Pages Miss-placed by Guards



# British Columbia.

### SANDON.

Sandon, B. C., April 12.—There is still about four feet of snow on the ground and it is snowing to-day for all it is worth. We do not expect to see the snow off the ground before the expiration of another month.

Sandon is built in a gulch about 150 yards wide, with what was once a beautiful rushing mountain stream of delicious water running through, but now contaminated with all sorts of filth. This I am glad to say is on the eve of being rectified, when the water works bill is through the provincial house. When the work is done the water supply of Sandon will be equal in purity to anything in the world, its source being away up in the mountains away from any contamination and the pressure sufficient to throw water from the nozzle one hundred feet. The engineers are now at work locating the pipe line and tanks to impound the water, and we are anxiously looking forward to the day when we can imbibe without fear of evil result, that best of all beverages, water, though I must confess there are times when I can in pleasant society stand it mixed with something else.

Shipments of ore are being made by the Star mines to Pueblo, Col., and Argentine, Kansas. They shipped eight or nine cars last week and are steady shippers. On the 1st of May their concentrator will be in operation and they expect to operate on one hundred tons a day from their own mines. The system of concentrating at this plant is as follows: The ore is brought to the concentrator by gravitation tramway and dumped into crushers; it is again elevated, much the same as flour in a flour mill, passed through a revolving sieve into other crushers, and then into revolving machines where it is washed by jets of water. The non-metallic portion being the lightest is washed away, the residue being the metallic substances, is the concentrate for shipment to the refineries. The machinery is run by a Pelton wheel and consequently the power is inexpensive after the first cost of laying the pipe line conducting the water to the wheel. It seems to be a very perfect plant and I am satisfied will do for Messrs. Byron White & Co. what they expect of it.

The Ruth mine (Messrs. McVay & O'Neill's) are shipping about four cars weekly to the United Silver smelter at Great Falls, Mont., but their shipments will shortly cease as the trails for rawhiding will soon be useless. They will then leave the ore on the dump until they can haul by wagon.

The Reco mine (J. M. Harris) is waiting to ship until the wagon road is built, as rawhiding on the south side of the town is now played out, the snow practically for that purpose being gone.

Messrs. Sudrow & Thompson, of the Belt prospect, have just struck an eight inch lead of really good stuff, and I expect in a week's time they will have a carload for shipment. This mine is very advantageously placed, being only about 60 feet above the Kaslo & Slocan track and directly opposite the Balmoral hotel, one of the principal hotels here.

I have not had time yet to make any observation of the Cody mines, but in my next I hope to be able to tell you something.

It is the intention of Messrs. Harris & Sproat, owners of the townsite, to commence grading our one and only street as soon as the snow goes; this, with a general clean-up, will be such an improvement that we will hardly know ourselves. I am glad to see that there is a prospect of a little paint being used, other than the proverbial red. Messrs. McDonald, of the Balmoral, are setting the example, which if followed by our other hotels and stores, will considerably improve the appearance of the town and consequently be an advantage to such as have an interest here.

Two balls in one week is the sum of the gaiety, a calico ball on Easter Monday, which was graced by the presence of our future member, and the other given by Chisholm & McKay, to celebrate their opening in the Star hotel. Not being a dancing man I wasn't present at either, but from what I hear they were both decided successes and patronized by the elite of Sandon society.

I have just heard that Mr. Sproat has been successful in obtaining an appropriation of $50 per month for a school teacher. I think personally that $60 per month is liettlnehugo shrdlucmfwy per month is little enough for anyone here. Hotel rates are $2.50 per day, and board cannot be obtained anywhere for less than $8 per week. Such a thing as room for rent is unknown, and I think a special allowance should be made for school teachers in such places as Sandon during their infancy.

### PILOT BAY.

The Nelson Miner.

Quite a number of men have brought their families to live here lately and it will not be long before a school will be in order.

The more ore is taken out of the Blue Bell the more is brought in sight. The grade is also said to be improving as the work gets deeper.

At the smelter everything is working smoothly as usual. About 100 men are employed and bullion is being shipped with great regularity. Mr. H. S. Mulliken, the new superintendent, late of Aurora, Illinois, evidently thoroughly knows his business.

There have been several claims staked lately on Crawford Bay quite close to here. The White Star, True Blue and Blue Jacket are all quite close to the water and the former shows a ledge said to be 25 feet wide, containing copper and silver. Work is to commence on it shortly if the assays to be made are favorable.

