CHANGE OF POLICY AFFECTING LANDS

Provincial Government Takes Action to Prevent Public Lands Falling in Hands of Speculators and "Grabbers"

PLACED UNDER RESERVE UNTIL IT IS SURVEYED

Will Simplify the Work of the Department Greatly and Will Ensure That Public Lands Go to Bona Fide Settlers

A series of 9 land reserve notices appearing in the current issue of the British Columbia Gazette attest an important change of policy in the administration of the Crown lands of this province, which change will be welcomed by the pre-emptor and actual settler, while destined, doubtless to prove less acceptable to the land agent and speculator, as considerably handicapping his activities.

Briefly it is intended hereafter to restrict the operations of all government survey parties to sections of new land preliminarily reserved from sale or lease, and thus remaining for the time being solely available to pre-emptors—which lands will remain so reserved and unavailable for lease or purchase until all surveys are completed, reported to and platted on the maps of the Lands department, the University endowment selections made, and the bona fide classification of such lands established and recorded in the department at Victoria, and at the government agency nearest which the interested lands may lie.

They may then, if it be deemed advisable in the public interest, be gazetted as open for sale or lease, and sixty clear days must elapse after such publication before applications for their acquirement by purchase may be entertained.

Heretofore it has been common—indeed, almost the universal practice—in British Columbia for the purchase of public lands to run ahead of the official surveys, private surveyors in many cases being employed and their locations being subsequently fitted in with the work of the government surveyors with very considerable difficulty, and patchwork results. Naturally the lands so privately surveyed for purchase have almost invariably been described by the applicants as other than first-class land, for which the first-class price would have to be tendered. It has also been a common practice for certain of the surveyors employed on government work to give valuable "tips" to their friends, the speculative land seekers, with whom they have kept in touch as to the lands explored, frequently even before their reports on these lands have reached the employing department. On the other hand, land agents frequently have followed close upon the heels of the surveyors in the field and even preceded them, staking especially choice areas as surveys have advanced.

Simplifys Work of Department

"The result of the present changes," said Hon. Price Ellison, the minister for lands, to the Colonist yesterday, "will be to immensely simplify the work of the department and the operation of Crown lands purchase by the legitimate investor. It will render impossible such preferential position in purchasing Crown lands as certain parties have enjoyed and exercised in the past. And it will greatly improve the status of the pre-emptor—the real settler—in taking up homestead land in British Columbia, as the operations of all government surveyors will hereafter be strictly confined to large reserved areas, which, during the surveying, classification and recording period will be only open and available to the pre-emptor.

"Too many of our surveyors in the past have been in the habit of acting as lookouts for the lands agencies, and as a result, Crown land has been offered to buyers in Seattle, in Spokane and as far back as Minneapolis, even before the government has had an opportunity to plot it on the official maps by the surveyors' reports. Again, under the new arrangements, a surveyor will have no possible means of foretelling who will get the lands he may be working upon, and this will reduce the tendency to under-classification through which in the past it has been quite possible to greatly benefit friends. The new system may be counted upon to promote unbiased classification.

"We shall have everything ready in future before crown lands are offered for sale and the reports of the surveyors for a district will have been received—the lands marked and numbered on the official maps—descriptions and particulars recorded, etc. Then, after the reserve has been lifted by sixty days' advertisement in the Gazette, one man can do the work that half a dozen have required to concern themselves with in the past. Upon all application being received for any particular tract of land, all that will be necessary to do will be to look it up on the records, mark it off as allenated, take the purchaser's money and give him his crown grant. There will be no duplication or multiplication of applications for the one piece of land—no adjudication upon the relative arguments of rival claimants—no restaking and blanketing of locations. One operation only will be necessary in the making of a purchase of public land, and one man can attend to the transaction in the lands department, for priority of application will rule and rival claimants no longer be in evidence. Fairness to all and preference or partiality to none are the foundation for the system to be adopted, and which it is to be expected will be received with approval by the public as wholly in its interest."

Districts Under Reserve.

The districts placed under reserve, in connection with the initiation of the new system, by advertisement in the current B. C. Gazette, comprise all available crown lands regarded as immediately and specially desirable for speculation and settlement, and specifically described as hereunder.

