THE QUEBEC ELECTION.

A general election will soon come off in the Province of Quebec. The different parties as usual express themselves as confident of the result. But it will be no easy matter to displace Mr. Mercier, particularly as many Ontario politicians are, perhaps unwittingly, playing into his hands.

Mr. Mercier is one of the shrewdest politicians in this Dominion, and he is sure to make the most of his advantages. He is not troubled with too many scruples, and he will use any weapon that his opponents place in his hands. If he can make his countrymen believe that he is in danger of suffering in the cause of his religion and his race he is assured of victory.

French Canadians are devoted to their religion, and their race prejudices and attachments are uncommonly strong. The Equal Rights agitation in Ontario and Quebec has given him the opportunity of representing to the habitants that he is opposed because he is a faithful son of the Church and a zealous assertor of the rights of French Canadians. From every platform in Quebec and at every church door in the rural districts, he will be represented as a persecuted man, as a sufferer for conscience sake. This will give him a prestige that will carry him triumphantly through the election. What can mere politicians say against this which will be of any avail? They may say that he is extravagant, that he makes a bad use of the public money, that he has run the country in debt, that his measures have been bad, and that his administration has been corrupt. Mr. Mercier is able enough and ingenious enough to meet all these charges, and to retort on his opponents. But, during the coming campaign, he will be under no necessity in most of the counties to make elaborate political speeches. He will only have to tell his hearers what is said against him in Ontario, and at the assemblages of the Equal Rights Party, in order to divert their attention from his political sins and shortcomings, and to make the great majority of them his enthusiastic supporters. We have no doubt that Mr. Mercier has a scrap book filled with extracts from the speeches of Anti-Jesuit orators and from the articles of Equal Rights newspapers, which will be freely translated into French for the purpose of working his hearers up to the proper pitch of indignation and enthusiasm.

The Equal Rights agitation has, no doubt, greatly weakened Mr. Mowat's support in Ontario, and will most likely cause his defeat, but we feel quite sure that it will do more than any other single cause to secure the victory for Mr. Mercier in Quebec. Mr. Mercier is a resourceful politician. He carried Quebec when the odds appeared to be greatly against him; and, after he was returned by a small majority, he showed that he is an adapt in those arts by which a political leader converts a small majority into a large one. He goes to the country now under much more favorable auspices, and there is no reason to suppose that he has lost the power of turning circumstances to his advantage.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

Even the Liberals of the continent of Europe find it difficult to understand what liberty of the press means. Restrictions are placed upon newspapers and newspaper correspondents by all the Governments of the countries of continental Europe which would not be tolerated in Great Britain or any of her dependencies. Short work is made of journalists of the class of the Ottawa liar, and even honest journalists who comment freely and candidly on public affairs sometimes find themselves in an embarrassing position.

The Government of Italy is considered Liberal, but the correspondents of foreign newspapers who write unfavorably of Italian finances—which, by the way, are in a by no means flourishing condition—make Rome too hot to hold them. Herr Grunwald, the correspondent of the Frankfort Gazette, was, not long since, expelled from Italy because his correspondence did not meet with the approbation of the Italian authorities. M. Ludovic Chenard, the correspondent of the Figaro and Gaulois, not having taken warning by the fate of the German journalist, was soon after escorted beyond the Italian frontier by Italian policemen. He had asked for an interview with the Premier, Signor Crispi, to obtain from him some explanation of the banishment of M. Grunwald. The Italian statesman did not vouchsafe him an interview, but one of his secretaries was authorized to make the following declaration:

"There were correspondents who had thought it right to be guided by this one principle, to blacken Italy systematically every day by calumnious news of a kind to mislead and irritate public opinion, at first abroad and afterwards in Italy, to which these statements are at once brought back. The Government had come to the conclusion that these men were doing culpable acts, and after waiting long for an improvement on their part they had inflicted a blow under the powers and in the degrees fixed by the laws, which, in this respect, do not differ from those of France and Germany. If there were in Paris Italian journalists who endeavored in the same way to mislead opinion in Italy on the subject of France, and the French Government takes steps to expel them, the Government of Italy would say it had done well and acted in conformity with the interests of the two countries."

A very forcible comment on this explanation was the expulsion, a few days afterwards, of the man who had received it.

The Government of Italy makes itself the judge of what is "calumnious news of a kind to irritate and mislead public opinion." It is, therefore, no wonder that newspaper correspondents, who do not look at public affairs through Government spectacles, are judged to have gone beyond the bounds of fair and allowable criticism, and are, in short order, sent out of the country. When a Government has the power to drive into exile those, whose duty it is to inform the public of their own, or any other country as to the state of public affairs, very little reliance indeed may be placed upon their statements. A man must be a hero who writes the plain unvarnished truth when he knows that the publication of his article will expose him to severe punishment. Although there are as many heroes among journalists as there are among the members of any other profession, it is not to be expected that the news written under such circumstances is exactly what it would be if the correspondent were perfectly free to write of things as he saw them. If he knows that he must speak favorably of the acts of the Government and of the men in power or be sent out of the country as a liar and a calumniator, we are very much afraid that his descriptions of men and things would be more favorable to the Government he feared than would be warranted by the actual condition of the country. The journalistic liar, bad as he is, is to be preferred to the newspaper correspondent who writes, as it were, under duress.