### AINSWORTH.

Nelson Miner.

The contract for the Highlander tunnel is finished, they are in between 600 and 700 feet.

Clark & Van Hook have a bond and lease on the tariff. They are taking out ore and will ship next week.

About 125 tons of ore a week from the Skyline is being shipped to Pilot Bay. They have eight men working.

The Canadian Pacific Mining Company are putting in a flume on Woodbury creek to bring water down to run the Burleigh drill.

The gold excitement has fizzled out. It was caused by the necessity of having a drain made to take off the water which was spoiling the street.

On the Little Phil Tom McGovern and his brother Phil are working steadily and taking out some good ore. Two men are working on the Black Diamond.

No. 1 mine is looking well; they are working 12 men; the new piping has arrived for running the water to the concentrator and will be taken up to the mine as soon as the roads are better.

### KASLO.

Nelson Tribune.

Messrs. McKenzie and Gillis, who have spent the winter in developing their claim, the Lake View, on Six Mile creek, about three miles from the Columbia, have returned to Kaslo. They report encouraging showings on the property, and that they have under consideration an offer from Marcus Daly of Anaconda to bond the property at a handsome figure, with considerable cash payment. The same parties hold two other properties in the same vicinity. They have been visited by Daly's representative.

T. G. Blackstock, of Toronto, and C. F. Law, were in the city during the week, and went on to Sandon to meet their mining expert, when a thorough examination will be made of the Noble Five group of mines, upon which they have an option, which has been extended until the 1st of May. It is generally thought that the deal will be consummated, as the eastern investors are thoroughly in earnest.

The steamer Halys, from Bonner's Ferry, arrived at Kaslo on Tuesday last, being the first steamer to come down the river this season. She brought several passengers and a quantity of vegetables.

### KAMLOOPS.

The Inland Sentinel.

In conversation with a gentleman from Lillooet yesterday he informed us that the whole district, with the exception of three or four persons, intended to support Mr. H. Bostock.

Mr. H. W. Kent, manager of the New Westminster and Burrard Inlet Telephone Company, is in the city arranging for the installation of a telephone service here. The company propose to give intending subscribers the service for three months free of charge. This is to satisfy them not alone of the usefulness of the service, but of its thorough efficiency as well. After the first three months the charge is to be $2.50 per month.

Ashcroft is agitating for a customs office to be established there, a facility which that town should undoubtedly be accorded. The Dominion government surely takes enough money in the way of customs duties out of this province, not to object to giving people the needed facilities for paying it in. The Journal says: "A letter signed by nearly all the business firms of Ashcroft has been sent to Ottawa, one copy to Senator Reid and one to J. A. Mara, M.P., asking them to try and secure service so that a collection office may be established here. It is a matter of much importance to the people here and of the upper country, as it will save many trips to Kamloops and other points, and much vexatious delay and annoyance."

### NICOLA.

The Inland Sentinel.

Several showers and snow squalls have visited this locality and it would seem as if we were going to have a backward spring, after all the bright prospects to the contrary.

The people have been busy for some time past preparing the soil for the seed, and a few weeks of honest toil has wrought quite a change in the appearance of the gardens and other agricultural lands. The pasture lands have greatly improved during the past week or ten days, and the cattle on the ranges are picking up finely. Mr. Clarke, of the village, is putting in a big irrigation ditch, which will be sufficient when completed to supply for his whole ranch, which formerly had been used for grazing purposes only.

Prospecting parties and mechanics still continue to pass through here in large numbers en route to the Similkameen mines, where a busy season is expected.

Considerable interest is being taken here on the Manitoba school question and many are of the opinion that Mr. Mara will never face his constituents after supporting the remedial bill. So far as Nicola Valley is concerned at any rate "his name is Dennis."

### NELSON.

Nelson Tribune.

For some time past prospectors have been finding pyrrhotite iron ore, more or less impregnated with copper pyrites, along the east shore of Kootenay lake near the mouth of Crawford's bay. Quite a number of locations have been made by Pilot Bay people, and some very encouraging assays have been obtained.

Jack Redding, J. J. McFeetus, Ike Lewis and James Beers have recently made several locations on the east side of the lake about four miles south of Davie and about half a mile back from the lake. Some of their ore is pyrrhotite and some galena. Considerable brittle silver is visible. Assays range from 150 to 600 ounces of silver to the ton.

