From THE DAILY COLONIST, February 19.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Mr. Cartmel Presents an Exhaustive Report on the Electric Light Plant.

Motion to Appoint a Plumbing Inspector Laid Over—Expensive Cordwood.

In the absence of Mayor Teague Ald. Humphrey took the chair at the city council meeting last night, all the other members of the board being present.

The Victoria Trades and Labor Council asked that all public works and improvements undertaken by the city be done by day's work instead of by contract. Laid on the table, a copy to be furnished each committee.

C. C. Revens wrote in regard to the city purchasing from G. W. Anderson part of sections 43 and 47 at Elk lake, on which farm the writer was a tenant, claiming that the offer to him of $1,000 compensation is not sufficient. He considered $2,000 was low enough.

ALD. WILLIAMS, while moving that the letter be referred to the Water Commissioner, held that Mr. Revens had not been treated rightly. He had not been offered enough.

The motion was carried.

Elford & Smith's request to be allowed to use Wharf street from Broughton to Drake's coal office, and also a part of Government street, was referred to the street committee to report.

D. Cartmel reported as follows:

VICTORIA, 18th Feb., 1895.

To the Worshipful the Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria:

GENTLEMEN:—In compliance with your instructions, transmitted to me through the electric light committee, I have the honor to inform you that I have made a careful survey of the new electric light lighting plant and beg to report as follows:—

I went carefully through the William Hamilton specifications and contract and compared the machinery with them; I also examined the workmanship, having some portions removed for that purpose; and am pleased to say that I found every part of it fully in accordance with their contract; and the materials and workmanship of a satisfactory description. Owing, however, to the delays to which they have been subjected, and alterations in the position of the various portions of the engine, they have been somewhat hampered in the completion of their work, and put to a considerable amount of unnecessary expense. It is understood that the above alterations were approved by the late council; and the only omission I could see is in not clothing the tops of the boilers, steam drums, &c., with a nonconducting material.

The chimney is of sufficient size and height, being the combined area of the whole of the tubes of the four boilers.

There are more boilers than necessary. With fairly good coal and stoking two of these boilers will supply all the steam the present engine could consume, and if any spare boilers are necessary, one would be ample for all purposes.

There are two "steam drums," the object for which does not appear, as their only possible use is to act as radiators, tending to reduce the steam pressure and waste coal.

The brickwork for the boilers, all the mountings, the safety valves, stop valves, piping, feed pump, etc., are good and suitable for the work intended.

I examined the engine carefully, and although there are others more economical, this is well designed in its details. I went through the necessary calculations to determine its power, and assuming that it cuts off at one-fourth, the stroke will expand the steam 13 8 times, the terminal pressure being 10 pounds absolute. When referred to the low pressure cylinder the mean pressure will be 33 pounds per square inch, and running at 200 revolutions, will develop the full 300 horse power required.

The William Hamilton tender specifies a vertical feed heater, but a horizontal one has been substituted. It has been placed between the low pressure cylinder and the condenser and its utility is doubtful. It cannot heat the feed water to a higher temperature than 120 degrees, otherwise it would vitiate the vacuum, and cannot effect a saving more than 5 per cent.

The eduction pipe is 33 feet long (including the heater), and being 10 inches in diameter has a volume more than three times that of the low pressure cylinder, which in a quick running engine is highly detrimental.

