems which Chatham street presents. Its details, as developed during the progress of the hearing, threw a very strong light upon police methods and demonstrated how liable the members of the force are to abuse the powers with which they are invested by the policy hitherto pursued for many years by the Board of Police Commissioners of this city.

It will be remembered that during the sittings of the board last year it transpired that the instructions of the police were to set the statute forbidding the maintenance of bawdy houses in operation, only when the occupants were guilty of disorderly conduct. We took exception at that time to the board's action, and subsequent events, as revealed at the trial just concluded, have vindicated our contention. The relations which some of the witnesses state exist between several members of the police force and the demi-monde is the logical outcome of the policy of which we complain.

The law itself is clear. It provides, practically, for the prohibition of these houses. The commissioners qualify this by inserting a provision which makes the law operative only when the house is disorderly. In so doing they invest the police with discretionary powers which are decidedly dangerous, and which open the way for systematic blackmailing—a privilege of which a dishonest and unscrupulous officer will not be slow to avail himself.

By it the class referred to are delivered into the hands of the police officer. He may demand with impunity anything which his greed, cupidity, or lust may dictate. If the victim refuses to comply with his request, he will summon her, with the absolute assurance of a conviction. Knowing this, she prefers passing ten or twenty dollars to the officer to being dragged into court and mulcted to the extent of double that amount. The oath of the officer regarding the character of her house is believed. Her sworn testimony regarding the viciousness of the guardian (?) of the law is discredited, and she chooses the short, easy and simple way out of the difficulty.

Nor does this exhaust the resources of the prosecutor. A bribe, or fee, from one woman, accompanied by the expression of a hope that her rival will leave town is all that is required to set the trusty official sharply after her obnoxious neighbor. It then merely becomes a question of which of the two can bid the highest for the aegis of the officer's patronage and power.

Working among an ignorant class, armed with a discretionary power bestowed by a misguided board, and fortified with the machinery of law, which by the stroke of a pen he may set in operation, he becomes a terror instead of a protector to the community, and as much a participator in the vile gains of the class he dominates as the "lovers" whom he professes to despise.

Much of this tendency to corruption would be obviated by a simple adherence to the line of action contemplated in the statute. It would rob the policeman on the Chatham street beat of many of the prerogatives which he now enjoys by virtue of the action of the Board of Police Commissioners, but it would relieve him of none of the powers with which he is lawfully invested. "You can't expect all the cardinal virtues, uncle, for two-bits a day," said the marauding Yankee in reply to a reprimand of General Sherman. Neither can the city expect men of exceptional probity and principle for the small wage which the members of the police force now receive. The day may come when the city can afford to pay a salary to its wardens of law and order which will raise them above suspicion, and insure men absolutely honest and fearless in discharging their duties. But while wages remain low, and human nature frail, the Police Commissioners will do much to remove a reproach to the body which they control, by taking every possible precaution to prevent the spread of corruption in their ranks.

Canada has an important lesson to learn from the Austrian lumbermen. They utilise every scrap of their lumber, and so effect a saving that has an important bearing on the annual balance sheet. A prominent English timber merchant now visiting in Canada has been advising our mill men to look a little more closely to the so-called waste products, to see if they are not making a serious and very expensive mistake in so classing what in Austria is a substantial source of income. This gentleman says Canada can secure a larger share of the wood trade of Great Britain and hold it if her manufacturers fulfil their contracts to the letter, something greatly prized by importers.

Colonel Sam Hughes is going anyhow, and his determination to do so opens up a nice question of military etiquette. What standing will he have when he reaches the Cape? Will he be recognized as a combatant, and be permitted to fall into the fighting line? One thing can be safely said about Sam—he is a fighter, and if they only give him half a show down there he will put up as game a battle as any man in the whole shootin' match. Hughes is a scrapper from "way back," that, even his few enemies, will allow without discount.

Canadian soldiers are fighting the Empire's battles in other parts of Africa besides the Transvaal. In the West African jungles several Canadian officers are doing great work in holding down John Bull's interests against the foreigners. It is interesting to learn that Major Girouard has as his staff officer Captain H. G. Joly de Lotbiniere, R.E., son of Sir Henry Joly.

"There is more prosperity, there is more trade, there is more industry, there is more activity in Canada to-day than there has been in any other epoch of its history." Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Drummondville.

MR. TURNER RETURNING.

(Associated Press.)

Montreal, Oct. 27.—Hon. J. H. Turner, ex-premier of British Columbia, who has been visiting England, is in the city today. He stated the credit of British Columbia has been impaired in London owing to the hasty legislation of the present government, especially regarding the eight-hour day law, which is considered as imperilling certain securities. Their quasi-repudiation policy regarding certain railways had also caused apprehension. Mr. Turner believed a change will soon occur in the government, as the people perceive the present government has deceived them.