The Spokane papers say that J. D. Farrell has been appointed general manager of all the mining and other property interests in Slocan district of A. E. Humphreys and W. H. Yawkey. These gentlemen control the Alamo, Cumberland, Idaho, Yakima, and Ivanhoe mines, the concentrator and store at Three Forks and the Tramway from the concentrator towards the Alamo mine.

Twenty-two carloads of ore from Ainsworth and Slocan mines have reached the smelter at Pueblo, Colorado. The ore averaged 95 ounces silver and 60 per cent lead to the ton

The following is a list of the metallic minerals which have been recognized so far in West Kootenay district: Native gold, native silver, native copper, native arsenic, galena, cerrusite, anglesite, alstatite, argentite, pyrargyrite, proustite, chalcopyrite, chalcocite, bronite, tethrahedrite, haematite, limonite, siderite, blende, greenokite, stibnite, jamesonite, mispickel.

The Hall mines smelter is shut down for a week or ten days to allow the tramway contractors to get a couple of thousand tons of ore in the bins. The tramway, since it was cut in two, has been running satisfactorily, but owing to the number of buckets that have dropped off, only about enough ore to keep the smelter running from day to day could be brought down. New clips have been ordered, and on their arrival the buckets will be picked up and put on the line again, when, it is expected, from 200 to 250 tons of ore will be delivered daily at the ore bins. During the last run 3500 odd tons were run through the smelter—the average being over 100 tons a day. It is added that another stack will be added at once provided the tramway can bring down enough ore to keep two furnaces in blast.

Austin Corbin, manager of the Spokane and Northern and Nelson & Fort Sheppard railways, said to a Spokane Chronicle reporter the other day: "The improvement in the service that we have in view is to put on a through train daily to Nelson and return. That is, a passenger train will leave Spokane about the same tome as now and run through to Nelson without a change of cars. Another passenger train will leave Nelson daily for Spokane, arriving here about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. This change has not been definitely decided on but I think such change will go in effect over the Spokane and Northern by May 1st."

The following returns of shipments of bullion, matte and ore from the mines and smelters in Southern Kootenay, since last week's report, were obtained from the custom house at Nelson and from data furnished by the secretary of the Columbia and Kootenay Steam Navigation Company:

BULLION AND MATTE.

| | Pounds. | Customs Value. |
|---|---|---|
| Hall Mines smelter, Nelson matte | 103,800 | $12,887 |
| Pilot Bay smelter, silver lead bullion | 81,530 | 4,361 |

ORE.

| | Tons. | Approximate Value. |
|---|---|---|
| Slocan Star mine, Sandon | 250 | $25,000 |
| Idaho mine, Three Forks | 35 | 3,500 |
| Ruth mine, Sandon | 60 | 6,000 |
| Lucky Jim mine, Bear lake | 20 | 2,000 |
| War Eagle mine, Rossland | 43 | 2,150 |
| Total | 501 | $55,898 |
| Total so far for 1896 | 9,636 | $1,016,583 |

### NANAIMO.

Nanaimo, April 17.—A movement is on foot in this city to organize a militia company here. Sergeant W. W. Southin, formerly a drill instructor in the Imperial army, and a who has seen 10 years' active service in India and Malta, has taken the initiative.

The boilers and engines of No. 2 shaft, East Wellington (which has been abandoned) will be removed to the E. & N. Alexandria mine, and the smaller engine and boiler at the Alexandria mine will in turn be removed to the slope being put down at the E & N Extension mine.

At a meeting of the Wellington District Agricultural Association held last evening, the following officers were duly elected: J. Dunsmuir and J. Bryden, M.P.P., hon. presidents; Rev. C. E. Cooper, M. A., president; Dr. D. W. Eberts, Rev. T. H. Rogers and A. Bryden, vise-presidents; Capt. H. A. Dillon, secretary; and Thos. E. Bate, treasurer. The exhibition will be held on Saturday, August 22.

### MIDWAY.

Midway Advance.

A quartz location was made last week by R. G. Sidley near the line. The showing is good.

A large body of ore has been found to exist on the Primrose in Deadwood camp.

The hanging wall has at last been found on the Gold Drop claim in Greenwood camp, and the ledge is thus shown to be 120 feet wide.