As regards the condenser: Sea water contains, at the atmospheric pressure, one-twentieth of its volume of air, which when it is admitted into the condenser immediately expands, in accordance with the vacuum and temperature, which at 120° will be 7½ times. This air, in addition to that which has passed over from the boiler with the steam, as well as the condensing water and the condensed steam, it is the duty of the air pump to remove. The amount of condensing water used varies with the temperature, and in this climate may be taken at 20 times the weight of steam condensed. If we assume that the engine consumes 18 pounds of water (or steam) per indicated horse power per hour, the total amount of combined steam and water the air pump will have to remove is 258 gallons per minute. The air pumps being horizontal, double-acting and duplex, will have a theoretical capacity of 6.8 gallons per stroke; but as the efficiency of an air pump of this description is never more than one half, and the maximum number of strokes ought not to exceed 50, the greatest number of gallons removed will be 170. This is two-thirds the capacity it ought to have if of the highest efficiency, and one-half the capacity of the one that ought to have been supplied. But owing to the rise and fall of tide and other considerations a surface condenser ought to have been supplied and placed near the low pressure cylinder without any obstruction in the pipe. Then, if the water taken from the condenser were passed through an "economizer" placed in the uptake, the temperature could be raised to (say) 280°, and a saving of 25 per cent. in fuel be effected. The specification calls for pumps with a capacity of 1½ gallons of water per indicated horse power of the engine per minute, and if the above air pumps were only intended to pump water they would, at 100 strokes, exceed that quantity by one half. The injection pipe, being immersed in and full of sea water, ought to be of cast iron instead of the steam piping in use, as it will "pit" into holes and require renewing in a very short time.

There is no drainage to the condenser pit, and as this is an absolute necessity, it ought to be attended to as early as possible.

I have made an examination of the line shafting, pulleys, etc., but as they are at present in the street I have been unable to examine the shaft as minutely as I could wish, and request permission to defer this part of the report till Thursday next. I have been unable to procure the original specification, but obtained a copy from the Albion Iron Works, which is hereto appended.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. CARTMEL.

ALD. MACMILLAN commended the report as a very thorough one, and one that Mr. Cartmel would be able to defend. He would like Mr. Cartmel to report on the depth of the condenser pit, as he (Ald. Macmillan) was afraid the bottom was below sea level and could not be drained.

The report was laid on the table.

Chief Deasy of the fire department reported recommending the purchase of a horse to replace a sick one, and advised that more accommodation be made for the department, as No. 1 hall was overcrowded and the market building was not a fit place for the men. Referred to fire wardens to report at next meeting.

Mrs M. J. Macnaughton held the council's offer of $20 was not enough for her husband's claim for street grading, and threatened to get out an injunction unless the whole claim of $65 were paid. Laid on the table till the street committee reported.

The City Engineer reported a list of the property owners on Craigflower road and Russel street whose fences encroached on the streets, with the amount it would take to move back the fences. The whole amounted to about $100. It was decided to carry out the widening, a report from the streets committee recommending the work.

C. H. Stickels reported that he had done all he could at the electric light station till the line shafting was up. If it were not in place by Thursday he could not have the lighting as soon as was expected. Referred to electric light committee.

The caretaker of Ross Bay cemetery called attention to the few remaining lots in the cemetery. He also asked for his salary to be raised to $75. Referred to cemetery committee to report.

Tenders for the removal of the city garbage were opened as follows:

C. J. V. Spratt, $13 50 per day, or he offered to sell the tug Vancouver for $5,000. The amount for towing the garbage to sea by her would cost about $200 a month if the city owned her.

Swinerton & Oddy tendered at $13 per day and the use of their tug when not busy.

M. Hare tendered for $12 per day, but was unable to put up the $500 forfeit. He proposed that the amount should be held back if his tender was successful.

C. Burns tendered for $13 45 per day for eighteen months.

ALD. WILLIAMS asked the chair to notice that the tenders were not much more than half the present contract. That was the effect of calling for tenders.

It was decided to call a meeting to-day (Tuesday) at 3 o'clock to consider the tenders.

H. F. W. Behnsen and others, re Trounce avenue, wrote that they were anxious that the city should undertake the cleaning of Trounce avenue. Referred to street committee to report.

Two petitions from residents to the east of Moss street, including Spring Ridge, asked for a fire station in that part of the city. One petition suggested Cadboro Bay road, east of Fernwood, as the best site; the other wanted the station at the corner of Chatham street and Fernwood road.

Referred to fire wardens to report, Ald. Bragg stating the wardens were not unmindful of the need.

C. C. McGregor and others asked for a policeman for the Oak Bay district.

Referred to police commissioners.

The finance committee's report asking for $284 80 from ordinary revenue and $270 from electric light fund was adopted, as also a requisition from the school trustees for $395.

The electric light committee's report that Mr. Cartmel had been appointed to inspect the electric light plant and that Mr. McMicking had been requested to report as to the pole and line work with a view to finding out how much it would cost to complete, was adopted.

