A MISAPPREHENSION.

The Senate, Ottawa,
20th, July, 1904.

To the Editor:—The Times of the 14th July, inst., contains the following paragraph:

"The position of British Columbia is indeed desperate with only Mr. Earle and Senator Macdonald to battle at Ottawa for the rights of the province. But never mind. The people will deal with traitors when they have the opportunity."

Whether the word traitor has been used inadvertently or intentionally, I have to ask you to withdraw it. Opposition to a policy or to a party is not traitorous—the word has a different meaning. Webster calls it treason and disloyalty to one's King or Queen. I am quite willing to be attacked for what I have done, but not for high offences which I have not committed.

I leave my request to your own sense of fair play and justice.

W. J. MACDONALD.

Senator Macdonald entirely misapprehends the application of the word "traitor" in the paragraph quoted. No one would ever think—that is no one familiar with the history of the Dominion of Canada—of associating the names of any of the members of the Conservative party, least of all the names of the Senator from Victoria and Mr. Earle, with traitorous practices. The case of the Liberal party is entirely different. The loyalty of its members has from the very beginning been an object of suspicion to the Tory party. It was so in the early days. It is so to-day, as one knows who reads the Montreal Star, the Toronto Mail and Empire, or any of the Conservative newspapers published in the East. Our own Colonist has its doubts about the status of Sir Wilfrid Laurier from the standpoint of the truly loyal British Canadian. It is true the only loyal and true party has had its moments of weakness in the past. Its leaders did sign a document asking American statesmen to come in and annex the country. They burned down the Parliament buildings at Montreal. They said "so much the worse for British connection" when the possible effects of the great National Policy upon Imperial connection were pointed out. The comment upon the dispatch of Canadian troops to South Africa was, "that man Laurier is too British for me" The British preference of the disloyal Laurier government was condemned in the announcement that Canadian industries were about to be ruined for the benefit of factories in Yorkshire and Lancashire. But all these were mere temporary lapses following the craving for the emoluments of office which is natural to the heart of the members of the Tory party, and were no doubt followed by acute remorse and repentance in sackcloth and ashes.

The Liberal party has given no outward manifestation of its loyalty other than the British preference, Imperial penny postage, and other legislative acts which have had the obvious effect of drawing the various portions of the Empire together and uniting them in stronger bonds. The tendency towards more intimate connection was never made manifest until the acts which have been the distinguishing feature of the Laurier government's policy were passed. Then colonial conferences were held and Mr. Chamberlain was inspired with the thought that there were grander possibilities in store for the British Empire than mere existence as a collection of separate and practically independent units. These are some of the momentous developments of the policy of the present Liberal government of the Dominion. It has started a movement which may be arrested yet by the hand of the party which is constantly and hypocritically prating about its loyalty and imputing disloyalty to the government.

But the Times had none of these things in mind when it commented upon the attitude of Senator Macdonald and Mr. Earle towards certain works manifestly of much interest to British Columbia. The comment was suggested by something that appeared in the columns of the Colonist, dated from Ottawa, about the herculean efforts of the two Conservative representatives of this province to overcome the malevolent influence of the Grit members and Senators. Our suggestion was, or was intended to be, that the aforesaid Grits were the traitors, and that the electors would do many things to them and more also as soon as the government gave them the opportunity. Clearly the Grit representatives of British Columbia are to blame. Their conduct has been traitorous. They should have insisted upon the government disarming the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company. They should have insisted upon an injunction being laid upon that corporation that under no circumstances was it to approach the McBride administration with a demand for a subsidy and exemption from taxation. Knowing the conditions which are chronic here, knowing the propensities which prevail, knowing that for a railway to be constructed without cost to the people in money or in land would be unprecendented and scandalous, the ministers should have laid the company under bonds not to approach the provincial government upon any pretext. The members apparently forgot that if McBride and the G. T. P. men were brought in conjunction, the Premier would be certain to insist upon the railway men "taking something" at the expense of the province. Therefore the Grits are the traitors. They will deserve all they get from the electors when Senator Macdonald and Mr. Earle lay the facts bare.

MINISTERIAL DOINGS.

