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Truth and Being True.

Interesting Paper Read by Mrs. Walker Before Council of Women.

Definition of Truth Discussed by the Writer in an Able Manner.

At a recent meeting of the Women's Council Mrs. Walker read the following interesting paper on "Truth and Being True":

Madame, President and Ladies of the Women's Council: What is truth? I was asked by a child one day. For a moment I hesitated, and then said that truth is the reality of everything—the thing that is. I dare say some of you could think of a much better definition. Lord Bacon says "Truth is the sovereign good of human nature," and that "No pleasure is comparable to standing on the vantage ground of truth."

It certainly is a noble virtue. So grand, Godlike and far reaching; so simple at its roots, yet so complex in its ramifications. Little wonder that so many of us fall short of our best intentions with regard to it. We all must admire and long for it, but find it hard to attain. Truth and justice necessarily go hand in hand. To be true we must be just, and to be just in our daily life and dealings one with another is no easy matter, and requires much patience and self-control. Still, as heights are to be gained by aspiring to them, and by climbing step by step, there is no reason why we should not aspire to the truth and to be true, and go on step by step, and even if we fail to reach the height of our desires, a little lower than the highest is better than the dead level of don't-careism.

We admit that truth is admirable, that we are drawn to those people whom we feel to be true, just as we are repelled from those who are otherwise. That there is something stable, something reliable, a certain known quantity in the true person which gives confidence and rest.

Why do we thus admire truth and the true? Is it that God is truth and that unconsciously the truth in us bows down in spiritual acknowledgment? If we could find the origin of all things we should find truth in its simplest form, and we the finite might comprehend the infinite. But after all, is just our touch of the infinite, who puts the germ of truth within us—that craving for true knowledge, true religion—for truth in our social, home and political life.

Truth, like love, demands an excess of all the virtues. To be true we must be our best in all relations of life.

Truth, in its vastness, is enough to make the wisest tremble, and yet it may be, and often is, "revealed unto babes." Granting this, why are lies and lying so much in favor and use among us? To quote Bacon once more, "It is not only the difficulty and labor which men take in finding out the truth, nor again that, when it is found, it imposeth (or restrains) upon men's thoughts, but a natural, though corrupt love of the lie itself." May it not partly be from laziness—it is too much trouble to find out the truth—besides, when found, it so often destroys the glamor of preconceived ideas, old beliefs—destroys the misty or atmospheric picturesqueness of things. The full glare of truth is often hard and unlovely, for then reason we love darkness rather than light—the light of truth. As Bacon says again, "A mixture of a lie doth ever lend pleasure." We recognise that in the amusement we find in so-called "good stories," the truth may be there, but we know very well that it has been improved upon, but this sort of lie or want of truth does not seem so harmful, being but a thought or fancy, as that which is considered and made the basis of an action. Still, tho' clever falsehoods may please us, they do not satisfy. The truth that is in us desires itself in its fulness. We want truth in religion, in art, in science, in politics, in life generally, and however bare and unlovely at first sight it may be, still its possession is satisfying.

What urges men on in art but the desire to represent to others the truth as they see or feel it.

In religion, why have men been ready to suffer tortures, to give up their lives, but that believing they have found the truth, they value it above all earthly things? Why, again, do others not satisfied with what they have, give up all old comfortable beliefs and launch themselves upon a sea of troublous thoughts and speculations and suffering greatly also—not like the martyrs of old in their bodies, but mentally and spiritually—often like their yielding up home ties, friends and worldly advantage—upon the altar of truth? And we cannot doubt that who is so earnestly sought shall surely be found. Seek and ye shall find, says the Master.

So I think we may take it for granted that truth, next to love, is the greatest and most comprehensive virtue, and should be encouraged by all means within our power, and lying and falsehood of every description be equally strongly discouraged.

We know how the whole civilized world is watching with intense inteerst the great contest at present goining on between truth and justice on the one side and falsehood and perjury on the other. Why is the interest so great? Is mere curiosity the cause, or a personal interest in the man, that thousands are now waiting anxiously to hear how the scales of justice will turn? No doubt there is much of both feelings, but these are effects and not the cause. Does not that be in the hope that we shall see truth rise triumphant over falsehood, and do we not feel that the high moral standard of a nation is somewhat depending on the issue? We who are taught to hold truth or honor the fundamental principle of national or individual life or conduct cannot feel otherwise. Truth, viz.: "clear, straight dealing" is nationally the basis of honor, and as a nation is made up of individuals, we must look after our individual trusts in this respect and guard the truth as we would our lives. Take the case of employer and employed. Justice demands that the dealing be fair and square on both sides, but is it so if a man working by the day, for instance, is honorable or true of him to waste his time by doing as little as it is possible to do, and at the close of it be paid for what he has not done? Pride, if not principle, should make him do differently; but the loss if right and noble feeling is the price that men or women pay when they tamper with the truth. They cease to know what truth is or to recognize her when they meet her, therefore let us try to be true and just in our dealings. There is just as much difference between a circle and a square as between a lying and a truthful person.

