Spanish Mines And Miners

Fascinating Description of Mining Life in the Iberian Peninsula.

How the Toilers of Spain Live on Fifty Cents a Day.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Mr. Herman French, the mining engineer who recently arrived in Victoria after a long residence in Spain, where he was for years manager of some of the leading mines, has kindly written the following racy and entertaining description of the conditions which obtain in the mining regions of Spain. It will be found most entertaining reading for all who are interested in the land of the peseta, the grandee and the hidalgo.

Spanish miners belong to a most frugal and hard working class recruited almost entirely from the agricultural laborer, when unemployed in the mines he turns his attention to his former work.

Earning for a day's labor of eight hours pesetas 3.50 or about 50 cents Canadian, he early marries, keeps house and brings up a family, usually large.

In the great mining centres, although satisfied with the simplest form of lodging, house rent makes a big hole in the earning, leaving comparatively little for food, dress and amusements.

Only two meals as a rule are taken, the first or "almuerzo" about 7 o'clock in the morning on arriving at the mine, after drinking one or more "copas" of "aguadiente" on the road, a hearty meal is made before going underground of meat, usually bacon and bread followed by some sort of dessert, whatever is in season, some times only olives. The evening meal or "cocida" is eaten after work in the home and consists of three courses, soup, "cocido" and fish or salad. With all meals it is the custom to drink wine or water, the cheapness of good wine bringing it well within the reach of the poorest.

This national dish, the "cocido" is composed of Spanish "chick peas" or "garbanzos," goat's flesh, ham, rancid bacon, and native sausages with greens, turnips and potatoes or other vegetables, boiled together in an open or loosely closed earthenware pot for several hours; the liquid is served as the soup and the solid portion makes the second course. This dish, with but a little difference in the seasoning which varies slightly according to the district, is the world-famed "olla podrida" and should be acceptable to the Canadian housewife, though the meaning of the name, "rotten pot" may not add a relish.

The evening meal being over an adjournment is either made to one of the cafes or clubs, with which every Spanish town abounds, to drink coffee, and it is astonishing the length of time needed to drink one cup, or the time is passed till bedtime with the family playing the guitar, singing and dancing.

The church although not holding the same high place with the people it once held, is still a great power, entering into the daily and family life of each and everyone of its members, providing the national holidays, which are the feast days of the church, and a good priest can do and does more than lawyer and judge to settle the disputes and ameliorate the condition of the poor.

These feast days are usually spent by the miner and his family in the open country, picnicing, hunting and fishing being indulged in where that is obtainable. Many go to the bull ring in the afternoon when a fight is on and pass the evening in the theatre.

Once a year a fair is held of more or less importance, according to the size of the town. This is much looked forward to, good business being done in the sale of horses, cattle, etc. The family man and his children are catered for in the many stalls ranged along the public walk—"Alemeda"— filled with playthings, sweets and cheap jewelery and fruits, etc. Music is supplied from "Diana," or sun rise to midnight. On the three chief days grand bull fights are held, when all the most renowned fighters are brought together to provide the afternoon amusement in the ring, and in the evening there is public dancing in the tents provided in the fair.

About the end of February or beginning of April carnival comes along, when for a few days King Carnival reigns supreme and the staid and sober castilian goes a "Mafeking" under his orders. Quite a new side of Spanish life and character is seen in this celebration, only to be a few days later more sharply accentuated by the solemn processions held in the streets and the gorgeous ceremonies which take place in the church at Eastertide, in which both rich and poor, men and women, take part, by the candidates. All Spaniards are to be by the candidate. All Spaniards are to a greater or less degree born talkers and greatly swayed by the power and thoroughly understand a good speech and breathless attention is given to a favorite speaker, and many an election is won by the grand oratory displayed by the orators on the eve of what before looked like certain defeat.

The expert miner is seen at his best when he has a contract. The idea of working for himself and to gain more wages is a great incentive and the work is done quicker, better and cheaper and the contractor makes a very good profit on his bargain, as a rule, little to his permanent advantage, his hard-earned money too often being lost gambling.

He is also a great speculator in mines, in which he has very little chance of gain on account of the water, machinery being required after, but a very few meters have been sunk and the general nature of the country does not admit of any other form of mining than by shafts.

The mouled Spaniard up to the last few years has not invested his money in mining and developing the resources of his country, leaving that to foreign capital. But within the last ten or fifteen years many Spaniards from the north of Spain have put their money into mines with marked success, making large fortunes. This has caused many more to break in on the private hoard and try an easy way of increasing their limiated means, and where the property has been properly managed with invariable success, for Spain, once the mining centre of Europe, is likely with improved machinery to become so again as her known mines are quite shallow and of great richness.