RUSSIA'S FLEET IN THE PACIFIC

(Associated Press.)

Berlin, Oct. 27.—The Tageblatt learns from St. Petersburg that rumors are current there that the nineteen Russian men-of-war in the Pacific will shortly be reenforced by six ships from the Eastern squadron. The Tageblatt sees in this a connection with the rumors of the Chino-Japanese alliance.

NO MORE BULL FIGHTING.

(Associated Press.)

New York, Oct. 28.—A special dispatch to the Herald from Washington says: "No more bull fighting will occur in the Island of Cuba. Secretary Root has received from General Brooke a copy of an order issued by his direction by Brigadier-General A. R. Chaffee, putting an end to the sport."

NEW PORT OF CALL.

(Associated Press.)

Paris, Oct. 28.—The Matin to-day publishes a dispatch from Algiers, which announces that the North German-Lloyd steamers, engaged in the Genoa-New York service, will hereafter substitute Algiers for Gibraltar as a port of call on the homeward voyage.

ELECTED LORD RECTOR.

London, Oct. 28.—Lord Rosebery has been elected lord rector of Glasgow University by 829 votes, against 515 votes cast for Lord Kelvin.

NERVOUS WOMEN

Who are pale, weak and run down, should follow the advice of Mrs. Bradley, who was made strong and well by using DR. CHASE'S NERVE FOOD.

No remedy ever proved itself so efficacious for exhausted nerves and an emaciated condition of the body as Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. No remedy was ever so successful in restoring regularity of women and giving new life and vigor to the whole body.

Mrs. J. M. Bradley, 100 Jane street, Ottawa, states:

"For several years I have been gradually running down in health. I became nervous and weak and worried greatly over my future.

"Hearing of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and the wonderful results it has accomplished in others, I obtained a box and began using it as directed. I began to improve immediately and am now restored to full health and vigor.

"Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is an excellent remedy and I can recommend it to all who are weak, nervous or run down in health."

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50 cents a box, at all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

Croup and bronchitis are promptly cured by Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine.

Ominous Rumors

Russia May Demand the Opening of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

Great Britain Continues Preparations to Prevent Any European Interference.

Should British Officers Expose Themselves to the Enemy's Fire?

(Associated Press.)

London, Oct. 28.—The large number of British officers killed in the battles which have already taken place in Natal, has brought out strenuous protests from many quarters against the ancient custom of British officers in refusing to take cover when under fire.

From figures at Glencoe, it is apparent that one out of every four men killed was an officer, whereas the organization exists upon the principle that to every twenty-five men there is one officer. It is evident if the same ratio of mortality is kept up the British forces will become seriously under officered. Among enlisted men at Glencoe, the proportion of killed to wounded was 30 to 136, while 10 officers were killed to 22 officers wounded. The difference in percentage leads to the conclusion that many officers were hit more than once, and kept on leading their men after their first wounds.

Emperor William's recent criticism of British officers'

Refusal to Take Cover

is now frequently quoted. The feeling in the army itself is that though the regulations do not say officers must not be shown, it is such an old established precedent that it would take a brave man to inaugurate a change, and the usage of the British soldier has always been "follow wherever an officer leads."

The proportion of casualties on a whole has caused a thrill of horror and sympathy throughout Great Britain, for people now begin to realize what a fight with a civilized enemy means. Old soldiers point out that Alma, one of the bloodiest battles in Great Britain's annals,

The Casualties

totalled only six per cent., whereas in the recent Boer engagements they considerably exceed that figure.

Regarding European intervention,

Great Britain's Plans

to meet such emergencies continues.

The Journal de Geneve publishes a dispatch from Constantinople saying that Russia intends handing the porte a note at an early date demanding the opening of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. Unless Great Britain is a party to such a demand, Russia's action will undoubtedly stir up a hornets' nest, compared with which the Transvaal question will be quite insignificant.

The temorary cessation of news from the seat of war gives the newspapers here an opportunity of retrospective self-gratulation, firstly on the success of Gen. White's strategy in the face of a superior force, in puzzling the Boers, preventing a junction of the Orange Free State and Transvaal armies, and in a word, gaining time and delaying the invasion of Natal until the arrival of Gen. Buller and the army corps permits of the real operation for the

Invasion of the Two Republics

to commence; secondly, the bravery of both officers and men of the British army which has astounded not only their enemies, but the continental neighbors of Great Britain; thirdly, the readiness of the reserves to respond to the call to arms, and the smoothness, success, swift precision and completeness of mobilization which has equally amazed European critics who, if they did not anticipate a disastrous repetition of Crimean history, had no idea of the immense improvement in the organization of the commissariat and fighting machinery.