Mr. Turner has obtained an option of a half interest in the Jewel, Long Lake camp—one partner not wishing to sell.

If arrests continue to be made at the present rate, it will soon be necessary either to add to the size of the Midway lock-up, or to have a weekly escort to take prisoners to Kamloops. The Midway jail has now three inmates which are about as many as it will conveniently hold.

Development work is to be done on the Magnet, a claim to the north of the Roderick Dhu in Long Lake camp, owned by Joe Franks and S. Bennerman. It is understood that an option has been given on the property.

P. Helstaub and S. Bennerman are doing assessment work on a claim up the west fork of Kettle river. The ore in that locality resembles closely that found in Greenwood. It, however, carries less gold and more silver.

The claim on Kruger mountain located by Dick Boeing and Jim Anderson, has now a capital showing of ore, containing tellurium and free gold in large quantities. The claim has the advantage of being on a precipitous side hill, development is therefore less difficult.

Another case of claim jumping is reported from Kruger mountain. A certain claim, on which the showing was above the ordinary, being jumped upon the technical grounds that the discovery post was not exactly upon the spot where mineral was found in place, but some yards away. This seems to be very trivial grounds upon which to disprove another man's title, and it is very doubtful if any judge would give a decision unfavorable to the original locator.

### VERNON.

(Vernon News.)

Monday's train was delayed about five hours, waiting at Sicamous for a car of pedigreed Ayrshire cows which Mr. T. W. Stirling, of Kelowna, has imported from Ontario.

Work on Mr. G. Milligan's claim at Camp Lefroy is being rapidly pushed forward. Already a tunnel has been sunk a considerable distance in the hillside in order to locate the dimensions of the ledge and as soon as that is done interesting developments in the way of a rich strike in quartz may be looked for. Evidences of considerable iron and gold have already been unearthed.

The owners of the Black Horse mineral claim, back of the B X ranch, will commence in a few days to strip their ledge, which is one of the largest bodies of low-grade free milling rock in the country, and if capital can be secured to take hold of it, it is confidently anticipated that a big thing may be made out of this proposition.

The outfit of Mr. L. Clark, who has the contract for enlarging and extending the Coldstream ranch irrigation ditch, arrived last week from Calgary and consists of five teams of horses, scrapers and other tools. Mr. Clark has had much experience at this kind of work in the Western States, and of recent years has been engaged in forwarding some of the irrigation schemes in Alberta.

Mr. Wm. Mitchell, an experienced miner, has discovered some very valuable gold-bearing quartz near his residence at Coldstream. He is greatly elated over the discovery, which he says he will work to the best advantage.

Farmers in Coldstream section are almost through seeding, and large areas of land will be under crop. Mr. George Kieffer will have 200 acres sown in wheat; Mr. R. Swift 430 acres, with Messrs. Wood, Bassette and other farmers in like proportion.

During the past week the following claims have been recorded at the Vernon office:

Sunset—H. Colbeck and H. O. Willams, 6 miles south of Vernon.

Chicago—D. McIntyre, 2 miles west of Enderby.

Great Western—H. Hupel and W. Beamish, 1 mile west of Enderby.

Ranch View—Ernest Dawson, 3 miles northeast of Vernon.

Snow Flake—E. H. Wood, 9 miles east of Vernon.

Golden Hope—E. H. Wood, 9 miles east of vernon.

Mountain Lion—A. G. Fuller, A. J. McMullen, C. O'Keefe and A. Clark, 8 miles east of Vernon.

Golden King—J. K. Johnson, 3 miles south of Vernon.

Florin—J. Foster, 9 miles north of Enderby.

White Rose—R. H. Gibb, 7 miles west of Vernon.

Okanagan King—R. H. Gibb and A. E. Morden, 1 mile north of Short's creek.

Okanagan Queen—R. H. Gibb and A. E. Morden, 1 mile north of Short's creek.

War Horse—F. H. Barnes and W. Johnson, 3 miles south of Vernon.

Chieftain—F. M. Kerky, 7 miles south-west of Vernon.

Black Pine—A. Dawson, 3½ miles northeast of Vernon.

Clara and Corinne—A. G. Fuller and A. Clarke, 1 mile east of Round Lake.

The new flour mill at Armstrong is nearing completion and will soon begin grinding. The head miller arrived last week from the east.

The Spallumcheen Shippers' Union has already got to work. On April 4th they shipped a carload of mixed vegetables to Kootenay and on April 14th a carload of potatoes.