This article seems to have got no further than the miner, certainly the more interesting and picturesque subject and one which here has but very briefly been touched on and very poorly portrayed his simple and honest character, deeply attached to those he likes. He is never so ready to resent an injury by the quick justice of the knife as is usually shown. What perhaps may have been true fifty or a hundred years ago, is not so now, every day less so, and never unless excited by drink. Poor and hard working his greatest faults are gambling and the lack of that education which has raised the Englishman to the proud position he holds today. Yet no one who has had dealings with even a common miner but is not struck by the fact that they are dealing with a gentleman.

Horse's Sad Plight.—Fred Hewlings, superintendent of the Victoria Gas Works, while on a hunting expedition in Saanich Arm came across a large Clydesdale horse with white face. The place is one seldom visited by the hunter, especially at this time of the year. The horse is completely isolated. It cannot leave the little rocky islet because of the sea on one side and the canyons on the other, and a number of hunters are considering the advisability of shooting the animal before it starves to death.

ADVANCE IN COTTON.

Montreal, Dec. 3.—It was announced today that the Canadian cotton mills will in a few days give notice to the trade of an advance in price of cottons, all the way from ¼ cent to ¾ cent per yard. The advance is rendered necessary by the increase in price of raw cotton.

HYPNOTIC BANDIT.

One of Chicago Car Barn Murderers Will Plead Hypnotism.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—Hypnotism will be the plea put up by Emil Roeski, one of the car barn bandits, as his defence on trial for murder. His attorney notified the states attorney that experts will be introduced at time of trial to prove that Roeski was hypnotized by another of the band, Peter Niedermeier.

ARSENICAL POISONING.

Royal Commission Recommends Certain Prohibitions as to Food and Drink.

London, Dec. 3.—The royal commission on arsenical poisoning from food and drink recommends the prohibition of the sale of beer and other liquid food or of any liquid entering into the composition of food which contains one hundredth of a grain or more of arsenic per gallon and the prohibition of the sale of solid food containing one-hundredth of a grain per pound. No matter whether habitually consumed in large or small quantities or whether consumed alone like golden syrup or mixed with water or other substance, like chicory, etc." The commissioners find there are serious defects in the present machinery available to safeguard the public, and urge that more extended powers be given to the authorities to condemn unwholesome food, the establishment of official standards and the creation of a "board of reference" to which could be referred specific points and whose decisions should be carried out by the department concerned, the latter's action being subject to the control of parliament.

H.M. Cruiser Flora Fast On the Rocks

Crashed on to Village Point as a Result of Navigator's Disastrous Mistake.

Her After Part Is Submerged and Vessel May Prove a Total Wreck.

(From Friday's Daily.)

H. M. S. Flora, a second-class cruiser of 4,360 tons displacement, commanded by Capt. C. J. Baker, crashed into the rocks at Village Point, Denman Island, about four miles from Union, at 3 a.m. yesterday, when bound from Union to Esquimalt, striking almost in the same spot where the steam collier Willammette struck on March 16th, 1901, and it is feared that the big cruiser will be a total loss.

The warship was in charge of the navigating officer, who is reported to have mistaken the red star buoy which marks the reef extending for four cables out Village Point, for the three-mile beacon with white-painted discs marking the sand spit off Base Flat, some four miles to the south on the opposite shore.

The cruiser was steaming at a rate of speed, high perhaps considering the fact that the waterway, which has an average navigable width of half a mile, was obscured by fog, and the Flora crashed on the rocks. The officer had mistaken the beacon with disastrous results.

The vessel drove up on the shelving rock. It was twilight, with day breaking in a misty fog curtain, and the beacon was seen indistinctly, the land not at all. The force of the stranding caused great excitement, and when it was found that the sea was rushing in through the after scuppers, which had unfortunately been left open, the scene was indescribable. The position of the bow had forced the after part of the vessel low down in the water, and when the flooding started—the water rushed in with rapidity through the open scuppers.

Soon the after part of the cruiser had ten feet of water above the deck, the top of her jackstaff being just visible. The officers had been forced to abandon their quarters, the rooms of the commander and his staff of officers being all in the after part of the vessel. With what little of their effects they could gather together in a hurry, the officers scrambled forward up the sloping deck, for by this time that part which remained above water was lying at a sharp angle from the bow, which was fast on the jagged rock. The ward room, with its furnishings, the racks of arms, everything in the stern quarters of the cruiser, was quickly submerged, and the crew and officers, unable to stop the rush of water through the open scuttles, were forced to the bow, whence they scrambled down on to the rocks.

The submerged after part of the cruiser is believed to be partially water born. The shelving rock rises steeply there, and there are a number of large boulder-like rocks, one of which wrought such damage when it penetrated the hull of the collier, Willammette, which was held in a similar position, and, with the falling tide, broke her back. The tide rises about twelve feet at the scene of the wreck in five hours, and with the changing tides the position of the stranded warship is not improved. She shipped six hundred tons of coal at the bunkers at Union, which she had just left when the disaster occurred, and soon after the wreck her crew lightened her by the removal of four hundred tons and her stores, but the crash with which she had been driven on the rocks had forced her too far up to allow of her floating, even if she had not filled aft when the scuttles were submerged. Much damage has been sustained where she is suspended on the rocks at the bow, and she may prove to be a total wreck.

