From THE DAILY COLONIST, June 10.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Sailed for San Francisco.

By the City of Puebla which left for San Francisco on Sunday, the following were passengers from this city: J. F. Roberts, Mrs. A. M. Taylor, Miss Dakin, Mrs. W. H. Hackett, and child, Alex. Dunsmuir, M. Wilson, Mrs. C. J. Swyney.

Hand in Hand.

The Sunday schools of the Pandora street Methodist and Presbyterian churches have joined hands in arranging for their annual excursion and picnic, which will be to Langford Plains on Dominion Day. The Queen City band has been engaged for the occasion, and "slovely time" is expected by those who will go.

Closed to the Curious.

H. M. S. Amphion was all day Sunday crowded with visitors, to whom every courtesy was extended by her officers and men. Yesterday, as the repairs are now completed and the work of testing is in progress, orders were given that for the present both the ship and the dock will be closed to the public.

Praise for the Police.

In giving commendation where it is due in connection with the suppression of Sunday's fires, the good work done by the police during the evening, from ten o'clock until after one, should not be forgotten. In keeping the crowd in order, doing what they could to extinguish the fire, and preventing thieving, the officers certainly won the approbation of the people.

Ordered a New Organ.

It has been decided by the congregation of St. John's to add to the many attractions of this pretty church, a new and powerful pipe organ, the order for which has already been sent to England. Nothing unforeseen occurring to delay the arrival of the instrument it will be here and in its place within six weeks time—undoubtedly the finest instrument of the kind in western Canada.

Sunday Stealing.

While Mr. Franks, of Johnson street, was spending Sunday at Esquimalt, his store was burglarized in almost midday and fifty dollars stolen. An entry was effected from the rear, the glass in the back door having been broken, and the door opened from the inside. Suspicion rests on a party, on whom the authorities are keeping a close watch for further and more convincing proof.

Fire in a Field.

Sunday afternoon saw the opening of the grass fire season, a field near Catherine street, Victoria West, being swept bare without doing any apparent damage. A few trees that were on the property suffered, and from 2 o'clock in the afternoon until late at night residents in the locality were compelled to watch the fire carefully, in order to protect their homes. The cause of the fire is unknown, and it was not considered necessary to call the firemen to put it out.

A Well-Deserved Donation.

Some time about the end of March an employee at the Albion Iron Works named Hart, who lives on Douglas street, met with an accident, in which his ankle bone was broken. He was thus forced to abandon his work for some time, and, feeling that his was a deserving case, his fellow workmen recently decided to make him a little present, expressive of their sympathy. The result of their kindly decision was that yesterday a purse, containing over $150, was handed to the unfortunate workman by his fellow employees.

Monkeys and Music.

There were two strong attractions at the Hill on Sunday afternoon, and the result was that an unusually large number of visitors put in an appearance. The first attraction was the excellent music discoursed by the recently organized Victoria band, which, under the leadership of Mr. Pauline, is rapidly attracting attention on account of the good music which it on all occasions furnishes. Attraction No. 2 was the cage of monkeys, which are evidently destined to fill the place of the late lamented seal in the affections of park frequenters.

Agents Affected.

The Nanaimo Free Press says the only persons affected by the strike at present prevailing at Wellington are the real estate agents, who find it extremely difficult to obtain the instalments upon the recent deal in real estate from a number of the residents of that district. It is claimed the people of Wellington invested very largely in the recent real estate boom, and many of them would now be glad to sell out at less than cost, rather than wait a few months for a more profitable market.

Cruel and Cowardly.

A case of assault, the most brutal and cowardly, and apparently altogether unprovoked, was committed on an unoffending Chinaman early last evening by a drunken loafer of a fellow, who had just enough sense of the consequence to prompt his immediate flight. John was coming along Johnson street with a heavy burden on his shoulders when this unknown villain came up and deliberately jostled the load off the unoffending Chinaman's shoulder and afterwards brutally struck him in the face two or three times. Then he made tracks and disappeared, leaving the meek Celestial with a bloody face.

Chinese vs. Christians.

Yesterday considerable attention was directed to the site of the new Canada Western Hotel by the appearance of a number of Chinamen working upon the excavations. In fact, there were more Chinamen than whites employed, many of whom were, it was manifest, green at the business. They, however, did fairly good work, but a couple of them whose business it was to hold and manipulate the hand-drill appeared to be very solicitous for their hands as the hammers came down with all the force that their countrymen could give to them. Among the spectators were not a few Celestials and some whites, some of the latter of whom manifestly did not relish the idea of the heathen doing what they regarded as white men's work.

Mr. F. G. Richards, Jr.'s Letter.

Underneath a lengthy communication from F. G. Richards, Jr., in the Times last evening is a note stating that THE COLONIST refused to publish a reasonable explanation of an item appearing in its Sunday's issue. This is untrue. Mr. Richards was informed that a denial of that statement over his own signature would be published, but space would not be given him for the column of criticism on the land act and conduct of the government members. The gentleman whom he brought with him agreed that this was fair, but Mr. Richards took away the communication and evidently told the editor of the Times that the whole communication had been refused publication. Telling half the truth is said to be worse than a downright falsehood. Mr. Richards seems to think differently.

