

TO REORGANIZE BRITISH ARMY

SECRETARY OF WAR OUTLINES SCHEME

Hon. Mr. Haldane Proposes to Form
Field Force and Territorial
Force.

London, Feb. 25.—The latest scheme for the reorganization of the British army was unfolded by War Secretary Haldane in the House of Commons today. It contemplates dividing all the forces into two categories—a field force and a territorial or home force. The former, with 180,000 officers and men, is to consist of four cavalry brigades and six infantry divisions, with full complement of horse and field artillery, all to be ready for immediate mobilization on the outbreak of war. The territorial force, totaling 300,000 men, is to be a complete army in itself, and as nearly as possible of the same pattern as the regular troops. This plan would unite all the present auxiliary forces, yeomanry, militia and volunteers, with a complement of the regular army, into a homogeneous body, all to be paid at service rates during the time they are used. The territorial forces would be so trained and organized as to enable their immediate mobilization simultaneously with the regular forces. The present militia principle of the county organization would cover the army organization, with the army council in supreme control.

DISASTROUS FIRES AND LOSS OF LIFE

Man Burned to Death in Jersey City
---Narrow Escape of Laundry
Employees.

New York, Feb. 25.—Anthony Pichi, an Italian, lost his life in a fire which destroyed his home in Jersey City. He was burned to death in the laundry room of the house, which was a narrow escape of the laundry employees.

Another Outbreak.
New York, Feb. 25.—Five thousand persons were driven into the snow-covered streets to-day by a fire which destroyed the Irving Music Hall in Broom street and spread to several big tenement houses at the rear and either side. No lives were lost. The response of the firemen and their apparatus to the fire was very prompt. The fire was extinguished in about half an hour. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the laundry room. The loss is estimated at \$150,000.

Narrow Escapes.
Sandusky, Ohio, Feb. 25.—Accumulated gas in the basement of the Britten building, a three-story brick structure on Market Street, in the heart of the city, exploded with terrific force to-day. The big stock of furniture, the Dilgart and Bittner retail dealers, is a total loss. Hundreds of dollars' worth of glass was shattered throughout the city by the explosion. Thirty girls employed in a laundry next door were thrown into a panic. Several of them fainted and had to be carried out. No lives were lost.

Fire at Pittsburg.
Pittsburg, Feb. 25.—A disastrous fire broke out in the Derby Desk Company building in Liberty Avenue to-day. The building was a seven-story brick structure, located in the heart of the downtown section. On the arrival of the firemen, it was seen that the building was doomed. Within 15 minutes a general alarm was sounded, calling out all the fire companies in the downtown section. The flames quickly spread to the six-story building, No. 38 and 37, and then the Grier Busch building, Nos. 313 and 315, filled with wholesale notions and toys, adjoining. At 1:15 o'clock the water tower collapsed, breaking the windows in the Academy of Music, and tearing down wires, but no one was hurt. The roof of the Seventh avenue hotel began blazing fiercely, confusion prevailed in the hotel, but all the guests were taken out. The flames were soon well in hand.

A. C. GUNTER DEAD.
Novelist, Publisher and Playwright
Passed Away Suddenly From
Apoplexy.

New York, Feb. 25.—Archibald Claverling Gunter, publisher, novelist and playwright, died suddenly Saturday night from apoplexy. He was 59 years old. He had not been ill and was engaged in writing the last pages of the manuscript of a play when he was fatally stricken. Mr. Gunter was born in Liverpool 59 years ago. Mrs. Gunter survives. They had no children. Mr. Gunter used the immense profits from the sale of his first successful novel, "Mr. Barnes of New York," which went through edition after edition, and of which more than 100,000 copies have been sold here and in England, to establish a publishing business and had published his own recent works.

The most brilliantly colored quadruped is the mandrill baboon. Its nose is brilliant azure and scarlet, and other parts of the animal show fiery red and purple.

HARRIMAN GIVES EVIDENCE.

Examined Before Interstate Commerce
Commission—Counsel Objects
to Questions.