The Old Men's Home committee reported on the wood cutting bills referred to them at last meeting, that two men, Jones and Duncan, had worked five days at $2 per day and cut 3 cords and 8 cubic feet; then W. G. Eden and A. Marion at $2 a day for 7½ days cut 5 cords 4 cubic feet, or about 9 cords for the four men. Jones and Duncan had been paid $20, and there was due the other two men $30. To this must be added one half the cost of hauling from the beach, bringing up a total of $63 50, or $7 a cord. The report says: "Your committee do not so much blame the men who cut and hauled the wood for this exorbitant cost as the poor judgment and bad management on the part of those who represented the corporation (last year) in the matter. We would therefore recommend that Eden & Marion be paid the sum claimed, and that in future all wood required for the use of the home be four-foot wood, delivered at the home at a price per cord to be fixed by competition. Report adopted.

The sewerage committee reported the Johnson street ravine in an unsanitary condition, and recommended that the sanitary inspector make a report, and that the city barristers be asked to ascertain, if possible, the city's powers to make the property owners do away with the trouble. Adopted.

The sanitary inspector was instructed to inquire into a complaint about drains on Carr, Young, Toronto and Avalon streets.

The sewerage committee recommended the appointment of a competent plumbing inspector by the city to be furnished with proper appliances to make either water or smoke tests.

ALD. PARTRIDGE moved to advertise for an inspector.

ALD. WILSON said that Mr. Parr, assistant city engineer, was capable of attending to the work.

ALD. MACMILLAN held the appointment was an important one, as the city's health was concerned. A practical man accustomed to plumbing was needed. He moved that the salary be $125 per month.

ALD. CAMERON did not think Mr. Parr could properly attend to his present duties and the inspection work also.

ALD. WILLIAMS counselled waiting till the estimates came down, and said he would move in amendment to lay the report over.

ALD. BRAGG thought that with such a salary as was proposed the inspector should do more work than just inspect plumbing.

ALD. MACMILLAN was of opinion that the work would not be a soft snap.

ALD. MCLELLAN stated that it would be well before taking action to wait till it was known how much money the city had.

ALD. PARTRIDGE explained that the sewerage by-law called for an inspector; now was the time an inspector was needed and not after the sewer connections had all been completed.

The report was finally tabled.

ALD. BRAGG's motion that the crematory fund of $10,000 be used for electric light improvements was carried.

ALD. WILLIAMS then moved his resolution, already published, that the council should meet on Thursday evenings during the next four months to advance important public works such as electric lighting, street paving, sewerage, water and railway questions. He pointed out how necessary it was to get the work under way as quickly as possible.

ALD. BRAGG supported the motion, as he would like to see the workingmen get employment. Referring to the sewerage inspection, he considered the proposed salary of $125 too high.

ALD. PARTRIDGE wanted to know how it was that ever since his boyhood's days every time he saw a chance to elevate the workman, another workman came forward to stop it. It made him "wild" to hear Ald. Bragg talk.

After some discussion the chair took the view of Ald. McLellan that the motion was out of order, the mode of calling meetings being already settled by by-law.

ALD. WILLIAMS differed, but agreed to let the matter lie over.

ALD. WILLIAMS wanted to know how long the filter plans were going to remain in the East. Already the city would owe the experts some $1,600. He suggested that a wire be sent to Toronto asking if it was not time that the plans were sent back. (Laughter.)

The matter dropped after some discussion.

ALD. PARTRIDGE moved, seconded by Ald. Wilson, that all letters, specifications and plans of the electric light extension be presented to the council, and that a meeting be called to consider them. He wanted to see upon what the money had been spent. Carried.

ALD. WILLIAMS, alluding to Dr. Richardson's report to the hospital board, claimed that the Dominion government should pay for all the sick Indians sent there from the reserve. As to the Old Men's Home, the city should have a right to send the inmates as patients to the hospital when they were sick.

ALD. WILSON explained that while such might be the case, the hospital could not be expected to receive such patients unless a proper certificate from a medical man was sent.

The council adjourned at half-past ten.

THE CITY.