An Indian Industrial School.

Mr. A. W. Vowell, Indian commissioner, returned Saturday evening from Kuper Island, where he had been to see about placing on a working basis an Indian industrial school. The buildings are completed, and all that is wanted is the requisite staff. It is expected that everything will be in running order in a week or ten days. Mr. McCrae, government inspector, who accompanied Mr. Vowell, has remained on the ground to superintend the equipment and furnishing of the institution. The branches taught will include agricultural pursuits, mechanical professions, carpentery and other trades, but the mental education of the pupils will not be overlooked. The number provided for is twenty-five, but additional accommodation has been made for girls, who will be presided over by a matron, yet to be appointed. They will be taught all those domestic arts most useful to girls. Mr. Mackinnon has been appointed superintendent of the entire institution, the object of which will be to raise the Indians, as far as its scope will admit, to a higher and better level of civilization. Saturday Mr. Vowell spent at Duncan, Cowichan, in the vicinity of which there is a large congregation of Indians. Everything was done by them in the most orderly manner, and the occasion partook more the character of a fair or fete than anything else.

Room for More Residents.

A prominent resident, referring to the large number of strangers who were arriving here, with the object of settling in and about the city, remarked, in answer to a COLONIST reporter, that, in view of the growth Victoria was making, there was always room for one more, no matter his trade or profession. There were by no means too many doctors or lawyers, while the laborer or artizan could always find plenty to do, and almost every storekeeper could submit to a limited amount of competition. He pointed out the grand opening there was for market gardners and poultry farmers. These businesses were principally in the hands of Chinese, and any white people who would start in them would receive ample encouragement. All our people were able to pay well for the necessaries of life, and, indeed, for many things that elsewhere might be looked upon as luxuries.

Additional Accommodation.

A few days since there appeared in THE COLONIST a reference to the early removal of "C" battery from their present barracks, which were required for the purposes of the forthcoming agricultural society exhibition. It was pointed out at that time that the premises on Macauley's Point were—as was previously well known—utterly inadequate for all the requirements of the battery, and that, in consequence, some of the men would be compelled to camp out, while it was possible that for the winter the barracks at Beacon Hill would require to be refitted and again occupied.

Yesterday, in response to a letter from the Provincial government, presenting the necessities of the case, a message was received from Sir John A. Macdonald that the additional buildings for which a vote was passed, during the last session of Parliament, would be proceeded with at once, and completed as rapidly as possible.

To Complete the Contract.

A reporter in conversation with John Haggerty, contractor for the excavations for the new hotel near the bridge, was informed of the reasons which had induced him to take on a gang of Chinamen. These were mainly the impossibility of getting steady men to remain permanently. Many who sought work only came on for a day or two, to enable them to "get out of a hole," and as soon as they had earned a few dollars demanded their pay in the middle of the week and went off. Last week he had discharged one of his foremen, in consequence of which 22 out of 50 had left their job, and though it was well known he wished to fill their places, he could not get white people to come. He had, therefore, taken on eighteen Chinamen with their own foremen, and they were working to his satisfaction. Under his contract, had he been willing to do so, he could not have waited on the good will and pleasure of the men, so far as coming back was concerned. The work had to be done and it was his intention to finish it. In all the works on which he had so far been engaged, he had given white labor every opportunity, but it was impossible to allow matters to remain at a standstill.

MACHINERY FOR WESTMINSTER.

New Apparatus for the Brunnette Saw Mills Now Building at Brantford.

British Columbia's resources in the way of forest products are, says the Monetary Times, year by year getting to be better known. The Brunnette Sawmill company, at New Westminster, which is operating on a large scale among the large pines and cedars in the vicinity of that place, have just procured from the Waterous Engine Works company, at Brantford, some machinery which is especially suited for the extraordinary length and thickness of the timber on the Pacific coast. For instance, the sawmill carriage, which is one of the largest ever built in the province, consists of "six girder steel log-seats, extending 76 feet from centre of first to centre of last block. Each block was formed of two 10-inch steel girders, with a heavy steel plate riveted on top of each girder, surmounted by a very heavy knee piece, set forward by three-inch screws made of steel. Under each log-seat were two 3-inch steel axles with heavy steel V wheels on the front and flat wheels with a flange on the back. These run on a heavy steel track. This immense carriage was built to take in logs 7 feet in diameter, 80 feet long, weighing 80 to 100 tons each." The carriage itself, without any woodwork, weighed more than twelve tons. The setting and receding device on this carriage is a new departure. On the same car was shipped a "King Edger," made to take in sawn lumber 30 inches wide, using six saws. This edger with its appurtenances, we are told, weighed in the vicinity of five tons. Such heavy machinery is the only class that will stand the immense timber of the Pacific coast. At the mining district of Nelson City, which is reached over the Northern Pacific to Kootenay, Idaho, and thence by team to Nelson, is to be a sawmill, with edger, planer, and shingle machine, the whole supplied by the Waterous Company. The same firm has received an order from the Northern Pacific Lumber Company for engines, boilers and burner required in their new mill at Port Moody, B. C.

