Magnificent Peace River

Thirty Thousand Square Miles of Fertile Land In the North.

Ten Thousand Lying Within the Boundaries of British Columbia.

An Abundance of Timber and Coal--Climate Mild and Healthy.

The following description of the Peace River country, by Professor John Macoun, was written specially for Bulletin No. 9, recently published by the Bureau of Provincial Information:

It is difficult to define the limits of that part of the Peace River district lying within British Columbia, as comparatively little has been done to fix these, owing to absence of surveys. Generally stated, however, the eastern boundary of British Columbia follows the summit of the Rocky Mountains to Lat. 54 deg. At this point it passes due north on the 120th meridian to the 60th parallel, and thence westward to the Pacific. That part which lies east of the Rocky Mountains is usually known as the Peace River country, and includes a large agricultural region both north and south of the river. In making a sketch of this region, it is not desirable to limit its extent to that part immediately within British Columbia, as no definite points have been fixed. On this account I reproduce that part of Dr. G. M. Dawson's report of 1879 which deals with the extent and capabilities of the district in question:

"The portion of the Peace River country, for which the exploration of last season enables pretty accurate general information to be given, may be considered as extending eastward from the middle forks of Pine River. West of this point, as already stated, the areas of fertile land are small, being confined to certain river valleys, which penetrate the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and high plateau attached to them. With this western limit, the region now to be described may be considered as bounded on the north by the 57th parallel to its intersection eastward with the Peace River. Thence the boundary may be assumed to follow the Peace River southward to the mouth of Heart Brook, near the confluence of the Smoky River; thence to run southeastward to the extremity of Lesser Slave Lake, to follow the western border of the hilly region lying to the south of the lake to the Athabasca River; thence to follow the Athabasca westward to the foothills, and, skirting the foothills, to run northwestward to the first mentioned point on Pine River.

"The tract included within the limits above given has an area of about 31,550 square miles, and by far the larger part of this area may be classed as fertile. Its average elevation may be stated as little over 2,000 feet, and this is maintained with considerable uniformity; for though the general surface slopes slightly from the north and south toward Peace River, the region as a whole may be considered as a plateau through which the great gorge-like valley of the Peace has been excavated. This valley has in general a depth of 600 to 800 feet below that part of the plateau bordering it, with a width of two or three miles from rim to rim. Its tributary streams, at first nearly on the plateau level, flow in valleys of continually increasing depth as they approach that of the Peace River."

From 5,000 to 10,000 square miles of the above area is included in British Columbia, and both at Hudson Hope and St. John the climatic conditions are favorable where the land is suited for agriculture. The country between Dunvegan and St. John south of the Peace river is largely prairie and poplar copse, and everywhere the soil is good. North of St. John on the plateau back from the river common grasses attained a height of from four to six feet, and vetches were found eight feet, late in July, 1875.

Since then many reports of the fertility of the region have been written, but none have denied the earlier statements made by the writer and Dr. Dawson. On this account it is fair to assume that our opinions are established facts, and that the 31,550 square miles of area mentioned by Dr. Dawson are not too much, and that when proper surveys are made, 10,000 square miles of this will fall to the portion of British Columbia.

Poplar and spruce for all purposes and of good size are to be found throughout the district, except where prairie predominates. Many fine prairies are to be seen in the drier part, but in all cases these prairies seemed to have been caused by repeated fires. The Grand Prairie, which is said to be of great extent, is eminently suited for agriculture, as it is meadow and copse, and in places covered with berry-bearing bushes, chiefly saskatoon berries (Amelanchier alnifolia). It is now well known that spring opens about the same time between Winnipeg and Peace River, and if either is earlier it is the Peace River. Summer frosts are practically unknown, but local late spring and early fall frosts may be expected for years to come. These will soon pass away as cultivation increases, in the same way as they have done in Manitoba and the Territories. At present farming is being carried on at the head of Lesser Slave Lake and on the plateau near the mouth of Smoky river. From both places I have seen fine samples of wheat grown during the past season.

After having seen the growth of vegetables and cereals at Dawson, in the Yukon district, and remembering what I have seen on Peace River, the Nechaco, Lake Babine, and the reports from the Skeena and Stikine, I am led to believe that the day of general awakening has come, and we can now say that Northern British Columbia will in the future support a very large population on its own productions. Throughout the whole region, including the Yukon district, fodder for horses and cattle in any quantity can be grown. At Dawson, clover and timothy were found last season to do remarkably well. Oats, barley and wheat were found in the same field. The two former were ripe on August 23rd, and the wheat so far matured that, after drying, the ears looked ripe. Last month I sent three ears of wheat grown at Dawson, in Lat. 64 deg. 15 min., to the Experimental Farm in this city, to have it tested. The report received the other day was "100 grains planted, 100 grains sprouted, and 100 grains were vigorous, and no weak plants were produced." Such a report as the above shows that all lands suitable to grow wheat in the Peace River region, Northern British Columbia and the Yukon district, have climatic conditions suitable for the growth of all necessaries in a civilized community.