THE different lodges of I.O.O.F. in Victoria are getting up teams to give an exhibition of lodge work in competition for a prize when Grand Lodge meets here in June next. It is thought the trophy will take the shape of a lodge banner.

THE Ladies' Aid Society of St. Paul's Presbyterian church, Victoria West, will spare no efforts to make the annual tea meeting in the church this evening an occasion of pleasure and interest to all who may attend. An excellent programme is provided for.

NORMAM MCLEOD, a native of Skye, Scotland, and a resident of this province for a number of years, died at his residence, Bay street, on Saturday. He was the father of Dan McLeod the famous wrestler. Dan left San Francisco last night for this city and the funeral will not take place till his arrival.

IN Victoria West, a few days ago, a most serious poisoning case caused considerable alarm to the family of a well known resident of Powderly avenue, three of the household being brought very close to death. The poison was codfish liver and all the family were stricken down, all having eaten of the dangerous dish. Through the skillful treatment of Dr. Frank Hall the patients are now out of danger and rapidly recovering.

SYMPATHIZING friends were numerous at the funeral, Sunday, of the late John Kermode, whose remains, having been brought from Grand Prairie—the scene of his death—were laid at rest in Ross Bay cemetery. Rev. Joseph Hall conducted the services at the family residence, No. 87 Henry street, and also at the grave. The pall-bearers, all young men, were: F. J. Jones, W. H. Jones, W. J. Jones, W. Shakespeare, A. A. Humber and J. Hollins.

MANY tickets have been sold for the concert to be given in Institute hall next Monday by the Euphonic Orchestral society in aid of the Food and Shelter home. More may be had at Waitt and Lombard's music stores, Hibben's book store, Dean & Cryderman's, Yates street, or from members of the society. The programme consists of seventeen excellent numbers, and the entertainments is under the patronage of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor and His Worship the Mayor.

DANIEL CONNORS, when brought before Mr. Justice Walkem yesterday to stand a speedy trial for stealing sails and other boat fittings from M. S. Morgan, pleaded not guilty. He admitted having had the articles in his possession, but claimed that they were his and that he was a partner of Morgan in the vessel. Morgan repudiated the partnership, and the court decided to adjourn the case for a week for more evidence, the accused being admitted to bail in the meantime. Mr. Herbert E. A. Robertson for the Crown, Connors conducting his own case.

A WELL attended meeting of the local Irish Rugby footballers of this city was held last evening. The meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a team to play against Victoria March 16, on which date St. Patrick's day will be celebrated here. Mr. J. M. Miller was elected captain, and a committee consisting of Messrs. J. Fraser, Q. D. H. Warden, D. O'Sullivan and A. Green appointed to complete the arrangements. There is no doubt that this match will be one of the most exciting of the season, the Irish team being probably much stronger than it was last year.

THE officers' room at the drill hall has recently become possessed of a few relics of the first volunteer corps in Victoria. One is an enlarged copy of a photograph of the officers in command in 1864, and was presented by Hon. B. W. Pearse, who was captain of No. 1 company. Another photograph, presented by Mr. A. F. Englehardt, represents the officers and a few of the rank and file in the picturesque uniform which was made out of Hudson Bay blankets. The third relic, also presented by the last named gentleman, is a copy of the orders bearing the date of May 20, 1865. All three form a very interesting souvenir of the olden times.

MESSRS Wilson and Yorke, who left the office of the Lincoln (Eng.) Echo on the 11th August last for a stroll around the globe, spent yesterday in Victoria, relating their experiences and calling upon the newspaper men, Governor Dewdney, Premier Davie and other notable people whose signatures were required to make the log book complete. This morning they return to Vancouver by the Charmer and at once start afoot for California, whence they will proceed to the far East. Mr. Wilson represents the Sydney (N.S.W.) Bulletin in his present adventurous trip, the chief conditions in regard to which are that he must spend no money during his journey and must walk the entire distance through every country he visits. This was presumably a novelty when the trip was first thought of, although the tramp journalists have unfortunately had many imitators of late. These particular candidates for unique fame expect to reach England again within eighteen months of their departure from Lincoln, and hope then to be able to proudly proclaim that they have kept their pact and visited every country adorning the girdle of the globe, while spending nothing and showing "no visible means of support."