PORT ANGELES

Incorporated as a Town—The First Municipal Election—Population Increasing and Business Brisk.

The act incorporating Port Angeles as a town was voted upon last Saturday, and was carried with but one dissenting vote.

The election for a mayor and councilmen for the new town was also held on Saturday, and was a most exciting contest, the friends of all the candidates working hard, and when the result of the vote was announced, the victors received a perfect ovation. There were two candidates for the mayoralty, Mr. John Dyke and Dr. F. S. Lewis. Mr. Dyke was elected, his majority being 51. The councilmen elected are: E. H. Foster, W. W. Gray, D. P. Quinn, D. McGinnes and James F. Meagher. The five defeated candidates being Thos. Maloney, E. B. Mastick, L. D. Stewart, W. Stewart and Frank McGill.

For treasurer the candidates were D. W. Morse and Geo. H. Gale. The former secured the majority of votes.

The new municipal board will be sworn in on Wednesday, and will hold their first meeting Wednesday evening.

It is expected that within thirty days there will be at least three hundred men employed on the streets of the new town, laying out streets, grading, planking, etc.

The population of Angeles is steadily increasing, and it is confidently hoped that the number of inhabitants will have reached the desired number before the next three months so as to allow of Port Angeles being incorporated as a city.

Business of all kinds is brisk. Building is being pushed, and the new four-story hotel is going up rapidly. The wharf being built by the Union Pacific will be completed in two weeks, the cost being about $10,000. Altogether the prospects of the new town were never brighter, and it is suggested that if owners of lots there, who reside in Victoria, would make an effort to clear them and make some improvements they would greatly enhance the value of their property.

The vote incorporating the town was 171, although there are some 400 names on the roll, but many had not resided long enough to entitle them to a voice in the first election.

The new council will have a busy time for the next few months getting the municipal machinery in proper working order.

Big Sale of Stock.

BALTIMORE, Md., June 9.—Mayor Davidson to-day signed the ordinance passed by the Common Council last week, authorizing the sale of 32,500 shares of Baltimore and Ohio stock, owned by the city, to Mr. Bacon, representing a syndicate, at a price not below par. The Mayor waited until late this afternoon for any other bids that might be made, but none appearing he affixed his signature to the bill. The $3,250,000 must be paid over before July 1st.

TWO FIRES.

Considerable Damage Done on Sunday Morning and Sunday Evening.

To Police Officer Carter's energetic action early Sunday morning, Mr. Jacob Sehl owes the salvation of his factory at Laurel Point from fire. The policeman was walking his beat near James Bay bridge, at ten minutes to three, when he first saw the bright light of the fire. He at once recognized that the blaze had gained such headway that he could not extinguish it without assistance, and so ran to the nearest alarm box. A quick turn out was at once made by the firemen, hose was laid and a stream of water was playing on the fire before Mr. Sehl, who lives close to the factory, awoke to the fact that it was afire. Fortunately the blaze was speedily extinguished, the damage done only amounting to about $200. The cause of the fire was sparks from the boiler room.

A much more serious affair was the blaze that occupied the attention of the department in the evening, and which caused a greater amount of damage than any other for a couple of years. The origin of this fire is a mystery; the first that was known of it was when, at about 9.20 p m., flames were seen bursting through the roof of the old brick building on the corner of Fort and Government streets, above the portion occupied by Mr. Henry Short, gunsmith. Box 54, at the corner, was pulled, and the Tiger engine, with the usual retinue of hose carts and ladder trucks, was soon on the scene. The fire had, however, obtained a thoroughly good start, and although the men had it under control in fifteen minutes from the time they commenced work upon it, it was fully two hours before the last spark was extinguished.

Although no one knows how the fire started, it is supposed to have been in a small room in the rear of Mr. Short's premises, in which a quantity of old boxes, etc., was stored. From here the flames passed upward through the ventilator, demolishing the paper covered partitions of wood on their way, and at last making their appearance though the roof. Before reaching outer air, the blaze had therefore opportunity to creep along the rafters and under the roof, in such a manner as to almost effectually defy the water. In fighting the fire, two engine and fire hydrant streams were used to good effect. One was sent up by the stairway to work on the burning room, two were played on the roof, and two each were used in the protection of John Parker's butcher shop and Leask & Morrison's tailoring establishments adjoining.

The estimate of losses is briefly summarized as follows: To the building, owned by the Dunsmuir estate, about $2,000, partially insured; to the office of Mr. W. J. Quinlan, adjoining, $200, insured in the British Columbia; and to the drug store of Mr. George Morison, by water and breakage principally, $2,000, also covered by insurance. In addition to damage by fire, the following suffered damage by fire only: Henry Short, $500, insured; P. T. Johnstone, seeds, $300; Flint & Williams, $200. The total loss is therefore estimated roughly at about $5,200.