The whole district, as said above, is an almost level plateau, with a slight dip to the valleys of the Peace and and Smoky rivers. Owing to the depth of these valleys and the absence of rock, the conditions for drainage are perfect, and all boggy places and wet or damp tracts will be easily drained. As will be seen by consulting a map, the finest tract lies between the Smoky river and the Peace, and here the earliest settlements will likely take plac. The shlter afforded by these river valleys, with others that traverse the plateau, will be at once taken advantage of for the protection of stock and the nearness of water.

TIMBER AND COAL IN ABUNDANCE.

The timber trees of the district are few but valuable. Aspen poplar and white spruce are the prevailing trees, though cottonwood and black spruce are abundant in the river valleys, especially on islands. On the islands the latter tree grows to a great size and height, and it was not uncommon to see trees five feet and more in diameter on islands above and below St. John.

It is more than likely that large coal deposits exist under much, if not all, of the district. In the autumn of 1872 the writer found a small seam of coal in a river bank between Dunvegan and St. John, South of the Peace river. This coal burnt with a bright flame, and, although in small quantity where procured, may eventually turn out to be a valuable deposit. When making the traverse from Fort Assiniboine to Lesser Slave lake, in September, 1872, the writer came upon a river which empties very likely into Smoky river, which had great blocks of coal in its bed and evidently belonged to a very large seam. Dr. G. M. Dawson describes the soil of the whole district as below:

"With few exceptions, the soil of the district may be described as a fine silt, resembling the white silts of the Nechaco basin, previously referred to, and not dissimilar from the loess-like material constituting the subsoil of the Red River valley, in Manitoba. This silt, at a short distance below the surface, is greyish or brownish in color, but becomes mixed superficially with a proportion of vegetable matter to a varying depth. It has evidently been deposited by a comparatively tranquil body of water not loaded with ice, probably toward the close of the glacial period, and has either never been laid down on the ridges and undulations above referred to, or has been since removed from them by natural processes of waste. As evidenced by the natural vegetation, its fertility is great.

"West of the Smoky river, both to the South and North of Peace river, there are extensive areas of prairie country, either perfectly open and covered with a more or less luxuriant growth of grass, or dotted with patches of coppice and trees.

"The Northern banks of the Peace River valley are also very generally open and grassed, and parts of the valley of the Smoky and other rivers have a similar character. The total area of prairie land, West of the Smoky river, may be about 3,000 square miles. The remainder of the surface is generally occupied by second-growth forest, occasionally dense, but more often open and composed of aspen, birch and cottonwood, with a greater or less proportion of coniferous trees. Some patches of the original forest, however, remain, particularly in the river valleys, and are composed of much larger trees, chiefly coniferous, among which the black spruce is most abundant. Handsome groves of old and large cottonwoods are also to be found in some of the valleys. Where the soil becomes locally sandy and poor, and more particularly in some of the more elevated parts of the ridges before described, a thick growth of scrub pine and black spruce, in which the individual trees are small, is found; and in swampy regions the tamarac is not wanting, but grows generally intermixed with the black spruce."

DAWSON NEWS BUDGET.

Condition of the Finances Since the Date of Incorporation.

A press correspondent writing from Dawson under date of January 15, says:

The annual statement of the affairs of the city of Dawson show the assets of the city to be $81,000, composed chiefly of fire department apparatus. The expenditures of the city for the first nine months of the incorporation were $125,000, of which $64,000 was for street improvements and other similar works, $32,000 for fire, water and light service, and $20,000 for salaries. The revenues for the year were $133,-000, of which $117,000 was obtained by taxation and the remainder chiefly from licenses.

The new City Council of the city of Dawson was sworn in yesterday. H. P. McLennan, formerly of Vancouver, B. C., is Mayor; Frank Johnson, A. La Lande, M. Ryan, George Murphy, James McDonald and Dr. A. E. Edwards, Aldermen. All hold office for a year. McDonald and Murphy are the only men who were re-elected.

Bob Henderson, discoverer of the first gold in the Klondike, will leave soon for Ottawa, to urge claims for compensation for certain service to the Government in early days. He will then go to Colorado to bring his family to the Yukon.

Dominion is reported the busiest creek in the camp this winter. Sulphur, which was almost dead for two winters, has come to the front again, and is one of the most active winter producers this season. Gold Run is doing little more than preparing for summer work. Hunker is fairly busy, and Bonanza and Eldorado are being worked on about the same scale for winter operations. Many new streams are producing dumps of low-grade dirt.

The application of the Klondike Mines railway for a franchise to enter Dawson was passed up by the retiring City Council to the new City Council, which took office yesterday. The new council may have to review the whole matter, but it is expected it will receive expeditious attention.