THE C.P.R. Co. have issued new steamship schedules which, besides announcing the dates of arrival and departure from different ports of their vessels, supply the traveller with a great amount of useful information regarding the trips. Accompanying the time table, all the C.P.R. offices have been instructed to supply upon application "Westward to the Far East," "The Highway to the Orient," "Historic Quebec" and other interesting publications.

AT THE meeting of the B. C. Football Association at Nanaimo on Saturday evening it was decided that the tie match for the championship cup should be played off at Nanaimo on March 16, between the Wanderers of Victoria and the Nanaimo team. There are four teams in the association, the Wanderers, Nanaimos, Barracks Athletics and the Wellingtons. The Wanderers have beaten the Wellingtons, and the Athletics have been vanquished by the Nanaimo team, so that the match in March will decide whether the Wanderers, the present holders of the cup, or the Nanaimo team, shall be champions for the present season.

YESTERDAY morning witnessed the marriage at St. Andrew's (R.C.) cathedral of Mr. J. M. Finn, the popular leader of the B.C.B.G.A. band and a composer of more than a few tuneful melodies; his bride was Miss Mary Stevens, also a Victorian and like the husband of her choice the possessor of many warm friends. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Nicolaye, who was the celebrant at the nuptial mass which followed, and was attended by a few only of the most intimate friends of the contracting parties. Mr. and Mrs. Finn will spend the first days of their married life at the Hotel Northern, Seattle, and on their return will make their home on Blanchard street.

THERE was a large attendance at the special song service held at St. Columba's church last Sunday evening to mark the arrival of the organ recently presented to the congregation by Mrs. Mundie, a sister of the minister. The choir was assisted for the occasion by Mrs. Ewart and Mrs. McKenzie, of Knox church choir, and Messrs. Kinnaird and Fraser, of the First church. The entire programme was presented in a manner reflecting great credit upon Mr. Jones, both as an organist and a choir leader. The musical numbers of the evening were: Venite, choir; "I Hear the Voice," Mrs. Jones, soloist; "Let the Saviour In," Mrs. Ewart and Mrs. Jones, Messrs. Kinnaird and Spragge; "Te Deum" (Jackson), choir; "Prayer of the Wanderer," Messrs Kinnard and Fraser; "The Gleaners," Mesdames Ewart, Jones, McKenzie and Hopper.

TUG Velos, which left here for Haddington Island a week ago yesterday with the barge Pilot in two, for a load of stone for the new government buildings, returned to port Sunday evening with no cargo. As passengers she took up to the quarry Contractor F. Adams and sub-contractor Tulloch, who oversees the quarrying. Neither gentlemen returned, and in their absence the cause of the tug's inability to secure the stone she went for has yet to be explained. When the steamer arrived at Haddington Island the cylinder of the engine used in the quarry had disappeared, and the work of loading the Pilot could not be proceeded with. Apart from this there was, it is said, trouble arising out of differences between the two contractors, which probably will be heard of later. Mr. Jole, an employe of Mr. Tulloch, came down on a special trip of the Velos for the express purpose, it is said, of taking legal advice. She returned north at 11 o'clock last night with Mr. Jole, and will, it is expected, return in about a week with a load of stone.

YESTERDAY application was made before Justices Crease and Drake by Mr. Belyea, on behalf of John Cook, for a mandamus requiring the police magistrate to summarily try the charge against Cook for keeping a gaming house. Mr. Hunter, for Police Magistrate Macrae, argued that the police magistrate had no jurisdiction under the summary trials act, for the reason that in the section giving jurisdiction (783 f) a disorderly house had to be construed exactly as in section 784, which made the jurisdiction of a magistrate absolute in cases of a disorderly house, house of ill-fame or bawdy house, as against the consent of the accused; and that the word disorderly house in section 784 was the same as house of ill-fame or bawdy house, because the section purported to take away trial by jury and should be construed strictly. The court held this view was too narrow and that a disorderly house included a common gaming house. The court, however, upheld the magistrate's view that in any event his jurisdiction was discretionary, and the application for the mandamus was on that ground refused.