New York, Feb. 25.—E. H. Harriman, master of the Union Pacific system, spent to-day in a recital of portions of his interim story of his financial operations and those of his associates before the interstate commerce commission, which is investigating the consolidations and combinations of carriers, relations between carriers and communities of interests therein, their rates, fares and practices. The special counsel for the government attacked particularly the "pooling" of the financing of the Chicago & Alton railroad by the Harriman syndicate, and their action and the challenge by counsel for the railroad to the right of the interstate commerce commission to inquire into the private transactions of an individual constituted the day's events in the proceedings.

By direction of counsel, Mr. Harriman declined to tell what proportion of the preferred stock of the Alton sold to the Union Pacific belonged to him individually, and by his declaration the way was paved for taking the question into the federal courts. The point raised involves a limitation upon the inquisitorial powers of the commission and it is of serious importance as it raises the whole question of interstate corporation's investigation. An effort was made to show by Mr. Harriman's testimony and the records of the company that there was an enormous inflation of the stock, securities and liabilities of the Alton; that the Harriman syndicate took untold profits by declaring a dividend of thirty per cent. from the proceeds of the first sale of bonds, amounting to forty million dollars; that the syndicate itself sold the bonds at an unreasonably low figure, only to resell them at enormous profit; that in the Alton the Harriman syndicate capitalized the losses of former stockholders in the road and the money was spent by the old management for betterments over a period of ten years and already charged to the company's expense; that the books of the company were "doctored" and that for an increase in the stock and liabilities from roughly forty millions to one hundred and sixteen millions, there was nothing to show except an expenditure of twenty-two millions in improvements on the property.

Mr. Harriman's testimony was a denial of all these charges, and towards the close of the afternoon he made an elaborate explanation and defence of the entire transaction, which he contended was fully justified by the conditions and circumstances of the time, and had been conducted entirely in the open. Harriman's examination lasted five hours and was carried on in good spirit unmarked by acrimony. The testimony of Mr. Harriman began with the issuance of one hundred millions in convertible bonds by the Union Pacific for the purpose of paying the Southern Pacific in 1901 and then dealt with the purchase in connection with the Oregon Short Line of the Northern Pacific stock.

Mr. Harriman identified a statement showing that since the first day of last July the Union Pacific and Oregon Short Line have purchased stocks at a cost of one hundred and thirty-one million dollars. Mr. Kellogg sought to show that the figures in the market to-day there has been a loss of eleven millions on the investment. Mr. Harriman said that this possibility was true, and when further questioned asked permission to explain. The witness said if Northern Pacific and Great Northern stock maintained the present price, the profit in the Northern Pacific investment will amount to about sixty-one million dollars. The witness was asked the total investments and sales made by the Union Pacific and Oregon Short Line, and in the end denied that they were made for speculative purposes. The money was invested, he averred, in a manner thought to be for the best interests of the company.

The witness then related the purchase of forty-five millions of Baltimore & Ohio stocks, payment for which he said will be completed in March and September next. He discussed the purchase with the late President Cassatt, of the Pennsylvania railroad, but nothing was said as to price, and no conditions were attached to the purchase. "It was a sales transaction," the witness declared. He characterized it as a continuous line throughout the purchase. The purchase by Union Pacific of Alton stock was then opened up, and this led to the first objection to the purchase, which was based on the amount of stock witness held in the Alton.

Mr. Milburn said that his clients were ready to lend every possible assistance to the inquiry, and that they rejoiced that it gave them an opportunity to clear away many scandals and unexplained profits. He was asked to publish and published concerning the financial operations involved, but he did not consider that the question put to the witness had any bearing upon the question of interstate commerce. He said that the commission had great powers, and that there was a point where those powers might be exceeded, and he thought it was to the interest of the commission to properly define its powers.

EVADING TAX.
Government Defrauded Out of a Large
Sum of Money.

London, Feb. 24.—A gigantic scheme on the part of a firm of whiskey distillers to defraud the revenue is reported to have been unearthed by inland revenue officers.