THE PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE.

The Pan-American Conference came to an end without anything remarkable being done. The relations between the United States and the South American Republics have not in any respect been changed by the labors of the delegates, and it does not appear that the indirect results of the Conference will be at all important.

The delegates were feasted while they were in the United States, every attention was paid them, and ample opportunities were afforded them of observing the wealth and the greatness of the Northern Republic; but it does not appear that all this will have the effect of bringing the republics closer together commercially. A commercial union between the republics of the North and the South, which some of the promoters of the Conference had in view, seems as much a dream now as ever it was. A liberal scheme of trade reciprocity could not be agreed upon. The policy of the United States is opposed to close trade relations with foreign countries. Its high tariff keeps out most foreign commodities and prevents the United States competing successfully in South American markets with countries which have a more liberal trade policy—countries which are as ready to buy as they are to sell. It is out of the power of the American Government to offer trade advantages to the South American Republics, and it does not appear that any of those Republics are in favor of what has been very appropriately called jug-handled free-trade.

Some advance appears to have been made by the Conference towards the settlement of national disputes by arbitration. The report of the Committee on General Welfare, which was adopted by the Conference, laid down the following principles:—

"1. That the principle of conquest shall not during the existence of the treaty of arbitration be recognised as admissible under American public law. 2. That all cessations of territory made during the continuance of the treaty of arbitration shall be void if made under threats of war or in the presence of an armed force. 3. That no nation from which such cessions shall be exacted may demand that the validity of the cessions made shall be submitted to arbitration. 4. That any renunciation of the right of arbitration made under threat of war or the presence of an armed force shall be null and void."

These principles, though calculated to preserve the peace among the republics that agree to adopt them, are altogether different from the valuable trade advantages which the Americans promised themselves as the result of the Pan-American Conference. They will not help United States citizens to compete successfully in South American markets with Englishmen, Germans, Frenchmen, Italians and other Europeans. If it were not hoped and expected that the United States would be able to gain some concession from the republics which would give them an advantage in the South American markets over their European rivals, it is more than likely the Pan-American Conference would never have been held or even thought of.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

There is a paragraph in the American newspapers respecting a scandal that has come to light in Ottawa. Names are mentioned and it is made to appear that a Minister of the Crown is in some way implicated. The correspondents of American newspapers in Ottawa have earned for themselves the reputation of being outrageous liars. They invent rumors which are not even founded on fact. We therefore consider it unwise to believe any sensational story about the Canadian Government and Canadian politicians, that makes its first appearance in the United States newspapers. The chances are that there is not a word of truth in it, or that it is a big structure of lies erected on a very slender foundation of fact. We shall learn from the Dominion newspapers before very long how much truth there is, if any, in these Quebec telegrams to American newspapers. Until then it would be wise to maintain a prudent scepticism with regard to the statements, injurious to Canadian statesmen, which they contain.

One of the many indications of the progress and prosperity of Victoria is the want of dwelling houses. Every house that is habitable has its tenant or tenants, and houses that are in course of erection are bespoken long before they are finished. Those who are looking for houses must take the first one that offers or go without. The supply of houses in this city is not now anything like equal to the demand. It seems to us that capitalists who are content with a moderate but sure return for their money, could not find a better way of investing it than by erecting comfortable dwellings which would rent for from fifteen to thirty dollars a month. Almost, if not quite, a hundred such houses would find tenants as soon as they could be built.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhœa, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind. myll-eod-w

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, May 8.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Political.

The Times announces that Hon. Robert Beaven, Mayor Grant, Dr. Milne and F. G. Richards, jun., have been selected as the opposition candidates for Victoria city, at the approaching election.

A Donation Worthy of the Donor.

It is the intention of His Honor the Lieut.-Governor to present to the Pioneer Society, of which he is an old and honored member, a complete edition of Chambers' Encyclopædia—a donation as suitable as generous.

Strike at Seattle.

The strike which is raging throughout the United States has taken effect upon several of the labor unions of Seattle. There are now two unions out and a third is expected to go out May 15. The cornice-makers, tinners and glaziers are out, all demanding shorter hours.

A Worthy Charity.

A most laudable scheme, suggested by kind hearts and keen heads, is now being brought forward for the establishment of a home for the aged and infirm in this city. One gentleman has volunteered a donation of $500 towards the founding of such a charity, and others are willing and ready to follow his example as soon as the ice is broken.

