

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1895.

STILL IN THE DARK.

The majority of the City Council have not shown why it is they rejected the lowest tender for the construction of the filter beds. They have said that the bid is too low, but why it is too low they have not shown, neither have they explained to the ratepayers, even admitting that the tender in their estimation is too low, why they did not give the work to Mr. Haggarty. He gave them all the security they demanded and was prepared to give more. Besides, the lowest tender was very little more than a thousand dollars less than the engineer's estimate. At the ratepayers' meeting the majority of the Councillors were very far from showing that when they had rejected the lowest tender they had voted intelligently. They in fact, seemed to know very little more as to what ought to be the cost of constructing the filter beds than did the assembled ratepayers themselves. It is the universal testimony of those who attended the meeting that the explanations of the Councillors were in no proper sense explanations at all.

What is still more singular, the engineer who had charge of the work has not himself, or through a member of the city council, shown why it was that his estimate was nearly \$16,000 too low. The president is a very bad one. If the city council can let work at a higher figure than the lowest tender, and very much higher than their engineer's estimate, who is to say where the evil is to stop? If the ratepayers permit this sort of thing, they allow the door to be opened to the most barefaced corruption. It must be evident that this filter-bed case is one in which the fullest and clearest explanation is due the ratepayers. Sixteen thousand dollars is a very wide margin. The ratepayers have a right to know why so considerable a sum was sacrificed. If the City Council have a good reason to give for passing over the lowest tender and accepting one very much higher, why did they not give that reason? They may not have considered it judicious to state their true reason at the ratepayers' meeting, but there was nothing to prevent their saying what they thought at the last regular meeting of Council. We, for our part, believe that before they empowered the Mayor to sign the contract, they should have spoken out manfully. If Mr. Haggarty is not personally acceptable to them they should have said so without hesitation. When they are dealing with the money of the ratepayers they should not without fear, favor or affection; they should leave no doubt as to their motives on the minds of reasonable and fair-minded citizens. The Councillors of the majority owe it to themselves to deal with the ratepayers in this matter frankly, to take them completely into their confidence. Why have they not done so?

A GOOD SIGN.

The return of good times is perhaps most clearly seen in the readiness with which many great manufacturing firms in the United States have raised the wages of their employes. The New York Times has been keeping a record of the concerns which have advanced wages. It has found that from the middle of April to the latter end of June 348 companies and firms have raised the wages of their employes, and that the advances have affected 232,000 work-people. The increases of all these concerns except six have been made voluntarily. In many instances the old rate of wages has been fully restored. Many manufacturing establishments that had been closed have been re-opened and an increased number of hands have been employed in many others. Some mills are obliged to work night and day to fill orders. The Times gives the names of the concerns which have increased the rates of wages and the proportion of the increase. We find that 10 per cent. is the increase in the large majority of cases. In some concerns a specific increase has been made, but what proportion to former wages the increase is in not told. The increases have been made in many parts of the country but chiefly in the Eastern States.

THE RIGHT NAME.

It is pretty clear that the party now in power in Great Britain is to be known as the Unionist party. Both the terms "Conservative" and "Liberal" have been quietly dropped by Mr. Balfour in his address to the electors. He, in that address, speaks of the party to which he belongs as the Unionist party. "This," he says, "is not the occasion to explain in detail the policy which, if a Unionist majority is returned to the next Parliament, the Unionist Government will pursue. Such a policy could not be attempted with credit and honor in the present position of the parties in the House of Commons. It must, therefore, be left to a happier period to illustrate the principles we have always maintained, that it is not by destroying ancient institutions or by restless manipulation of the constitutional machinery that Imperial security and domestic progress can be most surely attained." He further declares that "the Unionists are absolutely agreed, if the elections place them in power, to lay aside the wild projects of constitutional change and destructive legislation forming the staple proposals of the last Government, and to devote their principal attention to constructive measures and social reforms." The term Unionist is not used in Mr. Balfour's address accidentally. It is evidently his desire to bring prominently before the people the main object of the Government that has just been found, and to show that in comparison with the maintenance of the Union all other subjects with which the Administration will have to do will be

of little importance. We are strongly of opinion that the title "Liberal Unionist" will soon become obsolete, and for a time at any rate the title Conservative will be but little used, although it may, when the present crisis has been passed and the Union secure, be the name by which the party will be generally known. It is very clear that the best work which the public men of Great Britain will have to do for many a long day to come will be conservative in the true sense of the term.