The latter, it is asserted, discovered a scheme whereby the distillers, which whiskey was conveyed from the distillery to the duty paid warehouse, whence it was distributed to the trade, were escaping the tax of £2.75 per gallon. The revenue officers are said to have demanded the payment of a fine of £500,000 on the smuggled liquor. The matter probably will be brought up in parliament.

MINERS INJURED.

Halifax, Feb. 25.—Twenty-five men were hurt, five of them seriously, one not being expected to live, and two horses were killed as a result of a miner dropping a spark from his pipe at Meadow quarry, about five miles from Windsor, at 10 a. m.

VANCOUVER AND ITS CHARTER

CITY IS SEEKING ADDITIONAL POWERS

Recommendations Changing Method
of Assessing for Local Im-
provements Rejected.

Vancouver, Feb. 26.—By a vote of 7 to 5 the city council last night refused to accept the recommendations of the special committee on charter amendments, to change the method of assessing for local improvements.

The matter has been under discussion for over a year, and columns of space in the daily press, hours of talk in the committee room and correspondence with the public have been devoted to it. Hitherto the special committee have favored the change by close votes on the general principle, though the advocates have drifted apart when it came to the consideration of detail. Last night was the first time the council has ever considered the matter, and the advocates of the cause were soundly cast down at the defeat sustained.

The manner in which the question was settled was by the passage of an amendment referring the whole matter back to the committee, with instructions to bring in a complete bill of submission to a plebiscite. After the vote was taken, however, the advocates of the change made such remarks as evidenced the fact that they will not take up the matter again this year. Further powers which will be asked by the city at the forthcoming session of the legislature to place the selection of the licensing and police boards in the hands of the electorate; to abolish the limitation of municipal salaries at \$2,000 annually; provide for the registration of civic debentures; to simplify the procedure relating to the assessment of property; to increase the money, and to validate past and future debenture issues by the effluxion of time; to make the full cost of local improvements chargeable against the property benefited thereby; to prohibit the import into the city of milk from farms not previously inspected and certified by the health officer; to place all electric wiring in the city subject to the inspection of the city electrician, with power to the city to regulate the same and to place the same therefor; to provide for extension of borrowing powers; to permit purchase of public utilities; to enable the city to charge an annual fee for the erection of signs over the public highways; to enable the city to charge an annual fee for all dealers in real estate.

DISASTROUS SLIDE.

Number of Buildings Demolished—
Narrow Escapes, But No One
Injured.

A dispatch to the Ashcroft Journal from Lillooet says: "The most disastrous rock-slide that has ever occurred in this vicinity came down near the Seaton Lake railway on February 18th, lasting from 5 to 8 a. m. Although the hatchery building escaped, still considerable damage was done to the mine which carries the hatchery house. Huge rocks struck this in many places, and the damage was in some cases very serious. The hatchery house, which was paired for some days. This necessitated removing the fish at once. Luckily most of the fish were ready for planting in the hatchery, and the water in the hatchery was not disturbed. One boulder smashed the lower weir and several ran in the weir pool."

"The greatest damage was done to the Seaton Lake sawmill, but luckily no one was injured. E. S. Peters, who was in charge, had a rock escape as a rock carried away the back porch of the house he was sleeping in. Mr. Peters fled to safer ground across the creek."

"The rocks played queer pranks. One broke the floor of the mill, dropping the planer into the boiler room and the rock itself resting a few feet from the main boiler. Another smashed the side of a tool house and lodged in the roof. A third broke through the roof of many thousands feet was smashed into a lumber shed from the front, another of many tons passed around the corner of the building and rolled back, crushing it in from the other side. Another rock of many tons rested squarely on the top of another pile of lumber. One or two houses of lesser importance were completely demolished."

"The rocks started many thousands of feet up the mountain side and on their way down cut in two trees many feet in diameter as if they had been so many match sticks."

QUARREL OVER WAITRESS.

One Man Shot Dead and Another Seriously Injured.

San Francisco, Feb. 24.—In a drunken fight to-night at the Hastings hotel in Emeryville, Charles Logie, an ironworker, was shot through the heart and instantly killed, and Peter Koppe, a machinist, was badly wounded by a charge of shot which lodged in his head. The police arrested John Noppe, who was involved in the fight, and Frank Calbre, charged the former with the killing of Logie and the latter with the shooting of Noppe. The quarrel was over a waitress.