Arizona creek, 125 miles up the Klondike, is another new creek which claims wide attention. A hundred of more claims have been staked there and on tributaries. Hobo and Drapeau are the chief tributaries. As high as $4 to the pan was obtained on Arizona by the discoverers. The diggings are shallow. Some expect great things from Arizona because it is a tributary of the great parent stream, the Klondike river.

SYDNEY FIRE.

Several Blocks Badly Damaged in Nova Scotia Town.

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 5.—(Special.)—Fire broke out in the old Royal bank building this morning and while it was in progress another fire broke out in the large warehouse of Charles Lecras at the South end of Wharf street. The Royal bank building was a complete wreck. The McVey block and Queen's hotel were considerably damaged. Loss estimated at $50,000.

BANFF BY-ELECTION.

Fisher Elected to Territorial Legislature.

Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 5.—Complete returns from Banff by-election show Fisher elected over Richardson.

J. J. Morrow, a prominent Port Arthur resident, is dead, aged 39. He was formerly in the operating department of the C. P. R. Eastern division.

The local Government has decided to add a $75,000 wing to the Brandon asylum, and build a $75,000 land title office in that city.

RUSH OF SETTLERS.

Elder-Dempster Line Doing Splendid Business.

London, Feb. 5.—In consequence of the all-British colony at Saskatoon, the Elder-Dempster Company has been obliged to double the staff of clerks owing to the rush of applicants. Money contributed by the immigrants already reaches a large sum. The movement unquestionably proves the existence of a wide-spread desire to settle in Canada when settlement among British friends is assured.

GREENWOOD'S MAYOR.

Greenwood, Feb. 5.—Ralph Smailes was elected mayor by four majority.

Proposal Meets With Approval

Press of Province Actively Working for Success of Mining Convention

Nanaimo and Ladysmith Are to Form Branch Organizations.

With but very few exceptions the press of the entire province has heartily endorsed the proposal to form the British Columbia Mining Association, and preparations are under way in most of the districts to arrange to send delegates to the big convention to be held here on February 25 next. In this connection the Nanaimo Free Press says:

"A few days ago a provincial mining association was organized in Victoria, the object of which is to unite all those interested in mining in British Columbia so that needed changes of laws may be obtained in other than the haphazard fashion in which such matters are at present gone about. Similar associations in California and other states have accomplished wonderfully good work, and the promoters of the present body had that in mind when they initiated the movement. The first step taken by the association is the calling of a great convention of mining people which will meet on Wednesday, February 25, in Victoria, and which it is anticipated will be attended by hundreds of those interested in the industry from all parts of the province. Nanaimo is the centre of a large area in which metalliferous mining is carried on, and while the development of the natural resources around this city is still in its infancy, the city as a city is vitally interested, possibly for that very reason, in the questions which will be discussed at Victoria. It appears to us, therefore, that steps should be taken at an early date to secure for our interests adequate representation at the convention which meets there three weeks hence, and we hope to hear soon that the Board of Trade, which has been most energetic in advancing the welfare of the town, is taking the lead in the matter."

In connection with a meeting to form a local organization in Ladysmith, the Leader says: "The Leader has been requested to intimate to all residents in this town who may be interested in the mining industry that if they will attend the meeting to be held in Woodmen's Hall on Thursday evening, after the Mutual Improvement Society's meeting, they will learn full particulars about the British Columbia Mining Association, of which it is proposed to found a branch in Ladysmith. All persons at all interested in the matter can obtain free a printed statement of the aims and objects of the association by calling at the Leader office. The advantages to be derived from the formation of such a branch in Ladysmith will readily be noted by all mining men."

The Trail Creek News endorses the idea of forming the proposed association. It says: "A provincial British Columbia Miners' Association has been formed as a result of several meetings held at Victoria by delegates of the mining interests from every section of the province; and on February 25 a congress of the representatives of the local mining associations throughout the province will be held there to finally form the Miners' Association of British Columbia, with headquarters at Victoria. Trail has not yet taken any action towards sending delegates to the congress. Such an association could accomplish much good."

The Nelson News makes the following announcement: "John B. Hobson, manager in organizing the provincial mining association of this province, will address a public meeting here very shortly and fully explain the objects and aims of the association."

The Kaslo Kootenaian says: "The successful organization of this association should do much towards restoring the confidence of outside capital in the magnificent mineral resources of this province, and should materially assist in the improving of existing conditions for mining industries, and is, therefore, well worth the attention of our Slocan Mine Owners' Association, and also by our local Board of Trade and City Council, who should take such steps in the matter so as to see that the silver-lead district is well represented at the convention."

