

4 AIMS OF THE MINING ASSOCIATION.

The movement for the formation of a Miners' Association in British Columbia has met with opposition in some quarters, but the criticism on the promoters is so evidently founded upon a misapprehension of their aims and objects that it has had practically no effect in dampening the enthusiasm that has been awakened on the subject. Mr. Hobson and Mr. Lamb, personally and by letters, have explained the purposes of the proposed association to gatherings and individuals in all parts of the province, and their labors have proved so satisfactory that it is confidently expected one of the largest and most influential bodies of men that has ever assembled in the province will meet in Victoria on the 25th inst. to consider the condition of the mining industry and to make suggestions as to the steps that should be taken to place it in the position it ought to occupy as the chief source of the prosperity of British Columbia.

It should not be necessary to assure anyone that there is nothing political, sectional or inimical to the welfare of any party, business or industry in the movement as originally planned. If anything of that character should develop when the delegates meet for the transaction of business the doom of the association would be sealed at once. It might as well disband, for it will accomplish no more than any of the various debating societies that have been formed in Victoria from time to time apparently for the purpose of giving well-meaning but impractical individuals opportunities to "air their eloquence." Possibly there may be abundance of reason to criticize the acts of the delegates when they get down to business. But they are merely taking the preliminary steps towards organization. It is not a time to criticize, but rather a time to encourage and stimulate. Some rather sweeping statements have been made about the condition of the mining industry—possibly statements which are not fully borne out by the facts. But it remains true, nevertheless, that the mining industry of the province is not as healthy a state as we would like to see it in. There are many mines that are proving a source of wealth to their owners. There are many others that would prove a source of profit under business-like management. There are not a few that have not come up to the expectations of those who were led to invest their capital in them. It is held, and probably rightly held, that in many instances incapable management rather than hampering legislation is responsible for the failures. Probably the proposed association will undertake to let in light where it is needed upon these points. If it succeeds even in that one thing the effect cannot but be beneficial. There is no question that what we need above all things is capital. When capital understands that we are in earnest about remedying the abuses which are alleged to exist it will gather confidence and come to our assistance in increased volume. Therefore it would seem to us to be the right thing to encourage any movement which aims at reforms, which purports to enlighten the unsophisticated as to the wiles of the "wild-cat" or any other promoter whose schemes are not legitimate. We hope the Mining Association will receive all the support to which it is entitled until it can fairly be judged what its purposes are.

LABOR DISPUTES.

The statesman who can devise some method of settling labor disputes which will prove satisfactory alike to the workman and the capitalist should be worthy of higher honor than he who buildeth a railway. We are specially interested in this matter in British Columbia. We appear to be exceptionally susceptible to the strike germ. Whether it is in the atmosphere of this glorious climate or inherent in the constitution of our miners particularly we have no means of knowing just yet. But we do know that the disease breaks out periodically, and that it has a very depressing effect upon the general business of the province.

The strike amongst the miners of the Crow's Nest Coal Company, if prolonged, will affect the mining industry of the interior of British Columbia most seriously. When a business of such magnitude as the smelting of ore has grown to be brought to a sudden halt, with a good deal of uncertainty as to when it may be resumed again, the result is bound to be very depressing upon all auxiliary industries and dependent businesses. The smelters of the interior cannot possibly have large reserves of fuel on hand. If a settlement with the miners be not reached very soon, the works will be compelled to close down almost at once. Before the strike occurred there were complaints that the supplies of coke were inadequate. Therefore news of a general closing down may be expected any day.

We have surrounded business with all the safeguards human ingenuity can devise, but we have left it open to attack from one side. Labor is being more effectively organized every year. The unions are becoming more powerful. The troubles are almost certain to arise more frequently. And yet it seems to be impossible to create a tribunal and clothe it with the power to step in and say this

dispute shall be settled after a manner worthy of this twentieth century.