Reserve No. 1—All vacant and unsurveyed lands situate in Ranges 4 and 5, Coast district, and embraced in the northern watershed of Francois lake, and the watershed of the Morice river.

Reserve No. 2—All similar lands in Cariboo district and Range 3, Coast district, embraced in the drainage area of the Nasco river, with the Euchiniko river, as its headwaters.

Reserve No. 3—All similar lands in Cariboo district within the following described boundaries: Commencing at the southwest corner of lot 774, thence in a northwesterly direction parallel to the Salmon river and distant six miles from the north bank thereof to its headwaters, thence easterly to the southwest corner of the Peace river reserve established by Gazette notice dated September 12, 1907, thence easterly along the southern boundary of the Peace river reserve to the southeast corner of said reserve, thence southerly to the westerly limit of the reserve along the south fork of the Fraser river established by Gazette notice published August 29, 1907, thence three miles south to the Fraser river, and thence following the northerly bank of the Fraser river to the point of commencement.

Reserve No. 4—All similar lands contained within the following boundaries: Commencing at a point where the Glen Hart wagon road intersects the northboundary of the Dominion Railway Belt, thence easterly following the northern boundary of the Dominion Railway Belt to a point two miles west of the North Thompson river, thence northerly parallel to the North Thompson and Clearwater rivers and two miles distant therefrom to the 52nd parallel of North latitude, thence east along said parallel to the Cariboo wagon road, and thence southerly along the Cariboo wagon road and the Glen Hart wagon road to the point of commencement.

Reserve No. 5—All similar lands situated in Ranges 4 and 5, Coast district, contained within the following described boundaries: Commencing at the west end of Francois lake, thence southerly to the west end of Ootsabunkut lake, thence along the shore of Ootsabunkut lake to the west end thereof, thence northerly to the west end of Cheslatta lake, thence along the north shore of Cheslatta lake to the east end of Francois lake, and thence along the south shore of Francois lake to the point of commencement.

Kamloops.

Reserve No. 6—All similar lands in Kamloops division of Yale district contained within the following described boundaries: Commencing at a point two miles above the junction of the North Thompson and the Clearwater rivers and adjoining the reserve established by notice published in the Gazette of August 5, 1908, thence following the Clearwater river and Clearwater lake to their headwaters and extending in width on each side of the said river and lake for a distance of two miles.

Cariboo.

Reserve No. 7—All similar lands in Cariboo district contained within the following described boundaries: Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of the reserve on the south fork of the Fraser river established by Gazette notice published August 29, 1907, intersects the watershed of the Bear river, thence southerly following the watershed of the Bear river and Bear lake to their headwaters, thence westerly to the Willow river at its junction with the creek flowing from St. Mary's lake, thence southerly and westerly to the Fraser river at the northern watershed of the Cottonwood river, thence northerly and easterly along the left bank of the Fraser river to the aforementioned reserve on the south fork of the Fraser river, and thence following the western and southern boundaries of the said reserve to the point of commencement.

Reserve No. 8—All similar lands in Lillooet district contained within the following described boundaries: Commencing at the southwest corner of the Bear river, thence southerly following the watershed of the Bear river and Bear lake to their headwaters, thence westerly to the Willow river at its junction with the creek flowing from St. Mary's lake, thence southerly and westerly to the Fraser river at the northern watershed of the Cottonwood river, thence northerly and easterly along the left bank of the Fraser river to the aforementioned reserve on the south fork of the Fraser river, and thence following the western and southern boundaries of the said reserve to the point of commencement.

Reserve No. 9—All similar lands in the districts of Cassiar, Cariboo and Range 5, Coast district, contained within the following described boundaries: Commencing at a point about two miles north and five and a half miles east of Wright Bay, Babine lake, thence northerly and easterly to a point midway between Trembleur lake and Tasla lake, thence easterly along the watershed of Trembleur lake to a point six miles east of the Salmon river, thence southerly parallel to the Salmon river and distant six miles therefrom to the northern boundary of the reserve established by Gazette notice, published February 17, 1908, thence west six miles, thence south six miles, thence west six miles to Stuart lake, thence along the north shore of Stuart lake to the Babine lake reserve established by Gazette notice dated December 17, 1908, thence following the northern and eastern boundary of the Babine lake reserve to the point of commencement.