At a largely attended meeting of the business men of Vancouver held on Tuesday evening, the following resolution was unanimously passed: "Resolved, that the objects for which the Provincial Mining Association of British Columbia has been organized are in the general interests of the province and worthy of the fullest assistance which can be given by this board, and that a committee consisting of Messrs. E. P. Gilman, C. E. Hope and W. G. Harvey be authorized to give any help possible towards the establishment of a successful branch in this city."

STRIKE IN MONTREAL.

Street Railway Employees Tie Up the Cars.

Montreal, Feb. 5.—The Montreal street railway was tied up at midnight, as the company would not concede the demands of the men. The chief demands are: Recognition of the union, increase of pay from 17½ to 20 cents per hour for men over five years in the company's service, and from 16½ to 19 cents for men under five years' service; no dismissals without satisfactory reason; pay for suspensions not warranted by facts; reinstatement of men dismissed since January 1; increase in number of employees; that the hours of labor shall be shortened. The men also say they are prepared to accept arbitration. So far the company's officials say the men have not formally presented their demands. Of the officials of the union, none are in the company's employ, all having been dismissed for cause. When a committee of the company's employees is prepared to come and present their grievances, the company is ready to meet them and discuss matters. Tonight a meeting of the men was held, and, as was expected, the strike was called on at midnight.

At midnight the men ran their cars into the barns, the 20-minute service after 12 being discontinued. Manager Wanklyn stated tonight that the company will make no effort to operate the service in the morning or until the men have come to their senses and return to work. He expects that will not be long in happening. The situation will be very serious should a big snowstorm set in. It is only by the greatest exertions that the lines are kept clear during heavy storms and should they become blocked it would require over a week to get them into running order again.

THE KING.

London, Feb. 5.—The progress of King Edward towards recovery continues satisfactory. He was expected to drive out today, but in the face of the keen East wind, Sir Francis Laking, his physician, considered it imprudent.

BALL AT ALBERNI.

Enjoyable Social Event at the Mid-Island Town.

Alberni, Feb. 4.—(Special.)—A ball, which was largely attended, was held here last night in celebration of the opening of the hall recently built in the new town. Dancers came for miles in sleighs—there was a foot of snow on the ground, and with smooth floor, good music, and Capital arrangements all spent a most enjoyable evening.

WIND IN NEW YORK.

Boy Hurled Beneath Auto Wheels and Killed.

New York, Feb. 5.—A terrific windstorm prevailed in this city today. The gale blew at the rate of 60 miles an hour, and in the vicinity of the now famous Flatiron building, no one could stand. Scores of persons were blown from their feet at this place and several were injured. A 14-year-old boy was picked up and hurled under the wheels of an automobile and killed.

MUTINY ABOARD SHIP.

Strange Story of a Schooner at Sea.

Bremerhaven, Germany, Feb. 4—Capt. Webster, of the British steamer Mount Royal, which has arrived here from New Orleans, reports having sighted on January 16 the schooner Anna L. Mulford, Capt. Flentge, from Charleston, January 5, for New York, leaking badly. Capt. Flentge reported that his crew mutinied on January 13 and attacked him. He, however, declined the offer of Capt. Wetister to transport him to the Mount Royal.

There are no reports of the Anna L. Mulford having reached any port since she was spoken by the Mount Royal.

New Steamer For Sound Route

The Challam Being Built a Tacoma at Cost of $80,000.

Will Be Launched in April and Come Here About July.

The new steamer Clallam, which is being built for the Puget Sound Navigation Company, which is allied with the Alaska Steamship Company, at a cost of $80,000, for the Seattle-Victoria run, is expected will be ready for launching April 20 to 25, and that she will be ready to go into commission in July. The company will operate her between Seattle and Victoria, via Port Townsend, in conjunction with their well known steamer Majestic.

The Clallam, which takes her name from Clallam country. She is 168 feet overall, by 32 feet beam and 13 feet molded depth. Her keel was laid January 15. When completed, in outward appearance, she will very much resemble the Majestic, except that she stack will be about amidship. She will have 44 staterooms all told, while the Majestic has but 31. The Clallam is being constructed on an altogether different model from the Majestic, however. She has a good deal less dead rise and more beam and much longer floor with comparatively easy ends, but much fuller on deck. She will be a full upper-cabin passenger steamer. Her machinery equipment will include a fore-and-aft compound engine of about 800 developed horse-power, having cylinders, 17 inches and 42 inches, with a stoke of 28 inches. She will be equipped with a nine-foot propeller wheel and two boilers, ten feet in diameter by 11 feet long and allowed 180 pounds of steam, and will have a speed of about 13 knots. Her machinery will be furnished completely the Heffernan engine works of Seattle, the boilers being secured by them from the Lake Erie boiler works of Buffalo.