In connection with both fires it was noticeable that the buildings interested were old enemies of the firemen. Mr. Sehl's factory has required their attention twice before, and the old Occidental building has a fire record of its own. Twenty years ago it was the scene of a fire, then again about ten years later, when it was occupied by Capt. Martin and used as a billiard and card parlor. The blaze on that occasion occurred in almost the same manner as on Sunday night, and a few days later the proprietor was compelled to stand his trial for incendiarism, on which charge he was, however, acquitted. Again in 1885 the building caught, but no serious damage was done. It is one in which a blaze has considerable advantage, as the walls and partitions are all of wood, covered with paper, instead of plaster. Up to a few days ago the block was held under 20 years lease by Mr. H. C. Beeton, but the lease expiring it is now under the direct control of the owners—the heirs of the late Sir James Douglas.

During the morning fire a report was spread that THE COLONIST building was ablaze, and Chief Engineer Deasy was on the point of dividing his forces at once when he received more reliable information to the effect that the report was a groundless one. Hoseman William P. Smith, who was really too ill to work, was overcome by the smoke during the evening fire, and had to be carried home.

NO CAPTURE.

How Officers Went After Contraband Chinese and Came Back in a Hurry.

It is said that a few evenings since two public officers in this city, having got wind of the fact that a cargo of contraband Chinese were about to leave for the other side, succeeded in locating them—or rather their starting point at Oak Bay. Proceeding there they ensconced themselves under a tree to await developments, not knowing that two American sheriffs, out on the same mission, had perched in the branches above them. The developments, as reported, were somewhat as follow: Hearing the branches creaking under the weight of something upon them, the men underneath could not conceive into what kind of a scrape they had got, and in consequence began to imagine all kinds of terrible things. The Yankees, perceiving their perturbation, did their best to increase their anxiety which, it must be confessed, was worked up to almost the highest point of tension. Presently—and it was about the witching hour—two weird figures were observed to leave the vessel in the offing and come ashore. There, after having exchanged words, revolvers were drawn and several sharp shots rang out in the still air, when all of a sudden down came two men from the top of the tree and two men from underneath sprang up. The quartette, it is said, at once made double quick time for the city, and as for what further happened the deponent knoweth not."

IMMIGRATION INCREASING.

Prospects of a Great Number of Settlers Entering British Columbia, this Year.

Inquiries made at the Immigration office, and from other people, naturally supp sed to be well informed on the subject, favor the id a that the arrivals of immigrants during the present season will be considerably in excess of last year, both at Victoria and Vancouver, at which latter place a branch immigration office was opened some months ago. Yesterday, one gentleman from Manitoba, with his wife and seven children, arrived here with the object of settling, and, being possessed of both means and experience, has not yet made up his mind whether to go into business or take up land. Inquiries are continually coming from the eastern provinces, from California and the old country, each succeeding train adding to the number of those who have come here with the intention of staying. A number of English, Irish and Sco ch people are here on the lookout for investments, and are expressing regret that so much of the available property on the East coast of the Island is, to a certain extent, locked up, or is only obtainable on more stringent conditions than they had anticipated. However, it is expected that the surveys in the Nitinat and San Juan districts will be the means of settling up lands in that vicinity at no distant day, even though the surveying parties do not return before October or November. "The idea," said one gentleman, "has prevailed that along the east coast, however much room there may be for the establishment of fishing villages there is but little land fitted for agriculture." "My own opinion," he added, "and I have been over a considerable amount of territory, is that though the cultivatable sections may be comparatively small in extent, taking, each one of them by itself, there are many of them, and all easily accessible from the fishing villages that are sure to be established, with which, and the city, there are sure to be early and ample means of communication. West of Cape Mudge and to the north of Comox, the valleys are larger than in the more easterly parts of the island. There are lots of alder and maple bottoms and grassy swamps, which for the present are much preferred to the more heavily timbered localities."

THE THEATRE.

Highly Successful Reproduction of "Pygmalion and Galatea" and "Withered Leaves."

A fairly good house greeted the second production of "Pygmalion and Galatea" given in aid of the orphans of St. Ann's. The performance of the ladies and gentlemen in the cast was fully criticized after their first appearance, and it is unnecessary now to make any extended reference to it. It is but fair, however, to state that the acting of each was in the highest degree creditable. That amateurs could present so perfect a performance of a really difficult piece was a surprise to all who had not been present at its first production. That such was the case is in a great measure due to the painstaking training of Mr. and Mrs. Adderley, who have proved themselves finished artists. If any special mention is made it is to the clever acting of Miss Kathleen Brady, Miss Macauley and Mr. Edgar Marvin, jr., for it is difficult to believe that these three made their debut on the stage the other evening.