The C. P. R. engineering department has let to J. McDermid of Winnipeg the contract for the engine houses to be built at Field, Rogers Pass, Kamloops, and Smelter Junction at Trail. The contract for the fruit packing house at Summerland has been let to Nelson Bros. of that place. T. E. Crowell, of Vernon, has secured the contract for the fruit-packing house there. Mr. Biggar has been awarded the contract for the freight shed at Kelowna, and the Standard House Co. of Vancouver, have secured the contract for the bunk houses at various points on the company's system.

As a result of an accident in which she was severely burned about the body, late Monday night, Elizabeth, the eleven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Moore, Cherry Creek road, Alberni, died Tuesday morning. The child was retiring late and was very tired. While undressing she upset the lamp in her bedroom, and while trying to extinguish it her clothes caught fire. She battled for a moment with the danger, and then rushed out of her room to the head of the stairway. Her father, hearing her screams, rushed from his room, which was down stairs, and saw her enveloped in flames. Charles Chase, a cousin of Mr. Moore, who occupied a room close to the girl, was also immediately on the scene and threw a blanket about her. The flames were so active, however, that the blanket was also soon on fire, and Mr. Chase had his hands badly scorched. The fire had badly burned the flesh of the child before it was extinguished. Dr. A. D. Morgan was hastily summoned and spent most of the night with the suffering child, but was unable to save her life.

Little Journeys In Entomology

The Tent Caterpillar and Ellopia Somnaria

(By C. H. G.)

Is Maister Andra Carnegie, late of Pittsburg, Pa., U. S. A., still afflicted with his chronic insomnia, resultant from the non-discovery of a thoroughly reliable recipe for the avoidance of accumulated and superfluous specie?

If so, patriotic Victorians will—simply "for the good of the order"—take pleasure in presenting for his generous consideration a formula which may be guaranteed not only to remove all danger of the reproach of death in sinful wealth, but which is well calculated also to win the benedictions of a truly Christian, but sorely tried community. Now that even Bogustown and Crosby Corners have their libraries, and riches in Fame's temple are positively a drug on the market, the fairy godfather of Skibo Castle is respectfully invited to place a sufficient fund at the disposal of an impartial commission to permit of a capitation bounty (it need not be more than a single copper cent for each and every head or tail produced) being paid to secure the extermination of the voracious and misguided Tent Caterpillar and his companion and fellow sinner, the Oak Looper.

These be the despicable creatures which every few years miserably and unpatriotically devote their unquestioned energies to counteracting the good work of the Vancouver Island Development League and contradicting all publicity literature which deals in panegyrics to Victoria, lovely flora, Tent Caterpillar, alias Crawly, vice the good books "a lepidopterous insect belonging to the genus Clisiocampa," makes it his business in life to throw a veil of grey mystery over the young green twigs of rose bush and fruit tree, the while he fattens upon his boarding house; the Oak Looper on the other hand conceives it his mission in life to transform Victoria's glorious groves of ancient oaks into mere reproachful tatterdemalion reminders of their departed beauty. Panthers, coyotes, wolves, even our old friend little Wooly Aphis, are not in it with these lilliputian invaders. And if for once Messrs. Carnegie, Rockefeller and a few others alike capable of contempt for the tax collector would but elect to pool their resources, why something really might be done!

Otherwise the individually weak and impotent worm, collectively becomes the master of the situation.

And such a tyrannous master, too—when he has turned!

* * *

It is a crying shame! Already in every suburban and city garden around and about Victoria, the garrotting of the rose and the fruit tree has begun—the dirty, sticky, grey cloud of nastiness which marks the habitation of the Tent Caterpillar being everywhere in evidence. The Looper is stated to be following—the oaks to be his object of attack. And unless the unexpected happily occurs, the coming summer will once again see the royal oak trees, Victoria's particular pride and glory, after they have entertained the self-invited and unwelcome lunching Looper, stand stripped, shriveled, shivering, bloodless and faded, drearily moaning in their naked misery. The vampire despoilers will have bound their strong arms with omni-evident strands of gossamer, while feasting upon the leaves, the buds, the tiny acorns.