Let us women be true. We have most of us, at least, one person, often more, influenced by our example. "Practice is more powerful than precept, and deeds speak louder than words," proverbs who, if trite, are true. Our children should have truth instilled into them from infancy—instilled, not driven. As Joubert says, "Make truth lovely, do not try to arm her," therefore we must make it admirable to be desired, loved and sought after, not feared and disliked. I should personally be more inclined to reward a child for telling the truth than punish it for a lie. Most children tell untruths from fear, either physical or mental. To frighten a child into truth hardly seems the right method. A child so frightened will not have learnt a lesson of truth, but of deception, for he will not be troubled about the lie, but its consequences, and the next time he will be more careful not to be found out. If instead of threatening a frightening our child we were to make the escape from punishment the reward for telling the truth, and if he were found out in a lie which he did not confess, punish him for that, he would soon see that the lie brought punishment, while the truth brought forgiveness.

To be true is not easy. It is better to make up our minds to that—It needs much self-control, patience, time and courage to represent things or actions as they really are, and not only as they seem.

What scandals, slanders and misunderstandings would be avoided if we could but bear in mind that "hearsay evidence is no evidence." Supposing that we were to act upon it; there would be a great blank in our subject of conversation at our afternoon teas, and smaller social gatherings, would there not? They might even be rather dull at first and difficult to manage, but we should soon pull ourselves together and rise to the occasion, like women, and I should not mind risking a prophecy that in a short space of time invitations to our drawing room teas and gatherings of all kinds would be much sought after. I won't say by the nobler sex, because at present I do not think that they can justly criticise us, but by all, of both sexes, who care for true pleasure and enjoyment.

Time is necessary for the acquirement of true knowledge. If we recognised this fully our information would not be so superficial as it often is, so much seems to be required to keep up with the race of life that ordinary mortals, not liking to be quiet, left behind, simulates what they cannot attain, and so falsehood and that which maketh a lie becomes ingrained in our nature.

Truth also requires that we have the courage of our opinions. It is often so much easier to go with the tide, but truth will not always allow this. We have sometimes to do battle for her.

Don't you think that woman at Rennes had the courage of her opinion when she alone of all its inhabitants came forward to give shelter to Dreyfus' wife? That woman was an honor to her sex, I consider. No matter whether Dreyfus were in the right or not. You know the saying that half a truth is worse than a whole lie, with regard to beliefs. Ella Wilcox says, "Be not afraid to cast aside half truths and grasp the whole." Under the title of half truths we might mention the common trick of repeating a story to some one's disadvantage, omitting that which would give a more favorable impression; making a quotation, especially from the Bible, without its context, and so on.

To be true, we need to practice truth in our homes and the daily life of trifles, and we want to remember that honor or truth in somethings will insure its effect on great.

Truth appeals to us in so many forms, if our eyes are open to perceive her.

1. The beauty of form and feature, which are true to the laws of art.
2. To the beauty of expression, which speaks truth of love.
3. To the combination of the two, which suffests its perfection.

We feel the beauty of truth in art; the force of it in science; the authority of it in literature; the beauty, force and authority in true religion; and, I may say, the want of it in politics.

We see that untruths, all pretenses and apeing what we are not, all shams, infidelities and lies, are despicable. As I said before, to be true brings into exercise the best that is in us. The nearer we attain to it, the happier our lives, and the nearer we shall be to the spirit of all truth. We desire happinness, why not seek it in a way that we know will secure it.

We do not admire the untrue, unless we are so debased ourselves as not to be conscious of it; and that I can hardly imagine, for it is not an uncommon thing that untruthful persons have the greatest respect for and admiration of truth in others. Take Bacon for example—who appreciated it more than he—and yet who could have lent himself more to falsehood, to infidelity to his friends, to debasement of justice, and who could have regreted it more.