The interior finish of the Clallam will be plain and tasty, similar to the Majestic, and no expense will be spared on her furnishings. On her main deck she will have a dining-room 41 feet long, aft of the engine-rooms, with five staterooms on each side of the dining-room. On her promenade deck will be a large social hall and large smoking-room with a main hallway between the two. There will be 26 staterooms on this deck. On the hurricane will be the pilothouse, and a large roomy texas abaft the same, which will furnish quarters for the captain and mates and eight staterooms for passengers.

Aristocrats In Feathers

Splendid Exhibition of High Bred Birds at Market Hall.

Poultry Association's Efforts Are Not Appreciated By the Public.

The gentlemen in charge of the poultry and pet stock exhibition now being held at the Market hall feel rather discouraged at the lack of interest taken in their work by the people of the city. There are over 300 birds of gentle lineage and purest strain pent up in coops that all may feast their eyes on the gorgeousness of plumage and grace of form which they display, but all day yesterday and up to a late hour last night they, so to speak, played to empty benches.

The members of the Poultry and Pet Stock Association have gone to a great deal of trouble and expense to make this exhibition a success, they feel that they have done their whole duty, and look to the public to show appreciation by visiting the exhibition.

Tonight Mr. Jarvis, who came specially from Montreal to judge the birds, will deliver a lecture on the "Care of Fowls."

THE PRIZE WINNERS.

Following is a list of prize winners up to last night:

Buff Rocks.—Cocks—1st, Geo. McCann; 2nd, A. H. Menzies.
Hens—1st, J. McCann; 2nd, A. H. Menzie.
Cockerels—1st, A. H. Menzie; 2nd, J. McCann.
Pullets—1st, G. McCann; 2nd, A. H. Menzie.
Dark Brahmas—Cocks, 1st and 2nd, Abbott.
Hens—1st, Brinkman; 2nd, Abbott.
Cockerels—1st and 2nd, Abbott.
Pullets—1st and 2nd, Abbott.
White Brahmas—Cocks—1st and 2nd, Hodgson Bros.
Hens—1st and 2nd, Hodgson Bros.
Cockerels—1st, Brinkman; 2nd, Hodgson Bros.
Pullets—1st, Hodgson Bros; 2nd, Brinkman.
Black Minorca—Cocks—1st, Blackstock; 2nd, T. Edwards.
Hens—1st and 2nd, Blackstock.
Cockerels—1st, Blackstock; 2nd, A. Thomson.
Pullets—1st and 2nd, Blackstock.
Buff Orpington—Cocks—1st, Blackstock; 2nd, Quick Bros.
Hens—1st, Lockley Jones; 2nd, J. Shepherd.
Cockerels—1st and 2nd, Quick Bros.
Pullets—1st, J. Woods; 2nd, Quick Bros.
White Leghorns—Cocks, 1st, Fowler; 2nd, Blackstock.
Hens—1st, Abbott; 2nd, Fowler.
Cockerels—1st, Fowler; 2nd, Blackstock.
Pullets—1st, Wootton; 2nd, Duncan.
Andalusians—O. W. Jepson 1st and 2nd in cocks, hens, cockerels and pullets.
White Wyandots—Cocks—1st, Wootton; 2nd, T. Edwards.
Hens—1st and 2nd, T. Edwards.
Cockerels—1st, M. Brinkman; 2nd, R. B. Losee.
Pullets—1st, J. S. Wootton; 2nd, T. Edwards.
Silver Laced Wyandottes—Cocks, 1st, G. H. Hadwen.
W. Bullock, 1st and 2nd in hens, cockerels and pullets.

New Island Road Projected

Company Applying For a Charter to Build From Hardy Bay to Quatsino.

Other Applications and Announcements in the Provincial Gazette.

That Vancouver Island—particularly the Northern portion—is looked upon as a promising field by capitalists, is shown by a notice which appears in this week's Provincial Gazette. It is to the effect that application will be made to the legislature at the approaching session for an act to incorporate a company having the following powers:

1. To build, equip, maintain and operate a line or lines of railway, of standard or other gauge, from a point at or near Hardy Bay or Fort Rupert, Vancouver Island; thence by the most feasible route to a point on West Arm, or Rupert Arm, of Quatsino Sound, and to construct, equip and maintain branch lines;

2. To construct, acquire, equip and maintain steam and other vessels, and to operate the same;

3. To construct, acquire and maintain docks and wharves in connection with the said railway or any of its branches;

4. To connect with or enter into traffic or other arrangements with any railway, steamboat or other companies;

5. To construct, acquire, operate and maintain telegraph and telephone lines along the routes of the said railway and its branches, or in connection therewith, and to transmit messages for commercial purposes and collect tolls therefor;

6. To acquire from any government, municipality, or person any bonus, subsidy, grant or privilege;

7. And having all rights, powers and privileges necessary, usual or incidental to any of the aforesaid powers.

C. A. Bury, of Victoria, is making the application.

Morrison, Whiteside, McQuarrie and Briggs, solicitors for the applicants, are applying for a bill to incorporate a company to build and operate a railway to operate by steam, electricity or other power, from a point at or near Princeton, in the district of Yale, province of British Columbia, and thence by the most feasible route to a point on Nicola lake at or near Quilchena, and hence by the most feasible route to a point on the Thompson river at or near the City of Kamloops.