### NANAIMO.

Nanaimo, April 18.—The citizens have nipped in the bud the attempt made by a few members of the council to prevent the celebration of the Queen's birthday, by presenting a monster petition to the mayor asking him to call a public meeting to arrange for the celebration. The meeting has been held and the result was that the utmost enthusiasm prevailed and after a good many speakers aired their views on the subject it was decided to have the celebration, the only man opposed to it being Ald. Foreman. Petitions were circulated around the city yesterday praying the council to donate the sum of $500 towards the event and if this request is granted the celebration this year will far eclipse that of any previous year.

Sergeant Southing expresses the conviction that he will have no difficulty in forming a militia company in this city.

Anna Ballo was committed for trial by Magistrate Simpson yesterday, on a charge of disposing of her child in order to conceal its birth.

### WELLINGTON.

Wellington, April 20.—The mines here after being closed for over a week are again at work and will run steadily for the remainder of the month. The Progressist and Costa Rica are loading.

The district meeting of the Druids was held here Saturday evening last. During the afternoon a procession headed by the Finn brass band paraded the streets. The regalia of their lodge presented a rather pleasing appearance.

The last schedule of football was played here on Saturday last between the home team and the Nanaimo team. These two teams had an equal number of points to their credit, and both were determined to get second place. Play began at 4 p.m., with Wellington kicking with the wind and the sun on their backs, which advantage the home players made good use of by passing the leather between the posts four times before half time and also in preventing the opposing team from scoring. In the last half, with the advantages reversed, Nanaimo strained every muscle to overcome their opponents' lead, but owing to the good defence of the home team no scoring was done until Wellington succeeded in adding another goal to their number, leaving the score five to nothing in favor of the home team. Alas! for the fate of the Nanaimo rooster.

The Crescent Bicycle club have their track in first class shape and a great many of the local bicyclists are getting racing machines and we expect they will give a good account of themselves in the near future. The club had a run to Nanaimo river on Sunday last.

On Sunday evening last Rev. T. H. Rogers gave a very interesting address on secret societies, showing the benefits derived from them, but he also maintained that there were too many societies and the benefits received from a financial standpoint didn't amount to one-third of the money paid in. Concluding, he said everyone should belong to some church and therein be a member of that society which has for its head the King of Heaven.

### NEW DENVER.

The Ledge.

The dry ore at the foot of Slocan lake has caused two embryo cities to materialize.

William Hoare has sold a quarter interest in the Bunker Hill to Charles T. Dunbar for $1000.

Nelson Demers has sold 3-16 of the Gopher, on Cariboo creek, to J. J. Malone of Nelson for $1000.

It is said that the concentrates from the Lucky Jim show 127 ounces of silver and 24 per cent. zinc.

On Springer creek, a little more than a mile west of the Arlington is situated the Ottawa, owned by Mulvey and Clement. An option of $25,000 has been given to Charles T. Dunbar. The Ottawa has a ledge five feet wide of free-milling silver ore, and its development would be of great benefit to the district.

Work is being done on four properties on the north fork of Carpenter creek. The ledge has recently been tapped on the Silver Key and has shown sixteen inches of ore. Three men are developing the New Columbia, a claim adjoining the Silver Key. Tom Wall has a tunnel in 160 feet on the Roulette and ore all the way. Opposite the Roulette Jim Ryan has worked on a claim since last summer.

In 1862 the B. C. government offered a bonus of $5000 to anyone who would discover a gold quartz mine and prove that it would pay at a depth of 25 feet. S. T. Walker, now a resident of New Denver, while on his way to Cariboo from Yale in the fall of '61 found, a quartz claim on Bald Mountain, between the forks of Keithley and Antler creeks, assays of which went $27 in gold. Thinking to obtain the bonus he returned with some men to where he had found the ledge in July, '62. Breaking through eight feet of snow they reached the ground on the 8th of July and commenced work. After paying $16 a day wages and sinking a shaft 15 feet the paystreak disappeared, and Mr. Walker was out $3200. As it was the first attempt in the province to develop a quartz mine Governor Douglas was in favor of paying the $5000, but the government voted it down, and Walker received nothing except the satisfaction of being the first man to open a gold quartz lead in British Columbia.