He thought to do evil that good might come; to give wealth and power, and bartered his honor for them. But truth can and will punish her backsliders. Bacon galued what he desired, but lost his own self-respect, his friends and finaly those things for which he had sacrificed the truth that was in him. He was untrue to himself and false to others. We may well understand the bitterness of his sufferings when he exclaims, "There is no vice that so covers a man with shame as to be found false and perfidious," and he quotes Montaigue as giving a reason why a lie should be so disgraceful by saying, "If it well weighed to say that a man lieth, is so much as to say that he is brave towards God and a coward towards men, for a lie faces God and shrinks from men."

As a last word, I would say, let us never fear the truth. Many things may fail us and be shattered in the search, but truth shall stand clear and serene at last. If we seek earnestly and with a humble mind we certainly shall find, as Carlyle says, After all the nameless woe of inquiry I find "that I still loved the truth and would hate no jot of my allegiance to her. Truth," I cried, "though the heavens crush me for following her."

OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

Splendidly Equipped Reading Room Formally Opened by the Salvation Army.

Staff Captain Galt, late of Winnipeg, has introduced still another new feature to the Salvation Army's work in this city, opening for public inspection last evening a well-equipped and cheery reading room in what was once the old Y. M. C. A. gymnasium, repainted and refurnished. The opening ceremonies were made the occasion of a public meeting, over which His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor was invited to preside. Several addresses were given, principally in eulogy of the good work being done by the army, among those speaking being Rev. Speer, Rev. A. B. Winchester, Rev. Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Grant.

Only the best reading matter will be kept on file in the room. No attempt will be made to obtain every newspaper published in Canada, or on the Coast, but files of such papers as the San Francisco Call, Portland Oregonian, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the Montreal Star and Witness, the Toronto Mail and Empire, and Globe, will, if possible, be continually kept on hand. In addition, the London Times, the Weekly Scotsman, the Illustrated London News, the Graphic and the Scientific American can be referred to at any time. In the way of magazines, Staff Captain Galt has also a choice selection in the Review of Reviews, Scribners, Cosmopolitan, Chambers, Wide World, Self Culture, McClure's, Strand, and others.

Fitted with tables, shelves, etc., and being light and spacious, the reading room presents a comfortable appearance. It has the advantage, too, of being centrally located, which will add to its patronage, the more particularly at noon hour.

Among the Parsees a murderer is punished with 90 stripes on his bare back, while a master who neglects his dog receives 200 stripes.

Will Erect A Factory.

Calcium Carbide to Be Manufactured at or Near Comox.

Used in the Manufacture of the Now Popular Acetylene Gas.

A gentleman from Ottawa, who has taken a deep interest in the calcium carbide industry since the first factory was erected, has been in Victoria for some days, with a view to establishing a carbide factory on the Island. Calcium carbide, from which acetylene gas is made, is composed of carbon and calcium, fused in the intense heat of an electric furnace. To manufacture carbide successfully, large water power, coke free from sulphur, and lime of a certain quality, with good shipping facilities, are necessary. All these conditions exist in Vancouver Island, and capital and business energy alone are needed to develop a most profitable industry on the Coast. Since calcium carbide has become an article of commerce, the demand for it has increased steadily. Factory after factory has been erected, and millions of dollars have been invested in the new industry, but the demand continues to outstrip the supply, notwithstanding the enormous profits reaped by the manufacturers. The cost of production varies with the conditions, from about $21 to $30 per ton. It sells readily at $70 per ton, and is quoted at much higher prices in foreign markets. On the Welland canal, where the first factory was erected, there is a daily output of some 50 tons; on the United States side of the Niagara river an immense factory turns out 100 tons per day. The same company is doubling its capacity at Sault Ste. Marie, where another large factory has been for some time in operation. At Ottawa a small factory, turning out 5 tons per day, commenced running this month, and is to double its output soon. The Bronson Lumbering Company, also of Ottawa, has torn down one of its sawmills, and is erecting on the site a factory to turn out 50 tons per day. The building is being rushed to completion, and will be in operation by the beginning of 1900. The great Shawinigan Falls, on the St. Maurice river, has been acquired by a strong company, which will utilize the whole of its enormous power for the production of calcium carbide. There are a few factories in Europe, but water powers are not to be had there, and their output has no perceptible influence on the market. Most of the Canadian product goes to Europe, principally to Germany, but it is also shipped to other parts of the globe—to Australia, China, India, Japan, etc.

Production may, in the course of the next few years, overtake the demand at present figures, but the first drop in the price of carbide will have the effect of stimulating the demand afresh.

The reason for this remarkable development of a new industry is obvious. Acetylene gas produces a remarkably brilliant light at a cost very little, if any, greater than that of coal oil, while it is safer and more easily handled. It is a boon to those who live in the country, where the electric light cannot be had, and to those who live in towns and cities where only the ordinary illuminating gas is available.

