

A Notable Rural Banquet Represented Men of Cowichan Din: Together at Duncans.

Annual Festival of Flockmasters Association of Vancouver Island.

(From Friday's Daily.) A considerable number of years ago the settlers of the Cowichan valley found it expedient to league together for defence against the dogs and wild beasts which threatened their "stocks."

Wednesday evening the society celebrated the occasion of its annual meeting at Duncans, where, for the past twelve years, its yearly gatherings have taken place.

The chair was occupied by Mr. W. H. Hayward, ex-M. P., president of the Flockmasters' society, while on his right and left respectively sat Premier McBrice and Hon. A. E. Smith, United States consul at Victoria.

After the good things which with the tables were abundantly laden had been amply discussed, the company was all left respectively to Premier McBrice, who proposed a health to "His Majesty the King," which was acknowledged in loyal fashion.

The next toast offered, "The United States," was coupled with the name of Hon. Mr. Smith, the United States consul, who was recognized by the president as a good friend of the association.

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ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 21.—(2:30 a. m.)—With the Russian capital seemingly on the verge of an incipient revolution, the streets of the city in darkness and without fire protection, owing to walk-outs, the strikers are hourly growing more tense when the authorities decided tonight to adopt energetic measures to preserve order.

The government tonight augmented the garrison of the city with 1,000 infantry from the Tarskoe Selo and filled the streets, especially in the disaffected quarter, with heavy patrols of soldiers.

The refusal to permit a delegation of workmen to present a petition to Emperor Nicholas at Tarskoe Selo was made known at the same time a demonstration planned for Sunday with its unlimited possibilities for an outbreak will not be permitted to take place.

At the same time acting in connection with a conference of employees it has been determined to offer concessions in the terms of employment and wages. The employers declared the great majority of the workmen would be inclined to accept the terms offered.

The situation had entered an acute stage today, and the strike had assumed an open political character. The day was spent in a general strike, with the mill and factory after factory closed.

Just here the Premier remarked upon the complaint of which all were aware, from the outside world, that in British Columbia had been a great deal of trouble.

Then the province had its financial problems. Without the slightest regard to party or faction it must be admitted that, for a small population and a tremendous territory, the debt of the province was very much out of proportion.

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