### ASHCROFT.

B. C. Mining Journal.

The Seattle company that have a hydraulic mine across the Fraser river a few miles below North Bend will soon begin operations. Captain Garland has not yet turned on the water on his company's ground opposite North Bend, but expects to do so within a few days.

S. Tingley, manager of the B. C. Express Co., returned from a trip to New Brunswick on Tuesday.

The Beaver Mouth property has been sold to an English syndicate and the transfer papers are now on their way across the water. It is uncertain yet how much work will be done this season but a large amount of capital is raised and work will begin within a few days.

Many prospectors on foot and horse back have started up the Cariboo road in the past week. It is unfortunate that the roads are in such a terrible condition as they are reported to be, as it will delay operations somewhat in various sections. However, the heavy fall of snow reported in some sections on the mountains will add very materially to the water supply of the season.

### FORT STEELE.

Fort Steele Prospector.

The Invicta company has ten men at work completing the dam, and preparing for the new machinery that is expected to arrive shortly.

Ben Pugh is working on the Primrose. He has some good ore in sight.

The Banks Bros. are pushing work on the Dardanelles. There are several parties after this property.

It is reported that thirteen Chinamen have taken up 1300 feet of bench diggings on Wild Horse creek, the locations having been made between the Nip and Tuck and the McVittie ground.

N. A. Wallinger, T. McVittie and F. Norbury have had their placer ground surveyed; they have a lease on about 80 acres, adjoining the Nip and Tuck.

# Communications.

THE NORTHFIELD EXPLOSION.

To the Editor:—The warning note has been sounded at last, and as has often been predicted of late by one of competent knowledge, familiar with the inside and outside workings of the Hamilton Powder Company's works at Northfield, this district is destined sooner or later, to furnish a most terrible and disastrous duplicate of the Barcelona and Johannesberg explosions. Nanaimo has had its warning, but as the event, to speak in sporting parlance, did not "come off," things dangerous go and come into the very heart of the great coal mining metropolis in the same happy-go-lucky fashion as before, notwithstanding the representations of the Nanaimo county grand jury, silenced by, it would seem, the rebuke elicited from the judge holding his moribund court, that they had no business to interfere with a highly protected as well as a highly explosive industry by placing hindering restrictions on its commerce. Perhaps the loud explosion of to-day, heard and felt markedly in this city, may wake up the citizens of Nanaimo and the surrounding district to a true sense of the danger in their midst.

The Victoria press—especially the Times—has for some years past been "wailing at Ottawa" to remove the menace to life and property, the youth, beauty and fashion of renowned Beacon Hill, in the shape of the little magazine adjacent to the ornamental waters, containing a few hundred pounds of damp, blue-moulded rotten gunpowder. If such is a danger to public safety surely no one who has viewed the situation of the powder works at Northfield can do so complacently without a shudder, enough to send a cold streak running down the spine of the humanitarian observer at the mere thought of an "accident."

These works occupy a central position in the midst of a densely populated section of this district, containing at lowest estimation between 4000 and 5000 souls.

On visiting the scene of the accident (?) to-day, mental note was made of the powder works and their environment. One has only to look, think and shudder. Certainly, similar to the deadly serpent, these works can boast of a pleasing and inviting exterior, neat manager's residence, delightful little office, in the foreground flowering plants, shrubs and well-kept sward, green lawns stretching away behind towards isolated red brick buildings—innocent-looking enough on the exterior. These buildings are within almost hailing distance of the large public school, where some 250 children assemble on school days for instruction under four teachers, and almost casts its shadow in the early morning sun right into the back yards of the numerous uninhabited residences situated on the thoroughfare known as the Bay road. Let the reader picture in his mind's eye what would be the undoubted consequence were an accident to cause an explosion of the 250 pounds of black powder invariably stored in the aforesaid big brick building! What would be the consequence were the contents of the other isolated brick pile a little way to the north, to "go up in smoke," when he is made aware that said contents consists of tons of giant powder, dynamite, crude nitro-glycerine and other high explosives! Familiarity breeds contempt, they say. Enquiry proved the truism, for though the people in the vicinity are fully aware of the danger, yet most of them seem to be callous and indifferent to it. Laws have had to be enacted ere now to save people from themselves; probably the people are firm believers in the kismet, and therefore what Allah wills cannot be averted.