Capitalists are often stubborn in nature and grasping in disposition. Unions are not always reasonable and just in their demands. Representatives of both sides will admit the truth of these statements. Strikes have been so frequent in the Crow's Nest Mines that a good effect might be produced by an inquiry into and report upon the cause of the off-recurring strife. Mr. Rogers, one of the principal proprietors, says the rate of wages paid is the highest on the continent for the class of work. But there may be conditions surrounding the operation of the mines which in the opinion of the men counteract the effect of the high rate of pay. Then it may possibly be that the miners think they should share in the increased profits made possible to the company by the removal of the duty upon coal entering the United States. These are matters that do not directly concern the general public. The paralysis of business as a result of such unfortunate disputes does concern us all most intimately. The time will come when the people will rise up and demand that a preventive shall be applied: that a court shall be created with power to inquire into the cause of strikes and authoritatively fix the blame for them. There could be no more foolish way of dealing with such disputes—if, indeed, it can be said that we deal with them at all—than that in vogue at present. An industry may be tied up or a railway or other public concern blocked for an indefinite period, and yet the public, which is put to inconceivable inconvenience and often certain sections of it to great suffering, must stand idly by and watch the fight go on until one party is weary and exhausted and the other is ready to listen to terms. Then suggestions will be made that it is time to settle up. An investigation will be held and an award made. It is time to take that sort of thing. When a misunderstanding arises some tribunal, appointed by the state, should hold an inquiry and pass judgment immediately. It is true men cannot be compelled to work if they will to remain idle. Neither can men afford in these days to outrage public opinion by demanding unreasonable terms of conditions. And companies are in precisely the same position. Agitators in labor unions will strenuously oppose even a suggestion of a compulsory arbitration law. We shall wait a long time before there shall be any change in their attitude. Their craft would be in danger if a law of that character were enacted. But it is not clear that it would be an evil thing for a community if the occupation of the agitator were gone. The genuine worker is not usually endowed with the "gift of the gab." He is often intimidated and often still induced to adopt a course his better judgment condemns. The labor unions which have accomplished the greatest good for their membership are those which in policy have been unalterably opposed to strikes except as a last resort. That fact appears to bear out very strongly our contention that not only the public, but the working-men themselves, would be great gainers by the adoption of an arbitration law with the principle of compulsion incorporated in its provisions.

THE VENEZUELAN SETTLEMENT.

The troubles of the powers with Venezuela are at an end. All that remains is for Uncle Sam to see that his portage lives up to her obligations. Action might have been taken earlier, and many lives, much suffering and the loss of a great deal of property saved. If the United States has made up its mind to act as sponsor for all the South American republics it should go about the matter in the business-like way in which it approaches all other undertakings. The relations of the republics with European states should be examined by experts and adjusted before the straining point is reached. Premier Balfour pointed this out in a speech yesterday. Venezuela had been led to believe by previous acts of the United States that she occupied a position practically of irresponsibility and that if she were ever called to account for her misdoings her powerful neighbor and sister republic would interpose automatically in her behalf. Perhaps President Castro was justified by past events in his indifference to remonstrances. But the man who occupies the post of president of the United States to-day, perhaps fortunately for the world, views his duties and responsibilities in an altogether different light from the one who sat in the chair of the night when the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela about the boundary between the latter country and British Guiana arose. President Roosevelt was courteous, reasonable and conciliatory in his attitude. It may be a long time before such another is elected to the presidency of the United States. Possibly presidents of the type of Roosevelt are more common than those of the Cleveland stamp. If the allies in the case which has been disposed of so satisfactorily had been approached in the insolent, bullying spirit characteristic of the Cleveland note, the end might not have been so happy. But of course the circumstances were somewhat different, and Uncle Sam can be cautious on occasion, conscious though he may be of his puissant powers.