A HOPEFUL SIGN.

The Montreal Daily Witness is well pleased to see that there is a prospect of an amicable and a speedy settlement of the Manitoba school question. The liberality of its comments on the utterances of Messrs. Ouimet and Martin will be a surprise to those who regard the Witness as bigoted and intolerant. Commenting on Mr. Ouimet's statement that "all that they (the Manitoba Catholics) ask is to be at liberty to add to the secular education required in the public schools such religious teaching as will meet their religious views. I may say, if it had been provided for in the legislation of 1890, we would never have heard of the Manitoba school question," the Witness says:

There can be no objection to the addition of Roman Catholic religious instruction and services to the exercises of those schools which are for the most part, or even in any considerable degree, attended by Roman Catholic children. In fact, we understand that it is within the power of a majority of the trustees under the present school system to supplement the regular exercises of any school with religious exercises during the last half hour or hour of the school day. There can be no good reason why the school authorities should not be at the disposal of any religious body for such purposes at any hour other than those during which it is in use for secular teaching. We do not see why clergymen, ministers or priests or deacons, or any of all churches, should not be encouraged to use the schools for such purposes. The few hours' religious instruction which children receive in the Sunday schools once a week is very insufficient, and it seems to us that it is the parents and the religious instructors known to and confided in by the parents, and not the school teachers chosen for their secular knowledge and capacity to instill secular knowledge and capacity to the mind in secular things, who should be expected to give religious instruction which can only be rightly imparted by those holding very intimate personal relations with the pupils themselves and their families. The Manitoba Government should at once announce its willingness to pass the necessary legislation, as this can be done doubtless that it is prepared to do willingly and promptly.

We are much mistaken if the words we have quoted do not go a long way towards facilitating a settlement of the perplexing question, for there are many Protestants in Manitoba, as well as elsewhere in the Dominion, who regard the Witness as an authority on such subjects as are involved in the Manitoba school question. No matter how greatly opposed to separate schools some of these persons may be, they will hesitate to pronounce that course wrong which the Witness declares to be right. Others, again, and those not a few, will accept without hesitation a compromise which this organ of the Presbyterian body claims to be satisfactory.

NORWAY AND SWEDEN.

The trouble between Norway and Sweden has not yet come to an end. There are men in the Norwegian Parliament who are so exasperated at the way in which their country has been treated by Sweden that they seem bound to dissolve the union between the two countries, such as it is, with all possible speed. To effect this end they are agitating for a loan of eleven million crowns. The loan is ostensibly for national defence, but it is really to enable the Norwegians to carry on a war of secession. It is not likely that the secessionists will succeed in their designs. The Norwegian grievance seems to outsiders to be a comparatively paltry one, and certainly not sufficient to justify the disconcerted party even to think of going to war. A dispute about the appointment of consuls may be a sufficient cause for a parliamentary squabble or even for a diplomatic disagreement, but unless the feeling between the two countries is very bitter indeed and the people of both nations are only waiting for a pretext to fly at each other's throats no one in his sober senses would consider it a sufficient cause for civil war. It is said that Russia is intriguing to set Sweden and Norway at loggerheads, but the people of both countries are surely not so foolish as to fight with each other in order to give Russia an opportunity to accomplish her selfish purposes.

AN EASTERN ESTIMATE.

Croakers in China, because last year was an unfortunate year for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as it has been for nearly every business concern on both sides of the Atlantic, are predicting its speedy downfall. The Overland China Mail takes the croakers to task and gives them quite a sensible lecture on the importance of the great continental railway, and the lines of steamships connected with it, to the Empire. It concludes a somewhat lengthy article by saying: "It is in reality an Imperial railway. Since Japan relinquished China much has been said of the upsetting of the balance of power in the Far East and of the reduced importance of Hongkong to the Mother Country, but when it is taken into consideration that Great Britain possesses alternative routes for sending men to the East in time of trouble, with the choice of requisitioning the commodious, powerful and well-found steamers of the C.P.R. for purposes of transport from Canada to any point in the Far East, it must be confessed that the birth or evolution of a new power does not so seriously affect British interests as might at first sight be imagined. We in Hongkong have brought more immediately into contact with the C.P.R. through these steamers, and so are more interested in the results of the trans-Pacific line than in the trans-continental system. It is one of