THE following from the Sierra Leone Weekly News will be read with interest by the Victoria friends of Captain French, who recently spent several months in this city. The Captain is a native Canadian and the son of Colonel French, who was deputed by the Imperial government to organize the Dominion artillery and the Northwest mounted police: "On the 13th November, 1894, whilst H.M.S. Barossa was cruising off the Isles des Los on the West coast of Africa, a bluejacket fell overboard, and although a fair swimmer was soon observed to be in distress, owing to heavy seas breaking over him. Noting this, Captain G. A. French, of the Army Service Corps, who was on board as a guest at the time, jumped overboard without hesitation, with his clothes on, and swam to the man's assistance. This plucky action was performed under circumstances of great danger, on account of rapid and dangerous under-currents and the sea being alive with sharks. We understand that this is not the first time that Captain French, A.S.C., has distinguished himself in this manner, having assisted at great personal risk in saving a man from drowning in the river Plate, South America, in 1887. We congratulate Captain French on his gallant act, and trust and feel sure that Governor Cardew will represent the matter to the proper authorities and be able shortly to present the plucky Captain with a well-earned Humane Society medal."

Fatal Coal Mine Explosion.

POTTSVILLE, Feb. 18.—By an explosion of mine gas at 10 o'clock this morning the West Barridge colliery, of the Reading Coal and Iron Co., at Mhoaping Plain, six miners were killed and five burned, four probably fatally. The origin of the explosion is unknown, but it supposed that a naked lamp ignited a large body of gas that had been let loose from the blast that was made in the gangway.

Scraped With a Rasp.

SIRS,—I had such a severe cough that my throat felt as if scraped with a rasp. On taking Norway Pine Syrup I found the first dose gave relief, and the second bottle completely cured me. MISS A. A. DOWNEY, Manotic, Ont.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Clever Capture of an Illicit Still Near Chilliwack—Up Country Notes.

Wilson the Jail Breaker Rearrested—Rev. Mr. Maxwell Chosen as Liberal Candidate.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 18.—Particulars of the very clever capture of an illicit still near Chilliwack are to hand. Collector Miller spent two nights and two days, with his assistants, before he corralled the outfit and convicted his men, whom he was surprised to find were the party he was after two years ago. James Bruce has been a source of trouble to the department for a long time, and under suspicion for two years. He got wind of the authorities being cognizant of the whereabouts of his still, and moved it to the farm of a man named McDonald. A detective employed by Mr. Miller located the plant by pretending to be a probable purchaser, but McDonald would not give away the exact spot in which it was hidden until he was placed under arrest. Bruce was also captured and brought before Magistrates Miller and Ashwell, of Chilliwack, who, owing to the fact of Bruce's apparent desire previous to the arrest to sell the still or quit the business, fined him but $100, with the privilege of going to jail for three months. The still, which had a capacity of twelve gallons, was seized. Considering the opportunities offered, the Inland Revenue department have done excellent work.

At a mass meeting of Liberals to-night, by a vote of 24 to 13, it was decided to cable Rev. G. R. Maxwell in Scotland, asking him to accept the nomination of the Liberal party. Mr. Maxwell's answer will be placed before another meeting.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 19.—Venerable Archdeacon Fortin of Winnipeg presided at the opening of Christ church on Sunday last. The beautiful new church was much admired by the large number of people present. A social was held on Monday evening in the basement of the church at which congratulations were in order. A number of the clergymen of the city were present and delivered short addresses.

A letter from the Pacific Coast Theatrical Company to the council asking that the opera house be exempted from taxation so that they could include Vancouver in their theatrical circuit without loss to themselves—as otherwise the opera house would not pay expenses and no shows would come—was promptly filed without reference to committee.

At the council last night, Mr. Leonard's suit against McFarlane for attempted bribery was spoken of and Ald. McCraney was voted back in the council entirely exonerated, his resignation not being accepted.

The new cannery being built by Costello & Co. at Steveston is well under way.