And as though this were not enough, injury will, as it has ever before, be crowned with flagrant insult. The bare arms of the oaks, picked clean of their summer foliage, will be converted into gymnasium apparatus for the physical culture stunts of the countless millions of the Looper battalions; and their flying trapezes, slack ropes, swings and rigging generally will enmesh the indignant human populace.

The favorite pastimes of the Oak Looper appear to be both malicious and mischievous. He will perch at his ease, leisurely picking the oak leaf fibre from his teeth, until a pedestrian approaches—a lady or a little girl for preference. Then down will drop the Looper's almost invisible ladder, and the Looper himself follows much as a fireman comes sliding down the shining pole at headquarters when a rush alarm is turned in from the lumber yards district. To perform his favorite acrobatic specialty with complete success and a true professional finish it is necessary that the little aerial artist accomplish a safe landing within the territoral boundaries of a human neck.

Anyone whom duty compels to walk along the oak-shaded pathways during the summer season will bear immediate testimony to the over-abundance of circumstantial evidence that the Oak Loopers have regular competitions in lassooing their human victims—and quite possibly prizes are awarded the most successful performers at the close of the midsummer tournaments for which preparations are now under way.

* * *

V. I. Oak-Looper is not the really-and-truly name of this Native Son pest—that is, it is not the name that would be entered in the Bugdom De-Brett's, although it has something of the right look on paper. It is merely a short descriptive title awarded by the people who like to be known as scientists, professors of entomology, or best of all—savants. It is a little justifiable mercy, as some rural paper might happily christen Mr. John P. Sweeny "the literary Nimrod," or dub the man who drives the city water wagon a "New Year's resolution John."

According to the late deputy minister of agriculture, who seemingly had been studying the reptile without passion or prejudice and with the seriously scientific respect of a spectacled German professor, "it has the larval form of a moth called 'Ellopia Somniaria'." The writer has heard the pest spoken to and of quite frequently, but it must be confessed with shame that he has never yet heard it addressed by the name which the late deputy minister asserts it has been trained to come running in answer to. It is possible that the Authority has not been listening carefully. The Looper has been called very many things, and the peculiar feature of the case is found in the fact that the surname usually sounds like 'Pest'—and anything else for a Christian or unChristian prefix that means a fervent cussword, but may at that be reconciled with the varying degrees of human conscientiousness.

Of course the former deputy minister of agriculture would be the last man in the world to jest on such a sacred subject, and especially not in one of his own pastorals for the enlightenment and guidance of the press and public. And yet the name does sound as though it might have been borrowed from the vaudeville theatre. "Ellopia Somniaria" would strike the average ambitious singing soubrette as just about the classiest thing going as a stage name for a euphonious, effective and Italy-suggesting billing! The Soubrette naturally cannot but remember once-in-a-while, when she is all alone, that she is merely Mary Ann at home and to her folks. She devoutly thanks her Press Agent that she is Ellopia Somnaria to the public—

And perhaps the Loop-the-Looper is at heart equally appreciative to the late deputy minister!

According to the official encyclical that has been referred to, the caterpillars are pale brown, mottled with black. This is exteriorially as it were. Experiments of a crude nature and with the simplest of plant, are yet sufficient to demonstrate that the interior decorations are of the color and consistency of creamy yellow custard. The silver lining of this particular cloud is found in the official declaration that the Looper folks "have only five instead of the usual eight pairs of legs,' and are therefore necessarily badly handicapped in making those round-the-neck pilgrimages so highly popular as the summertime outings of Bugdom's Smart Set. It is this dearth of legs, too, which compels the caterpillar to wrinkle or hump himself in his promenades in order to cover the distance within the time limit, and which furthermore earns for his family the appellation of "geometers" or "loopers."

The moth—which is at once the ancestor and the descendant of the maligned caterpillar—is really a beautiful creature, of delicate fawn color and with lace-like wings. The toilette is completed with two irregular lines of darker shade and a small spot applique in each fore-wing. The males reverse the usual order of things by being the patrons of the milliner, having plumed antennae whereas the ladies of the household must rest content with the common Christie or Fedora.