Great Britain and Germany have been subjected to a good deal of criticism for the manner in which they brought the republic to a realization of its obligations. The press of Canada has joined in the condemnation. Possibly there was some bombarding that might have been omitted. But when such matters pass from the hands of statesmen into those whose business it is not to reason or remonstrate, but to act, things are bound to be done which appear high-minded, arbitrary and often-times unnecessary. The indisputable fact is that the attention of Venezuela had been repeatedly called to the wrongs that were being inflicted upon British subjects, not only in their property, but in their persons. All remonstrances were treated in the first instance insolently and eventually entirely disregarded. Tremendous upshots have been raised ever now about the alleged failure of Great Britain to afford adequate protection to her subjects. The trouble has been thrown out that if the trouble had arisen with a powerful state the less than would have been shown in throwing down the gauntlet. The reply to this is that powerful states, as a rule, faithfully discharge their obligations to their neighbors. In these days there is no likelihood of a war arising between great nations as a consequence of such a dispute as this. The long prevailed in Venezuela. When all other measures had been tried to awaken Castro to a sense of his responsibilities and had failed, force was resorted to. Force has succeeded. Matters could not be permitted to go on as they were going. There was no other course for the powers but to exhibit their ability to enforce their demands. They have done so and cleared up, we hope permanently, a dangerous matter.

POLITICAL UPS AND DOWNS.

The British Columbia delegates to Ottawa have returned, and, after a month's rest for recuperation, will be ready to meet the delegates of the people and render to them an account of the strenuous doings of the legislative year. It is claimed the government is not afraid, and never was afraid, to meet the House. It has an assured majority of from four to eleven, we are told by one in a position to speak with authority. Perhaps it has. As we have more than once pointed out, it is impossible to say what changes may take place in the opinions of a large part of a British Columbia Legislative Assembly in the course of a year. But the government has lost North Victoria; it is practically certain it will lose West Yale. If in spite of such adversities the majority of the administration of Colonel Prior continues to grow, what would the position of the parties have been if the government had scored two victories instead of encountering two defeats? The opposition would have been practically annihilated, or rather converted from the seeming error of its ways. It would be reduced to its original fragment, which, we believe, was made up of six members. But this original fragment has not been exempt from the mysterious process of decay or evolution which has so completely and so regularly transformed the face of the political situation in British Columbia. Portions of it have been absorbed in the government party and other portions are either in positions of comparative isolation or are acting under other leaders in harmony with the principles upon which they were elected. Mr. Martin, the leader of the defunct section of the House, has not escaped the vicissitudes that have attended the fortunes of his followers. Defeated on an appeal to the people, the natural political result in any other self-governing province than British Columbia would have been his relegation to the position of opposition leader. But the defeated government party never became, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, an opposition. Last session the greater part of it went over to the support of the government and prevented its defeat. About a year ago the leader of the opposition movement supported the present Premier in his appeal to the constituency of Victoria. To-day he is opposing that Premier and supporting the cause of another whom he was instrumental in ousting from the post of First Minister.

This is the province for complications and swift political changes, beyond doubt. Still we are inclined to be somewhat sceptical about the government having a majority of eleven, or even of four. The present Premier has kept himself in absolute harmony with his surroundings. He has changed his policies as often as some of his supporters have changed sides. The uncertainty as to the policy of the government and a corresponding doubt as to its strength in the House will cause the meeting of our legislators to be looked forward to with more than the average amount of interest. We are inclined to believe that the Premier is able to muster a bare majority, just sufficient to bar the necessity of his handing in his resignation, as it will be unnecessary to ring the bell to call central's attention. The removal of the receiver from its place on the phone will send in the call, and the replacing of it will notify central that the conversation is at an end. The purpose of looking into the feasibility of installing this board will mean many thousands of feet of additional wire.

The new switchboard will be of the most up-to-date character. It is primarily for systems that have left the initial stage, and will afford a great improvement. It will enable all the operators to reach every call which is impossible on the present board, trunk lines being utilized for this purpose. Moreover it will prove a boon to the subscribers as it will be unnecessary to ring the bell to call central's attention. The removal of the receiver from its place on the phone will send in the call, and the replacing of it will notify central that the conversation is at an end. The purpose of looking into the feasibility of installing this board will mean many thousands of feet of additional wire.