The two strong men of the McBride cabinet have returned to their neglected duties in the capital after an extended tour through the constituencies of the interior. On the way back they dallied for a brief space at New Westminster and opened the great bridge that spans the Fraser. There were three of the ministers en tour. But one of them cannot be classified in the category of the political Samsons. He did not assist at all in the work of preparing for the election of the candidate on the 16th in Lillooet. The Attorney-General merely desired to pay a visit to some of his old cronies of the mining days in Cariboo district. There was some legal business to attend to up there. As it was of no importance, and perhaps would not have been of much value to any of the learned supporters of the government who are deserving of a share in the legal patronage, Mr. Wilson was permitted to do the work himself. He did it. He met his friends, and no doubt had a good time, and did not reduce the surplus that is said to be in the treasury by more than a few hundred dollars. If he missed for one week the weekly half hour he spends in his official apartments, we would not care to say that the province has suffered greatly.

The Chief commissioner is the government's repository of political knowledge. He has been over the ground in Lillooet. He has tilled it, and believes it will bring forth fruit meet for political exigencies. Mr. McDonald, the man who was so destitute of political guile that he did not know it was a contravention of the law for a member of the Legislature to be also a salaried employee of the government he supported, will again be the candidate of the administration. He will depend upon his prestige as road boss and benevolent dispenser of public money to help him to victory. The Liberal representative will be Mr. Stoddart, a former member of the Legislature, and one of the ablest men who ever sat in it. As a public man no flaw can be found in his record. He consistently opposed the "old gang" in its reckless courses, and it will be eminently fitting for him to stand forth as an assailant of the policy of the legitimate heirs of the profligates.

To lose one seat would put the government in a state of practical paralysis, therefore it is safe to assume the strong men believe they have sowed wisely and well in the constituency.

THE HEATHER ON FIRE.

Lord Dundonald has "shaken the Empire to its foundations!" He has created a greater sensation than the greatest of his impetuous ancestors. His case was before the Imperial House of Commons last week. Public men and newspapers have been sitting in judgment upon his actions, the general verdict being just what might have been expected. The American Associated Press has not devoted as much attention to the subject as its news value appears to warrant. The Canadian Associated Press dispatches were much fuller. From them we learn that Mr. Lloyd-George moved the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the conduct of Lord Dundonald in taking part, whilst still an officer of the British army, in a political agitation against his Majesty's government in the Dominion of Canada. In opening the debate, he contended that Lord Dundonald's conduct was such as could not be encouraged in the future. After his dismissal Lord Dundonald had practically initiated an agitation against the Canadian government. It was purely a political agitation, with Lord Dundonald as the centre. The case was similar to that of General Buller's, but there was a double reason why it should not be permitted in Canada. It was grossly unfair and mischievous that Lord Dundonald should be allowed to stir up strife and a feud between the two races in Canada. There could be nothing more dangerous or pernicious if Lord Dundonald went to Montreal, where all the material was ready for a conflagration and set a match to that material. General Buller only made a speech at a luncheon to defend his own conduct, and he was practically dismissed; Lord Dundonald, on the other hand, made violent speeches in a political propaganda accusing the Canadian government of corruption. Lord Dundonald should be reprimanded, both for his speeches and his general conduct.

Mr. Winston Churchill, along with whom rose Mr. Arnold-Forster, Secretary of War, the latter giving way, amid a scene of considerable commotion, seconded the motion. He declared no motion for adjournment had greater reason behind it. Though Lord Dundonald considered himself in the right in making his protest, he could have done so in a less harmful way. He ought to have been at once recalled by the British government. No one could deny that Lord Dundonald is being exploited by the opposition for party purposes. He deprecated the prominent intervention of military officers in the party politics of a self-governing colony, where the position of an Imperial officer should resemble that of the Crown in Britain. He wanted the government to make it clear that they were in no way associated with the action of Lord Dundonald. Lord Dundonald's utility as a militia officer, said Mr. Churchill, absolutely terminated at the publication of the correspondence and his dismissal, when he should have been ordered home. Instead, however, he had gone on a triumphal tour of the provinces, making scathing remarks about Canadian Ministers, who were Ministers of the King.