The promoter of the local works has secured water power and a suitable site, and proposes to erect the first factory at or near Comox.

ADNEY-SHARP.

Pretty Wedding in Which Victorians Were Interested Celebrated in Woodstock, N. B.

At Woodstock, N. B., a few days ago Miss M. B. Sharp, of the Victoria Conservatory of Music, was united in marriage to Mr. E. Tappan Adney, the artist and writer of New York, who was here for Harper's Weekly during the Klondike excitement. The Woodstock Dispatch has the following account of the interesting event:

"A very pretty wedding took place in St. Luke's church last evening, when Mr. E. Tappan Adney, of New York, and Miss Minnie B. Sharp, eldest daughter of Francis Sharp, Esq., were united in marriage by the Ven. Archdeacon Neales. The bride, who came into the church on the arm of her father, to the processional, 'The Voice That Breathed O'er Eden,' was beautifully attired in a white satin duchess gown with demi-court train, veil of tulle with orange blossoms, and carrying a shower bouquet of white rosebuds. She was attended by Miss Elizabeth J. Walker, of Victoria, B. C., as maid of honor, who was dressed in white silk muslin over white taffeta, and carried a bouquet of white carnations and maiden hair ferns. The first bridesmaid, Miss Elizabeth Sharp, was dressed in white muslin over white silk, and carried a bouquet similar to that borne by the maid of honor. The bridesmaids, Misses Nan Bull, Bessie Neales, Annie Hazen and Maud Wright, were gowned in white muslin over white silk, the two first carrying bouquets of pink carnations and maiden-hair ferns, and the two latter bouquets of deep red carnations and maiden-hair ferns. The maid of honor and the bridesmaids wore white 'picture' hats, trimmed with white chiffon and flowers. The general effect was very pretty. Mr. Adney was supported by Lieut.-Col. F. Herbert J. Dibblee as best man. Messrs. T. Carleton, L. Ketchum and Albert D. Holyoke were ushers. As the bride and groom proceeded from the chancel steps to the sanctuary, 'Beati Omnes' was sung by the choir. Later in the service the hymn, 'How Welcome Was the Call,' was rendered, and at the conclusion of the ceremony the peals of the wedding march issued from the organ. The church was crowded with a large number of invited guests and others, and after the ceremony the guests repaired to No. 94 Main street, where a reception was held and refreshments were served, and where the bride and groom received the congratulations of a large number of friends."

BATTLESHIP LAUNCHED.

Portsmouth, Sept. 21.—The British battleship London was launched successfully here to-day in the presence of large crowds of people. Her displacement is 15,000 tons. The main feature of her construction is the armor belt, which is carried the entire length of the ship.

MR. CARLYLE'S NEW POST.

For Two Thousand Years the Rio Tinto Has Been Operated — Greatest Mine in the World.

From the Rossland Miner.

Mr. W. A. Carlyle, at present general superintendent of the properties of the British America corporation in Rossland, has received the appointment of manager of the historic Rio Tinto copper mine in Spain.

No other Canadian has attained such prominence as a mining expert as has been given to Mr. Carlyle by his connection with the B. A. C. and the success which has attended his operations for that company, and the appointment offered him is in itself an evidence that as a mine manager he is in the very front rank.

Great as the responsibility of his present position is, it can hardly compare in any degree with that which he is about to undertake, the Rio Tinto being the largest mine of any description in the world, though it ranks only third in the list of copper producers, being surpassed by the Anaconda of Montana, and Calumet-Hecla of Lake Superior.

The Rio Tinto, which is situated in the province of Auelva, in the south of Spain, at present employs 14,000 men, from which it will be seen that it is operated on a very extensive scale, yet, though it has been worked from time immemorial, and is the oldest mine now yielding ore, it bids fair to remain one of the greatest copper-producing mines for centuries to come. Over 2,000 years ago, long before those cunning miners, the Phoenicians, secured the mine, leaving behind them, as the result of their smelting operations, 20,000,000 tons of slag, good evidence that the production of the mine in bygone ages was enormous. These ancient miners left 180 miles of underground workings as evidence of their industry, or the industry of their slaves.

The ore body of the Rio Tinto is undoubtedly the most wonderful in all the history of mining, in which history the mine has from the beginning played a leading part. Practically the only known limit to the ledge is its width, which is 1,000 feet. The ore is solid pyrites, carrying 2.8 per cent. copper. Last year the mine produced 1,500,000 tons of ore. Of this amount 800,000 tons were shipped and sold, the remainder being treated on the ground in the manner originated by some of the early workers. The ore is placed on large roast heaps where, after being roasted, it is allowed to leach, the copper running out in the form of copper sulphate, to be precipitated as metallic copper in large trenches filled with scrap iron. This system of treatment has been followed from time immemorial.