The eggs are described by Mr. Danby as "beautifully blue when freshly laid"—when of course they are to be preferred for table use—"oval in form, with one end slightly flattened." A good laying moth if properly looked after and given a little of the Sylvester Company's spice in her food from time to time, should lay twenty-five to thirty eggs in a short season. Twelve to fifteen, however, make the usual setting, and everything is left to Nature's incubator after the eggs are once disposed of by the Mother Moth.

There is nothing in the game law to protect the eggs of Mrs. Ellopia Somnaria from bad boys with the collector's mania prematurely developed.

* * *

According once again to the gospel of the late deputy minister, there are various and sundry ways of visiting death upon the caterpillars and the moths. Poisoning with Paris Green or Hellobore is suggested—but poisoning is always regarded as somewhat comardly. Under certain favorable circumstances, a club will do the business, and the police and the S. P. C. A. have promised to be indulgently non-observant. But the favorite treatment, vide the late deputy minister, is to snare the moths with jacklights and drown them in tubs of water with a top-dressing of oil. Here is the official prescription from a rare old circular:

"It is evident, however, that the root of the evil cannot be reached by attacking the larvae, and that being the case, I am of opinion that destroying the moths is the most reasonable method of dealing with it. This can best be affected at night by placing tubs or other open vessels containing water covered by a thin film of coal oil, over which are suspended lanterns. The moths fly against the light at night and fall into the water."

And then again, there is the most generally favored method of all—grab the caterpillar gently by the back of the neck (the caterpillar's neck in this case) using your own thumb and forefinger only, in the strict observance of the niceties of prescribed etiquette: drop the creature, writhing victim on the sidewalk: and squash him there with your bootheel! This permits of a post mortem anatomical inspection that should be of great interest and value to all good bug biographers.

The invasion of the Oak Loopers is stated to come by schedule only in alternate years, 1909 being an off year. The Oak Looper thus traces kinship to the Salmon, which also has his years of the big run and his short years. Only, unfortunately, the caterpillar frequently flies right in the fact face of officially promulgated facts, providing the exception to prove the rule with regard to non-successive annual visitation.

For this contradiction of his true friends in public office, if for no other and less heinous offences, Ellopia Somnaria and all his family are deserving of death.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Nelson veterans are arranging to decorate the graves in that city of British veterans.

Scotty McCall, aged 26, was drowned near Trout Lake recently while fishing from a raft.

Tony Allevo, an Italian, was drowned in the Tulameen last week, being thrown into the river by a small slide on the railway grade where he was working.

The first ascent of Mount Benson this season was made on Monday by a party composed of Messrs. Henderson Batson, Smith and Donaldson. The trail was found in bad order, due to recent bad weather, and the party had a strenuous climb.

Cranbrook has formed a civilian rifle association.

Cranbrook's new 24-hour electric plant is now in operation.

The residence of D. L. Parker, at Phoenix was gutted by fire on Tuesday evening.

Kaslo is moving actively and practically toward securing a municipally owned and operated telephone system.

It has been decided by Kaslo's citizens to celebrate Victoria Day, the 24th of May.

Following Kaslo's example, Cranbrook observed last Monday as a civic holiday for the purpose of "cleaning up."

The Presbyterian Synod of British Columbia is meeting at Vancouver.

Professor M. A. Jull, the poultry expert attached to the Department of Agriculture, lectures in Revelstoke this evening.

Revelstoke's new school debentures for $30,000 have been taken by the Dominion Security Co., of Toronto, at 98 1-2.

The contract for the new Y. M. C. A. of the C. P. R. at Cranbrook has been awarded to J. G. McCallum & Company.

An additional G. N. W. cable is being laid across the Fraser the volume of Vancouver and New Westminster business south making this provision necessary.

Kamloops is investing in a combination chemical automobile fire fighting machine.

Considerable damage has been done of late in the Princeton district both by forest fire and flood.

Although the strike in the Greenwood mines and smelter of the B. C. Copper Co. has not been officially withdrawn, it is practically at an end, the mines and smelter both having resumed with no shortage of the old union men. About 450 in all are employed.

Archie Allen had his collarbone broken while playing basketball at Summerland on Thursday last.

Rumor has it that Sterling & Pitcairn will shortly open a fruit packing plant at Summerland.