Rear-Admiral Bickford, commanding officer of the Esquimalt squadron, was informed by telegram from Union wharf of the disaster, and he made arrangements with the E. & N. railway for a special train, on which he entrained at 2.30 p.m. yesterday from the Esquimalt siding and proceeded to Nanaimo, where arrangements had been made to have the steamer Joan awaiting him, and on this vessel he proceeded to Village Point. He was accompanied by Mr. H. F. Bullen, of the Esquimalt Marine Railway, and B. C. Salvage Company, an association which has an arrangement with Lloyds for the salvage of vessels wrecked in British Columbia waters.

Before proceeding the Admiral ordered the survey ship, Egeria, and the flagship, Grafton, to proceed to the scene. H. M. S. Egeria, after loading stores, coal and gear for wrecking purposes, left Esquimalt last night for the scene, and H. M. S. Grafton, the flagship, which, under ordinary circumstances, would not have left the dock until Monday next, will come out this morning and proceed to Village Island to render all possible assistance to the wrecked cruiser.

Latest Advices.

Cumberland, Dec. 3.—10 p. m.—To-night's advices from Union bay state that H. M. S. Flora is in the same position with her stern under water and her bows high and dry. The weather is dead calm, but should a gale come up from the southeast she would be exposed to its full fury. Admiral Bickford left Nanaimo this evening on the steamer Joan for the wreck.

Many Vessels at Ocean Docks

Busy Scene Presented By the Fleet Tied Up There Yesterday.

Iyo Maru In From the Orient—Garonne Drove Ashore At Tacoma.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The Ocean docks presented a busy scene yesterday, there being a goodly list of ships moored there, and some of the vessels had to lie alongside others so great was the demand on wharf space. The steamers Hyades and Riojun Maru, two liners, the former having completed discharging freight for Victoria, and the latter having completed loading, left port in the early morning, the former for Tacoma completing her inward voyage, and the latter for Yokohama and ports. The steamer Iyo Maru of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, moored at the docks soon after eight o'clock, and began to put out her freight—she had 300 tons for this port, including fifteen thousand packages of Japanese oranges for local dealers. Near by the Jeanie was completing her cargo of railway and mining supplies in preparation to sail today for Herrenden bay on the Alaskan coast. Berthed alongside her was the tug Lorne, which had returned from docking the British ship Pass of Brander, and the British ship Pass of Killiecrankie was discharging general cargo at the other dock. The steamer Moana, which is expected to be towed around to the dry dock by the tug Lorne in a few days, is still moored at the Ocean docks. The schooner Alexander is moored alongside her.

The steamer Iyo Maru had a stormy voyage, having encountered part of the heavy gale reported by liners which have arrived within the past few days. The Iyo Maru was buffetted by the heavy seas and several waves washed her decks, but no damage resulted. She brought fourteen saloon passengers, including Commander and Mrs. Blocklinger from Manila, Capt. and Mrs. H. J. Hoelstad, survivors of the lost American ship Benjamin Sewell—an interview with Capt. Hoelstad being given in another column—Miss Piper, another survivor of the wreck, Miss S. Kilgallen, G. F. Litter, W. E. Sullivan, J. S. DeBuerevile, K. Takayama, J.H. Martin, C. S. Hughes, G. Fitsi and Carl Siegler. There was one second class passenger, Mr. John Dun, for Victoria, and fifteen for Seattle, F. Tonn, Albert Schiff, and thirteen Japanese. The steerage passengers for Victoria numbered 157, of whom 133 were Chinese—the limit allowed the steamer. There were 73 Japanese for Seattle.

Capt. Curnow was in command of the Iyo Maru, having replaced Capt. Butler who has gone on one of the liners on the Japan Australian line.

Steamer Iyo Maru, which arrived yesterday, brought news of continued complaints against government delay regarding the Russo-Japanese negotiations and strong attacks are being made on the Elder Statesman. These attacks, as shown by cables having resulted in an attempt to assassinate Marquis Ito. Jingo meetings are being held and a growing jingo feeling prevails. Russia meanwhile is continuing to concentrate troops in Southern Manchuria. Large increases are reported at Fengwhangcheng. At Moukden the Russians are compelling Chinese institutions to hoist Russian flags, and have revised the taxes.

A Port Arthur correspondent tells of strong objections by Russian officials regarding the recent American treaty with China, the Russians holding that as Manchuria lies within their sphere of influence China should make no treaties affecting Manchuria without consulting Russia. The Novi Krai commenting on the presence of an American fleet in Chinese waters, which is viewed as a demonstration, has an angry editorial on the subject. The Novi Krai says Russia cannot admit an open door in Manchuria, and will object to the opening of Moukden, which has been since occupied by Russia.