Seattle-Point Telegraph Line.

Mr. Conway, who is erecting the telegraph line to Banilla Point and Caps Beale, has reached some fifteen or twenty miles beyond Port San Juan. Yesterday he telegraphed through to this city. Everything was progressing favorably. On the height of land among the woods considerable snow yet remains. The valleys, however, are all clear and the workmen are in good spirits.

The Colquitz Case.

Yesterday afternoon the water commissioner, water committee and city barristers met the Colquitz river claimants of damages from the city, in a conference at the city hall. There are about a dozen claimants and their contention is practically that the greater part of the water supplied through the Victoria mains is their property. After fully discussing the matter in dispute, the meeting adjourned, the claimants to present their case in detail during the coming week.

Fire at Barkerville.

A despatch from Barkerville says a fire broke out in the English church there on Tuesday morning, and in spite of the efforts of the fire brigade and many willing hands, the edifice was consumed. The firemen worked hard, and were at times in great danger of their lives, but their efforts were in vain, and the flames slowly gained headway and destroyed the building. The church was insured for $1,000, but this amount will fall far short of covering the total loss.

Both North Bound.

The steamer Barbara Boscowitz departed for Fort Simpson and all way ports, last evening, having on board about 200 tons of general cargo and 20 passengers, among whom were: B. Stapledon, Harry Tolmie, H. Rudge, W. Hewson, Dr. Balton, D. Essen and H. Ashby.

Twenty-two Chinese for Judge Shepard's mines at Cassiar will go up by the Topeka to-day, while 30 tons of rice and flour will also be shipped by the same steamer to Cassiar.

The Phillips-Pitts Case.

Mr. Justice Drake gave judgment yesterday upon the motion to dissolve the injunction, continuing the same until the hearing and putting Mr. Pitts on terms to bring on the case for trial, without delay. It appeared that there was much conflict of testimony upon the point whether Mr. Pitt's wall encroached on the Phillips land or not, and the learned judge held that he could not decide the rights of the parties, until the facts of the case were ascertained at the trial.

Victoria Jockey Club.

At a meeting of the Victoria Jockey Club held on Tuesday evening it was decided to reduce the entrance money at the spring meeting from 15 to 10 per cent., to accommodate our American visitors. A committee was also appointed to complete the negotiations in progress between the agricultural society and the Jockey Club in reference to amalgamation. Another matter decided upon was the holding of Saturday afternoon meetings throughout the season, open to all local horses.

A Large Order.

Mr. Geo. B. Cross, representing the Ontario Rolling Mills Co., and the Dominion Bolt Co., two weeks ago closed the sale of all the fish plates, spikes and bolts necessary for construction on the Westminster Southern railway from Brownsville to the international boundary. The sale was effected through Mr. Nelson Bennett direct, and the terms of the contract call for the delivery of the whole material by June 1st. The material amounts to about 250 tons, and two special trains will be necessary to convey it to the coast.—Columbian.

Sales of Real Estate.

During the last few days several large real estate investments have been effected in the city, and at prices very satisfactory to the sellers. Among others, Messrs. Bourchier, Croft & Mallette sold to Mr. Faber, lots 151 Fisgard street and 39 Cook street for $6,400, and to Mr. J. F. McMartin, the property at the corner of Store and Johnson streets, owned by Messrs. Wilson, also lots 1,940 and 1,921 James Bay, for $17,000. Four lots on Superior and Michigan streets changed hands yesterday at the price of $5,300, the same brokers effecting all the above sales, which aggregated $28,850, the purchasers being outside men.

Many Happy Returns.

Yesterday was the Hon. J. H. Turner's birthday. He has reached his fifty-fifth year. He received the congratulations of his friends, who are every year becoming more and more numerous. Mr. Turner is one of the men who wear well. The more he is known the better he is liked. As a man of business he is held in high esteem, and he is universally considered a faithful and conscientious servant of the people. Few public men are more generally and more highly esteemed, and few men, whether in public or private life, better deserve the regard and the good opinion of all who know them than the Hon. J. H. Turner. We know that we express the hearty desire of the very great majority of his fellow citizens when we cordially wish him many happy returns of the day.

The First in Canada.

In Milton Lodge, No. 311, Sons of St. George, Victoria, has the honor of possessing the first lodge of this rapidly growing and important American order to be instituted in Canada. Grand Organizer Wm. Williams, of San Jose, Cal., last evening formally opened the new lodge with a charter membership of 41, and installed the following officers-elect into their respective chairs: P. W. P., R. F. Mulhrene; Prest., J. Ottaway; vice-prest., H. Dowsett; secretary, G. W. R. Lee; assistant secretary, H. Greasley; treasurer, J. Bland, jr.; messenger, J. R. Roberts. Trustees, Messrs. Hughes, Jones, and Rutter. Meetings will be held weekly in future, and the principles of the order, which was instituted in Philadelphia in '71, presented wherever possible. This morning, Mr. Williams goes to Nanaimo there to institute a lodge, proceeding from there to Vancouver and New Westminster on similar business. On the conclusion of the lodge business last night, an adjournment to the Dominion was taken, and here, with P. W. P. Mulhrene in the chair, a tempting banquet was enjoyed—good fare, good speeches, and good songs making the supper hour pass very quickly away.