The company will have to secure new local quarters when the board is ready because the present apartments would be altogether too limited in accommodation. Even now the operators haven't any too much room, and it is quite likely that the headquarters will be moved before very long.

The inventor of the Nasmith battery left a fortune at his death of \$243,500. He went to London in 1822 as a workman at ten shillings a week.

After an exhaustive test of various "breakfast foods" the analyst of the Dominion Island Revenue Department has reported that nothing quite equals "halestone oatmeal parritch" as a food

for the sons and daughters of men. It is more nutritious and more easily digested than any of the preparations with high-sounding names. There is one department of the "art of gastronomy" in which the world "do not move."

Vancouver does not seem to be very decided as to what disposition should be made of Deadman's Island. Mr. Ludgate says he will erect a sand shingle mill there. From the jubilations with which news has been regularly sent out from the Terminal City that "another great saw mill will be erected," or "another shingle mill, the largest in the world, is to be built," the average outsider was persuaded that lumbering was considered to be the business backbone of Vancouver and every addition to the industry would be enthusiastically welcomed. The press seems to fear that some business will be established on the island which will compete unfairly with existing establishments. Some contend that the government has made a foolish bargain with Mr. Ludgate and that the property is worth at least three times as much annually as the government proposes to exact. Political and business rivalries are curiously mixed up in the affair. The muddle is almost as deep as the Carnegie library mix-up in Victoria.

We can hardly believe the story from Washington that the President has appointed Messrs. Root, Lodge and Turner as the American members of the Alaska Boundary Commission. The tribunal, as we understand the case, is to be a judicial one, charged with the duty of determining and suggesting certain legal points in connection with treaties. The commission as named is hardly remarkable for its legal attainments. Turner, we know as a political freak, Lodge we also know to be not entirely free from the prejudices of the average American politician, while we have never heard of the Secretary for War possessing any remarkable legal knowledge or discrimination. We fancy some one has sent that dispatch from Washington as a joke. The President would hardly stamp the proceedings of the commission as farcical before they commenced.

By the way, the Skagway Chamber of Commerce has not yet pronounced upon the proposal to submit the Alaska boundary dispute to arbitration. Perhaps the chamber has followed the business of the dead or dying port into the interior. Of one thing we are sure: If Skagway sends out a protest it will be a hummer. It will make President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay tremble. But it is rumored that Skagway would not fear sackcloth if the decision were to favor the contention of Canada. If the port were in Canada its inhabitants would be in a more prosperous condition than they are in today. And the prospects are none too bright for the future. Canada must secure an entrance to her inland territory. If the decision goes against us and we are denied admittance by the natural and the shortest route, we must open up another. It will pay us to do this, apart altogether from the necessities of the case. When that route is open for business there will be no more Skagway. The declension has been rapid of late; there will be a complete eclipse. There are people in the world whose patriotism becomes a very feeble force when the fuel of material prosperity runs low.

Spion Kop has already become almost a place of pilgrimage. The Natal newspapers report that coach drives to its vicinity take place regularly from Ladysmith. In a word, Spion Kop, like Majuba, promises to be one of the "lions" of South Africa. It is, however, less accessible to the average globe-trotter than another of them, Table Mountain, overlooking Capetown. The battlefields of South Africa give a sad new topographical interest to that country. It is touching to find a reference to the dead of one of those battlefields in an advertisement of a safe of land. This advertisement refers to the Spion Kop district and lays down the condition that the purchasers of the ground must respect the graves which dot it over.

The output of gold in the Rand district in December last was 189,537 ounces, as against 182,749 ounces for December.

ONE FOR VICTORIA.

New Tram Cars Will Be Completed in Couple of Weeks.