At the Japanese army manoeuvres now proceeding, in which forty thousand troops are engaged, the Emperor, after cordially receiving Sir Cyprian Bridge, British admiral on the China station, and other foreign officers, conferred orders on forty-seven visiting military men, of whom forty were Chinese, others being Russian, French, German and Dutch.

The Emperor viewed an engagement which took place in a wide expanse of rice fields near Furusato. The eastern division had taken up a position on high ground near Kanagasaki, and the western division delivered a desperate assault on their right wing. A severe engagement followed in which the attackers were adjudged victorious.

At tiffin the Emperor complimented Marshal Marquis Oyama, General Baron Kodama and Commander Kuroki of the Eastern army, and Commander Yamaguchi of the Western army, and urged them to maintain endeavors to attain the utmost success.

A review was held by the Emperor at Shimoda on November 16th, followed by an Imperial banquet, attended by the principal Japanese officers and visiting military men, one thousand being present.

A despatch from Port Arthur tells of the sinking of a steam launch belonging to the Russian cruiser Askold, by a Japanese steamer, the Kenko Maru. Two Russians of eight on board were drowned. The Russians held the Japanese vessel and the commander of the Askold proceeded on board and interrogated the Japanese master. Subsequently the steamer was released. She was not damaged and proceeded to Japan.

Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai and his foreign-drilled troops are reported to have received orders to proceed to Kwangsi to crush the revolution which is assuming such large proportions in that province. This revolution is being aided by Chinese in America and other countries.

According to Pekin reports the Empress Dowager and court intend vacating Pekin in favor of Haifeng to Honan, should hostilities occur with Russia.

QUEEN CITY RETURNS.

Brought News That the Schooner Penelope is En Route Home—C. D. Rand Wrecked

Steamer Queen City, Capt. Townsend, returned from Cape Scott, Quatsino and way ports on the Island coast this morning at an early hour. The steamer has been delayed by a succession of very heavy gales, having been detained at the several inlets en route by the strong breezes and high seas. From Quatsino she brought a cargo of lumber and several passengers, including Mr. Tregear, of the Lenora mine, who went to look over the ore body at the Ireka mine.

News was brought from Kyuquot that the schooner Penelope, in which a new foremast to replace that which carried away in a gale off the coast port, was stepped by the crew of the steamer, has left Kyuquot for home. The Penelope sailed from the coast port on Tuesday morning.

Capt. Searle of the sunken schooner C. D. Rand, who went to endeavor to raise that vessel, is returning on the schooner Penelope. He managed to locate the sunken schooner C. D. Rand, but, owing to the rough weather and the position in which the schooner lies he was unable to do anything. She is at the bottom in fifteen fathoms of water. Capt G. Heater, who went up to pay off his Indian crew at Kyuquot, was a passenger on the Queen city.

Other passengers included Mr. Sharp of the Hudson's Bay Company, H. Joseph of the logging camp at San Juan; Mr. Baird of San Juan and several other coast residents.

GARONNE DROVE ASHORE.

Blow Caused Her to Drag Anchors and Go on the Rocks.

The heavy blow of Tuesday resulted in damage to the well known steamer Garonne, which has been tied up at Tacoma. The Garonne dragged her anchors and went ashore on the north side of Quartermaster harbor. At low water the steamer was lying high and dry. Efforts were being made yesterday by the tugs Fearless and Fairfield to tow her into deep water.

Whether the Garonne has suffered damage cannot be determined. The north side of the harbor where she was driven ashore is rocky, placing the vessel in considerable danger. The Garonne has been laid up for months at Quartermaster harbor in charge only of a watchman and, supposedly, securely anchored.

The gale which blew over the Sound yesterday, however, reached a velocity of over thirty miles an hour at one time, and came from the southwest, driving the steamer, anchors and all, on the beach.

CONSERVATIVE NOMINATIONS.

Madoc, Ont, Dec. 3.—A. B. Northup, M. P., was unanimously nominated for the Dominion House, by the East Hastings Conservatives today.

Montreal, Dec. 3.—Hon. J. G. H. Bergeron accepted the nomination for the St. James division of Montreal tonight at a very largely attended meeting of the Monk club.

CYCLES AND MOTORS.

Shareholders in Canadian Company Agree to a Reorganization.

Toronto, Dec. 3.—At the adjourned annual meeting of the shareholders of the Canada Cycle and Motor Company today a resolution was unaimously passed advising shareholders to deposit their stock for a reorganization, and to take advantage of the offer of a million dollars worth of stock from the directors to be distributed among the shareholders who can least afford the loss the reorganization will entail.

DOMINION ELECTIONS.

Toronto Globe Advises Immediate Preparation for Vigorous Campaign.