SOUND BOAT HANDS STRIKE

For an Increase of Five Dollars—A General Tie-up—The Kingston Excepted.

Strikers and strikes are becoming just about as great a nuisance as cyclones; they upset civilization and injure those who do not deserve to be. The latest outbreak will affect that important branch of trade, the Sound traffic—the boat hands have struck. The firemen, coal and wood passers and deck hands are dissatisfied this time, and accordingly they have acted in the orthodox fashion by "striking." The wages demanded are as follows: Wood firemen, $45 per month; coal firemen, $50 per month; coal or wood passers, $40 per month; deck hands, $45 per month. These wages include board and sleeping accommodations. The present wages are about $5 per month less than the above scale. It is claimed that the steamboat companies are all doing a good business and can afford to pay better wages since the rise in passenger and freight rates which recently occurred. If the men strike, a general tie-up of the steamers will result, as it will take a day or two at least to either adjust the differences or fill the strikers' places with new men.

A committee of three from the Steamboat Employes' Union interviewed the several steamboat companies yesterday. The committee was not given any definite answer by the officials. Secretary Walter Oakes, of the Puget Sound and Alaska company, referred the three representatives to Manager Jackson, in Seattle, who sets the rate of wages. At the port captain's office of the Union Pacific line, the committee was informed that the matter would have to be adjusted by Superintendent Troop. The Pacific Navigation Company also refused to give the committee any definite reply.

The affair took definite shape on the North Pacific, which left for this port from Seattle yesterday morning. On reaching Port Townsend the hands prepared to go ashore with their grips and goods and chattels. At first there was a strong likelihood of the boat being tied up, as several efforts to ship a crew were unsuccessful, and also as the captain had received instructions to pay men five dollars a day rather than accede to the demands of the strikers. He finally effected an arrangement by a special price by which he induced a crew composed partly of his own men and partly of "scabs" to take the boat for the present trip. He will be governed by circumstances as to what he will do afterwards. It is, according to present appearances, doubtful whether the Olympian will arrive this evening or not.

The City of Kingston, in view of the heavy work done by its hands, increased their pay by five dollars a month, and so she will very likely stand out of this trouble.

THE LAST OF A VETERAN.

Axes and Saws Now Being Used Upon the Old Steamer Wilson G. Hunt.

The sound of axes and saws on board the old steamer Wilson G. Hunt, and the unfamiliar sight of men moving about her decks, was sufficient to attract the attention of the curious yesterday morning, and to cause enquiries to be made into the reason why.

Explanations were easily obtained, the men employed in demolishing the old familiar landmark, volunteering the information that she had at last been purchased from the C. P. N. Co. by Cohen & Co., of San Francisco, whose intention it was to break her to pieces and retain only the machinery and workable metal in her hull. This work will be rapidly prosecuted, and in a very short time nothing will be left of the once popular steamer—the pride of earlier days.

Reminiscences come in a flood to the old timer, as his attention is directed for a moment to the fate of the Hunt. She, in her day, was one of the finest of her class afloat. For speed, elegance and profit, there were few steamers on the Coast twenty years ago to surpass her, and it is stated that during the first year she was running out of Victoria she netted her owner a cool million dollars. Her own history was not particularly eventful. She was built in New York in 1849, upon the very best lines of the day, by Wm. Collier, her engines being supplied by Rodman and Co. Her power was obtained from a nine foot stroke steeple engine, with cylinder of 36 inches diameter. She was christened with the name of her owner, Wilson G. Hunt, of San Francisco, who for many years used her exclusively on the Sacramento river. In 1878 she was purchased by T. L. Briggs, and brought to this city, where Capt. John Irving was at given the command. Her first service was in opposition to the H. B. Co.'s steamer Enterprise, with which a keen rivalry existed for a year or so. In 1881 the Hunt passed into the possession of Joseph Spratt, now deceased, who ran her in opposition to the C. P. N. Co. until 1885, when she was bought out by them and placed in the marine boneyard, where she has remained without turning a paddle ever since. Her register is 350 tons, and her engines were of 150 horse power. It is not stated what the amount of consideration was in the final deal of yesterday.

STILL A MYSTERY.

Contradictions and Complications at a Coroner's Inquest Yesterday.