"The first three tram cars, now in course of construction in the B. C. Electric Railway Company's shop at New Westminster, will be turned out in a couple of weeks, two of them for use in Vancouver and one for Victoria," says the Vancouver News-Advertiser.

Experts who have inspected the cars say that in workmanship and beauty they compare favorably with the best product of Eastern factories. The company expects to turn out twelve cars this year. Shop Superintendent Driford has recently made some experiments with the Douglas fir, with a view of determining the adaptability of the wood for car construction. The tests have been eminently satisfactory, and Mr. Buntzen said that the next car, following the three now nearing completion, will be built entirely of the British Columbia wood. From the results of his investigations, the superintendent is satisfied that the native car will prove an opener to those who have relied upon imported ash, oak and maple, for certain parts of car construction."

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AN APPEAL IN THE ELECTION CASE

AGAINST DECISION OF MR. JUSTICE MARTIN

The Opening of the Legislature May Result in Delay in Action Being Heard.

The announcement of the session of the legislature, which was made Friday, came just in time to forestall the endeavors of the petitioners against the election of Hon. E. G. Prior to have the case set down for trial at an early date. Under the present provisions of the Election Act, the trial of an election petition may not take place within fifteen days before or after a session of the House. A summons was issued yesterday by T. M. Miller, on behalf of the petitioners in Russell, et al. vs. Prior, for the fixing of a day for trial, and the summons was made returnable this morning. Later in the day the session was gazetted for March 12th, and consequently, when the summons came up in Chambers before Mr. Justice Martin this morning, L. P. Duff, K.C., who appeared for the petitioners, stated that it would be useless for him to ask now for a date to be fixed, in view of the above mentioned provision of the act; the only possible time for the trial before the session would be early next week, and neither side could be prepared by then. A. P. Luxton, on behalf of Col. Prior, contended that this summons was premature, as the date for trial cannot be fixed until five days after the preliminary objections have been finally disposed of. The preliminary objections had been dismissed by His Lordship about three weeks ago, but Col. Prior has commenced an appeal to the Full Court against His Lordship's order, and until this appeal has been disposed of the trial cannot be fixed. He therefore urged that the summons be dismissed with costs. His Lordship said there was no necessity of deciding that point now, in view of the circumstances, and adjourned the summons to be brought on again at one day's notice.

Other matters disposed of in Chambers Saturday morning were as follows: Massam, et al. vs. Standard Copper Co., et al.—An application by defendants for further security for costs was adjourned until next week for further argument. One of the defendants lives in Quebec, and was some time ago granted an order for \$150 security against the plaintiffs, who also reside out of the province. This security is now exhausted, but plaintiffs contend that as they have mineral claims and other property in British Columbia of several hundred thousand dollars in value, they "cannot be made to put up with further security for their suit. The point will be decided next week. G. H. Barnard appeared for the defendants, J. H. Lawson, Jr., appearing in support.

Please vs. Praeger—S. Child (Robertson & Robertson) obtained leave to issue writ for service out of the jurisdiction.

Morgan vs. British Yukon Co.—J. M. Bradburn, for plaintiff, obtained an order for taking of evidence de bene esse.

Wall vs. Palmer—J. M. Bradburn obtained leave to issue a writ for service out of the jurisdiction.

The cost of establishing such a connection will be very large. The cable line itself would be an expensive one, and in addition to that a very considerable outlay will be involved in making the land connections with the cable ends. Heavy wire would be a necessity, and with that comes the need of heavy poles being employed along the route.

EX-GOVERNOR ROSS

Interviewed by the El Paso News—Will Go to New Orleans.

The following appeared in a recent issue of the El Paso, Texas, Daily News:

"Hon. J. H. Ross, of Dawson, British Yukon Territory, the ex-governor of that territory, and now its member in the Dominion parliament, is a guest at the Hotel Orndorff. Governor Ross is here on a southern trip for rest and recuperation. He will leave soon for New Orleans, where he expects to remain some months before going to New York, and thence back to his home.