An up-to-date steel and cement block will be erected on the site of Empire hall, at Summerland.

Owners of teams working on the Government roads in Alberni district are asking for an increase of the rate for their services from $6 to $7 per day.

A stump blown out at New Alberni oone day last week fell through the roof of Walter Harris' new residence. Repairs were no sooner made than another stump came through the identical place.

Kaslo will celebrate Victoria day with horse and foot racing, trap shooting, and ohter out-of-doors amusements.

The W. E. Cook sawmill at Kaslo has inaugurated its season's activities.

Rev. George Smith, a pioneer resident of Alberni, for some time past on the super-annuated list, is dead.

A Chinese employee on Gilley's pile-driver at New Westminster, was accidentally killed on Monday by falling from a dyke about seven feet and breaking his neck.

D. J. Stewart has been appointed assistant manager for New Westminster of the B. C. E. R. Co.

Through two little boys discovering and playing with a loaded revolver on the bank premises at Merritt, Walter Clark received a bullet in the arm. His disablement will be but temporary.

George B. Casey, for some time past secretary of the Miners' Union at Rossland, has resigned, C. E. Laughlin temporarily succeeding him.

Bad brush fires are reported raging at Poupore Creek and at Rock Creek, both chargeable to sparks from C. P. R. locomotives.

There is considerable tourist traffic on the upper Columbia, south of Golden, and it is stated that the C. P. R. will build a fine tourist hotel on Windermere lake and may also take over the Columbia River Navigation Co's steamboat service.

An inquest has been deemed unnecessary in the case of Vincent Genoni, of Ladysmith, the coroner deciding that death obviously resulted from heart disease.

Truancy has developed such alarming proportions in connection with the public schools at Vernon that the police have been appealed to for assistance in compelling the attendance of scholars.

Vernon's Board of Trade is again urging upon the Government the need for a land registry at Vernon for the Okanagan district.

James Pooley of Nicola has been very seriously injured by a kick from a horse. His life was at first despaired of, but it is now thought that he will recover.

A verdict of guilty has been returned by the jury in the Vancouver Black Hand case of Martsan, the Italian charged with shooting with intent.

Harry Hallburton, a C. P. R. brakeman, was the victim of a fatal accident at New Westminster on Wednesday. While engaged in switching, he fell beneath the wheels, his right leg being mangled and his arm badly broken. He died a few hours after the leg was amputated.

Postmaster George Kennedy, of New Westminster, has resigned in consequence of the inexplicable reduction of staff recently ordered by the federal government.

Edward Baxter, a well-known Burnaby farmer, has been killed by a large stump falling upon him, breaking his backbone. Death was obviously instantaneous.

Two Nelson women had an exceedingly narrow escape from being burned to death in a fire that destroyed their place of residence Wednesday night. Financial loss of $1 000 was occasioned.

Merritt has decided to instal a $15,000 electric lighting system.

Forest fires are numerous and threatening serious losses in the Slocan.

One agent has sold 3,120 acres of C. P. R. land near Penticton during the past three weeks.

A good hotel is to be built at Copper City, on the Skeena.

The leading hotel at Hope has declared for all white labor.

The Arrow Lakes lumber plant at Arrowhead is again in operation.

In the Nicola, the Diamond Vale coal mines are resuming operations.

Deer are phenomenally plentiful in the Ashnola district.

Summerland is agitating for the establishment of a fruit cannery.

Rossland is opening a beautiful public park.

The Kettle River Valley Rifle Association is laying out a new range at Grand Forks.

Savonas will celebrate Empire Day with horse and foot races and athletic sports.

The big steel bridge over Englishman's River, Alberni, will be opened for traffic in about six weeks.

Miners are very scarce in the Boundary camps in consequence of the trek to the Portland Canal district.

Considerable development is reported from the iron mine at Campbell lake, a shipment of extra high grade ore having been made last week.

J. Smolleck, a Slav, has been fined $50 at Fernie for lighting a bush fire without first securing the essential permit.

North Vancouver's district council is engaged in locating the sites of the steel bridges which are to be thrown across Lillooano somewhere below the present structure. These bridges are part of the $200,000 road and improvement scheme launched last year.