Joseph Gosnell (foreman), Thomas Tugwell, William Millington, Lewis Stemler, Charles Smallbine and Thomas Ridehalgh were the six good men and true sworn in as jurors by Coroner Morrison, yesterday, to enquire into the circumstances attending the death of an infant found in the waters of Victoria Arm, on Tuesday afternoon.

The inquest was held in the undertaking rooms of Mr. Thomas Storey, where the jury inspected the rapidly decomposing remains. They were wrapped about with newspapers, which, water soaked and foul smelling, were carefully smoothed out by the police officers, one of whom, Officer Miller, soon detected some indistinct writing, with a postage stamp, upon the margin. After considerable further inspection, the writing was made out to be an address as follows:

JOSEPH PHŒNIX,
Store Street,
Victoria, B. C.

This was taken as a clue, and Phœnix was at once summoned as a witness. The enquiry proceeding, City Police Officer Hunter was called to the stand and narrated the facts of finding the body as reported in THE COLONIST yesterday. Phœnix was the next witness called, and his evidence proved of a decidedly strange character. He did not say that he knew nothing of the little body in the box, but urged that it was a still born child which he had neglected to register last January, and which had been buried by night in the woods outside of the city. He offered to conduct the jury to the place of the interment, and they, wishing to discover if the body could have been washed down to the water, consented to accompany him. A visit was paid to the spot mentioned, with Phœnix as guide, but no grave or trace of one could be discovered.

The jury returned to the Provincial Police office, and Dr. Milne was called as a witness. He testified to attending Mrs. Phœnix during confinement, and said that she was delivered of a male child, living. The infant died shortly after, he understood. He did not know what disposition was made of the body.

The body found having been identified as that of a female child, and consequently not the one referred to by the last witness, the jury, after considering the very contradictory evidence, returned a verdict at 9 p. m., that the infant, name unknown, was found dead, having been placed in the water by some person or persons unidentified.

EXPLORATORY SURVEYS.

The First of a Series Started Toward the Great Chilcotin Country.

The first of the series of exploratory surveys decided upon by the government of British Columbia and sanctioned by parliament at its last session is to be started at once, the objective point being the great Chilcotin country, 45,000 square miles in extent, lying to the northwest of the Fraser.

Mr. A. L. Poudrier, D. L. S., a gentleman of ability and experience, has been selected by the chief commissioner as the leader of this exploration party, and he will leave this city in a few days by the steamer Rainbow for Bute Inlet, whence his real journey commences. Three white men accompany him from this city, and Indian guides and servants will be secured on the road. The party will carry with them only the barest necessaries, and intend so thoroughly rough it from the start until their work is completed—probably late this fall.

A "track" or rough descriptive survey will be all that will be aimed at, and the information that will be given to the Lands & Works department by Mr. Poudrier on his return will enable it to lay out the good land in the district explored in townships for settlement. It will be the explorer's object to ascertain the fullest possible particulars of the character of the land, its adaptability to agriculture, timbering, grazing and mining; the water powers it possesses and the number and extent of irrigation streams, with all other valuable particulars.

From Bute Inlet the party will strike out to the north-west, traveling to the east and west all through the country. The latest survey, a very incomplete one, of this district was made by Dr. G. M. Dawson in 1876. One of the first objects of the present trip will be to block out a trail from Bute Inlet to the interior, where ranching settlements have during the last few years sprung into importance. The proposed trail will give these ranchers, a means of communication with Bute Inlet, where by means of the Steamer Rainbow, trade can be carried on with all parts of the coast. Careful attention will be paid during the trip to the location of desirable trails, and nothing will be left undone that might contribute to the utility of the survey. Mr. Poudrier is a prominent member of the Natural History Society, and he will during his wild tour keep ever on the alert for specimens and information calculated to interest and benefit its members.

PRESENTATION.

A Pastor Congratulated on His Marriage.

On Tuesday evening a small party from Cedar Hill called in on their pastor, Rev. D. McRae, and, after receiving a cordial welcome at his new home from himself and Mrs. McRae, presented the following address:

To the Rev. D. McRae:

REV. SIR,—We are here to-night as a deputation from the people of Cedar Hill and vicinity, to offer our congratulations and express our best wishes. We do most heartily congratulate you on your recent marriage, and we cordially offer you and Mrs. McRae our best wishes for your future happiness and continued prosperity.

We take this occasion to express our high esteem for you as a gentleman and friend, and also to testify our appreciation of your work as our pastor, together with our sense of obligation and thankfulness for your faithful services and kind interest in our welfare.

As a token of our good will, and as a memento of our friendship, please to accept this purse from your congregation at Cedar Hill. And may the Giver of all Good "from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift," deal bountifully with you both, that you may be blessed and be a blessing.

(Signatures).