PIONEER CATTLEMAN DEAD.

Winnipeg, Feb. 25.—James Gillespie, a pioneer resident and the first man to import cattle into the West for slaughtering purposes, died last night of heart failure. He was around as usual on Saturday. He was beef contractor for the C. P. R. from 1876 to the completion of the work, and was well known to all railway contractors.

C. P. R. steamer Princess Beatrice will sail for Skagway and Northern ports on the 27th inst.

ALIVE AND WELL.

Settler Reported to Have Been Frozen
to Death Found by the Police.

Winnipeg, Feb. 25.—R. Adamson, of the department of immigration, returned to the city yesterday from a trip to Saskatoon and surrounding points. While in the West, Mr. Adamson made special inquiry regarding settlers who were reported frozen to death during the recent cold weather, and stated that the cases investigated by him proved to be without foundation in fact.

At Saskatoon it had been reported that a settler living west of that town had been frozen in his shack. A detachment of police was sent on the trip forty miles west to make inquiry regarding this settler, who was found lying on the floor of his shack, apparently dead. The police discovered that the only foundation for it was in the fact that certain of his neighbors had not seen him for a week, and they feared that he had been frozen.

At Hanley, Mr. Adamson made inquiry regarding two young Scotchmen who had been reported frozen to death at that point. It was stated that the body of one of these young Scotchmen had been partially devoured by wolves before it had been discovered by neighbors. Careful inquiry was made regarding the matter at Hanley, but it was found that no one knew anything about such a death within a hundred miles of that point.

CHINESE STUDENTS BOTHER GOVERNMENT

Responsible for Recent Anti-Monarchial Outbreaks—Strict Precautionary Measures.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The search in the Hukuang provinces for anti-monarchists and revolutionaries, it seems, has revealed the fact that they are mostly composed of young men who have been educated in Japan, so advice received from that country per steamship Titen state.

In view of this Yucroy Chang Chih-tung had issued orders to the keepers within his jurisdiction not to receive any student, especially those in foreign costume, without a proper guarantee of respectability from the would-be guest.

Dispatches were also sent to the Chinese minister in Tokyo and the superintendent of Chinese students in Japan not to allow any student to return to China to pass the Chinese New Year holidays, and also that the consuls at each port now in Japan should undergo careful scrutiny, so that the authorities may know what sort of young men they are who have been educated in Japan and returned home.

DIED AT HIS KEY.

Sudden Death of Spokane Telegraph
Operator While Sending Message.

Spokane, Feb. 24.—The third of his family to drop dead at the telephone key, the fourth to be taken off without warning, James H. Nichols, a veteran operator, died early this morning while in the act of sending a message. He was employed in the Western Union Telegraph Company's office here. Nichols had been apparently stooped over to pick up a pencil when he collapsed and remained at that position until the attention of the chief operator was called to him. When the chief took Nichols in his arms the veteran was breathing his last.

He always had a premonition he would die with his clothing on him, and only a few years ago his brother Charles, employed in the office at Skagway, Alaska, dropped dead at the key, and a few months after the death of Charles, his brother Les, working in the vicinity of St. Paul, expired in the same manner. The father of these men was found dead in bed. Nichols was one of the best known telegraphers in the Northwest. He was station agent and operator at numerous points, and was the founder of the Skagway grove children. He was a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellow lodges and of the Old Time Telegraphers.

FATAL FIRE IN PROTESTANT SCHOOL

Five Bodies Have Been Recovered—
Twenty Children Imprisoned in
Burning Building.

Montreal, Que., Feb. 26.—Fire broke out in Hochelaga Protestant school on Prefontaine street this afternoon. The bodies of five children were taken from the burning building, and it is feared that twenty more, together with the lady principal, are imprisoned, and will be dead before firemen can reach them.

THE BUCKINGHAM RIOTS.