Last year the mine produced nearly 75,000,000 pounds of copper, and paid $4,500,000 in dividends. The amount of profit yielded during the life of the mine it is impossible to estimate, but it would certainly cover the national debt of every nation in Christendom. The estimated value of the mine at the present day may be told from the price of the stock, £5 shares being quoted on the market at over £40, which would make the market value of the property $90,000,000. The stock is held principally in England, Scotland and France, the Rothschilds and their associates holding the control.

Mr. Carlyle expects to assume his new position on January 1, but will not take charge of the Rio Tinto until April 1, as it will take him fully three months to familiarize himself with the property. He will hand over the charge of the B. A. C. properties to his successor, who has yet to be appointed, on December 1.

Mr. Carlyle's salary as manager of the Rio Tinto will, it is understood, be not less than $25,000 a year.

NOW THE ALICE GERTRUDE.

Still Another Candidate for Popularity on the Puget Sound Run.

During the absence from the route of the steamer Victorian her place will be taken, not by the Utopia, but by the one-degree-worse Alice Gertrude. This relic of the past makes her first trip to-day, scheduled to arrive at 6 a. m., and sail two hours later. The Utopia is to go on the ways for survey, necessitated by her undue familiarity with the Fannie Dutard.

TO SAIL THIS EVENING.

Steamer Warrimoo's Calling Postponed a Day Through Cargo Pressure.

The sailing of the steamer Warrimoo, scheduled for yesterday, had of necessity to be advanced to to-day, owing to the impossibility of loading all the freight offering within the available time. The steamer calls here, outward-bound, this afternoon. Among those who take passage here are Mrs. J. N. S. Williams and family and Mrs. Green, who go to join Mr. Williams at Honolulu; Mrs. J. H. Craig and child, and W. A. Dodds, also for Honolulu; Mr. and Mrs. Abercrombie, for Brisbane; and Henry James Smith and Mr. Baines, who go to Sydney.

DELAYED BY HEAVY FREIGHTS.

The Boscowitz, Amur and Princess Louise Now Due at Any Time.

The owners of the steamer Boscowitz have heard nothing in confirmation of the report that she had gone ashore somewhere along the Skeena. They are not, however, at all alarmed at her non-appearance in port, as she had an unusually heavy salmon cargo to take on at the Northern canneries. The same cause will perhaps delay the C. P. N. steamers Amur and Princess Louise, possibly until the end of the week.

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS.

Many Passengers for the Umatilla — The Queen's Clean-up.

Steamship Umatilla had an exceptionally heavy passenger list on her departure for San Francisco last evening, the travellers embarking here numbering twenty-one. Included in this number were: James E Sutton, of Uclulet, who goes to California in connection with the sale of the Wreck Bay placer claims to a wealthy syndicate; J. M. Trewhella and wife, Miss A. Morgan, Mrs. L. A. Wheeler, Mrs. W. H. Dow, J. McLaughlin, Mrs. Bushby, Miss E. Le Vins, F. Cosgrove, L. Jackson, W. H. Dow, Miss A. Marquette, Mrs. R. Glynn, S. E. Lamb and wife, Mrs. F. H. Barnes, C. W. N. Kennedy and wife, and J. H. Hall and wife. The Queen, the last-arrived sister liner from San Francisco, has just come off the dry dock, and is decidedly spick-and-span. Her recent cleaning accounts, in a measure, for her remarkably quick passage up.

GOSSIP OF THE WATERFRONT.

Random Notes of Shipping Condensed for the Convenience of Busy People.

Steamer Constance left yesterday for Nanaimo, to bring down a scowload of coal.

Steamer Sadie came in yesterday from Sooke, and the Hope with logs from Malaspina Inlet for the Sayward mills.

Steamer Daisy returned from Chemainus yesterday.

Official Notifications.

Number of Appointments Published in the Gazette of Yesterday.

New Companies Incorporated to Carry on Business in the Province.

Yesterday's issue of the Official Gazette contained notices of the following appointments:

Henry P. Horan, of the 150-Mile house, to be a coroner for the province.

John Churchland, of Surrey Centre, Delta; George J. Wallace, of Landsdowne; Robert Wood, of Greenwood; Jos. B. Lander, of Nicola; Geo. Alex. Johnson, of Deer Park; Murdock Matheson, of Wellington, and Lewis Arthur, of Agassiz, to be justices of the peace for the counties of Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Westminster, Yale, Cariboo and Kootenay.