"The ex-governor is recovering from a severe stroke of paralysis, brought on by overwork and grief over the tragic death of his wife, who perished in the wreck of the Islander, a steamer which sank more than a year ago. On his return to Canada, Mr. Ross will assume the duties of a member of the Canadian parliament at Ottawa from the Yukon Territory. He was elected to fill the position last December, and will have the honor of being the first representative of the new district.

"He said that the country was essentially a placer mining country, no quartz ledges of any great consequence having been discovered. He here for the purpose of looking into the feasibility of securing mining cattle with which to stock his ranch in Manitoba. Accompanying him on the trip are James D. McGregor, of Brandon, Manitoba; G. B. Murphy, of Carberry, Manitoba; and D. A. Ross, of Vancouver, British Columbia. The party is accompanied with Col. J. F. Evans, special treasury agent at this port, having known him when he was in Alaska. They called on the special agent and renewed acquaintance.

The party left for Mr. Urnstorn's ranch on the Sierra Madre, for a few days' trip of inspection. On their return they will go to New Orleans."

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HAPPY AND HEALTHY.

A Beautiful Canadian Girl Saved From Catarrh of the Lungs by Pe-ru-na.



MISS FLORENCE KENAH.

Miss Florence Kenah, 424 Maria street, Ottawa, Ont., writes: "A few months ago I caught a severe cold, which settled on my lungs and remained there so persistently that I became alarmed. I took medicine without benefit, until my digestive organs became upset, and my head and back began to ache severely and frequently. 'I was advised to try Peruna, and although I had little faith I felt so sick that I was ready to try anything. It brought me blessed relief at once, and I felt that I had the right medicine at last. Within three weeks I was completely restored and have enjoyed perfect health since."

"I now have the greatest faith in Peruna."

F. E. KENAH.

WOMEN should beware of contracting catarrh. The cold wind and rain, sleet, and mud of winter are especially conducive to catarrhal derangements. Few women escape.

Upon the first symptoms of catching cold Peruna should be taken. It fights the system against colds and catarrh.

The following letter gives one young woman's experience with Peruna: Miss Rose Gerbing is a popular society woman of Crown Point, Ind., and she writes the following:

"Recently I took a long drive in the country, and being too thinly clad I caught a cold which settled on my lungs, and which I could not seem to shake off. I had heard a great deal of Peruna for colds and catarrh and I

bought a bottle to try. I am pleased that it did, for it brought speedy relief. It only took about two bottles, and I considered this money well spent.

"You have a firm friend in me, and I not only advise its use to my friends, but have purchased several bottles to give to those without the means to buy, and have notified without exception that it has brought about a speedy cure wherever it has been used."—Miss Rose Gerbing.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hoffman Sanitarium, Columbus, O.

THE ISLAND RAILWAY.

Resolutions Passed at Meeting Which Was Held at Cumberland.

A public meeting called by the mayor of Cumberland to consider the question of railway development was held in the city hall, Cumberland, on the 9th inst. There was a large and representative attendance.

Mayor Grant stated the objects of the meeting and then called upon John Matthews.

Mr. Matthews took exception to the fact that the Victoria committee had invited Nannimo and Alberni to co-operate with them, but that Cumberland had been neglected. A petition should be circulated and letters addressed to the local members and others on the subject of railway development. His opinion was that the line should be built up the east coast rather than by way of Alberni.

Bevor Potts thought that the Dominion authorities were the only people who need be approached in the matter, as the provincial government had already done its duty.

Levis Mounce, M. P. P., said there were already two charters granted by the provincial government, one to Cape Scott and the other to Seymour Narrows, and that either of the companies would build if it could obtain a Dominion subsidy.

W. B. Anderson said this community should co-operate with Victoria and Nannimo in the matter. He quoted from J. H. Gray that there was an easy route north of the city which would pass through large tracts of agricultural land of the first quality. The railway should be extended up the east coast.

Dr. Staples then moved the following resolution: That if committee of five be appointed to consider the matter of railway extension in this district.