In the comediatta of "Withered Leaves," the several characters were again well taken. Mr. C. W. Rhodes was a natural old gentleman. Miss Sadie Brady was a sweet "May Rivers." Miss Macauley and Lieut. Chads also won new honors, while it is almost needless to add that Mr. Adderley was a delightful Tom Conyers. The dressing of the stage and the pretty pictures formed during the progress of the two plays showed the hand of an artist in their arrangement. Mr. Adderly is a subject for deserved congratulation for the high success he has achieved in his efforts, and it will be with pleasure that Victorians will support any further productions that he may control.

The non-union orchestra, led by Prof. Sharpe, gave good satisfaction, their several selections being well received. Mr. Whitney's cornet playing was much admired.

A large number of floral compliments were handed up to the stage to several of the ladies during the evening, a custom not fraught with much interest to the majority of the audience.

INTERIOR NEWS.

(From the Kootenay Star.)

REVELSTOKE.

Chief Constable Kirkup will go to Sproat on the next boat, and will be Chief Constable of the force assigned to duty there during railroad construction. Mr. B. H. Lee, ex-officer of the British army, will be his assistant.

Wilson & Co.'s pack train started for Big Bend again on Thursday with sixteen loads, and two saddle ponies, carrying about 4,000 pounds. John, the Indian packer, got kicked on the leg and could not go out with the train this trip.

A Brotherhood of Trainmen was organized at Donald on Tuesday 27th May, by Bro. Slatterly, Grand Chief Organizer for the Brotherhood.

The Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada has been represented in this locality for several weeks by Professor John Macoun, in the department of Natural History. He is one of those gentlemen by whom Prof. Alfred R. C. Selwyn, C. M. G., LL. D., F. R. S., director, has surround d himself in the scientific pursuits germane to his department. The labors of Prof. Macoun as the Dominion naturalist, began eighteen years ago, and although they have not been entirely continuous, they have left a record in the department of Natural History which will hold its place as a standard for the guidance of future explorers. Himself, son and assistant went down to Deer Park on Tuesday, where they will establish a camp and investigate its natural history. Thence they will proceed to the boundary line and from there to Kootenay Lake.

SPROAT.

Joe Wilson arrived on the 3rd inst. with forty head of well-conditioned cattle. Great difficulty was experienced in swimming them across the river and some three or four steers which showed fight were instantly shot. Joe says a band of 400 is on the way here from Okanagon country.

The latest arrival from Nelson reports that a crusher has been erected at the Blue Bell and is working admirably.

Railroading is proceeding stead ly, and one can form no idea of the difficulty of carrying on such a work so far from its base of supply, and without telegraph communication, but the rapid trips of the Koo enai make up in a measure for these drawbacks.

The townsite is a very pretty one, and under the liberal terms offered to those wishing to purchase lots, we will have quite a nice village here before long.

The town now consists of post office, the Hotel Kootenay, two general stores, those of Green Bros., Ilecillewait, and Lemen, of Revelstoke, both carrying a full stock, and four restaurants.

KOOTENAY POLITICS.

Both the Inland Sentinel and Kootenay Star are full of political news—reports of meetings, addresses of the candidates, and current opinion on the result of the contest.

In Yale district, the Sentinel is confident of the return of Messrs. Vernon and Martin, and speaks hopefully of Mr. Wardle as the third member. He is well and favorably known by the majority of the electors, and would be a valuable addition to the government ranks. He is possessed of considerable business ability, and is well qualified to assist in forwarding the interests of the district.

The districts of Cariboo and Lillooet have fallen into line and will return the straight government ticket.

In East Kootenay, the contest will be close, with the chances in favor of Col. Baker. Lines are very sharply drawn between the parties. Col. Baker largely retains his old friends and is especially strong among the principal employes of the C. P. R.

In West Kootenay, of the four candidates in the field, the Star prefers Mr. J. M. Kellie. He is a consistent supporter of the government. He knows the needs of mining, being himself a miner. Having lived in Kootenay district for six years he is familiar with its various interests and can represent them wi h credit.

As regards Mr. Farwell, he defines his position in the Star as neither a government supporter nor an oppositionist, and therefore it would appear forms a party of one; but it is feared that Mr. Farwell seeks it because he has a personal grievance to serve or redress, and that his election will prolong the troubles from which this town of Farwell or Revelstoke has been desperately suffering for several years.

To be Sent Back.

WASHINGTON, June 10.—The secretary-treasurer has instructed the collector of the port at San Francisco to send back to China fifteen Chinamen who have illegally entered the United States.

Horse Thief Killed.

FLEMMINGSBURG, Ky., June 10.—Jno. McKilliken, a young man, went to church at Forman's chapel last night. During the service he slipped out, cutting bridles of seven or eight horses, and mounting another gave a Comanche yell and drove the whole herd ahead of him. He was pursued and shot fatally, one ball entering the back of his head and coming out at the mouth.

A REALLY LIVELY TIME

At the Annual Meeting of the School Board Yesterday Morning—Mutual Explanations.