Alex. MacLaren, Charged With Man-
slaughter, Honorably Acquitted.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—Alex. MacLaren, the millionaire lumberman charged with manslaughter in the killing of the strikers, Belanger and Theriault, in connection with the Buckingham affair, was acquitted by the jury. Judge St. Julien strongly condemned the strikers for invading private property, and said it was a cardinal principle of British law that a man had the right to defend his property from aggressors.

The South American river Orinoco has more tributaries than any other river. The total number is put at 2,500, including 425 large streams.

JEROME FAILS TO SHAKE EVIDENCE

MRS. THAW'S STORY REMAINS UNBROKEN

District Attorney Will Endeavor to
Bring Famous Affidavit Before
the Jury.

New York, Feb. 26.—Abraham Hummel will be a witness in the Thaw case to-day. He is the man who drew the famous affidavit which Evelyn Nesbitt Thaw says she was tricked into signing, and which makes various unpleasant charges against Thaw, among others, that he choked and whipped her because she refused to sign a statement charging Stanford White with her ruin. Mrs. Thaw has testified that she told Hummel of her trip through Europe with Thaw, and that Hummel then drew the affidavit, which she refused to sign because it was not true. A few days later, she has testified.

She Signed a Paper
for Stanford White without knowing what it was. Later she told Thaw about the interview with Hummel, and then remembering that she had signed a paper for White, went to him and demanded that it be returned to her. White took her to Hummel's house and she was shown her signature to a paper which was afterwards burned in her presence. She was unable to state positively, however, that it was the affidavit making charges against Thaw, but said she did not remember signing but one paper. District Attorney Jerome has

A Photographic Copy
of the paper, and will call Hummel to identify it.

Since this paper was drawn up Hummel has been disbarred, and is under indictment for incidents connected with a divorce case in which he was one of the attorneys.

In addition to Hummel, Mr. Jerome proposes to place on the stand the stenographer who wrote the affidavit and the notary before whom it is said to have been sworn to. In this way an effort will be made to get the photographic copy of the document before the jury. Mr. Jerome has had, however, practically its entire contents destroyed into the case by reading it, and asking Mrs. Thaw if she did not make a statement contained in it to Hummel.

If the affidavit is identified and admitted to evidence Mr. Jerome will ask a few more questions of Mrs. Thaw regarding it, and then, if necessary, will go through with his cross-examination.

But this will not relieve Mrs. Thaw from the stand. The defence will probably spend some time in Direct Examination, attempting to annul the effect of any admission she may have made on her cross-examination. After that Mr. Jerome will have another opportunity to cross-question her on new matters, which may be brought out on the direct examination. There is little likelihood that Evelyn Nesbitt Thaw's ordeal will be over before night. Mrs. Wm. Thaw will be another witness for the defence, and it is believed that May MacKenzie, the chorus girl, who has been Evelyn Nesbitt Thaw's companion since the night when White was killed, will also be a witness. Evelyn Thaw's story has not been broken by the cross-examination.

L. M. SHAW WILL RETIRE.

Secretary of United States Treasury
to Become President of Carnegie
Trust Company.

(Associated Press.)
New York, Feb. 25.—The Herald says: "Leslie M. Shaw, secretary of the treasury, who will retire from the cabinet on March 4th, is to become the president of the newly opened Carnegie Trust Co. He will bring his family to New York, and the future will disclose whether Mr. Shaw will relinquish his legal residence in Iowa. The board of directors of the Carnegie Trust Company, it is understood, will hold a meeting this week and elect Mr. Shaw president of the corporation."

OBJECT TO TAXES.

Brussels, Feb. 26.—Advices received here from the Congo Independent state says that the natives of Ouhanghaï are excited over the taxes imposed upon them, and that they are on the verge of revolt. Some villages have already been attacked by the natives, and scores of persons have been killed.

WATERWAYS COMMISSION.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—Dr. W. F. King, Dominion astronomer, has resigned his position as commissioner on the water-commission, because his departmental duties will not permit him to attend to the work.

"INFORMATION COMMITTEE."

(Special to the Times.)
Nanaimo, Feb. 25.—The city council has appointed a new committee to be known as the "information committee." The object is to encourage the advertising of the city and bring industries here. The committee will take the place of a board of trade.