the most valuable adjuncts of the railway system, and last year's working showed an increased profit of \$80,487 (gold). Had it not been for the destruction wrought by the Fraser River, interfering with the steamship and railway connections for a considerable portion of the year, the receipts and profits from the steamers would have been largely increased and would have added to the balance of net earnings over working expenses; for it must not be forgotten, as is often the case, that the working expenses of a large concern like the C.P.R. are not susceptible of fluctuation in the same ratio as the receipts for business done. The company has emerged very satisfactorily indeed from its tribulations of 1894; and, in common with other supporters of this new Imperial route, we express the hope that the passenger and freight returns of the current year will show a goodly and important advance upon anything yet chronicled in the official records.

It is but natural that a Hongkong newspaper would look upon the Canadian Pacific principally as an Imperial route, and would consider its usefulness in relation to the rise of a new naval and military power in the East. We in Canada are apt to overlook the importance of the C.P.R. and the steamship lines connected with it as means of communication with the East, but British subjects resident in China are not likely to make this mistake.

ALASKA BOUNDARY.

William Ogilvie and Party Will Winter Where It Gets Seventy Below Zero. They Will Mark the Limit of Canadian Territory Near Sixty Mile Creek.

William Ogilvie, D.L.S., arrived from Ottawa on Monday night and is at the Friar. He is en route to the north-west corner of Canada bordering on Alaska, the object of his trip being to extend and mark out the international boundary—the 141st meridian west of Greenwich—both ways from where it crosses the Yukon river. He determined the point at the Yukon river in the winter of 1887 and 1888 by astronomical observation. The determination then made was afterwards verified by a party sent out by the U. S. Coast Survey, who spent the winters of 1889 and 1890 obtaining astronomical observations. Their instruments were mounted on the precise spot on which Mr. Ogilvie had stood, and the result of their labors was to locate the 141st meridian a short distance farther west or down the river from where the Canadian established it. This Mr. Ogilvie had expected, and believed that in the event of any difference between his determination and any future one it would be in favor of Canada. He will extend the 141st meridian southward from the Yukon river to the vicinity and south of Sixty Mile Creek, which important gold finds have been made. The line who are interested will know whether they are in Canada or in Alaska. This is essential in the present condition of that country, and to avoid "international unpleasantness, and to expedite the administration of justice and property. The line will also be produced some distance north of the Yukon, as far as it may be necessary to do so. This comprises 160 miles or more of work over a mountainous country, pretty well clothed with timber and brush. The party will have to do all their own traveling, acting alternately as surveyors and packmen.

Operations will be closed for the winter in October, when quarters will be prepared, in which the men will "hibernate" so to speak. Mr. Ogilvie, however, will be busy taking astronomical, magnetic and meteorological observations. He expects that in consequence may be expected in the winter. In consequence Mr. Ogilvie has prepared himself to read them with a standard thermometer which he obtained from the meteorological office at Toronto. It records 80 degrees below zero, though Mr. Ogilvie does not expect to see 70 degrees below temperature recorded, but he hopes to be looked for. Any other observations of interest in connection with the country will also be fully recorded, notably aurora.

As soon as the days have obtained sufficient length for profitable employment, say about the latter end of February, field operations will be resumed. The line will be done on toboggans, several of which the party are taking with them. It is expected that the line as far as necessary will be marked before the snow disappears, and then the surveying of land claims, which several are already on file, will be attended to, and any other work of importance in connection with the administration of business in the country will be examined into and reported on. The party will probably leave the interior for the coast in September next year, and reach Victoria early in October. The photographing of the country adjacent to the boundary survey itself, so that not only the topography on the line of the boundary but the country on both sides of it for a distance of about twenty miles can be accurately mapped.