Mr. Arnold-Forster welcomed Mr. Churchill as the spokesman of the opposition. The one question was that of discipline, of which he was in charge, and the other the advisability of this debate. He saw that no advantage could arise from this debate except to make bad blood between two great branches of the Empire. The discussion would not tend to establish good feeling between the Motherland and Canada. Mr. Lloyd George had spoken of the pain this controversy would cause Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who, as he truly said, was one of the staunchest friends of the Empire at the time of its great struggle.

Lord Dundonald, said Mr. Arnold Forster, went to Canada as an officer of the Canadian government, and no one imputed any misconduct to him other than want of judgment. Not being in agreement with the Canadian government, the latter dismissed him at once. When he became an officer on half pay he could stand as a member of the Canadian parliament if he desired and not be deprived of the right to take an active part in public life. He believed it undesirable for any officer to take part in public controversies, and the war office had informed Lord Dundonald that his conduct was undesirable and had requested him to return to be heard in his own defence. He had instructed Lord Dundonald to return home, and not to take any further part in political controversies.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman said it was a grave piece of bad taste for Lord Dundonald to act as he did, but Mr. Arnold-Forster had taken the course the opposition approved by calling him home.

The Times says Mr. Lloyd George, under the pretext of solicitude for the good relations between the Motherland and Canada, introduced a debate in which he embittered them by exaggerating the controversy and quoting the most violent statements and charges of partisan papers. His and Mr. Winston Churchill's speeches were as mischievous as the speakers knew how to make them, everything having been done by Mr. Arnold-Forster which the opposition can suggest as proper, and the fact would have been elicited had they condescended to ask a single question. When the Canadian government dismissed Lord Dundonald his position was that of an officer under half pay, with the ordinary rights of speech and action, and which are frequently accorded to officers on full pay. The merits of the case lie between the Canadian government, its servant, and the Canadian people. Sir Wilfrid Laurier no doubt will be amused to see arrayed in his defence people who have never hitherto shown much consideration either for him or Canada. The Canadian government is remarkably well able to take care of itself, and probably regards the question as a domestic one.

The Standard says: "The Dundonald debate has rather aggravated than mitigated the mischief that may have been done in Canada."

The Daily Chronicle says that if Lord Dundonald had been recalled earlier his further indiscretions would not have been discussed in the House. It would have been better if Lord Dundonald had accepted his dismissal with dignity and reserved his defence for the House of Lords.

The Daily News says: "Fearing to face the opposition question, Mr. Arnold-Forster recalled Lord Dundonald with vigor, leaving the opposition nothing to add."

The Daily Telegraph says: "While the Dominion government made no representations, it was left for the Radical attorney, Lloyd George, and the renegade Tory, Churchill, to try and stir up bad blood between Canada and England."

"Substantial reasons show," says the Manchester Guardian, "that Lord Dundonald was carried away by irritation. He has done the civil government serious injustice."

"Lord Dundonald has embarked," says the London Daily Mail, "upon what looks perilously like a political campaign against the Canadian government, and has appealed to the opposition like the merest demagogue."

"Are we to have the risk," asks the London Daily News, "of an Imperial crisis raised over that trumpery quarrel in which Lord Dundonald has not the shadow of a case? The threatened meeting at Montreal should be emphatically vetoed. It is high time the British government, which closures parliament, closured this indiscreet bearer of a great name, and assured the Canadians that England dissociates itself from this fire-eating general."

"It is high time," says the Westminster Gazette, "the government cabled instructions to Lord Dundonald to quit talking and come home."

CONSUMPTION.