William J. Twiss, of Kaslo, to be a notary for the province.

Alfred Geo. Lear, of Atlin, to be a notary public for the county of Nanaimo.

NEW COMPANIES.

Notice is given of the incorporation of new companies, as under:

British Columbia Trust Company, of Vancouver; capital, $50,000. Canterbury Townsite Company, of Rossland; capital, $100,000. Greenwood Steam Laundry Company, of Greenwood; capital, $5,000. Sovereign Gold Mining Company, of Rossland; capital, $1,500,000. Pacific Coast Power Company, of Victoria; capital, $5,000. Slave Lake Power Company, of Vancouver; capital, $1,000,000. Hobbs Development and Extension Coal Land Company, of Victoria; capital, $10,000. Empire Mining Company, of Kimberley; capital, $500,000.

COURTS OF REVISION.

Courts of revision will be held as follows: For West Yale, at Ashcroft on November 6 at 10 a. m.; for Rossland riding (West Kootenay), at Rossland on November 6 at 11 a. m.; for Cariboo district, at Stanley, Lighting creek, October 16, at 10 a. m.; at Quesnelle, October 17 at 3 p. m.; at Alexandria, October 19 at 11 a. m.; at Soda creek October 20 at 10 a. m.; at 150-Mile house, October 21 at 3 p. m.; at Parkerville, November 9, at 10 a. m.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Lieutenant-Governor's proclamation calling parliament together for the despatch of business on January 4, as previously announced, is published.

The department of lands and works is calling for tenders, to be in by September 30, for a bridge over the Illecillewaet river at Revelstoke.

T. J. Duncan and W. A. McDonald, applicants for the incorporation of the Rossland & Sophie Mountain Electric Railway, give notice of the route proposed to be adopted for the line.

W. Dier, A. A. Davidson and Richard Russell, mining brokers, have dissolved partnership.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Stadacona Silver-Copper Mining Co. will be held at 64 Yates street, Victoria, October 21 at 11 a. m., for the purpose of passing resolutions, if thought fit, authorizing the sale of the company's assets, and entering into an agreement with a new company about to be incorporated.

An extraordinary special meeting of the Lone Star and Blue Grouse Consolidated Mining Company will be held at Rossland on October 25 at 4 p. m.

The Grand Forks Water Power and Light Company has submitted its undertaking to the government. They propose to build a dam across the north fork of Kettle river, about a mile and a quarter above the city, conveying the water to the points where it will be used, by a flume; 15,000 inches will be diverted for an electric light plant. Works must be in operation within twelve months.

Emma D. Tuthill, F. R. Stewart and F. M. Black, all of Vancouver, have entered into a co-partnership as F. R. Stewart & Company, commencing on September 1, for a period of five years. The first-named contributes $20,000 to the capital stock of the partnership.

W. M. Chace, D. L. Brockway and R. L. House, carrying on business as the London Hydraulic Company in Atlin district, have assigned to E. G. Tennant, of Atlin. The creditors meet in Atlin on September 28.

John Cunningham, of Metlakahtla, general merchant, has assigned to W. A. Lawson, of Victoria. Claims against the estate must be filed before November 1. A meeting of creditors is called for September 29, at 3 p. m., in the office of R. P. Rithet & Company, Victoria.

The annual general meeting of the British Columbia-Yukon Railway Company will be held at Cassidy & Davey's office, Victoria, on October 11, at 11 a. m., for the election of directors and the transaction of business generally, including the passing of resolutions confirming the successive retirements and appointments of directors in the past, and the approval and confirmation of the by-laws.

NO PROFIT FOR OWNERS.

First Sealer of the Season Returns From Behring Sea — An Unlucky Cruise.