Ogilvie's party consists of six men, all of whom are well. Besides Mr. Ogilvie there are Adam Fawcett, D. L. S., Morey Ogilvie, A. A. McCoy, Walter E. Macdonald and F. Beattie. Mr. Ogilvie has in fact retained most of the members of his Taku expedition of last winter to accompany him on this occasion, as he knows from many years' experience their eminent fitness for just such work as is required. It may be remarked that any applications for positions on the party will be useless. Mr. Ogilvie makes this statement to save himself the worry of refusing all who come to see him that errand, his time being occupied in preparing for the trip. Moreover, he says, he can assure any who may be disappointed in this way that they will be losing no fun.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a child, she cried for Castoria. When she became a woman, she clung to Castoria. When she had children, she gave them Castoria.

Rheumatism Cured in 24 Days. South American Rheumatism Cure, for Rheumatism and Neuralgia, radically cures in 24 days its action upon the system is so prompt and mysterious. The first dose is given in the morning. Sold in Victoria by Deas & Cryderman.

STATISTICS FOR JUNE.

Fire Losses for the First Six Months of the Present Year.

Customs Revenues Large for the Month—Developments in Shipping Business.

About \$19,976 worth of property was destroyed by fire during the six months ended yesterday. There were 45 fires in that time, of which more than the average number occurred during June, with a total loss of \$2,870. The fire record for last month is as follows: June 1—Still alarm; fire at brick building, No. 46 Broad street; no loss; cause, straw igniting from hot ashes. June 2—Box 16; roof fire at two-storey frame dwelling, No. 49 Superior street; cause, sparks; loss, \$10. June 3—Box 15; fire on roof, Albion Iron Works, Discovery street; cause, sparks; loss, \$10. June 13—Box 31; fire at one-storey frame residence, Richardson street; cause, sparks; loss on building, \$300; loss on contents, \$1,350. Total loss, \$1,650. June 13—Box 42; grass fire; no loss. June 15—Box 61; incendiary fire, No. 45 Store street; loss, \$25. June 15—Box 41; incendiary fire, No. 45 Store street; loss, \$40. June 16—Box 21; incendiary fire, No. 45 Store street; loss, \$15. June 16—Box 8; fire at one-storey frame residence, No. 4 Handell street; cause unknown; loss, \$300. June 28—Telephone alarm; fire on roof, three dwelling, corner Pembroke and Government streets; cause, defective wiring; no loss.

SHIPPING MATTERS. Summer schedules adopted by nearly all the ocean going vessels, the placing of a third steamer on the Victoria and Sound route, the arrival of the first O R & N steamer from the Orient, and the booming of excursions, are the most noteworthy features of the shipping business during the month of June. There has been some stir among the canneries in the line of freighting, but this business has not as yet more than started. The departure of the Behring Sea sealing fleet also caused considerable activity. The clearances and entries during June are thus represented:

Table with columns: DEPARTURES, CLEARANCES, POLICE RETURNS, CUSTOMS REVENUES, VITAL STATISTICS. Includes data for ship names, destinations, and various statistics for the month of June.

Following are the customs returns for the month of June: Duty collected, \$47,789.55; Major drawback, \$3,845.71; Total, \$51,635.26. Exports, not produce of Canada, \$11,000.00; Exports, produce of Canada, \$12,314.00; Imports, dutiable, \$12,314.00; Imports, free, \$12,314.00; Total, \$24,628.00.

WIT AND ART.

At 8 o'clock Tuesday evening St. James' hall began to fill with people desirous of hearing Mr. David Christie Murray in one of his popular "talks." At 8:45 Mr. Murray announced that he would speak on "Humor and Art." "I do not," he said, "desire to give you anything technical, but rather to place before you in an extremely informal talk some of my ideas as gathered after a considerable period of actual observation. In the last few years there seems to have been a decided and radical change in what is considered fun. Some time ago that which was deemed fun always had in it the element of harshness; it was bitter and cutting and was made a weapon with which to strike very hard blows. The practical joker is really a thing of the past. Mr. Murray then proceeded to give a number of illustrations of what he considered the wrong kind of fun. The stories were to the point and were told in a way that won hearty laughter from the audience. The speaker went on to say: "There can be no real fun in that which causes innocent people to suffer. Hook, Hill and Jerrold were all types of jokers that are rapidly passing away, and the sooner they do so the better." A strong point was made on the prevailing custom of talking nothing but nonsense, and the fact that good talk seems to have died out. The fun of the present day, he said, is pronounced of quite a different character, being more refined and having in it much that is really helpful. A number of instances were given of this, and again the audience enjoyed Mr. Murray's happy way of telling a story. In the second part the speaker dealt with the emotional, touching the gentler side of life, and at the close Mr. Murray recited the poem "Judas Iscariot." This was really a most delightful close of an evening that was heartily enjoyed by all present.