The examination of Frank Karee, the Finn who recently endeavored to sail from Nelson to Kootenay Landing on a biscuit-box rafe(is at a standstill, owing to no interpreter being available.

Bush fires are working considerable damage in the Princeton district.

The death has just occurred at Ladysmith of Joseph Lewis, one of the best known residents of that city and of Wellington.

Little Margaret Saulting of Naramata had a narrow escape from drowning last week when she fell off the wharf into deep water.

The new wing for the nursing staff of the Royal Inland hospital, Kamloops, has been completed. The former quarters of the staff will now be available for general hospital purposes, and will accommodate twelve additional beds.

Mrs. Ernest Rushton, a sister of Mr. Robert Brenchley, of F. R. Stewart and Co., died very suddenly of pneumonia at New Westminster on Tuesday morning.

Rev. T. C. DesBarres, M. A., a graduate of Ridley Hall, Cambridge, has arrived from England to assist Bishop Du Vernet in college and mission work in the North.

Herbert Howden, of Vernon accidentally shot himself dead while riding along the Pleasant Valley road at Armstrong yesterday. He had been carrying a loaded rifle swung at his shoulder by a string. The weapon in some manner had been discharged, and Howden's dead body was found in the road.

Prince Rupert had its first serious fire Wednesday night, when an entire block, including the Hotel Northern, Balkan Hotel, Butte restaurant Heyner's furniture store, was destroyed, with losses aggregating $25,000. The fire originated in the rear of a small hotel at Eighth and First streets.

The new Methodist church on Fairris road, South Vancouver, was formally dedicated on Sunday last, Rev. James Calvert, president of the Methodist conference, being the central figure in the ceremonies.

E. M. Bryant, the colored C. P. R. porter charged with using a knife in an argument with a dining car conductor on the Revelstoke local recently has been further remanded until Saturday, his victim being as yet unable to attend court.

Vancouver is suffering from a plague of mendicants and petty agents, busy housewives being called upon to answer calls at all hours of the day from vendors of picture frames, soap, household labor savers, etc., plus and army of palsied and otherwise afflicted members of the ancient craft of beggars.

The old Opera Comique at Kaslo, which for a decade past has been the local leaning tower of Pisa, is to be torn down in the interest of public safety. The Great Northern hotel, a neighbor of Kaslo's most famous architectural monstrosity, suddenly left its supports and dropped four feet a day or so ago. The inmates escaped with a bad shaking and a worse scare.

Within six weeks trains of the Howe Sound, Pemberton Valley & Northern Railway will be running into Newport, the southern terminus of the line, according to a statement made by an official of the company. On Wednesday a contract was awarded to R. G. Hutchinson for construction of a traffic bridge across the east branch of the Squamish river at the present southern railhead of the line, a mile or more above Newport. Coincident with the construction of this bridge will proceed the grading of the right-of-way between the bridge and the wharf terminals at Newport. A contract was also let for grading the roadway on Cleveland avenue, the main street of the townsite. When this roadway is finished, the present wagon road leading from Newport up the Squamish Valley will be closed, and all traffic diverted to Cleveland avenue. The closing of the present wagon road is made necessary by the fact that the right-of-way of the railway overlaps portions of it. The construction of the bridge, the building of the grade on the railway right-of-way into Newport, and the grading and completion of Cleveland avenue will be rushed in order that trains may be able to reach the waterfront terminals in six weeks' time.

MEETS DEATH IN FAIRBANKS DISTRICT

J. E. Kaye of Victoria, Second Son of William Kaye Perishes in Mining Disaster in the North

J. E. Kaye, of Victoria, second son of William Kaye of the Gorge, who for long has been a prominent member of Columbia lodge of Oddfellows, of this city, lost his life in a mining accident, and a second man, Gus Anderson, was injured as a result of the blowing out of an old drift in Fairbanks district, Alaska, recently. The funeral was carried out by the Oddfellows at Fairbanks, instructions being sent by Columbia lodge in Victoria. The Oddfellows attended in a body.

The dead man lost his life in an underground explosion on Dome Creek, and his body was found some days later in a standing position at the bottom of the shaft, 150 feet of water was pumped from the shaft and several feet of mud removed in the face of constantly incoming water before the body could be recovered.