Toronto, Dec. 3.—The Globe this morning says editorially: "Signs are multiplying that presage the approach of the general elections of the Federal parliament. Alike in government and opposition circles activity is shown which suggests the real opening of the campaign. The date of the elections has not yet been announced, but the officers and members of the Liberal associations throughout the country will do no more than intelligent prudence advises if they lose no time in making ready for a vigorous campaign."

International Arbitration

Gathering in Washington to Organize Campaign For Treaty With Britain.

Proposed on the Lines of the Recent Anglo-French Agreement.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The awakening in the United States of a popular sentiment which it is hoped will develop into a national demand for an American treaty between the United States and Great Britain was the object of a gathering this afternoon at the residence of General John W. Foster, formerly United States Secretary of State. It is understood the movement has the hearty approval of President Roosevelt.

The gentlemen present constitute the local committee and will arrange for a meeting of the national arbitration committee in this city January 12th next. Regarding the scope of the plan which is to be pushed vigorously in the hope of securing at an early date the conclusion of an arbitration treaty following the general lines of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty of 1897, the Associated Press is authorized to make this statement:

"In April, 1896, a notable conference of the friends of international arbitration was held in Washington, attended by prominent and representative citizens from all part of the United States. The conference declared in favor of an arbitration between the United States and Great Britain, and it was followed in January, 1897, by the signing of such a treaty by United States Secretary of State Hay and the late British ambassador, Sir Julian Pauncefote. The treaty failed by a close vote, to receive the two-thirds majority required for its ratification. It is understood that prominent among the objections urged against the treaty were the complications growing out of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty and the controversy over the Alaskan boundary. These having been disposed of it is felt by the friends of international arbitration that the present is a favorable time to reawaken public sentiment in favor of a new arbitration with Great Britain. They pointed out that France has already taken the lead of us in this matter by the convention recently made with Great Britain, when the United States as kindred should have set the example."

BRITISH NEWS BY ATLANTIC CABLE

Hebrews Present a Memorial Trophy For Competition Among Riflemen.

London, Dec. 3.—(Special) — Firms able to supply mica boiler coverings and asbestos in large quantities should apply to the Canadian government's commercial agent at Birmingham.

To commemorate the memory of 127 Jews who fell in the South African war, the Jews of England will present a memorial trophy to the National Rifle Association, to be an open competition for all comers.

The agent general of New Zealand contributes to a monthly review an article entitled "The Daughters of the House," in which he says there would not be so much in Canada being bitterly disappointed with her new Alaskan frontier had she not much greater reason to be angry with the former boundary arrangements.

The Earl of Stair died today at St. Lochinar, Scotland. He was born in 1819.

MONTREAL LABOR STRIKE.

Shoe Machinists Accept Terms of Employers and Resume Work.

Montreal, Dec. 3.—After a lockout which has lasted three weeks the shoe machinists have decided to agree to the demand of the manufacturers and sign individual contracts. They had previously been working under a union agreement, and the manufacturers closed their factories because they found that the union was restricting production. Five thousand people have been out of work because of the lockout. A good many have gone to the New England States in search of employment.

esults from common soaps: eczema, coarse hands, ragged clothes, shrunken flannels.

SUNLIGHT SOAP REDUCES EXPENSE

Ask for the Octagon Bar

Status of the Sealing Question

What Has Been Done at Various Meetings of the Board of Trade.

Meeting This Evening Will Take Up Matter of Memorial to Government.

(From Friday's Daily.)

A very important meeting of the Board of Trade is to be held this evening, when further consideration will be given to a resolution in regard to the sealing industry. The status of the question as it now is before the Board will be better understood from the following explanation: On October 23rd last the council of the Board of Trade appointed a committee of three under the following resolution:

"That a committee of three be appointed to gather information for report to this board on the efforts now being made by certain citizens of the United States through Dominion and Imperial channels to secure complete monopoly of the sealing industry of the Pacific Coast."

On November 4th the council endorsed the petition to the Crown forwarded by the Victoria Sealing Company, and notified the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the following letter:

Victoria, Nov. 9, 1903.

Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada, Ottawa:

Dear Sir,—The attention of this board has been directed to the disadvantages under which our citizens are engaging in the Pacific sealing industry, and endorsation of a petition to the crown, a copy of which is enclosed, has been asked.

The case as laid before the board is as follows: By the award of the Tribunal of Arbitration, 1893, the use of firearms in the Behring Sea by British subjects was prohibited, as also hunting seals within sixty miles of the shore, and the strict observance of a close season. Those restrictions were a very serious blow to those who had capital invested in the industry, but after making a formal and vigorous protest, the new conditions imposed were received with the best possible grace, and for some years past have been accepted in consequence of their international import without much complaint. In later years, however, most serious grounds for complaint have arisen, viz: The Japanese have exerted their right on the high seas, and have been hunting seals in the Behring Sea with firearms at all seasons to within the three-mile limit of the seal islands.