NEWFOUNDLAND POLITICS.

St. Johns, Nfld., July 3.—(Special)—The legislature will be prorogued to-morrow, that duty being the last public official act of Governor O'Brien's career. Much denunciation of the government has been aroused by the passage of a bill last night dividing \$1,500 among the seven provisional trustees appointed by the shareholders of the Commercial bank last winter. The supreme court did not decline to allow the payment. The court then appointed liquidators. Now the government compels the bank to pay the trustees the above sum. No opportunity was given to arouse public opposition to the bill.

Heart Disease Believed in 30 Minutes.—All cases of organic heart disease, whether acute or chronic, can be cured in 30 minutes and quickly cured by Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart. See directions. Sold in Victoria by Deas & Cryderman.

CAN'T HAVE LADIES.

Oak Bay school district is not the only one where the mistake has been made of electing a lady as school trustee. At Englishman's River, Chilliwack, Clinton, and several other places, the electors fell into the error of thinking that because ladies may sit as trustees for city districts they have also the right to be trustees in rural school districts. Formerly ladies had no right to sit either for city or country, but last session an amendment was made to the effect that anyone eligible to vote for school trustees in cities should be eligible to serve as a school trustee, but this did not affect the rural districts. Consequently when on Tuesday the result of the election in Oak Bay district was sent to Superintendent Pops with the names of Mrs. Moody, R. T. Williams and C. T. Piper as trustees, for three, two and one year respectively, Superintendent Pope directed a special meeting be called to rectify the mistake of electing a lady trustee. The same thing applies to Englishman's River, where Mrs. Florence H. Davis and Mr. Wm. Morrison were elected, and also at the other places where a similar mistake was made.

SOLDIER EXCURSIONISTS.

Pleasant Experiences of the Garrison Artillery on Their Visit to the Terminal City.

They Were Well Housed and Kindly Entertained and Returned in Good Order.

The three Victoria companies of the Garrison Artillery returned Tuesday morning from Vancouver after participating in the celebration of Dominion Day there. The Islander, the special excursion steamer on which they had made the round trip, arrived off the harbor shortly before seven o'clock, and the incoming Empress of China being found at anchor there, Captain Irving treated his passengers to a fine view of the Royal Mail steamship by running the Islander close by, the B. C. G. A. band on the promenade deck tuning up in honor of the occasion. A few minutes afterwards the excursionists were disembarking at the C. P. N. wharf, whence they marched direct to the drill hall. There Captain C. St. A. Pearce, who had been in command on the trip, briefly addressed the men, expressing his satisfaction at the creditable manner in which they had conducted themselves both on and off parade during the two days' outing.

It was about 10 o'clock on Sunday morning when the Islander got away from Victoria, having on board about as many citizen excursionists as soldiers in uniform. The trip to Vancouver was leisurely made, and soon after 5 o'clock the Islander entered the harbor, shaping her course close by the Royal Arthur and the other of H. M.'s warships there at anchor, and steaming gaily past the long wharf and back again, while the band on board played its gayest music for the edification of the thousands upon the wharf who cheered a welcome to the visitors. When a landing was made, several representatives of the reception committee and Major Townley and other officers of the B. C. G. A. in Vancouver, expressed their official welcomes, and the battalion started on the march through town, Sergeant Labranche, of Vancouver, leading the way. Besides the fine brass band, there was a new musical organization on parade for the first time, this being a file and drum corps organized by No. 3 Company, who were accompanied on this inaugural occasion by the big drummer and several other musicians of the R.M.A. The new band proved a very valuable addition to the musical resources of the battalion, and between the two the playing was continuous from the wharf to the drill hall, the men put up their arms there and proceeded next to the spacious sleeping quarters secured in a vacant hotel building a couple of blocks distant. At other hotels their meals had been arranged for, so that they lacked nothing which the thoughtfulness of their hosts could provide.