Galliher and Wilson, solicitors for the applicants, will ask for a bill to empower a company to build a railway from a point at or near Kootenay landing; thence South, following the West side of Kootenay river to a point on or near said river at or near the International boundary line.

The same solicitors will apply for a bill to incorporate a company with power to build a railway from a point on the Flathead river near the International boundary line; thence North and Northwesterly by the most feasible route to a point at or near Elko, B. C., on the Crow's Nest Pass section of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Edward A. Crease, solicitor for the applicants, will apply for a private bill to incorporate the Synod of the Diocese of Kootenay.

The following appointments are gazetted:

Myles A. Beale, of Cranbrook, to be a justice of the peace for the province.

Brynild Brynildsen, of Bella Coola, J. P., to be a notary public for the province.

George Alfred Barrett, of the city of Vancouver, to be a notary public for the province.

J. H. McMullin, of Fernie, to be chief constable for South Riding of East Kootenay electoral district, vice Mr. Lestock R. Forbes.

George Manley, of Cobble Hill; James Boal and George Bartlett, of Cordfield, and Charles Theodore Gibbons, of Cowichan, to be office viewers in and for that portion of the Cowichan electoral district situated to the South of the Cowichan river.

James L. Steele, of Kit-a-maat, to be a deputy mining recorder for the Skeena mining division, with sub-recording office at Kit-a-maat.

Tenders are invited by W. S. Gore, deputy commissioner of lands and works from persons desiring to secure a lease of a timber limit on the North Thompson river, known as lots 544, 545, 546, 547 and 548 group one, Lillooet district, containing 327 acres.

Certificates of incorporation have been issued to the following:

Hotel Strathcona, Limited. Capital, $20,000 in $25 shares.

The Marysville Lumber Company, Limited. Capital, $25,000 in $10 shares. The primary object of the company is to acquire and take over as a going concern the sawmill and planing mill business now carried on by Charles E. Finch and William Jones, of Marysville, in East Kootenay, under the style or firm of Finch & Jones, and all or any of the assets and liabilities of the proprietors of that business in connection therewith:

The Pacific Northern Cannery, Limited. Capital $20,000 in $10 shares. To operate a cannery on Observatory Inlet.

The Quatsino Land & Improvement Company, Limited. Capital $100,000 in $10 shares.

Certificates of registration have been issued to the following extra-provincial companies:

Dry Hill Hydraulic Mining Company, of Whatcom, Wash. Capital $10,000 in one cent shares. The provincial head office is in Vancouver, and Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K. C., is attorney.

The Western Fuel Co., of San Francisco, Cal. Capital $1,500,000 in $100 shares. The provincial head office is at Nanaimo, and Thomas Russell is the company's attorney.

Moyie Lumber & Milling Company, of Phoenix, Arizona. Capital $500,000 in $100 shares. The provincial head office is at Moyie, and Hugh Cameron is attorney.

THE BOY MURDERER.

Chief Justice Thinks He Should Have Hanged.

In sentencing Fred Goodspeed at St. John (N. B.) on January 15, Chief Justice Tuck took occasion to reflect on the commutation of the boy murderer Higgins' death sentence. He said:

"If I may be permitted to express my opinion without reflecting on the government of Canada, my view is that Higgins should have been hanged. It was a mistake not to have done so. In the interest of good government, hanging was the only punishment for such an atrocious, diabolical crime, and if one or two of the 'tanyard' and 'opera house' crowds had been hanged with him, it would have been for the benefit of the community. While respecting the opinion of the Minister of Justice, upon whose advice the Governor-General commuted the sentence, I must say that if it had been left to me I would have hanged him."

Goodspeed, on whose evidence Higgins was convicted, was tried as an accessory after the fact. The jury disagreed, and the judge and crown concurred in the decision not to try him again. The Chief Justice stated that in fifty years he had never known conviction on second trial after the first jury disagreed.

Goodspeed pleaded guilty to two burglaries committed two days after the murder, and was sentenced to thirty-nine months in the reformatory.

ANOTHER TRAIN WRECK.

Five Men Killed in New Mexico.

El Pasco, Tex. Feb. 5.—A head-on collision between two Rock Island freight trains near Tecolat, N. M., resulted in the death of five trainmen and the injury of several others.

DREYFUS AGAIN.

Effort to Be Made to Reopen Question.

Paris, Feb. 5.—The Liberte today reasserts, in spite of contradictions, that an organized effort will be made to reopen the Dreyfus affair. It repeats that the document which is expected to throw a new light upon the subject is now in possession of the Minister of War.