Fortunately for the safety of the surrounding population, owing to a never failing supply of cold water from the bottom of the waters of Departure Bay, happily denied by kind nature to Northfield, the nitro-glycerine works of the powder company are there situated. These latter are some two miles from the parent factory, therefore the crude product, in its most dangerous form, has to be carted over the intervening distance. The road is none of the best, and is partly the outcome of the well known enterprise of the New Vancouver Coal Company, to join the old Nanaimo road with the great northern trunk road to Comox at Northfield. Since the mines of that company have been temporarily closed at that place, the highway, although being almost as well patronized as the Comox road by travel to and from Wellington, Northfield and Nanaimo, being private property no government road money has been expended on it as yet. Rough, stony, rutty and rickety "corduroy" is scarcely a safe highway on which to convey some 500 pounds of crude nitro-glycerine on a one-horse spring wagon. At least, such would be one's opinion, even were one ever so verdant. Such were the land, road and contrivance that brought to an untimely end in the bloom of manhood the unfortunate and much regretted Stevenson, teamster. It was fully canvased by som zealous employes at the scene of the accident today, as the minute remains of poor Stevenson were being picked up off the ground, branch and stump, that the load consisted of only 300 pounds of nitro-glycerine. Be that as it may, the good intention is obvious, and perhaps may tell with the coroner's jury in the way intended. Of course the well protected corporation can be in no way to blame for the unfortunate catastrophe. Had the explosion occurred a couple of hours earlier, a wrecked train with a load of living freight probably would have shared the sad fate of Stevenson and his one-horse team, as the accident occurred within a stone's throw of the E. & N. railway, near the Northfield crossing. It is understood from a credible source that the deceased and others of the powder works hands when employed on this job, except the Chinaman, who is frequently employed in the hazardous undertaking, simply because he costs less, are paid at the rate of 50 cents a trip. Consequently the assumption in one's mind is that it is more advantageous to load with 500 pounds than with 300 pounds on the trip. One becomes astonished when one learns from very good authority the careless, nay culpable, manner in which the crude and dangerous mixture is packed for transportation over any road, rough or smooth. The stuff is put up in 40-lb carboys, each wrapped up in an old gunnysack and placed side by side without any packing in the one-horse wagon. The constant jolting over the rough road naturally causes friction impossible for the rotten material of weather beaten gunnysacks to withstand. A mere drop of the mixture intervening—and there you are—up you go without much of a warning. The wonder impressed in one's mind is that accidents of the kind have not been more frequent. Had the "accident" occurred about half a mile further up the road, just alongside the innocent looking brick building before referred to and its 200 tons of black powder, there would be a different story of horror and destruction to relate, and such is likely to happen at any moment, for the probability is that as no white man will likely be found to do the trip for four bits in future, the stolid indifferent "John" will let 'er go next time. This overloading, as asserted by some, may have been or not the cause of the explosion. On this hypothesis perhaps some one of the crowded carboys in the wagon was crowded out, fell on the ground and exploded—or, taking the company's theory of only 300 pounds, the loosely packed carboys caused friction as explained above. Either way is equally dangerous. If there is no law regulating the manufacture and transportation of high explosives then there ought to be, and speedily.

That the powder works at Northfield occupy a very unsafe and undesirable position as regards the public safety is acknowledged by most ardent supporters of the company. The loose, slipshod way in which the transportation of its manufactured output is conducted has become notorious. These works employ about fourteen or fifteen whites and about a similar number of Chinese. It has been oft asserted that the industries of Canada are protected so as to afford employment for her industrious citizens and thus keep them at home. The manager of these works, no doubt a very competent and highly esteemed business man, and several of the employes, are citizens of the United States—the Chinamen are citizens of the world. In the conduct of the institution there seems to be a great liking for "John," and where possible "John" at $1 a day takes the place of the free born "protected" Canadian at $2 a day of ten hours, Sunday and holiday, day or night, as required. The only apparent benefit to the loyal citizens of this broad Dominion conferred by these works is in the standing menace intensified by impecuniosity in the employment of Chinamen—to property, life and limb.

Truly devious are the ways which are dark. It is time some light were thrown on such ways, customs and practices. A little ventilation now and then does good, and—next. Ah! that will be terrible.

J. J.

Nanaimo, April 9th, 1896.

Smithers—I wish some one would teach me to save money.

Miss Hope—Oh, Mr. Smithers, this is so sudden.

ROYAL Baking Powder has been awarded highest honors at every world's fair where exhibited.