Sturgeon fishermen claim that under the present regulations no trade can be done in sturgeon fishing. One man fished twenty days with six hooks and caught nothing. He then fished twenty days more with two lines of six hooks each and again caught nothing. He fished at the best places in the river.

The licensing board have notified the saloons that any complaints of gambling will affect the renewal of licenses. This is owing to the numerous anonymous letters received by the council that gambling is being carried on in some of the hotels.

Dorothy is to be put on by the Vancouver amateur opera company on Wednesday. The company has spent $700 to put on the first performance.

Thirty-seven opponents of the present administration at Ottawa contended from 8 o'clock to 11.30 last night over the selection of a candidate who had a fighting chance to defeat the candidate put up by the Conservatives of Burrard, it being generally conceded that should the candidate come out as a straight Liberal the government man would have a walk over. Rev. G. R. Maxwell was cabled to, it being proved in the debate that he used to be a strong Tory and it was by no means certain that he was now a very straight-laced Liberal.

The local library committee approve of the following books being placed in the Provincial library at the request of Mr. Gosnell the Provincial librarian: "Clark and Lewis' travels to the source of the Missouri, 1814," and "His Royal Higness the Prince Consort's speeches and addresses, with the Queen's autograph." The finance committee have yet to report. As these books cannot be loaned to the patrons of the library it is thought wiser to send them to Victoria for safe keeping.

J. C. Byrne, of Victoria, grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, was entertained by the brethren to-night at a grand ball. He will visit the local lodges here to-morrow and proceed to Westminster the following day.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Feb. 19.—Matsqui Prairie farmers who suffered from the June floods have appointed a committee to urge upon the government the necessity of supplying them with seed for the spring crop. They promise to return it in kind or cash.

A special committee from the council, Mr. Corbould, M.P., and the board of trade have met and discussed the organization of a military company. The desired result will no doubt soon be brought about.

The municipality of Surrey have formed a branch Conservative association, with Archibald Murphy, of Clover Valley, as president.

The Sons of England convention is in session at Templars' hall.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Feb. 18.—Alexander Wilson, whose daring escape from durance has been the theme of much amused comment for several days, is again in the clutches of the law. Since his escape Wilson has had a good time. He dined at Judge Harrison's back door and also with a special officer. He was attempting to leave the island when he was picked up last night by officer Thompson. Wilson made a desperate fight, and a night-watchman of the Cutch had to lend a hand to take him in. He is now in the provincial jail.

The inquest on the body of Thomas McGuffie, found dead on Gabriola island, resulted in a verdict of death from natural causes.

TRAIL CREEK.

(From the Kootenay Mail.)

The War Eagle shares that were sold the other day were snapped up eagerly, and the same parties have offered to take 50,000 at the same price. The mine was bonded last year for $17,500, and when the bond was taken up the owners placed the shares at $1 each. The mine is shipping between 20 and 30 tons a day, at a profit of something like $30 a ton after paying all expenses. Underground, the mine is a mammoth cave, and, as a mining man said the other day, "No property in Leadville or anywhere else on this continent excels it, so far as developed. It is at least a million dollar mine and is probably worth twice that amount."

A strike has been made on the O.K. mine, about a mile and a half from Le Roi, being a 14-inch vein of copper pyrites and seven feet of free milling ore, at a depth of 146 feet.

Another mine adjoining the Le Roi is to be extensively worked. This is the Centre Star, which has about 500 feet of tunneling and a 50-ft. shaft. The tunnel has been in ore all the way and several hundred tons are ready for shipment. The owners will shortly let a contract for cutting 500 feet more of tunnels.

A big rush of prospectors is expected as soon as the snow is off the hills, as there is a vast extent of this district not yet explored, and there is every probability that some rich finds will be reported in the spring.

The Josie mine, Trail creek, has just changed hands for a considerable sum, the purchaser being Frank C. Loring, who has bought out the entire interests of G. A. and A. H. Sonnemann. The Josie adjoins the War Eagle and Le Roi and stands in the front rank as an ore producer. There are ten men now working on the mine, and the new owner intends increasing the force. To a reporter Mr. Loring said: "Trail Creek is a wonderfully rich district. One hundred and fifty miners are now at work for good wages, besides those employed in various other capacities. This makes a lively camp, but it will be livelier next summer."