General White's strategy and execution of his movements are warmly praised, and it is said at the club Gen. Sir Redvers Buller will have to hurry up, or Gen. White will get a peerage first. Gen. White represents the Indian element in the British army, and those who served in India have always maintained that the commander there had

A More Important Post

than the commander-in-chief himself. As Gen. Lord Roberts was considered too old for another campaign, Generals White, Symons and Hunter were sent as a sop to the Indian faction, for Gen. Buller has always been more or less antagonistic to Gen. Roberts and his partisans.

Reports as to the probable intervention by the powers in the Transvaal have had a distressing effect on consols on the exchange. African mine shares are no longer referred to as "Kaffirs," they are now called "British," while South Africa is optimistically described as a modernized Egypt.

Russia is reported to be endeavoring to raise a loan of £20,000,000 in Paris, but so far has been unsuccessful.

The internal conditions of

Labor in England

have not been improved by the war. About 2,000 Welsh miners are likely to be thrown out of work on November 1st by a threatened strike of the surface engineers and other mechanics who are claiming shorter hours. The negotiations on the subject have been mailed and the surface-men announce that the strike will begin on the date mentioned. It will then be practically impossible for the miners to continue under ground.

G. Koenig, the hotel keeper at Shawnigan, is a guest at the Occidental.

TO-DAY'S TELEGRAPHIC TICKS.

(Associated Press.)

Port Hope—The collision on the Grand Trunk, reported yesterday, was due to the conductors of the west bound train mixing orders, through a change in the running orders of the system.

Quebec—Conductor Godin was crushed to death by an electric car this morning.

Toronto.—Lady Aberdeen was tendered a farewell at the Normal school last night under the auspices of the National Council of Women.

Knowlton, Que.—Sir Charles Tupper spoke on current political topics here yesterday.

Durham, Ont.—The South Grey Reform Association has passed a resolution endorsing the Laurier and Ross governments.

Windsor.—John Welsh has been committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of Mrs. Jane McDowell, who was found dead on the roadside near Amherstburg last Monday.

Toronto, Oct. 28.—Prof. Brehener, the most prominent German musician in the city, dropped dead from heart failure last evening. He was a resident of Toronto for quarter of a century.

Kingston, Oct. 28.—Senator Sullivan is seriously ill.

Montreal, Albert V. Roe, a Postal Telegraph messenger, who left New York on July 3rd and arrived in San Francisco on October 3rd on a bicycle, arrived here this morning.

SUICIDE AT KAMLOOPS.

Mr. Joseph McDonald, of the Provincial Land Registry Office, Shoots Himself With a Revolver.

(Special to the Times.)

Kamloops, Oct. 26.—Kamloops was this evening startled by a tragedy that has filled the people with astonishment. Mr. Joseph McDonald, of the provincial land registry office here, committed suicide at 6.30 by shooting himself in the head with a revolver.

Deceased had just returned to his house and was lying on a bed. He told one of his children, who was in the room, to tell his wife that he was going to shoot himself. Before she got into the room he had accomplished his intention. He lingered for several hours.

His death has cast a gloom over the entire community, as he was universally respected. No reason can be ascribed for the act. Two days ago he threatened to shoot himself and his wife hid the revolver.

Deceased came here in 1893 from Victoria. He is well known in Cowichan, where he at one time ran against Theodore Davie. He came from Nova Scotia.

Deceased was for a number of years engaged in business at Duncans, and was on one occasion a candidate for the local legislature in Cowichan. He married a daughter of the late Premier Smythe. He came from Nova Scotia, and was well known in Victoria, where his many friends will be at once surprised and pained to learn of his death under such distressing circumstances.

SHOT THEIR CHIEF.

Winnipeg, Oct. 27.—Two Indians accused of shooting their chief last winter at Cat Lake, about 350 miles northeast of Dinorwic, have been brought here. The story told by the two prisoners is essentially as follows

The chief of the Cat Lake Indians, called Ah-wah-sa-keh-mig became a Wendigo, or insane, and ordered the prisoners to shoot him. A council of tribes was called and they discussed the matter for two days, when they arrived at the conclusion that the chief's orders would have to be obeyed. The Wendigo lay down in his wigwam and indicated with his hand where they were to shoot him. After he was dead, wood was heaped upon his body and the fire kept going for two days; thereby, according to the belief of the Indians, thoroughly destroying the evil spirit of their chief. They will be tried here.

REVELATIONS PROMISED.

(Associated Press.)

Berlin, Oct. 28.—A Constantinople telegram to the Tageblatt states that the son of Midhatt Pasha, who since his father's death has lived as a state prisoner in a Dervish monastery at Smyrna, escaped a short time ago.