Rev. Mr. McRae, on behalf of himself and his bride, made a suitable reply, thanking his visitors and the congregation for their kind words and good wishes, as well as for their liberal gift.

LITTLE LOCALS.

The gross earnings of the Canadian Pacific for the month of April were $1,900,000, an increase of $173,000.

Potatoes have further advanced to $50 per ton, a movement which will, no doubt, cause many people to open their eyes widely.

The parties interested in the Colquitz water claim will hold a conference with the water committee and commissioner shortly.

An interesting point of practice, distinguishing between an irregularity and a nullity, has been brought up in the Boscowitz-Belyea case, and will be decided to-day in the supreme court.

Four of the 46 Chinese aboard the Batavia who held their return certificates were found to be frauds. They were released by their friends, who paid the $50 tax.

Mr. A. Caswell, lately of Brockville, Ont., has arrived at Vancouver to take the position just vacated by Mr. Carson as traveling agent of the C. P. R. on the coast.

Among those who received the degree of Bachelor of Law at the recent convocation of Dalhousie College, Halifax, were Frederick William Howay and Richard McBride, of Westminster.

The custom house flag waved proudly in the breeze yesterday in honor of the return of Mr. Milne to resume command of the port.

Still no clue is forthcoming to the identity of the self-styled Governor of Alaska who occupies the lunatic's cell at the city police station.

Mr. Herbert Boran, of Toronto, has arrived at Vancouver, his object in coming to the coast being to see what are the prospects for a fruit and pickling establishment.

Once more sanitary matters press themselves forward demanding attention. Ex-Ald. Harris has refused Henley Point for a dumping ground, and the sanitary committee are casting about for another eligible site.

Mr. J. W. Crown, who lately arrived from England, and who has purchased a large ranch in the Kootenay country, has sent to the old country for fifty head of Jersey cattle. His intention is to, as far as possible, go in for breeding first-class stock.

Almost the first item that attracted the attention of Sanitary Officer Bailey when he opened his COLONIST yesterday morning was one to the effect that two dead dogs lay festering on James Bay flats. He was on the spot before 7 o'clock, but could not find the dogs. They had doubtless been carried out with the tide.

W. D. Morrow, of the firm of F. G. Richards & Co., has severed his connection with that house and entered that of Messrs. Cowan, Shaw & Co., where he will fill the position of financial manager. Mr. Morrow enters upon his new duties about the middle of the present month.

A PROBLEM.

TO THE EDITOR:—The aggregate gold product of Cariboo is calculated to be $30,000,000; the regular price at the mines was $16 per ounce. I want to know what would be the size of a cube of gold which at the above price per ounce would be worth that sum.

PIONEER.

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL

Of British Columbia Concludes the Business of its Annual Session.

For the past two days the Medical Council of this province have been in session, the business of their annual meeting being concluded last evening. Yesterday the examination of candidates took place, and other work of the council was gone through with. The examiners were Drs. McGuigan, Milne, Smith, Davie, Lefevre and Hasington; Dr. Bolton, of Fort Simpson, and Dr. Mills, who lately arrived from Toronto, passed a successful examination.

The following officers of the council were elected for the ensuing year: President, Dr. Hasington; vice-president, Dr. W. A. DeWolf Smith, New Westminster; treasurer, Dr. Lefevre, Vancouver; registrar and secretary, Dr. G. L. Milne. Considerable business having been transacted in the interest of the profession, the council adjourned to meet next November in the city of Vancouver. It was also decided that the council will prosecute any person, not being a duly qualified and registered physician, who attempts to practice in the province.

The list of examiners are as follows: Materia medica and chemistry, Dr. Milne; physiology and clinical medica, Dr. McGuigan; surgery, Dr. Davie; diseases of women and children, Dr. Lefevre; practice of medicine, Dr. Hasington; anatomy and clinical surgery, Dr. Tunstall; medical jurisprudence, Dr. Smith. The delegates from the Mainland returned home this morning.

THE CONGO FOREST.

One of the most striking passages in Mr. Stanley's letters, was that in which he described the vast, gloomy forest of the Congo. In the "parliamentary papers" upon the Emin relief expedition just issued, containing Stanley's report, there is another remarkable description of this wonderful region.

"We can prove," says Stanley, "that east and north and northeast of the Congo there exists an immense area of about 250,000 square miles, which is covered by one unbroken, compact and veritable forest. A scientific writer, Professor Drummond, as late as 1888, writes that the fairy labyrinth of ferns and palms, the festoons of climbing plants blocking the paths and scenting the forest with their flowers, the gorgeous cloud of insects, the gayly plumaged birds, the parroquets, the monkeys swinging from their trapeze in the shaded bower are unknown to Africa.