The first of the homing sealers that Carmanah reported entering the Straits on Monday night reached port yesterday, with but 54 skins to show for the summer's hunting, but a top-line story of hard luck. She is the Bechtel schooner Mary Taylor, Todd master, which during the spring sealing was so unfortunate as to lose a boat and three men, these being now written off the articles as Peter Hansen, John Martin and Japanese Charlie. The spring catch of 167 skins was landed at Skidegate, and the Taylor was one of the first to enter the Sea. This circumstance did not, however, disturb the Jonah of the cruise, for while the seal were found in number, and fine weather was not infrequent, the two were not in consonance—when the seals were thickest, it was usually too rough for lowering; when sea and sky were clear, the game was missing. Then came desertions. The hunters during a call at Dutch Harbor heard the exaggerated reports of Cape Nome's treasure field, and fired with dreams of sudden wealth, several of them took the first opportunity to slip away, the schooner being at this time in Pirate's cove, Southeastern Alaska, from which point the deserters intended to make their way to Cape Unga, and thence to Nome. Martin Matson, Zach Payne, Harry Tache and two others thus took French leave of the ship at the Cove, while during the Ounalaska call still another hunter was missing, and it afterwards developed had seized an opportunity to get to Cape Nome by a northbound schooner. When these defections from the crew had brought the muster down from an original 22 to the unlucky number of 13, Captain Todd came to the conclusion that it would be better for him to square away for home than to remain on the hunting grounds short-handed, and losing more money for his owners. He accordingly weighed anchor on the 3rd inst., ran through Unimak pass the following day, and came south under a favorable breeze that held almost all the way to the Cape. No seizures nor accidents to any of the fleet had been heard of by the first-returned sealer. Nor does Captain Todd anticipate that any of the fleet came to grief in the mid-August storm reported by H. M. S. Phaeton and the steamer Laurada. There was a lively breeze on the 21st, according to the Taylor's master, but it was not sufficient to prevent the boats going out, and that day even proved the best of all the cruise—eight skins being secured. The schooner at this time was in the locality in which the greatest part of the season's hunting was done—to the northeast of the Islands, which she circumnavigated. Nothing was either seen nor heard of the West Coast phantom on the run down, dense fog being encountered as the schooner entered the Straits, and the most interesting news items incident to the Taylor's return are contained in the reports she brings of a few of the more fortunate vessels of the fleet, with which she had fallen in. Among these are the following:

	Skins.
August 4—Penelope	28
August 8—San Diego	280
August 8—Beatrice	178
August 11—Ainoka	411
August 12—Arietis	480
August 12—Dora Sieverd	475
August 25—Victoria	770
August 25—Hatzic	650

A secondary report was received from the Arietis, of the Otto and the Viva, both of which were said to be doing well. Captain Todd anticipates that the majority of the fleet will be late in returning this fall, as the seal herds are continually shifting their feeding grounds, and the schooners are determined to follow them as long as the weather holds fair.

VICTORIAN HAS A MISHAP.

Minor Accident in the Engine Room Enforces Retirement For a Few Days.

Just as the Puget Sound press had begun to sing her praises for having settled down to a smooth running, the steamer Victorian has experienced a vexatious little mishap in the engine-room that necessitates her retirement from the route until Friday night, perhaps longer, the dear old Utopia again being called upon to fill the breach. When the Victorian went out from Tacoma on her regular trip Monday, her officers were congratulating themselves that she had got into shape to make the time between Tacoma and this city and return without the slightest trouble. She was shaking less when running at full speed than when making slower time before, and when the engines were wide open she got over the water at a decidedly lively pace. Coming up behind the Greyhound on Saturday, just to see what she could do, her engines were thrown wide open, and she passed the Greyhound in five minutes, as though the latter had been standing still. It had taken the machinery a little time to wear down to a smooth bearing, but the engineers believed she was all right then, and gave great credit to their new circulating pump. Then the pump broke, and the steamer was ordered to the repair dock.

C. P. N. STEAMERS AWAY.

Danube Takes Good Cargo For the North, and Queen City Many Passengers For West Coast.

Two of the C.P.N. Company's fleet got away last evening, the Danube for Skagway and Northern British Columbia ports, and the Queen City on the long West Coast trip—to Cape Scott and all intermediate stations. The latter vessel, Captain Hughes commanding, had quite a notable passenger list, besides an uncommonly heavy cargo, the travellers including Hon. Edgar Dewdney, who visits the Coast on mining business; T. D. Conway, the constructor, and W. Henderson, the superintendent in charge of the new government telegraph line from Beale to Alberni, which he goes to formally take over; Moses McGregor, for Port Hughes; Major Cain, Messrs. Lovell, Podgett and Arthur, a party of big game hunters; George Bishop and party, who are destined for Port Hughes, where they are to erect a substantial hotel; J. Clark, Count Michelet, Frank Fraser, and Provincial Constable Murray. The latter drops off at Carmanah to investigate the recent Indian disturbance there in which the bellicose Sam took so prominent a part. The cargo includes lumber and other materials for the Port Hughes hotel, and large consignments for Cape Scott, which is a point seldom visited. The Danube also had considerable freight, together with the following passengers: C. K. Zorn, Mrs. Zorn, C. W. D. Clifford, M. P. P., Mrs. Clifford, Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Macdonald, G. Spring-Rice, and Miss Millicent Latimer. Upwards of 150 tons of her cargo was shipped for Bennett by the Victoria-Yukon Trading Co., which had also forwarded a similar large consignment by the Alpha the previous evening. The Brackman & Ker Co.'s Northern shipments for the Danube were passed to her by the Maude yesterday, while the V.-Y. Co.'s millstuffs and hay were brought from the Sound by the Oscar, which made a special trip for the purpose.