There is another aspect from which these conditions must be viewed, the humiliation of British subjects being prohibited from using firearms, observe a close season and approach within sixty miles of the seal islands, while a foreign country can engage in sealing without any such restrictions.

Upon learning these facts the board was very deeply impressed with the changed conditions and without hesitation unanimously resolved to assist in support the petition of the Victoria Sealing Company.

I was instructed when transmitting the accompanying copy to advise the board's action herein, and it being understood that the award of the Tribunal of Arbitration be considered open in the very near future to ask your best endeavors to secure for the Canadians engaged in the sealing industry, esimilar privileges to those enjoyed by foreign countries, most particularly in so far as close season, limits from the shore and the use of firearms are concerned.

(Sgd.) F. ELWORTHY,
Secretary.

Secretary Elworthy also forwarded the following letter to Hon. Richard McBride:

Victoria, Nov. 10., 1903.

Hon Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia, Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir,—I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a petition to the Crown by the Victoria Sealing Company, together with a copy of the board's letter to the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when forwarding a duplicate.

As those documents will doubtless make the case of our sealing men plain to you, it is considered sufficient to ask your best offices in securing the relief desired.

F. ELWORTHY,
Secretary.

At a council meeting held on the 20th inst. the following report from a special committee was presented:

To the Officers and Members, Council of the Board of Trade:

Sirs,—Your special committee appointed to enquire into the negotiations said to be pending for the sale or restriction of sealing privileges, beg leave to make the following report:

A thorough investigation of this matter would require several months further time with access to papers and persons beyond at present reach of your Committee. Sufficient information is at hand, however, to show the necessity for immediate action.

We understand that certain proposals will be laid before the next commission, which we learn will be at no distant date, having a direct and far-reaching effect upon the city and province.

We would strongly recommend that no time be lost in impressing upon the provincial government the necessity of safeguarding the citizens' interests.

We find that the Victoria Sealing Company's interests will be ably represented in the matter, together with much valuable information.

We further suggest that this board should pass in no uncertain tone against any consideration being given proposals having for an end the temporary or total abolishment of the rights of sealing to British subjects.

PHIL R. SMITH,
GEORGE CARTER.

A motion that the same be received and adopted was lost and the following amendment carried:

"That the report be received and filed and that the secretary be instructed to request the Premier of Canada that no settlement shall be made in regard to the sealing question until the people of Victoria and this board shall have been given an opportunity to consider the nature of any proposed action."

Secretary Elworthy then forwarded the following letter to Sir Wilfrid Laurier:

The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada, Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—On the 9th inst., I had the honor to transmit a copy of the petition to the Crown of the Victoria Sealing Company, praying that British subjects may be placed on equality with the Japanese in regard to their rights on the high seas when hunting for seals in the Behring Sea, which petition was unanimously approved by this board.

I have now the honor to advise that the impression prevails here that the joint high commission will be reconstructed in the very near future and that the sealing question will be one of the principal matters for discussion. In the light of past experiences it is perhaps excusable that fear should prevail that the rights of Canadians in prosecuting seal hunting will be further restricted, and it is therefore desired to direct your attention to the far spreading interests which would be seriously affected in the event of such a decision being arrived at. It is hardly necessary at this stage to enter into particulars of how far-reaching the effect of any further restrictions, if imposed on sealing, would be, but it is desired to acquaint you of the great interest which this question is exciting in the city of Victoria, not only among those now engaged in sealing, but others who may wish to engage in the industry later, and to ask that you will make it impossible for a settlement of the sealing question to be arrived at until the people of Victoria and this Board of Trade shall have been given an opportunity to consider the nature of any proposed action.

In making this request this Board retains a most favorable recollection of your prompt action a few weeks since in regard to the attempt made at the Falkland Islands to handicap the sealing operations in the South Atlantic by citizens of Victoria, and is encouraged to rely upon your good offices in their behalf, of their sealing operations in the Behring Sea and adjacent waters.

(Sgd.) F. ELWORTHY,
Secretary.

Friday, November 27th, a special meeting of the board was held to consider the following resolution:

"That this board is of the opinion that no time should be lost in impressing upon the provincial government the necessity of safeguarding the citizens' interests, and should express in no uncertain tone against any consideration being given proposals which would tend to the temporary or total abolishment of the rights of sealing to British subjects."

That, however, was withdrawn by was substituted on motion of A. J. Morley and C. Spencer:

"Whereas, the Victoria B. C., Board of Trade has reason to believe that powerful influence, alien in sympathy and character, is being brought to bear upon the Imperial and Dominion governments to secure the abolishment of pelagic sealing under the British flag.

"And whereas the sealing industry being of great importance as a source of revenue to the city of Victoria, its abolishment would prove a serious blow to the business interests of this community. "Be it therefore resolved that the Victoria, B. C., Board of Trade does hereby urge upon the Imperial, Dominion and provincial governments the great necessity of fostering, safeguarding and perpetuating the sealing industry, and that this Board most earnestly protests against consideration being given to any proposal whatever that shall tend to the abolishment of the rights of pelagic sealing to British subjects.