PLEADED NOT GUILTY.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—Mrs. Annie M. Bradley, indicted for murder in the first degree for the killing of former Senator Arthur M. Brown of Utah, was arraigned before Judge Safford in the criminal court here to-day, and pleaded not guilty.

In connection with the investigation into the granting of licenses in Toronto, it was learned on Saturday that a brewers' combine exists to fix the price of liquors.

MINERS MAY STRIKE.

Trouble Feared in Western Canadian
Coal Mines—The Calgary Con-
ference.

Regina, Feb. 25.—Word has been received here of the prospect of a coal strike and general tie-up of mines of far-reaching importance which may be expected as the termination of the three years agreement between operators and miners, which expires on March 4th next. This strike would affect every coal mine in the mountains, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The tie-up of Crow's Nest mines would mean the closing down of the supply on which the C. P. R. depends for operating its engines between the mountains and Fort William. The men are demanding higher wages, a uniform eight-hour day and fortnightly pay-rolls, none of which the operators are inclined to concede. Unless a settlement is reached before March 4th a complete tie-up of all the western Canadian coal mines must result. John Mitchell, the miners' president, will be in Calgary on March 4th.

FAMOUS DWARF DEAD.

Field Marshal Tom Thumb, a Popular
Favorite, Expires at Ripe
Old Age.

Field Marshal Tom Thumb, otherwise known as Richard Garney, has just died at the age of 74 in Wellington, England. He was supposed to be the most perfectly formed dwarf in the world, and his height was just over three feet.

Fifty years ago he attracted large crowds to the Egyptian hall, London. He appeared before the late Queen Victoria on more than one occasion, Her Majesty taking the greatest interest in him. He subsequently toured through Britain, attracting large audiences, medical men especially being particularly interested in his perfect formation.

After leaving the stage he settled down as a farmer near Wellington, and proved himself a keen business man. At the various markets he delighted the farmers with his anecdotes, and would often cause the greatest fun by losing himself amongst the crowd of buyers.

He was of a most genial disposition, and was a familiar figure in the town in which he lived. He enjoyed spending his life almost up to the time of his death, but for the last few years he walked with a crutch, one of his bullocks having knocked him down and broken his leg.

He never married, and was a somewhat heavy smoker nearly all his life. He voted at the last general election.

WANT ROSENTHAL VISIT.

Victoria Musical Society May Attempt
to Induce Pianist to Come.

Moris Rosenthal, the pianist, will visit the Pacific coast next month and the Victoria Musical Society has been requested by a gentleman residing in the city to consider the possibility of engaging him for a concert. The society referred to also offers to guarantee the society against loss to the extent of \$50.

The expenses would be in the neighborhood of \$1,000, and the general feeling was that if those interested would guarantee \$500 the society would be in a position to engage Rosenthal.

Those desirous of subscribing to this guarantee fund are requested to communicate with the secretary without delay. Early action is necessary as the only available date for Victoria is March 14th, less than three weeks hence.

Members of the society's chorus are requested to attend the rehearsal of the "Pied Piper" and "Revenge at the City Hall" on Wednesday evening punctually at 8 o'clock. Several of the subscribing members have expressed a wish to attend the rehearsal and a general invitation will shortly be issued. The orchestral parts for these works are expected to arrive shortly, so that the chorus and orchestra will soon be enabled to rehearse together.

SHOWS GOOD RECORD.

International Coal & Coke Company in
a Healthy Condition.

At the meeting of the International Coal & Coke Company, whose mines and plant are located at Coleman, Alberta, held in their office in Spokane Thursday, A. C. Plummerfield, of Victoria, B. C., president of the company, filed two reports, one addressed to the directors and the other to the stockholders of the company.

These reports show that the affairs of the company are in a very healthy condition financially and otherwise. The officers of the company are: A. C. Plummerfield, president; H. N. Galer, vice-president; and W. G. Fraser, secretary. D. M. Rogers, of Victoria, B. C., takes the place of Mr. Plummerfield as director.