Hands were at liberty Sunday evening, and at 7:30 a.m. on Monday paraded at the drill hall in preparation for the military celebration of the day. No. 5 company from Vancouver paraded at the same time and place, and was accompanied by No. 4 of New Westminster, in good strength, as in the reorganization of a couple of months ago there has been unavoidable delay in issuing the uniforms, and drill has not been resumed. The Vancouver band of the battalion was massed with that from Victoria for the occasion, Bandmaster Finn having the direction of the parade, while Major Townley took command of the company, and the four companies marched to the wharf, where ferry boats kindly provided by the celebration committee were in waiting to carry the soldiers across to Brookton Point, where the review grounds had been laid out. These Lieut.-Col. Peters, D.A.G., took over the command of the parade, and the day. A battalion of seamen and company of Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Marine Light Infantry were already on the ground. All were drawn up in line to await the arrival of Admiral Stephenson, reviewing the day. He came with Lieutenant-Governor Dewar, and a general salute commenced the proceedings. Then the programme already detailed was carried out, commencing with the march past in various formations. The salutes dealt several movements of the physical drill, to catchy music; the Marines performed the bayonet drill; and the B.C.G.A. did the manual and firing exercises. Before eleven o'clock the order for the homeward march was given, and with good roads and continuous music the drill hall the men were relieved for the rest of the day.

The visiting officers were hospitably entertained at luncheon by Major Townley and other officers of the Vancouver company, there being present His Worship Mayor Collins, of Vancouver, and other members of the celebration committee. In the evening the regimental band serenaded the Victoria officers at the Manor House, and Major Townley at the residence of his mother, where a party was in progress. At 11:30 the three visiting companies paraded at the drill hall, and to the merry music of the two bands marched down to the Islander, being accompanied by a large number of their Vancouver comrades and citizens generally, who gave a hearty parting cheer as the steamer moved off a few minutes after midnight.

Cataract Believed in 10 to 20 Minutes.—One short puff of the breath through the blower supplied with each bottle of Dr. Agnew's Sarsaparil Powder, diffuses this powder over the surface of the nasal passages. It is pleasant and delightful to use. It relieves instantly, and permanently cures Catarrh, Hay Fever, Colds, Headache, Sore-throat, Tonsillitis and deafness. At Deas & Cryderman's.

THE "EMPRESS" HERE.

She Makes a Flying Passage From Japan, Bringing Hon. John W. Foster Among Her Notables.

Passengers For the North and the South—Gossip of the City Waterfront.

There were more than the C.P.R. officials surprised Tuesday morning when the big white liner Empress of China sounded her whistle off the outer wharf. She had not been expected but quite so early, and the officials had not been notified as usual of the ship passing Carmanah point. Consequently a hurry up ensued, and the steamer R. P. Rithet was called into service as quickly as possible as a tender. Returning from the steamship the Rithet brought some four or five saloon passengers, 32 of the 260 odd Chinese who were aboard, and 90 Japanese. Notably among the passengers who went on to Vancouver in order to catch yesterday's Atlantic express was Hon. John W. Foster, ex-secretary of state of the United States, whose mission to the Orient has already been fully explained. His secretary, John P. Henderson, and Hon. G. O. Duggan were among the passengers who disembarked at Victoria, and are now guests at the Diamond Hotel. The other passengers who landed here were Mrs. R. C. Grant, of Surrey, Eng.; Mr. and Mrs. J. Lloyd Palm, of Hongkong, and Mr. and Mrs. Theodore. Hon. Mr. Cadogan is a son of Earl Cadogan, who is now Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, having been appointed to that position on the formation of the new Salisbury government. On the voyage the China made unusually fast time and, in fact, she could have been here sooner had it been desired. It had been expected that Captain A. B. Whidden and the crew of the lost steamer Rosie Olsen would have arrived on the steamship, but the impossibility of this is explained in a letter which Mr. Alexander Munro received by the Empress of China. The letter was dated June 17, and was written in haste in order that it might reach the Empress mail. Capt. Whidden says the schooner struck on Low Island, in the Tongareva straits, about twenty miles from Hakodadi. As arranged, the vessel was going to Hakodadi according to arrangements, but the cause of the mishap Capt. Whidden does not state. He mentions that part of the schooner's stores were saved. A survey was to be held on the wreck of the craft the following day, June 17, but the captain in his letter did not express himself as to whether or not he had hopes of her being floated.