"Be it further resolved that copies of this preamble and resolution be sent to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, to the colonial secretary of the Imperial government, to the Hon. Richard McBride and to each Victoria member of the Dominion and provincial governments, and that the provincial government be urged to do all in its power to further safeguard the interests of Victoria and the province."

The following amendment was also moved:

That the words following the word "Whereas" be omitted from the proposed resolution and the following words substituted: "This meeting endorses the action of the council in supporting the petition of the Victoria Sealing Company; resolved, that further consideration of the sealing question be adjourned at the call of the chair."

Discussion continued till about 10 o'clock when a motion was made to adjourn the debate to this evening. The foregoing amendment was then withdrawn and the motion to adjourn carried.

KILLED BY HIGHWAYMEN.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—James A. Fullenweider, the lawyer who was shot last night by one of two men who attempted to rob him, died this evening. Mr. Fullenweider had just returned from his apartment building which he was erecting, and there he paid off some men. He was within a short distance of his home when he met the men who commanded him to throw up his hands. He turned to run, when one of them shot him, the bullet going through his left shoulder bone and through the abdomen. No arrests have been made as Mr. Fullenweider was not able to give accurate description of his assailants.

MORE PAY AND MORE MEN.

Montreal, Dec. 3.—Police commissioners today voted to increase the pay of all first-class men, that is men with good record and who have been on the force for three years from $12 50 to $14.00 per week. The increase affects the majority of the men on the force. It has yet to be approved by the council, but it is expected to be passed without opposition. The committee also voted to increase the force by fifty men.

QUEBEC SHOE STRIKE.

Situation Remains Unchanged, But Workmen Show Signs of Weakening.

Quebec, Dec. 3.—The situation in the Quebec shoe trade remains unchanged. The manufacturers firmly decline to have anything to do with the union, but state that just as soon as the men are prepared to come forward and sign individual contracts they are ready to open their factory doors. While none of the men have so far shown any willingness to do this, there are indications that there will be a break in their ranks within a short time. There is much distress, and the celebration of the Church of St. Saveur has been postponed as the authorities do not think this a proper time for a celebration.

NOTE YOUR WEIGHT.

By noting your increase in weight while using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food you can prove for a certainty that new firm flesh and tissue is being added to the body. This is the severest test you can apply to any treatment, and proves the superiority of this great restorative prescription of Dr. A. W. Chase, the famous Receipt Book author.

CASE OF HOPPER VERSUS DUNSMUIR

Trial of Will Contest Opened Yesterday Before Mr. Justice Drake.

(From Friday's Daily.)

The celebrated will case, Hopper vs. Dunsmuir, was opened yesterday morning before Mr. Justice Drake. The plaintiff was in court with her New York counsel, Judge Coyne, her local counsel being H. Dallas Helmcken, K. C., and E. V. Bodwell, K. C. Defendant's counsel were E. P. Davis, K. C., and E. P. Luxton.

Mr. Helmcken applied for an adjournment until Monday next, owing to the illness of his colleague, Mr. Duff.

Mr. Davis declined to consent, urging there was sufficient evidence taken on commission to keep the case going for two days.

Mr. Justice Drake directed that the case be proceeded with.

Mr. Bodwell, opening the plaintiff's case, claimed that when the will was made in favor of James Dunsmuir, the late Alexander Dunsmuir was not of sound mind and not able to carry on any actual business. He said the deceased gentleman never acted rationally subsequent to his signing this will, and that death occurred one month later. Plaintiff's mother was in poor health at the time, and never knew of its execution until defendant endeavored to induce her to sign a document relinquishing her rights. In fact, according to Mr. Bodwell, her own solicitors induced her to sign the document on December 1st, 1900, and she died during June, 1901.

Mr. Helmcken then proceeded with the reading of the evidence taken on commission.

The first testimony was that of Dr. B. Marshall of New York, whose evidence showed that he knew Alexander Dunsmuir, and attended him at San Francisco in 1888. He continued to attend him until 1897. He last saw him eight months previous to his decease. He said he was very fond of his wife and of the plaintiff, and would not consider that at the last time he saw Mr. Dunsmuir he was of sound mind.

Mr. Luxton read the cross-examination, which dealt with the frequency of his visits. The evidence showed that in witness' opinion Mr. Dunsmuir was not of sufficiently sound mind from 1895 to 1897 to, at any time carry on a connected conversation.

Edward A. Crowninshield, a cousin of Ambassador Choate, said he met Mr. Dunsmuir at the Gerard hotel in 1899. He seemed much affected in body and mind. He last saw him about Christmas, 1899, shortly before his death. He said Mr. Dunsmuir was always very affectionate to his wife and Mrs. Hopper.