The company produced during the past year \$54,230 tons of coal, of which 49,855 tons were sent to the company's ovens, and yielded 31,065 tons of coke, all of which had a ready sale. The balance of the output was marketed as coal. The payroll for 1906 amounted to \$360,874.72, the average number of men employed being 365, and the number of days worked was 245.

PLATED FARTHING.

What a Scotland Yard detective described as "quite a new departure in counterfeiting" was revealed at Old street, London, the other evening, when William Coates and John Martin, two working-class men of about twenty-five, were remanded on the dual charge of manufacturing counterfeit shillings by electroplating farthings.

Detective-Sergeant Burnham on searching the prisoners' house found two small vases nailed on to a chest of drawers, some plating mixture in a saucer, a number of files, and thirteen or fourteen farthings.

Some of these had been plated after the reverse side had been filed off to erase the word farthing.

THIRTY LIVES PROBABLY LOST

AS RESULT OF BURNING OF RIVER STEAMER

Victims Were Negro Passengers Who
Were Burned to Death or
Drowned.

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 26.—That 29 negro passengers were burned or drowned and a dozen more missing as the result of the burning of the steamer Marion at Hart's Landing, on Wadlaw's river, 20 miles from Charleston, on Friday, was the report of Captain Ferguson, of the vessel filed with the government inspectors.

There were seven white passengers and about fifty negroes. The great loss of life seemed to be on account of the negroes having become terrified and neglecting to get life preservers, of which there were 350 on board.

The Marion was licensed to carry 200 passengers, and cost \$20,000. Only \$5,000 insurance was carried. The value of the cargo, which consisted of general merchandise, was estimated at \$5,000.

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA INCREASES

Nearly Ninety Thousand Came to
Dominion During the Past
Seven Months.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—There was a big increase in immigration to Canada during the past seven months as compared with the same time last year. From July to January, both months inclusive, the arrivals were \$8,084, as compared with \$6,192 for the same period in previous year. This is an increase of 28,842. Arrivals by ocean ports were 61,461, and from the United States 28,523. The percentage of increase through ocean ports is 53 per cent, and through United States ports 21 per cent, or an average increase of 49 per cent.

DRURY & MACGURN.

New Firm Will Conduct Real Estate
Insurance Business.

"R. L. Drury & Foster Macgurn have entered into co-partnership, and will do business as Drury Macgurn, carrying on insurance and real estate at their new offices, No. 34 Government street (up stairs)."

R. L. Drury has for many years been the manager of the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada. The new firm will cover an extensive field as general agents for that company. Mr. Drury is almost too well known to the Victoria public to need any introduction, and his name is well known before the people prominently as a politician, and sat for the city in the last legislature. Even those who are not acquainted with him, however, know that he is honest and reliable, and very many are his staunch personal friends. In business he has shown that he is capable, upright and honest, and possessing no mean abilities. As he is now freed from political cares and extending his field into real estate and insurance, he will bring into the firm a great deal that will conduce to success.

Foster Macgurn is an old Victorian, who came here seventeen years ago, and has since been a large American Life Insurance Company, achieved a pronounced success, and has many friends, not only in this city, but throughout the province.

As a former member of Helsterman & Co. he has a practical knowledge of the real estate and insurance business, including fire insurance in all its branches. Many will remember Mr. Macgurn as a lacrosse enthusiast, who, as president of the Victoria Lacrosse Club, brought his organizing abilities and other business qualifications into play in making the club successful financially and producing the best team the Capital City has ever had.

Mr. Macgurn has kept up his connection with Victoria, during the years of his absence, paying occasional visits. He states that he never felt so contented and happy as in Victoria, and the province of British Columbia, and that he has nowhere been more successful, nor has he ever found any place so delightful in which to live nor more interesting or charming people with whom to associate. He states it as his conviction that Victoria is certain to become a large and thriving city.

The new firm has our best wishes for success.

SHAFT HOUSE DESTROYED.

Fire Broke Out Early Tuesday at
Richard III. Mine.

The shaft house at the Richard III mine at Mount Sicker was destroyed by