Various Views Set Forth from Various Standpoints and in Various Guises.

Quite a number of electors attended the annual meeting of the school board yesterday morning in the council chamber of the City Hall. Mr. Hayward presided. After routine, the secretary, Col. Wolfenden, presented the annual report of the trustees, embracing the operations of the past year. It says:

To the Electors of Victoria City School District.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—Your trustees have the honor to present their annual report as required by the public school act, and it is a pleasing duty to state that the schools are in a very satisfactory condition. The greatest number of pupils attending in any one month during the present school year was 1605, the average daily attendance being 1108.40, a daily average of 71.60 greater than in any previous year. These figures embrace the period from the 1st August, 1889, to 31st May, 1890, it being impossible to include the returns for the present month owing to the statute requiring the annual meeting to be held on the second Monday in June of each year. Your trustees would respectfully recommend the legislature at its next session to amend the school act so that the annual meeting and the nomination of trustees can be held on the same day in the month of July in each year, when full returns for the school year could be given in the annual report.

During the midsummer holidays of last year, commodious additions were made to the four ward schools, in order to accommodate the large increase in the number of pupils, and a monitor appointed to each of these highly appreciated schools. A neat cottage was also built for the janitor of the central schools, and the whole of the school buildings painted and put in thorough repair.

The board, during the last session of the legislature, succeeded in obtaining appropriations for heating the central schools by steam; for the purchase of new desks where necessary; for an increase of the salaries of the monitors employed in the ward schools; for an additional teacher in the girls' department of the central schools, and for the erection of new sheds for the assembling of the pupils; and it is intended to furnish one of these sheds with the necessary apparatus for a gymnasium with the funds provided by the excellent entertainment given by the teachers and pupils last winter.

TEACHERS RETIRED, AND PROMOTED.

The following teachers have retired since last report: Mr. R. Offerhaus, Mr. D. E. Ker, Miss Gowen, Miss Storey, Miss Wolfenden, Miss Todd and Miss Pelly. The following are the new appointments made: Mr. J. F. Smith as first assistant and Mr. S. B. Netherby as second assistant high school; Miss Armstrong to third division girls; Miss Sylvester to fifth division boys; Miss Bradley to sixth division boys; Miss Pickard to seventh division boys, and Miss Fraser to eighth division girls; and the following monitors were appointed to the ward schools, viz.: Miss Lorimer, James Bay; Miss Withrow, Hillside; Miss Kerr, James Bay; and Miss Fawcett, Spring Ridge. The following teachers were promoted during the last year: Miss Cameron, Miss Jeffrey, Miss Keast, Miss Carmichael, Miss Robinson and Miss Munro.

Your trustees, at the beginning of the school year, deemed it advisable to transfer the principals of the ward schools, and they have reason to believe that this step has borne beneficial results.

THE SCHOOL CONTROVERSY

It is with regret that the board has to draw attention to the uncalled for and highly misleading statements lately appearing in the public press, reflecting upon the discipline maintained in our public schools. Such attacks are calculated to do serious injury and to convey a false impression, especially to strangers, who are unacquainted with our excellent school system, as it is the duty now of the trustees to have duly considered all complaints reported to them, and can confidently assert that the exaggerated statements referred to were wholly unjustified.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE.

The following is a summary of the expenditure for the past year, exclusive of that incurred by the Lands and Works department:

Teachers salaries	$19,620 00
Janitors	1,260 00
Coal and wood	376 10
Incidental expenses (approximate)	559 05
Total	$21,815 45

Your trustees venture to hope that the mayor of Victoria will be able to take his seat as chairman of the board.

The retiring trustees are: R. Wolfenden, Jame Bay ward; Dr. R Morrison, Yates street ward, and H. F. Heisterman, Johnson street ward, whose successors you will be called upon to elect on Monday, the 16th instant.

In conclusion, the board feel justified in reporting that the public schools of the city are yearly becoming more and more efficient, and they trust that their efforts to promote the cause of education will meet with your approbation.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Chas. Hayward, acting chairman; H. F. Heisterman, Richard Morrison, Ed. Mahony, daine, R. Erskine, trustees; R. Wolfenden, secretary.

A PASSAGE AT ARMS.

Mr. Muir commenced a discussion on the question of false returns by the trustees, when Mr. M. Miller moved the adoption of the report so as to bring it before the meeting, which Mr. Muir continued his remarks, with a view to showing that false returns of attendance were made by the instructions of the superintendent himself.

Mr. Lawson rose to a point of order, showing that they were not there to sit in judgment on the superintendent of education.

Mr. Muir disputed the point and read the statute governing these returns.

The secretary asked Mr. Muir if he could say that last year's report was false? Could he prove so?—if not, then his remarks were entirely out of order. They were dealing with the trustees and not with the superintendent of education. If that gentleman makes a mistake in his returns was that the fault of this board? (Hear, hear.) The electors were asked to come there and hear the report of the trustees not that of the superintendent of education; therefore unless Mr. Muir could prove that the report of the trustees was false, he (Col. Wolfenden) protested against the interruption.