The motion was carried and the following committee appointed: Bevor Potts, L. A. Mounce, M. P. P., J. Matthews and Geo. Clinton. P. Collis and B. Crawford were afterwards added.

H. F. Pullen then moved as follows: That this meeting is of the opinion that the time has arrived when a railway should be built connecting the north and south ends of Vancouver Island.

And further resolved, That each railway should be built up the east coast, passing through the city of Cumberland.

He said that the haul in twice crossing the mountains would make the Alberni route difficult and expensive, whereas all knew that the east coast route was quite feasible, and further, a railway coming through the pass from Alberni would keep to the other side of Comox lake and the Courtenay river. In this way Cumberland would be side-tracked.

The motion was carried unanimously. S. B. Netherby, of Victoria, who is inspecting the schools here, said that the road must go through soon. The natural route would be by the east coast through the Comox valley. A spur should run through to Alberni. He graphically described the resources of the north end of the Island, expatiating on the natural richness of the country. He urged the people to all pull together for the development of the north end of the Island.

Many others took part in the discussion, after which the meeting adjourned.

YOUNG MEN, Become Independent

Our School can give you a Veterinary Course in simple English language, at home during five months of your spare time, and place you in a position to secure a position within reach of all. Satisfaction guaranteed. Write for full particulars to THE CANADIAN VETERINARY COLLEGE, 800000, London, Ontario, Canada.

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MEMBERSHIP IS ON THE INCREASE

LARGE NUMBERS JOIN NEW BUSINESS BOD

Interesting Meeting of Chamber of Commerce Held Friday Evening—Carnegie Library.

There was a fair attendance at Friday night's meeting of the chamber of commerce. A considerable number of business men were dealt with, among which was the passing of a resolution expressing the opinion that the Carnegie library should be as centrally located as possible and the appointment of a committee to draft a resolution favoring the use of salmon traps in British Columbia waters to be presented to the fish commissioners when they meet.

In the absence of the secretary, George Carter acted in that capacity. The chair was occupied by J. L. Beckwith. Applications were read from 49 applicants for membership. These were accepted. The association now has a membership totaling nearly 125 and the work of the canvassing committee is not completed. Members of that committee reported very satisfactorily. Wherever the canvassers went they were received with unfailing courtesy and in almost every case, where those interviewed were not members of the board of trade, willingness to join the new society was expressed. It was predicted that at the next meeting there would be a still larger number of applications.

Communications were then taken up. The following was read from Arthur Robinson of Duncan:

Mr. A. J. Morley: Dear Sirs—Yours of the 7th inst. to have I have read and am much pleased to see that you and your members are favorably inclined towards the grievance I wrote you about.

To quote the Colonist, Mr. Morley said: "The jam complaint was not not addressed; they were only manufactured under a demand for a cheap article."

If, as Mr. Palmer, the fruit inspector says, that these jams are made in adulteration to sell apple jam for strawberry, raspberry, etc., it is something similar to what I have heard of, which has caused me to legislate to ensure that the protection of dairy farmers in the United States.

Thanking you for your personal sympathy, I remain, Yours very truly, J. A. ROBINSON.

Mr. Clements thought Mr. Robinson was not acquainted with the market in Victoria. There were different kinds of jams. The cheap, which was done in pails and cans, and the other, which was done in glass jars and which retained a superior quality. If Mr. Robinson would do his jam up in the latter style, he would be able to sell any quantity at a good profit.

The communication was laid on the table.

A. F. Fraser, Okaville, Cal., wanted to know whether there were any gold dredgers in operation on the Fraser and if so the names of their operators. The secretary was instructed to endeavor to secure the necessary information and forward it to Mr. Fraser.

Robt. Mellis submitted an application for the secretaryship of the association. J. Elworthy, secretary of the board of trade, enclosed the following resolution passed by that body:

That the secretary be instructed to write Mr. Beckwith, chairman of the committee, advising him that this board is only