"With due deference to the Professor, these are precisely what are every day seen within that area of 250,000 square miles, through the course of which we travelled for thirteen months, and in whose gloomy shades so many scores of our dark followers perished. Our progress through the dark undergrowth of brush and umbrageous trees which grew beneath the impervious shades of the forest giants, and which was matted by Arums, phrynies and amoma, melted by endless lines of calamus, and complicated by great cable-like convolvulvi, was often at the rate of 400 yards an hour. Through such obstructions as these we had to tunnel a way for the column to pass. The Amazon valley cannot boast a more impervious or a more umbrageous forest, nor one which has more truly a tropical character than this vast upper Congo forest, nourished as it is by eleven months of tropical showers."

TEMPTING PROVIDENCE.

Foolhardiness or Ignorance—Which?

A correspondent informs us that, yesterday, as Mr. Van Volkenburg's men were driving a herd of wild steers up Fort street—one man ahead on horseback and two bringing up the rear—a young lady sauntering along Government street deliberately came between the cattle and the man who rode in front of them, running a very imminent risk of being impaled on their horns, it not being regarded as safe, even by the most experienced herdsmen, to go within fifty feet of a wild drove except on horseback. A correspondent says that he and others watched the foolhardy feat with feelings of horror, expecting that every moment the natural fierceness of the animals would assert itself. The man said that, after thirty years of frontier life, he would not for $10,000 undertake to do what that girl had accomplished, pure by luck than anything else.

PERSONAL.

G. M. Sproat left for the interior this morning.

J. A. Carscadden, of Vancouver, is at the Driard.

T. E. Ladner, Jas. Laidlaw and J. G. Woods are at the Driard.

Henry Hayes was a passenger for Vancouver this morning.

F. S. Barnard, M.P.P., went over to the mainland this morning.

W. Moresby, warden of the Westminster goal, is at the Driard.

C. A. Scoullar and J. G. Woods returned to Westminster this morning.

M. M. English and wife, of Westminster, arrived down on the Islander and are at the Driard.

Thos. R. Smith, assistant commissioner of the Hudsons' Bay Co., is paying a visit to the mainland.

Mrs. and Miss Cooper will be passengers for San Francisco by the next direct steamer, the City of Puebla.

Waltea Oaks, secretary-treasurer of the Puget Sound and Alaska Steamship Company, was in town yesterday on official business.

Ben Young, the salmon king, arrived on the Islander last night, looking hale and hearty after his trip among the Britishers.

Miss Annie Williams, a young lady of Montreal, recently took the Prince of Wales gold medal (4th year) for moral philosophy in McGill University.

Dr. McGuigan, Dr. and Mrs. Lefevre, of Vancouver; Dr. Richardson and wife, of Deseronto, and Dr. and Mrs. DeWolf Smith, of Westminster, went home this morning.

Guy C. Phinney and wife, of Seattle, are at the Driard. Mr. Phinney is just recovered from a serious illness, the result of overwork during the past year. They will return to Seattle on Friday.

F. S. Claxton, of Dalby, Ballentyne & Claxton, real estate brokers, returned from Montreal on Tuesday evening. He was accompanied by his wife and family, and will take up his permanent residence in Victoria.

Harry Abbott leaves Vancouver today for a trip over the line of the Kootenay and Columbia railway. Leaving the Canadian Pacific railway at Revelstoke he will proceed by steamer to Sproat's Landing, and from the latter place he will go horseback over the line of the new road.

Joseph Tasse, of the firm of Tasse, Woods & Co., cigar manufacturers, Montreal, at present a guest at the Driard, speaks well of the business prospects as concerns his own special line. As regards the city of Victoria, he says he has always visited it with the utmost pleasure, adding that after Montreal it is one of the most delightful places, socially and otherwise, he is accustomed to visit. Conversations which he has had here have induced him to conclude that the situation as concerns relations between Catholics and Protestants in the province of Quebec are not properly understood. The opinion, he says, prevails in many circles that, after the next elections the provincial premier will discover the mistake he made in the methods by which he strove to build himself up.

Easily Ascertained.

It is easy to find out from anyone who has used it, the virtues of Hagyard's Yellow Oil for all painful and inflammatory troubles, rheumatism, neuralgia, lumbago, frost bites, burns, bruises, sprains, contracted cords, stiff joints, aches, pains and soreness of any kind, it has no superior. wls

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

Effects of High License.

OAKLAND, May 6.—A number of saloon licenses are expiring at present, and a number are not renewing their licenses, and are going out of business on account of high license.

Death from Heart Disease.

SACRAMENTO, May 8.—Edward Murray, ex-city surveyor of Sacramento, dropped dead this morning in a saloon. He came into the place, asking for a drink, received it, and afterwards staggered back and fell on the floor. He was a native of Canada, unmarried, and probably forty years of age. Death was caused by heart disease.