Mr. Munro Miller rose to a point of order on the same question. He had come there to hear a report of the trustees, not a political discussion on the case of a man whom the government had squeezed off. He asked for the putting of the question—the reception or rejection of the report.

Chairman—Of course the report is open for discussion, but I am inclined to think, Mr. Muir, that you are going too far.

Mr. Muir complained that he had been unable to get last year's report from the trustees so that he might look up some figures. He left it to the public to form their own conclusions.

Mr. Bond rose to a further point of order, and

Mr. Muir insisted on his statement that the returns published were false.

Secretary (holding up report)—Do you say this is false?

Mr. Muir—I say that the number of school attendants is false—

Secretary—Last year or this year?

Mr. Muir—No; two years ago.

The Chairman—We are not dealing with that.

The Secretary—Will you say, Mr. Muir, that the report of last year is false?

Mr. Muir—No.

The Secretary—You are dealing with the superintendent of education, not with the trustees.

Mr. Muir—I want it amended. I want it put in that the trustees be requested to see that true returns of this city are published in the annual school report.

Mr. Lawson—We will presume that the returns are true until they are shown to be false; until then we are not going to condemn the trustees. The gentleman who finds fault is bound in honor and common sense to show that the returns are false

Mr. Muir—They show it on their face.

A FURTHER LIVELY TIME.

Mr. Wilson said it was quite refreshing to see such an interest taken in school matters. There was a time when the trustees got one man to move the adoption of the report. The schools were run in the interest of the chairman—

Mr. Hayward—Thank you.

Mr. Wilson, continuing his remarks, said our interest in public school matters had gone down so low as to require something like a revolution to stir it up. The Chinese were even brought in to defeat the candidate on one occasion. Mr. Wilson proceeded to state that the present secretary had no right to act in that capacity; he was a government employe and was receiving government pay, and should never have been allowed to act as trustee. Mr. Wilson spoke on the question of the qualification of teachers, alleging that he could prove that some of the present teachers are not qualified to hold their positions. He cited a case now pending against one of the teachers for cruelty, and ventured the statement that it would be shunted by the trustees.

The Chairman—You have no right to say that.

Mr. Wilson said that he spoke from experience of years ago; he had a boy of his own who was punished for telling the truth, and all the satisfaction he could get from the trustees was an enquiry held with closed doors. The result was that the boy despised the master and there was no more work done. There are boys who must be punished for filthy manners or habits; others miss their lessons, but he did not see why boys should be punished for that; there are boys who are disobedient—they should be punished, because if discipline is not maintained the result is mutiny. He had no sympathy with those who croak over their children being punished for disobedience. He was glad to see mothers present at the meeting today, and he hoped they would move in this question. He accused the trustees of pandering to the government, which, after all, was but a committee of the people, and said he was glad to see this stir, it was a good thing. They wanted manly men and womanly women as teachers; they wanted no sneaking, snivelling teachers, of whom there had been too many. Then the increase of the school attendance was not due to the beneficence of the government, but to the increase of population and immigration. He would have an end of such rot and would ask to be given plain English. Let them elect trustees who don't fear the people, who don't fear the government no matter what party is in power, but simply look after the interest of the school. Let them have trustees who are heads of families and who understand their responsibilities. Then there was this iniquitous school tax.

It was suggested that this was not a part of the report, but Mr. Wilson submitted that it was a schoo lmatter and therefore in order for discussion. He would like this meeting to protest against this tax, it acted unfairly and unjustly against Victoria taxpayers in making them pay for outside places.

Rev. Mr. Macleod asked if it were not the law that all cases of corporal punishment in the schools shall be reported to the trustees; also the number of punishments within the last year; also if any resolution had been passed by the board giving instruction with regard to the use of the rod in the public schools?

The chairman, in answer to the last question—Not recently; five years ago a resolution was passed absolutely forbidding any corporal punishment, but that has been rescinded.

Rev. Mr. Macleod—Are the board aware of any children being withdrawn on account of corporal punishment?

The Secretary—No such cases have been officially reported to the board.

Mr. Lawson—Have any of the teachers been brought before the trustees for illusing the children?

Mr. Stamford—I don't know about the children being ill-used. I have three, and they are always bothering me for money to buy presents for the teachers.

The Secretary—In reply to the question of Mr. Lawson, I may say that I have been on the school board for two years, and during that time there has not been half a dozen complaints as to whipping by the teachers. (Hear, hear.)

I may safely say that when a complaint has been sent in, the trustees have attended to it fairly and fully. There are two cases now under consideration, and they will be finished to-night. I say again, and I challenge contradiction, that there have not been four other cases sent in. If you take into consideration that we have 1,400 children attending the public schools of this city the wonder is that someone doesn't get licked sometimes. Do you think it is possible for a teacher, having seventy or eighty children, to maintain discipline without the use of the rod? I don't.