LAVAL UNIVERSITY.

May Be Placed Under Jurisdiction of Rome.

Rome, Feb. 5.—The Vatican is contemplating placing the Catholic University of Laval, Quebec, under the jurisdiction of the Congregation of the Propaganda, as was done on January 12, in the case of the Catholic university at Washington.

New Coasting Regulations

Text of Order-in-Council Passed at Ottawa on January 23.

Canadian Goods Coming Via U. S. Must Be Carried in Canadian Ships.

Following is the order-in-council passed at Ottawa on January 23, prohibiting the carriage of Canadian goods from one Canadian port to another in foreign vessels, which was referred to in the Colonist of yesterday.

Government House,
Ottawa, January 23, 1903.

Whereas by section 245 of the Customs Act it is provided that the Governor-in-Council may make regulations—

r) "for prescribing the rule and conditions under which goods imported in bond or duty paid, and products or manufactures of Canada, may be transported from one port or place of Canada to another port or place therein, over any territory or waters outside the limits of Canada, provided that the goods so transported shall, upon arrival in Canada from any place beyond the limits of Canada, be treated, with regard to the liability to, or exemption from duty, as if the transportation had taken place entirely within the limits of Canada."

And whereas by section 195 of the Customs Act it is further provided that—

"All goods, shipped or unshipped, imported or exported, carried or conveyed, contrary to any regulation made by the Governor-in-Council, and all goods or vehicles and all vessels under the value of four hundred dollars, with regard to which the requirements of any such regulation have not been complied with, shall be forfeited and may be seized."

Therefore the Governor-General-in-Council is pleased to make the following regulations, and the same are hereby made and established accordingly, viz:

Goods imported in bond or duty paid, and products or manufactures of Canada, when transported or towed in or by vessel from one port or place in Canada to another port or place therein over any waters outside the limits of Canada, shall be transported or towed only in or by vessels permitted to engage in the Canadian coasting trade, and under special customs manifests in such form and subject to such conditions as shall be prescribed by the Minister of Customs, except as otherwise authorized by the Governor-in-Council; Provided that the goods when for transported or towed in conformity with this regulation, shall, upon arrival in Canada from any place beyond the limits of Canada, be treated, with regard to the liability or exemption from duty, as if the transportation or towing had taken place entirely within the limits of Canada; Provided further that goods transported or towed in or by any vessel not permitted to engage in the Canadian coasting trade, contrary to this regulation, shall be seized and forfeited.

SALMON CREEK PLACERS.

Gravel That Yields High Values—Hydraulic Plant Ordered.

"The placer mining along the main stream of the Salmon river during the present year should bring good results," said A. Schneider, of Waneta, yesterday. "The placer claims that were developed there last year panned out very well, considering the short time they were worked. This year, with hydraulic machinery, the results should be very good indeed.

"The placers were first worked many years ago. The first prospectors who came to this province in the '90's obtained good results by panning the stream. Later on the prospectors abandoned the ground, as the results obtained were not as remunerative as they had been led to expect.

"During the early days one miner, who went under the sobriquet of 'Pittsburg Bill,' took out of one claim $2,000. This amount was cleaned up from a space 20 by 35 feet. The claim has since been restaked and work resumed. We figure that we can obtain 30 cents a cubic yard from the claim, which will more than repay us for our trouble. We can do placer mining in this province with a profit at 9 cents a cubic yard. Placer mining is done in California when the dirt pans out at the rate of 4½ cents per cubic yard, but then the wages there are much lower.

"During the coming summer mining on a greater scale will be attempted. Most of the companies working on the main Salmon are preparing to put in expensive hydraulic plants, while the men to be employed will be in the neighborhood of 100. At present none of the placers are working, owing to the heavy snowfall," concluded Mr. Schneider.—Rossland Miner.

NOVA SCOTIA RAILWAY.

Mackenzie & Mann's Enterprise Starts Next Month.

Halifax, Feb. 5—(Special.)—Active operations on Mackenzie & Mann's big Nova Scotia railway enterprise will be started next month. This firm has a contract with the Nova Scotia Government to build a line from Halifax to Barrington to connect with an existing line from the latter place to Yarmouth.

HONDURAS REBELLION.

Government Declares a Blockade of Amapala.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The following cablegram has been received at the state department from United States Consul Moe at Tegucigalpa, Honduras: "Government decrees Amapala blockaded." Amapala is the island where Bonilla, who claims to have been elected president of Honduras, has taken his stand.

ROBERT PRITCHARD DEAD.

Was Formerly Mayor of London, Ont.

London, Feb. 5.—(Special)—Robert Pritchard, ex-mayor and a prominent grain dealer, died last night.

Empress Dowager Reported Dead

Rumor Current at Tientsin That China's Ruler Has Expired.

News of Her Death Said to Have Been Concealed.