Smuggled Opium.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 5.—This morning the steamer San Blas arrived in port from Panama. When the government searchers were examining the vessel, 80 five-teal boxes of prepared opium were found hidden in the cargo. The entire amount was confiscated. It is valued at about $500. No arrests were made. This is a new direction for smuggled opium to come from, and it is supposed the drug was taken to Panama in transit by Chinese, and shipped to this port with the hope that the officials would not thoroughly search a Panama steamer.

The Strike Situation.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 6.—As the rooms of the Builders' Association it was stated to-day, there was no change in the strike of carpenters. Honey Bros., contractors, are short eighty men, that number having refused to work because a reduction in wages was threatened by their employers if only eight hours work was performed. The planing mills are running as usual, with small forces in some shops. The bench workers refuse to work unless eight hours is agreed to constitute a day's work, with no reduction of wages. The machine workers are all at their places.

Sailors Suing for Damages.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 6.—U. S. District Judge Hoffman this afternoon rendered a decision in the libel suit brought by several sailors against the ship Reuce. Plaintiffs sued for damages for being afflicted with scurvy on account of being improperly fed. The court declared the libel liable, and referred the matter to a commissioner to determine the extent to which the sailors suffered.

Owing to a Mistake.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 6.—Frank B. Agnew, book-keeper and cashier of the South British Fire Marine Insurance Co., of New Zealand, was arrested this morning charged with embezzlement. Agnew is said to be $2,000 short in his accounts. His employers say he collected money on re-insurance from other companies and did not credit it on his books. He had been with the company ten years. Agnew is about thirty years of age and married.

LATER.—Agnew was released this evening. His employers discovered that his apparent shortage was really due to a faulty system of book-keeping.

Missionary to Alaska.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 4. — Bishop Vladimer, thinks of sending Father Joseph as a missionary to Alaska next month. Rev. Mr. Joseph is a very well educated man, having graduated from the university at St. Petersburg. He will probably go to Killinoo. Bishop Vladimir has already sent one missionary to the Aleutian Islands in person of Rev. Mr. Georgis, who has succeeded in converting between 400 and 500 of the natives in one year.

The China Steamer.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 6.—The steamer China is scheduled to arrive from Hong Kong Saturday next. The exact number of Chinese passengers that she may have on board classed as in transit cannot be given. Collector Phelps, as yet, has received no notice of any change in Secretary Windom's order refusing to permit in transit passengers of the city the right to proceed to Mexican ports, and until instructions come to hand the passengers will remain on board. It is intimated that on the refusal of Collector Phelps to accede to the request the entire number of in transit passengers will be released on a writ of habeas corpus that a test may be made.

On Trial for Murder.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 5.—William Sullivan, 21 years of age, and Michael Dolan, 22, were charged with murder this forenoon, the accused having caused the death of Gustave Berner, a shoemaker, who died last Monday from meningitus, caused by a fracture of the skull. Berner left his home to go to a saloon near at hand for a can of beer. On his way he met Sullivan and Dolan and jostled against one of them. An altercation followed, which was continued in the saloon. On the way back the two waylaid and assaulted him, Sullivan striking Berner on the head, it is said, with a stone.

The Fruit Harvest.

SACRAMENTO, May 3.—A message was forwarded to-day by Sergeant Barwick to the chief signal station at Washington, stating that the peach crop here is badly affected by the excessive winter rains and thousands of trees destroyed along the Sacramento river. The fruit in the upper Sacramento valley is good. Grain will average about half a crop. Grapes, oranges, apricots and cherries, good.

Cruise of the Albatross.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 5. — United States fish commission steamer Albatross sailed to-day for her summer cruise in Northern waters. She goes first to Departure bay and thence to Unalaska.

To Replace the Strikers.

RENO, Nev., May 5.—A carload of eastern iron molders passed west this morning on a special, to take the place of the strikers in San Francisco.

Shipping.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 5.—Arrived—Steamer Tillamook. Sailed—Steamer Umatilla, for Victoria; ship Wilna, for Nanaimo.

Willing to Refund.

BUFFALO, May 5.—A letter was received to-day by a director of the Press Club from its absconding treasurer; Chas. L. Lancaster. He is located in a small town just across the border in Canada. He confesses his defalcation, and asks for a chance to redeem himself and to repay the money in weekly instalments. He declares himself ready to return and stand his trial if the club insists on it. A meeting will be called to consider his case.

CANADIAN NEWS.

Proposed Separation of Quebec.

MONTREAL, May 7.—L. O. David, member of parliament for Montreal, who has been appointed high sheriff of Montreal, suggests the separation of Quebec from the rest of the Dominion and the formation of a French colony on the banks of the St. Lawrence, or else the annexation of Quebec to the United States.

The Tariff Passed.

OTTAWA, May 7.—The tariff bill, increasing the customs duties, was read a third time to-night before parliament. Sir Richard Cartwright submitted an amendment, declaring that, considering the finance minister's statement that