Mr. Bond complained of the disrespectful behaviour of some children. He had spoken to the teachers, and they promised to punish the offenders if he could point them out. He inferred from this that it was a matter for the home, and if parents would pay better attention to their children's conduct, there would be less necessity for the rod at school.

Mr. Bland asserted that it was the practice to set one boy to spy on all the rest, and he cited a case of his own boy, who was sick from a whipping. This was denied by a gentleman in the meeting, who gave the doctor's word for his statement.

Mr. Bland further stated that there were pupils leaving and going to the Catholic college simply on account of the whippings.

Mr. Lawson asked if it was the custom not to use the rod in that institution.

No reply.

Rev. Mr. Fraser was not quite sure that they should pass that clause of the report referring to punishment in the schools. They were thereby reflecting on the press and all those who took part in the controversy. It seemed to him that it would be well to leave that clause out. He had no personal interest in the matter; he was not a sorehead, and he had no complaint to make against the trustees. If in order, he begged to move an amendment to the adoption of the report, that the clause in question be struck out.

Mr. Burkholder seconded the motion, adding a condemnation of corporal punishment.

Mr. Lawson, as one of the members of the press, protested against the statement that the press had been misleading. He sympathised with the trustees in this matter, because he had been a teacher and a trustee himself, and he knew what children were like; when they tell their little grievances they are not always exact. Boys and girls can be very sick in the morning and be better when school hour has passed; he used to be so himself. From the statements that had been going round it would seem that the teachers of Victoria were a hard lot—they were not, which was clearly proved by the fact of there not being six cases of cruelty reported during the last two years. Children should be taught to take punishment bravely. Where could be found a harder race than the English, and yet they were birched when they were boys?

The Secretary protested against the passage being expunged, because the trustees were not fairly dealt with in the matter. He complained that people having any grievance should rush into the press before giving the trustees an opportunity of enquiring into it.

A discussion arose here, in which Rev. Mr. Macleod's sermon was again touched upon and brought Mr. Macleod to his feet. He had no desire to stir up strife; he desired simply to see the system of discipline changed in the schools. He had no quarrel with the teachers, it was with the rawhide. As for the sermon, he might say that either Col. Wolfenden had not read it or he was simply extracting sentences from it without the context, which was not fair. Mr. Macleod explained in calling public attention to his discussion in his sermon. He simply to lay down the principles which should guide teachers and parents in the discipline of children. His utterances were in accordance with the theory of Baldwin. He had never been one of the sentimentalists who declare that there should never be, under any circumstances, a rod used in the public schools; but he did say that the constant use of it for trivial offences was demoralizing and hardening to the children. Corporal punishment should be inflicted with great judiciousness. As far as he was concerned himself, his purpose was not to hurt any individual or any teacher. He spoke from observations in one department, and he simply wished to see the law carried out, and the children protected from excessive punishment.

Col. Wolfenden asked Mr. Macleod if he had not stated that there was a reign of terror in our schools.

Rev. Mr. Macleod—Will Mr. Wolfenden read the sentence in which it occurs?

Col. Wolfenden—Was not that a misleading statement? The trustees were not aware of a reign of terror existing.

After a little more discussion the amendment was lost and the report adopted as a whole, after which the meeting adjourned.

NORTHERN NEWS NOTES.

In company with the George W. Elder, the steamer Boscowitz arrived in from the north on Sunday, bringing a full complement of passengers—chiefly Indians—and a heavy freight of box lumber and potatoes. The Cosmopolis, which was reported in trouble not long ago, came through Seymour Narrows with the Boscowitz on Saturday. Her accident had been of a very trifling character. She was only on the beach at Bella Bella for one night and drifted off with the tide in the morning, in no way injured.

Fishing in the northern rivers has not yet commenced; the spring run opened well, but when the Boscowitz was leaving had slacked down considerably. Work on the Skeena is expected to begin about the 15th inst., and on the Nass the canners are having a little trouble with the Indians who generally do the fishing. Last year boat pullers were paid $40 per month, and fishermen $45. This season $35 and $40 were the wages offered, and failing to get the former prices for their labor the Siwashes struck. The canners say that they can keep on striking till they tire of the operation. About twenty-five of the strikers came down by the Boscowitz intending to go to work on the Fraser.

Politics in the upper district are at boiling point. In addition to the two candidates previously announced, Messrs. Hall and Cunningham, "Judge" Grahame has entered the field, it is presumed as an Independent. He was at one time Gold Commissioner, before the Skeena River trouble, and is now storekeeper for Mr. Dempster at Aberdeen. The general opinion is that Mr. Hall of the H. B. company will carry the polls with a strong majority, but that the nominations will not take place until after the busy season now opening. A government surveyor, with a large party of Naas Indians had started for Observatory Inlet, just before the Boscowitz sailed homewards, their purpose being to define the lines of certain Indian reservations near the boundary.

BOUTONNIERES.

Button-hole bouquets, or, as they are more elegantly termed, boutonnieres, are decided