The rumor is current in Chinatown that the Empress Dowager of China is dead. The rumor has been telegraphed from Tientsin. A press despatch from London says: "The correspondent of the Standard at Tientsin telegraphs the rumor that the Empress Dowager is dead, the news being concealed until after the New Year observances.

If this rumor has a foundation in fact a large section of Chinatown will mourn, while on the other hand many will welcome the news of her death, as an obstacle removed from China's progress.

The Empress Dowager is 68 years of age, her 68th birthday having been celebrated with clash of gong, fire crackers and due eclat at Pekin on November 10. Many stories have been rife about the early days of the Empress, some people boldly aver that she was originally a slave girl brought from Canton, and her unhappy fate they commiserate. Not so, from authenticated Chinese sources it is learned that she was the beautiful daughter of a plebeian Manchu family, the father an official living in Pekin, but formerly residing in Canton, hence the varied discrepancies in the stories current. Selected for the Imperial Harem, Yehonala, for such was her name, became concubine of the then reigning Emperor. Not well educated, Yehonala applied herself with great assiduity to mastering the intricacies of the Chinese language. She was "a vivacious, fiery, and high-spirited young girl of 18, was kindly treated by the Empress Tzu Ann, and obtained complete ascendancy over the Emperor. On his death Yehonala's son Tung Chi succeeded to the throne and the Empress Dowager promoted Yehonala to be joint Empress with her under the title of Empress Dowager Tzu Hsi of the Western palace. Here Yehonala lived a life of excessive ease and pleasure, indulging to endless amusements, and much besides. On the death of Tung Chi, of smallpox, both Empresses chose the son of Prince Suen as successor, with the title of Kuang Hsu, which was one of those sprouts of wisdom which have so long distinguished the present Empress Dowager. For Kuang Hsu was the son of her own sister, and thus she was able gradually to thrust the Empress Tzu Ann (to whose clear-headed sagacity, and diligent improvements China owes so much) in the background, and by and by the aforesaid Empress died, some say from eating poisoned sweetmeats. Away with such a thought. Tung Chi on his deathbed had trembled for the safety of his wife Altueh, and calling her to his side had taken up his little adopted son, and placing the Imperial cap upon his head said, "if that cap will fit on this child's head, you may be assured of peace and safety," as a Chinese writer says, but neither the cap nor the child nor Altueh were destined to remain as Tung Chi wished.

Before her nominal resignation in 1887, the Empress Dowager wisely arranged for the marriage of her niece with the Emperor, thus tying the bonds still closer. The Imperial treasury at one time vioted millions of dollars for building new warships. This money was nobly spent by the Empress in beautifying the palaces and building more; over the portals of the finest she caused to be inscribed "Yamen of the Admiralty," which went far towards increasing the strength of the navy.

Then came the coup de-tat of 1897, the virtual imprisonment of the Emperor and the reign of the Empress Dowager. Reform's aspirations were killed and the blood-thirsty plot formed in 1900 for the massacre of all foreigners—the Boxers being the tools of the Empress Dowager. The story of those days of horror is still fresh in the minds of Colonist readers.

"I came in today," said the shopper, "to see those swell sideboards of yours." "Not me, lady," replied the new salesman in the furniture store. "I ain't never wore anything but a moustache."—Philadelphia "Press."

"Herbert calls on me every evening," said the confiding girl. "Don't you think that is a sign he really cares for me?" "I can't be sure," answered Miss Cayenne, "Whether it indicates that he is in love, or that coal is scarce at his house." —Washington Star.

IMPORTANT AUCTION SALE

—OF—

LIVE STOCK IMPLEMENTS Machinery Farm Produce

Under instructions from F. J. Hart, Esq., Agent for the Administratrix of Kirkland Estate, I will sell by Public Auction on the premises at

Westham Island

Near Ladner, B. C., commencing at ten o'clock sharp, on

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THE WHOLE OF THE LIVE STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, MACHINERY AND FARM PRODUCE,

Consisting of 77 head of Grade Cattle, 2 pure bred Shorthorn Bulls, 1 pure bred Shorthorn Heifer, 1 pure bred Hereford Bull, 10 pure bred Hereford Cows, 13 Work Horses, 10 pure bred Shropshire Sheep, (2 Rams, 8 Ewes); 6 pure bred Lincoln Sheep (1 Ram, 5 Ewes), 235 Grade Sheep and 64 Hogs.

One Steam Hay Press, 3 Mowing Machines, 1 Boiler and Engine, 1 Fanning Mill, 3 Binders, Plows, Wagons, Grain Separator, Rakes, Harrows, and the usual miscellaneous Implements and Articles necessary to operate a first-class farm of four hundred acres.

Terms of Sale and Catalogues can be obtained upon application to F. J. Hart & Co., of New Westminster, or the undersigned,

T. J. TRAPP,
Auctioneer.
New Westminster, B. C.