While our vigilant provincial guardian of public health is devoting all his energies to the task of overcoming the scourge of tuberculosis, the learned gentlemen who think they understand the nature of the dread disease are still divided in opinion in regard to the alleged affinity of the consumption which afflicts human beings with that which has been found so generally prevalent in animals. We are told that Professor Koch is not at all disturbed by the decision reached by the British Royal Commission on the subject of bovine and human tuberculosis. When the findings were published he was absent from Berlin, but as soon as he returned he made haste to say that he saw no reason for modifying his views, and to declare again emphatically his conviction that the transmission of bovine tuberculosis to man cannot take place by means of food. Neither bovine flesh nor milk, he asserts, can transfer the disease. It is possible for a butcher at the slaughter-houses to become infected by injuring himself when handling tuberculous meat, but even then the infection remains local. It causes a local sore, but no general disease. The report of the Royal Commission, Professor Koch says, does not contain a single fact to make him change his opinion, which is based on very careful experiments, not only by himself, but by other medical men of the highest standing. It is for his opponents, he says, to prove that he is wrong. He has tried for years to find a case in which tuberculosis was transferred from animals to men. Three years ago the Prussian minister of public instruction, at his request, instructed all physicians in charge of the large public hospitals to report all cases which came to their notice of bovine tuberculosis transmitted to man, and up to this day he is waiting to hear of the first case. "Veterinary surgeons say that a half per cent. of all cows have bovine tuberculosis, yet the Royal Commission," says Professor Koch, "cannot state a case of a man being infected by drinking the milk of such cows. How many millions are wasted by the killing of animals, the flesh of which is said to be dangerous, and in the sterilization and pasteurization of milk, which loses many of its good qualities in the process? If all these millions were spent on really practical means for combating tuberculosis one might have a chance of getting the mastery over it."

THE RUSSIAN AUTOCRAT.

Whatever the world may think of the manner in which the Russian campaign on land has been conducted or of the zeal and discretion of the original Russian fleets, it is probably now agreeable to the suggestion that the Muscovites are acting boldly enough upon the ocean. In some quarters it is contended that the auxiliary vessels in the Red Sea and the regularly commissioned warships in the Pacific are acting as if their officers had no adequate sense of the responsibilities attaching to the indiscriminate seizure of foreign ships. If belligerents are to be permitted to apply the term contraband to practically every article of commercial exchange between nations, and to confiscate cargoes indiscriminately whether formally consigned to the ports of a nation in which a state of war is held to exist or not, then there must always be a grave danger that when hostilities break out in one particular part of the earth they may be extended over the whole of it. Therefore it is not likely that the seeming interpretation of the term contraband of war by Russia will be accepted by the nations generally.

It is true there is no authentic information as to the justification, Russian ships have had for their apparently high-handed actions. The circumstances of the sinking of the ship Knight Commander have not been explained. She may have been loaded with goods intended for the use of the Japanese. She may have been overhauled for the purpose of examination and sunk by an "act of Providence." She may have been the British vessel that disappeared into the depths as the "result of an accidental discharge of a torpedo." Russian mariners have not as yet an adequate conception of the potentialities that are inherent in ships of war, consequently Providence, while exacting heavy tribute from them, may also be useful to them as an excuse for some of their actions.

But there are some things for which Providence cannot be blamed. Upon Providence responsibility for the singularly tactless manner in which operations have been conducted by Russian officers in the Red Sea and other waters cannot be placed. It is a fact that all nations, with the possible exception of France, have been exasperated by the methods of the Russians in making seizures. Primarily the ships of the nations not engaged in war have certain rights upon the water ways of the world. By common consent the warships of belligerents are conceded the right of search. But there are limitations to such rights. Russian officers have acted after the manner of men who believed they were privileged to assume that every ship carrying a neutral flag was engaged in unlawful trade and was therefore an enemy of the holy empire. To add to the natural irritation caused by these high-handed acts, there was a suspicion that the patrolling fleet was not made up of regularly commissioned ships of war. In fact, the Russian authorities have practically conceded this point and accepted the definition of pirates applied to their fleet. Under the circumstances it is no wonder that the representatives of all the great nations have been aroused, that the situation is being discussed around the council boards of Great Britain, Germany and the United States, and that the crisis is admittedly the gravest that has developed since the outbreak of the war.

According to the Ottawa correspondent of the Colonist, who has been proved neither infallible nor veracious, Lord Dundonald at Ottawa last night, addressing a public assembly, said: "Men of Canada, keep your two hands upon the Union Jack." If his Lordship uttered those words he was guilty of more than "splendid indiscretion." He was "gratuitously impertinent." Canadians have not so demeaned themselves that there is any warrant for lord or commoner presuming to teach them lessons in loyalty.