Japanese exchanges contain little interesting news. The official Gazette announces that up to noon on Saturday last, June 15, the total number of cholera cases and deaths reported were 1,946 cases and 827 deaths. The papers refer generally to the expected increase of the Japanese navy, and one says: "Forty million yen are to be spent on four battle ships at ten million yen each; sixty million yen for twenty cruisers, despatch boats, gunboats and torpedo gunboats; and twenty million yen for the construction of additional naval stations. The reason more small gunboats are wanted is that they are to be employed for the protection of Japanese ports, etc., to be opened along the Japanese river, according to the provisions of the Shimaneiki treaty." Another despatch says that the Japanese had occupied Keelung, the Chinese soldiers killed numbering about 300.

THE SAN FRANCISCO BOATS.

The San Francisco mail boats Walls Walla and City of Puebla were in port Tuesday. The former arrived in the morning from San Francisco, bringing 138 tons of freight for Victoria. In the evening the City of Puebla sailed for her usual time, carrying the following in her cabin for the Bay City: F. H. Willis, George Miller, J. Callinan, B. C. Nicholas, John Butte, W. Fairbairn, S. J. Latham, A. H. Bradley, J. F. Salloway, Miss A. Harrison, Miss A. C. Starr, Mrs. Osborne, Mrs. E. Hooking, Miss E. Farrar, Mrs. M. A. Siddell, Miss Sea, Miss A. Sea, F. Swete and wife, and the Misses Swete.

THE COLUMBIAN ARRIVES.

After inspecting all the buoys, beacons, and off the coast of Alaska, the U. S. Lighthouse tender Columbine, which left here for the North about a month ago, returned to port Monday afternoon. She remained in harbor until Tuesday, and then proceeded South. On her way here she called at Vancouver, and from the Terminal City crossed over to Departure Bay for coal. She will next go to Seattle, and after finishing work on the Sound will go to the U. S. Army. Board the Columbine are Admiral John C. Walker, second in command of the U. S. Navy and President of the U. S. Lighthouse board—who as previously announced is making his annual trip of inspection—Commander Parsons, of the U. S. Navy and Inspector of the Fort District; Mr. C. E. Perkins, president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway, who is on pleasure trip, and his secretary, Mr. Macfarland; and Mr. Johnson, the chief clerk of the Lighthouse board. Admiral Walker leaves direct for San Diego, accompanied by the U. S. Lighthouse tender, the U. S. Army, as to the probability of the U. S. Army in connection with fortifications, the Admiral said he expected to have gone South by the time of the General's return from Alaska. In an event he said the Admiralty and Navy are not accustomed to do work that way. No Alaska news is reported by the Columbine. While at Sitka (where a light-house is soon to be erected) on the 21st of last month, she met H.M.S. Phœnix, and in honor of Accession Day international courtesies were exchanged. Good weather was experienced throughout the steamer's voyage. The Columbine reports that the steamer Calceola's last trip on the Skeena was a very rough one, but no mishap occurred. A British subject was captured at Fort Simpson after considerable resistance to the forced invasion of his native heath. The crew however carried him off to Port Townsend. He is a young cinnamon bear.

MAINE NOTES.

Steamer Yosemite came alongside Turner, Beaton & Co.'s wharf yesterday to make preparations for an excursion to Seattle from Seattle to Vancouver for the Fourth of July celebration. The steamship Danube sailed last evening on the regular Northern trip with a good freight. Her passengers were: L. N. Conyers, Mrs. Gurd, Miss Keane, Mr. Collins, Mr. Bowker, Dr. Newcombe and son, and others, including several military men. A fairly large number of Chinese left on the Danube, enjoining to find work in the Northern canneries. The Lorne yesterday finished one of the busiest months' work she has had this year. Her last tow was the coal bulk Robert Kerr. Her departure Bay to Vancouver. She will now remain in port for a few days to blow down her boilers.