It is reported that he went to England where he succeeded in obtaining possession of certain papers which his father had deposited in a place of safety some years ago. These are very important documents and will throw a new light on the desposition and death of Abdul Aziz, the causes which led to the abrogation of the Turkish constitution, and the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish war.

INCREASING GERMANY'S NAVY.

(Associated Press.)

Berlin, Oct. 28.—The Tageblatt declares the Imperial government intends to double the strength of the navy. The reason given is the great increase of the navy of America, which is evidently destined to become a great sea power.

FAMINE IN INDIA.

(Associated Press.)

London, Oct. 28.—The Telegraph Exchange Company has a dispatch from Allahabad saying the famine expenditure has compelled the Indian government to suspend telegraphic transfers and restrict council bills.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

(Associated Press.)

London, Oct. 28.—Some British bondholders are organizing an opposition to the re-organization plan of the Chicago Grand Trunk railway.

BUBONIC PLAGUE.

(Associated Press.)

Santos, Oct. 28.—Four additional cases of bubonic plague and one death have occurred here since October 26th.

THE D. & L. EMULSION OF COD LIVER OIL will build you up, will make you fat and healthy. Especially beneficial to those who are "all run down." Manufactured by the Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

Suicide of W. H. Lomas

Indian Agent at Duncans Shoots Himself With a Revolver This Morning.

Seated at a Desk in His Office When the Act Was Committed.

(Special to the Times.)

Duncans, Oct. 27.—W. H. Lomas, Indian agent, shot and killed himself this morning.

Provincial Constable J. Maitland Dougall was on the way to his office and was passing the Indian office, when an Indian called to him that Lomas wanted to see him. Dougall was just going in the door when he heard a shot.

Lomas was sitting in a chair in the private office with a revolver in his hand. He had shot himself in the head at the back of the right ear, and died instantly.

On a desk at the back of the chair was the following quotation from George Eliot, written on an envelope: "What have we to live for, except to make life less difficult for others."

So far as known at present there was no cause for the rash act.

Mr. Lomas leaves a widow, three sons and three daughters, all of whom are living here.

Verdict of the Coroner's Jury in the Lomas Suicide at Duncans.

Duncans, Oct. 27.—An inquest was held here this evening by Coroner Norcross into the circumstances surrounding the death of William Henry Lomas, who shot himself in his office this morning.

Fred Lomas, son of the deceased, said his father left home about 7 o'clock and appeared at that time to be in the best of spirits. He had been worried of late, laboring under the belief that Rev. Mr. Tait, the Indian missionary, was trying to have him removed from his position as Indian agent. He was ill on Tuesday, and Dr. Lucas examined him for heart trouble. The doctor assured him that his heart was all right. He complained of paralytic pains and on Tuesday night was unable to go home. He left a note on the office table: "If anything happens to me call Dr. Lucas." Deceased always had a revolver in his possession.

Formal evidence was given confirming the details already published in the Times, and the jury returned a verdict as follows: "We find that the deceased, W. H. Lomas, shot himself while temporarily insane, which we think was brought on by worry and illness, and we take this opportunity of expressing our sincere and heartfelt sympathy with the family of the deceased. W. H. Elkington, foreman."

William Henry Lomas was a native of England, where he was born November 25, 1840. He came out to Victoria in 1862 on the ship Silistria, the same vessel that brought Mr. William Wilson, of W. & J. Wilson, Government street, to British Columbia. Mr. Lomas brought with him a quantity of goods, and immediately upon his arrival in Victoria opened a store, and continued in business here for a number of years. Subsequently he engaged in ranching at Duncans, in which occupation he continued until his appointment to the position of Indian agent in April, 1881. He was the first Indian agent appointed in this province.

Among his many friends in this city it is feared that financial trouble was the cause of the rash act chronicled above, it having been known for some time that he was heavily involved.

BANDITS DISPERSED.

(Associated Press.)

Manila, Oct. 28.—Detachments of the Sixth Infantry have recently been engaged dispersing bands of bandits, who have been operating in the Island of Negros. Captain Simons took the village of Tulisanes, near San Carlos, and Capt. Evans defeated another band, killing ten, wounding many and capturing 20. There were no American losses.

CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS.

CURE

Sick Headache and relieves all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing

SICK

Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured

HEAD

Ache they would be almost priceless to those who suffer from this distressing complaint; but fortunately their goodness does not end here, and those who once try them will find these little pills valuable in so many ways that they will not be willing to do without them. But after all sick head

ACHE

is the bane of so many lives that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not.

Carter's Little Liver Pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills make a dose. They are strictly vegetable and do not gripe or purge, but by their gentle action please all who use them. In vials at 25 cents; five for $1. Sold by druggists everywhere, or sent by mail.

CARTER MEDICINE CO. New York.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.