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The Senate of Finland expressed its horror and detestation of the act which deprived the once independent state of a governor. As a reward for their expressions of loyalty it has pleased the Czar to give the Finlanders a new ruler. Prince Ivan Obolensky, the newly appointed governor, has the reputation of being one of the most cruel and ruthless administrators in Russia. Born in 1845, he first served in the navy, and in the Russo-Turkish war distinguished himself in Silistria by constructing a bridge over the Danube for the transport of Russian siege guns. Soon after the war, he left the naval service and obtained a civil post at Simbirsk, which he held for seven years. About five years ago he was appointed governor of Charkoff, where he suppressed the students' riots and the agrarian movement by resorting to very harsh measures. He treated the peasants as revolutionaries. He sent Cossacks to the villages, and many of the villagers were mercilessly beaten, some of them fatally. He imposed a fine of eight hundred thousand rubles on the offending communities, thus turning many peasants into beggars. After the suppression of the riots, he turned his attention to political suspects, and arrest followed arrest, until public discontent reached a dangerous pitch. An attempt to assassinate him was made in August, 1902, but he escaped with a slight wound. His would-be murderer was a member of the Revolutionary Socialist party. The Prince had become a favorite with the Czar, who, after the attempted assassination, addressed a dispatch to him declaring his high appreciation of his activity, and thanking God that his life had been spared. It is said that the best society in Charkoff would have nothing to do with him.

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The tour of the Fifth Regiment band has been approved by the City Council and the Board of Trade. The proposition may therefore be accepted as something that will redound to the general benefit of Victoria. As the necessary funds have not been voted, it is incumbent to fall back upon the common expedient of a public subscription. This, we understand, will be put in circulation immediately. As the Times believes the Fifth Regiment band, "taking one consideration with another," has been a very useful and attractive institution in Victoria, as the officers of the regiment are agreed that but for it the efficiency of the corps might suffer, as it is the practice in other cities to contribute substantial sums to assist in the maintenance of such organizations, we canont do less than wish Mr. Finn success in his canvass. At the same time we cannot refrain from expressing our emphatic opinion that the calls upon the business men of the city are becoming too numerous. Many citizens have expressed themselves to that effect, and there can be little doubt that their protests indicate the general feeling of the community. In no city on the continent is the subscription list so constantly in circulation.

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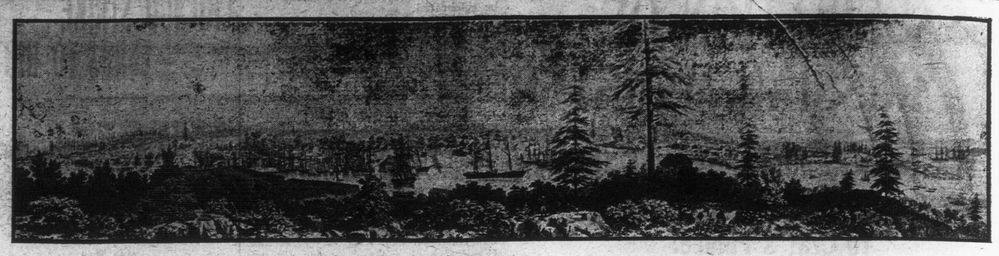
On the spur of the moment one might be tempted to ask what Admiral Togo and his fleet are doing while the Russians are seizing ships in such close proximity to Japan. We may be sure the Japanese admiral has business on his hands. Probably, also, we should not be very far astray if we were to conjecture that Togo considers his first business of importance to be the bottling up of the Russian fleet at present concentrated in Port Arthur. It must be kept there until the fortress falls. A great and a staggering blow must be dealt the two divisons of the Russian forces at the same time. Probably, also, for obvious reasons, the chief objective of the Japanese is the reduction of Port Arthur. That is the point upon which the energies of the island power are being directed. There must be a great battle there before a great while, and he would be a sanguine man indeed and a firm believer in the prowess of Russia who would maintain in face of past events that the Japanese will not be successful. The capture of Port Arthur may be an expensive affair for them. But it is morally certain they will not be denied. With possession of the fortress will pass also possession of the fleet. Then Togo will be free, and he will deal summarily with the Vladivostock squadron, which has been so long in discovering that there was left a field in which it could operate to the doubtful advantage of its master. And possibly Togo's brother admiral may have the luck to attend to the business of the Vladivostock squadron before Port Arthur is taken.