CHEMAINUS.

CHEMAINUS, Feb. 18.—With deep regret is recorded the death of Mrs. Robertson, who died in Nanaimo on Friday, the 15th inst. She was an old resident, and had reached an advanced age.

Mr. Robert Wilson paid a visit to his old home in Oyster on Saturday. His sister, Miss Agnes Wilson, returned with him to Victoria yesterday.

The Chemainus I.O.G.T. held their anniversary entertainment on the 16th. At the appointed time Mr. Hill took the chair, and after the opening ode by the lodge made a few neat introductory remarks. The programme, consisting of music (instrumental and vocal), recitations and readings, was then proceeded with and much appreciated by all present. Games were then indulged in, and at the hour of 11:30 the gathering dispersed, having spent a thoroughly enjoyable time.

The Bachelors' ball, held in Duncan on Friday evening, was the centre of attraction to quite a number of the young folks of this district.

With the exception of one day's rain the weather for more than a month has been wonderfully fine, and if it continues farming operations will soon commence.

Mr. Price, of Victoria, spent a week visiting his friend Mr. G. Elliott.

MIDWAY.

(From the Advance.)

Leonard Norris, government agent, Vernon, is making final arrangements for the construction of the two Kettle river bridges.

J. Stevens has disposed of his interests in the Paris and Lincoln claims, White's camp, to H. P. Palmerston, who has also secured that of the late M. Hotter.

P. B. Nelson, of Fourth of July creek, is quite taken with Midway as a townsite and McKinney as a good mining camp.

W. T. Smith reports everything progressing favorably at the Summit camp, work on the Emma claim being vigorously prosecuted under his management.

The last cold snap is favorable to the completion of the Ingram bridge over Kettle river. If the frost holds for a week the piers will be in position, and nothing will then retard the completion of this very necessary public work.

Whilst here Colonel Thompson looked over the No. 7 claim in Douglas camp, which he bonded in New York before coming out. The part owner, Mr. James Schofield, having control of the property, was able to carry this into effect when on his way to England. The sum for which it is bonded has not transpired. Colonel Thompson intimated before leaving his intention of having a number of men to work upon it at a near date. Considerable development by shafts and open cuts has already been done upon this claim, enough to entitle it to be placed among the best of the camp.

Col. Thompson, who has been perfecting arrangements for the purchase of some of the principal properties in Greenwood camp, has left for Spokane and points East.

Messrs. Winters & Rendell have recorded a claim on the divide near Greenwood camp, naming it the Mountain View. The ore is similar in character to that found in some of the high grade properties.

Captain Burbridge, representing St. Louis capitalists, is looking for properties. He is, it is understood, a man of large experience in mining, and will no doubt form a correct opinion of the vast mineral wealth of our camps.

CATTLE DISEASE.

PARIS, Feb. 19.—M. Gardaud, Minister of agriculture, received yesterday an agrarian delegation from the department of Pas de Calais and the Nord. The delegates urged upon him the need of taking steps against the importation of American cattle which, they said, threatened French cattle with contagious diseases. The minister said that the subject had been placed already before a special committee on the diseases of cattle and any necessary steps would be taken soon. Premier Ribot also promised the delegates to give the matter full attention.

BRUSSELS, Feb. 19.—According to the report of the Belgian specialist Nocard, there is doubt as to the existence of contagious pleuro-pneumonia among the cattle landed at Antwerp; the representatives of the Dominion government are about to apply to the Belgian authorities for the removal of the restrictions upon the importation into the country of cattle from Canada.

BACK TO HIS FRIENDS.

MONTREAL, Feb. 18.—(Special)—It is again stated on very good authority here to-day that Hon. Louis P. Pelletier, provincial secretary of the Taillon administration, will announce his resignation and will join his political fortunes with those of Hon. Mr. Laurier. Hon. Messrs. Pelletier and Laurier came from Quebec together to-day. The reason for Pelletier's break with his colleagues is said to be in connection with the grant of $100,000 to H. J. Beemer's road while they refused Pelletier's friends the charter for a scheme for electric roads in and about Quebec.

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