INCREASING THEIR FACILITIES.

The Esquimalt Marine Railway Co. Adds a Third Slip For Small Craft in the Upper Harbor.

The Esquimalt Marine Railway Co. having got their Vancouver slip in good working order, have now added a third way in the upper Victoria harbor, where small craft—up to 500 or 600 tons—will hereafter be accommodated. The company have taken possession of the old Star shipyard, which has not been in general use since the fire some time ago, and 50 or 60 men are putting it in the best of order. The slip will be ready for use in two or three weeks, and the Casca, a steamer of the company's own building, will have the honor of being first drawn out. She is now awaiting her overhauling, in Esquimalt harbor. Afterward it is expected that the majority of the sealing fleet will be accommodated. Turpel's ways are also being made ready for the business of the winter.

Chile is going to fit up a vessel with the products of the country to be taken to the principal ports on the Pacific for exhibition.

Substitutes For N. P. Liners

A Fleet of Four Modern Cargo Steamers Secured for Temporary Service.

Victorian's Pump Comes to Grief—Improved Passenger Business on West Coast.

The Northern Pacific Steamship Company do not propose by any means to relinquish their grasp of the Oriental-American trade. Possibly there were some who had commenced to think otherwise, from the fact of the recent charters of their liners for transport service, and the indefiniteness prevailing as to the securing of temporary substitutes on the regular run. This doubt is now at an end, the announcement being made authoritatively that the Saint Irene, City of Dublin, Queen Adelaide, and Abergeldie have been secured until such time as the government no longer requires the services of the regulars, and perhaps longer, for the demands of the trade are constantly broadening. A fifth extra is to be added, and there will be no appreciable break in the service, although the Saint Irene on her first passage to America will go to Portland instead of the Sound, her terminal thereafter. She is a steel screw steamer carrying 6,000 tons dead weight, or 7,500 tons measurement. Her gross tonnage is given by Lloyds at 3,877, and the net, 2,474; her rating being *100 A 1, and her dimensions: 357.0 x 45.5 x 19.0. She is one of the most modern type of fast freighters, having been built as recently as 1894 at Sutherland, in the James Laing yards. The City of Dublin is only six years older than the Saint Irene, having been built at the Workman, Clarke & Company yards in 1888. She, too, is a steel screw steamer, with a capacity of 6,000 tons dead weight, or 7,000 tons measurement; she herself has a gross tonnage of 3,328, or 2,155 net, and has the *100 A 1 Lloyds rating. She is a vessel of 361.7 feet length, 42.7 feet beam, and 26.4 feet depth. The Queen Adelaide is described as a steel screw steamer, listed *100 A 1, with a gross tonnage of 2,832, or 1,835 net. Her dimensions are: 310.0x41.1x23.6, and her capacity 5,000 tons dead weight, or 5,500 tons measurement. She is but eight years old, and came from the hands of Bartram, Haswell & Company, of Sunderland. Each of these vessels—and the Abergeldie also—is equipped in the most modern manner, and eminently well fitted to the trade in which it is proposed to employ them. The chartered quartette have an aggregate capacity of 23,600 tons dead weight, or 27,600 tons measurement.

GOSSIP OF THE WATERFRONT.

Odds and Ends of Marine News Briefly Told for Busy Readers.

Steamer Rosalie is now fully two days overdue from the North. She should reach either Victoria or the Sound to-day, her call here being contingent upon her having passengers to land.

Steamer Queen made a fast passage up from San Francisco leaving the Bay City Monday afternoon, and arriving at the ocean dock here yesterday. She had eighteen cabin and five second-class passengers for this city, in addition to 104 tons of cargo, inclusive of large consignments of fresh fruits. Her sister liner, the Umatilla, goes south to-day.

D. G. S. Quadra went out to the Gulf yesterday, with men and materials for the construction of the new lighthouse to be erected at Turn Point, Seaforth channel.

Steam collier San Mateo passed out to sea yesterday, laden from Departure Bay. The Mineola is now due up for cargo, and the Tellus, from the Orient, to enter the coal trade, after docking for a cleaning and inspection.

Steamer Thistle has gone to the Skeena for a special salmon carg