VIEWS OF VICTORI A IN EARLY DAYS.

The above cut is from a print publishe d about 1860, which had in turn been made from an oil painting. It makes an interesting picture of the city at that time.

TREMONT'S DELAY AT WILLIAM HEAD

CASE OF SICKNESS CAUSE OF DETENTION

Princess Victoria Will Be Placed on Vancouver Run on Friday Morning—Marine Notes.

It was about 8 o'clock Tuesday evening when the steamship Tremont, Capt. T. W. Garlick, came in from quarantine. As stated in last evening's Times, the ship had been detained at William Head to allow of the health officers making a thorough examination of a suspicious case of sickness discovered aboard. As the Times went to press yesterday this examination had not been completed.

The officers of the ship were somewhat reluctant to say anything respecting the cause of the delay at William Head. When the vessel came in, however, it was with a clear bill of health. During the last few days of the trip a Japanese passenger developed symptoms of sickness. He was said to have been feverish, and the case gave Dr. Watt some concern. The greatest care was taken to investigate the circumstances and to ascertain what was developing. After the most careful examination the ship was allowed to depart. The Japanese passenger was kept at the station awaiting further developments. On the last day of the voyage the Japanese passengers on board manufactured a large number of miniature Japanese, British and American flags, which were distributed among those on board and worn by them on arrival. This was done in the expectation that upon arriving here news of the downfall of Port Arthur would be received.

WRECKAGE FOUND.

Wreckage of a three or four-masted ship picked up by Indians along the shore of Kindle Island, east of Princess Royal Island, has been found.

Captain James J. Doyle, of the fishing steamer Arrow, which arrived at Seattle Saturday, when in Grenville channel on his return trip from Juneau to Seattle, July 16th, stopped three Indians who were paddling in a canoe to Lowe inlet. They were loaded down with ropes, sail, blocks and other strippings of a large ship which they were taking to the inlet to sell. The character of their cargo caused the captain to stop and engage them in conversation. One of the party was an Indian girl who had been educated in Oregon and spoke good English. She told Captain Doyle that a few days before they had discovered on the shores of Kindle Island the wreckage of a new ship. They were certain that it was new, as a part of the galley found had not been painted. The canvas, some of which was badly torn, was also new, but no part of the vessel was found that contained a name or even a letter that might lead to the identification of the craft. Close to the wreckage, she said, they had found a bottle containing a note signed by three persons. The note said the men had left Seattle, March 17th, but gave no further information.

Whether the bottle came from the ship from which wreckage was found the Indians did not know, and considering it of little consequence, they threw it away without taking the names. The Indians also furnished the information that no bodies had been washed ashore on the island and inquiries among the inhabitants by them failed to secure any further facts.

"There is no doubt that some vessel went to pieces east of the Gander group," said Captain Doyle, "but what her name was the Indians did not know. The wreckage found probably came from the westward, as in that vicinity there has been a large number of storms. That would be the natural course for it to take to get to the point where it was found. The Indian girl with whom I talked was bright and was very positive in her statement about the boat being new. One piece of the wreckage, she stated, showed where a range had evidently been fastened and the galley had not been painted and was of new wood.

"Kindle Island is about seventy-five miles, I should say, from Milbank sound, and the weather there has been rough. There is little possibility, from the story told by the Indians, that any of the men aboard the vessel were saved, unless they reached land in the small boats. I asked the Indians if they found any wreckage of small boats and they stated that they had not. The crew of the wrecked vessel may have escaped in them, but I heard nothing of the finding of any sailors."

QUICK WORK.

If weather conditions are propitious this evening the C. P. R. steamship Princess Victoria will be floated from the B. C. Marine railway, and, according to present arrangements, will re-enter service Friday morning, sailing for Vancouver at 7.30 o'clock.