At the afternoon sitting the reading of the evidence taken at New York was again proceeded with. The evidence of Dr. Culver was read, the mental condition of the late Alexander Dunsmuir and his wife being the point involved in the whole examination.

The case will proceed this morning.

Dowie Given Charge of Zion

Appointed Temporary Manager of Industries of the Holy City.

Gathering of Faithful Called But Contributions Are But Slim.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—Federal Judge Kohlsaat appointed Dowie temporary manager of Zion City industries. It is the idea of the court and receivers to interfere as little as possible with the established order of Dowie's industries. Dowie will be the agent of the receivers, and the arrangements will be discontinued if it is found that the interests managed by him are not made to pay.

A great gathering of the Dowieites was held in the Tabernacle at Zion City tonight. It was called by Dowie for the purpose of starting a fund of $1,000,000 with which to pay off all the indebtedness that hangs over Zion City and himself. The outpouring of his followers was not one to bring cheer to the heart of the general overseer of Zion. The Tabernacle seats 6,000 people, and usually all the seats are taken when the special meetings are called by Dowie. Tonight the hall was not over half filled and the gathering was not as enthusiastic as might be desired by a man who was in immediate need of funds. Dowie gave his followers a statement of the financial situation of Zion City and told them the assets were ample, the only trouble being that he was not able to realize upon them at once.

All he needed was a contribution of ready money with which to tide over the recent crisis in the affairs of the city, and this done it would grow to greater power than ever before.

It is declared by the receivers appointed yesterday for Zion City that the affairs of Dowie are in a worse situation than was at first supposed. Receiver Currie said tonight: "I believe that Dr. Dowie will be able to pay off all his obligations in time. Just how long this time will be is something that we will not be able to tell until we have made a thorough investigation of his effects. I understand Dowie thinks he will be able to settle all claims against him in the course of five weeks."

Yesterday it was the opinion that the liabilities of Dowie would not amount at the outside to over $350,000. It is admitted by the receivers that the claims against him for merchandise alone will aggregate $500,000, and in addition to this amount that there are mortgages on his property at Zion City amounting to $125,000 which are due the first of next year. He owes $100,000 to his brother-in-law, Samuel Stevenson, making a total of $725,000.

NOVEMBER SCHOOL.

(From Friday's Daily.)

A good many school children did not respond to roll call last month. Some were sick, or their brothers or sisters were, and so did not go to school. Some were kept home as a measure of precaution for these and such like reasons that the total number present in all the schools during the month was not as large by a hundred or more as the aggregate of the names on the registers for the term. Besides time was lost by those who were present part of the time by reason of bad weather, petty illnesses and the thoughtlessness and indifference of parents to the great importance of regular school attendance. Notwithstanding these adverse conditions the daily averages was within a decimal of the nominal 90 per cent.

The total attendance for the month was 2,644, the percentage in daily average attendance being 89.34. This, considering all the conditions, is a fair average, though November of last year gave somewhat over 90 per cent. The High school, the Boys Central and the South Park schools were the only ones having last month 90 per cent to their credit, the Boys school average being 91.86.

Three of the schools reported for each division the number of children who were present every session of the month. In the Boys' school these aggregate more than half the whole enrollment, or 272 out of 500 present for the month. The numbers who made a perfect attendance in the various divisions of these schools were:

Boys' School—Division 1, 28; 2, 27; 3, 27; 4, 23; 5, 34; 6, 24; 7, 28; 8, 26; 9, 27; 10, 28. Total, 272, or 54.4 per cent.

Girls' School—Division 1, 22; 2, 15; 3, 22; 4, 16; 5, 20; 6, 27; 7, 24; 8, 16; 9, 16; 10, 17. Total, 172, or 57.4 per cent.

Victoria West—Division 1, 12; 2, 23; 3, 16; 4, 17; 5, 25; 6, 8; Total 95, or 47.8 per cent.

Hillside—Division 1, 16; 2, 12; 3, 8. Total, 36, or 29 per cent.

The highest percentage of regular attendance was made by the first division of the High school, the score being 98 per cent. The others that passed the 95 per cent mark were: South Park, first division, 96.97; Victoria West, second division, 96.87; North Ward, first division, 96.73; Boys' Central, first division, 95.92; Victoria West, first division, 95.23. Other divisions that reached 90 per cent were:

High School, divisions 4, 5 and 6.

Boys' School, divisions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10.

Girls' School, divisions 2 and 3.

North Ward, divisions 2, 5 and 7.

South Park, divisions 2, 3, 6 and 8.

Victoria West, divisions 3 and 5.

Spring Ridge, divisions 1 and 3.

Kingston street, division 1.

Following is a summary of the attendance for all the schools:

School.	No. Present.	No. Boys.	No. Girls.	Daily Av.	Att. P. C.	Tardiness.
High	180	80	100	163.54	90.85	28
Boys	500	500	...