Mr. Kaye was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Kaye, of Victoria, and besides his parents, leaves three sisters and two brothers to mourn his loss. He was born in England, but came to Canada at an early age and had been brought up in Victoria, B. C. At the time of his death he was but twenty-five years of age.

Scene of Tragedy.

The accident occurred on some ground which has had quite a history. The ground was being worked some two years ago by Rhoads & Zimmerman, but they were troubled with water and finally left it, knowing that quite a block of ground remained unremoved.

Later on they commenced work in a new shaft, immediately over the old drifts, and figured to finish the work this spring. They were not sure whether they were in solid ground or not, but thought they were on bedrock.

The men went into the drift, when the accident occurred, and it is thought that the water in the old workings had left a vacuum, which created a tremendous pressure. No one will probably ever know the true status of the accident. In any event, a violent inrush of air put out the candles which the two men were carrying, but they got back to the bucket. Then the blowing out of the vacuum, or some such force, threw of water had risen in the shaft and his clothing caught on the sheave of the bucket, and held him suspended above the water. He was soon rescued from this perilous position by those working the bucket.

Kaye, the man who was killed, was not so fourtnate, but was caught down below in some way and could not be rescued. In a comparatively short time a hundred and fifty feet of water had risen in the shaft in which the doomed man's body lay, and nothing but clearing the drifts would recover it.

Pumps were hastily installed and the water was lowered about fifteen feet.

J. E. Kaye had only gone to work the day of the accident, having left town just the day before.

Among his effects was found a certificate showing that he was a member of Columbia Lodge No. 2, of Oddfellows, of Victoria, B. C.

WELLINGTON, May 6.—Sir Joseph Ward, the premier, announces that the government has decided to adopt Lord Kitchener's scheme of defence and will introduce legislation to increase the age of compulsory training to 25 years and the peace establishment to twenty thousand trained men and thirty-eight thousand cadets and ten thousand recruits. The annual cost of internal defence will be four hundred thousand pounds, but the country can well afford it, the premier said.

Bank Clearings

NEW YORK, May 7.—Bradstreet's weekly bank clearings:

Montreal—$40,618,000, inc. 13 per cent.
Winnipeg—$18,006,000, inc. 1.2 per cent.
Ottawa, $4,242,000 ,inc. 15.5 per cent.
Calgary—$2,765,000, inc. 82.2 per cent.
Hamilton—$2,099,000, inc. 29.0 per cent.
Victoria—$1,557,000, inc. 37.5 per cent.
Edmonton—$1,381,000, inc. 45.2 per cent.
Toronto—$32,936,000, inc. 9.8 per cent.
Vancouver—$9,428,000, inc. 90.8 per cent.
Quebec—$1,499,000, dec. 39.2 per cent.
Halifax—$2,474,000, inc. 26.5 per cent.
St. John, N. B.—$1,475,000, dec. 1.6 per cent.
London, Ont.—$1,469,000, inc. 7.3 per cent.

WATER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made under Part V. of the "Water Act, 1909," to obtain a license in the Victoria Division of Malahat District.

(a) The name, address and occupation of the applicants: Henry H. Hollings, A. E. J. Hollings, Cobble Hill, B. C., farmers.

(b) The name of the lake, stream or source: Hollings Creek.

(c) The point of diversion: At west end line near where Goldstream and Mill Bay wagon road crosses stream.

(d) The quantity of water applied for: Sixteen (16) cubic inches.

(f) The premises on which the water is to be used: Lot 102, Malahat District, fronting on Saanich Inlet.

(g) The purposes for which the water is to be used: Domestic.

(k) This notice was posted on the 15th day of April, 1910, and application will be made to the Commissioner on the Seventeenth (17th) day of May, 1910.

HENRY H. HOLLINGS.
A. E. J. HOLLINGS.
Cobble Hill, B.C.

NOTICE

I, John Day, hereby give notice that one month from date hereof will apply to the superintendent of provincial police at Victoria, B. C. for a renewal, 1910, of my license to sell intoxicating liquors, at the premises known as the Esquimalt Hotel, situated in the district of Esquimalt, B. C.

May 8th, 1910. JOHN DAY.