This statement implies a great deal. It means that the repairs to the hull have been carried out in just one week. It was on Monday evening that the ship was hauled out. On the following day she was surveyed and work begun. Double shifts of men have since been kept going night and day, and the undertaking was carried out with the greatest possible dispatch which could have been given in any shipyard on the coast.

Seafaring men will appreciate this when it is stated that some 10 or 12 plates had to be removed, straightened and put back in place again. Several frames had also to be bent into their proper shape and some other work done, which it had been carefully estimated would take at least ten days. That all has been carried out in much less time, and done, too, in a very thorough manner, speaks more than anything which could be said for the plant and tools employed.

THE LATEST SEIZURE.

The reported seizure of the China Mutual liner Calchas by the Vladivostock squadron increases the uneasiness felt for the steamship Shawmut, which is now well across the Pacific, and also for any other liners plying between American and Asiatic ports. The Japanese cities are always the first ports of call on the outward voyage. As stated yesterday the Calchas carried a shipment of lumber from this port. She loaded between forty and fifty thousand feet at the outer wharf, consigned by the Sayward Sawmill Company to Hongkong. In all she had a cargo of 4,297 tons, including 7,846 pieces of rough timber, 23,300 sacks of flour, 70 tons of machinery, 10 tons of cotton and 50 tons of tobacco. The Calchas is a very large carrier. The China Mutual steamship line, to which she belongs, operates a big fleet round the world, the next due to arrive here being the Oanfa, which will shortly be nearing these shores. These vessels carry on an important commerce with this port, and the reported seizure now of the Calchas brings the situation in the Far East close home to business men of this city.

GREAT RUN OF SALMON.

Loaded with oil and box lumber and with 11 the passengers she could accommodate the steamer Nell returned Monday from points in the north. She brings nesws of an exceptionally large run of salmon on Rivers Inlet. The fish are so plentiful that some days the boats are not sent out because of the surplus which the canneries have on hand. On Wednesday last the Oceanic had 10,000 cases, the pack being considerably larger than that up to the same time last year. Boats on the Inlet have been taking from five to eight hundred fish, which at seven cents apiece, the wage given fishermen, means to those catching them a nice income.

On the Skeena the run is not so large, although it is stated canners are satisfied. The number of spring salmon caught for this time of year is surprising. There are a great many more spring salmon than sockeye, the proportion being about 50 out of every senty to the boat.

On the Naas the run is also rather small, both the Naas and Mill Bay canneries had each 500 cases up to the time of the sailing of the steamer for Victoria. The Pacific Northern had 2,000. The latter cannery, however, is about twice the size of the former two, which accounts for the disparity in the packs.

The Nell reports that the steamer Hazelton has been tied up the Skeena. There is little or no freight offering for up the river, and the vessel has been forced to go out of commission. A number of her crew came south on the Nell. The Nell on her voyage north met with a slight mishap to her machinery. One of the valves blew out after she left Union wharf, and some pretty fine navigating had to be done in order to get the ship to a safe anchorage. She was run for a distance of about three miles after the accident. The engine room in the meanwhile had become filled with steam so densely that it was almost impossible to enter it. Once the vessel was made secure it took but a short time to repair the damages.

The passengers who came south on the steamer included a party of five miners, who had been up to Ketchikan, and who would have bone into the Bulkley valley, could they have found means of transportation. Another number of passengers were a party of pulp mill officials from Swanson Bay. They expect to be able to ship machinery north for the mill in another three months. The wharf built for the mill, officers of the Nell say, is one of the best structures of the kind in the north.

MARINE NOTES.

The steamship Tacoma has returned from Nome with twenty-six passengers and a cargo of furs, ivory and whalebone, valued at $52,000. The ivory shipment of 6,500 pounds is the largest that has been received from the North in twenty-five years.

Steamer Queen reached port from the Golden Gate last evening with a big list of passengers and a large freight.

Steamer Umatilla leaves for San Francisco to-night at the usual hour.

Steamer Cottage City is due to-night from Alaska.