The Sun Shines On Good Sport

Hunt Club's Spring Meet at Colwood Proves a Thorough Success.

Tacoma Golfer Wins Coast Championship--Yacht Racing at Home

An ideal spring time afternoon in the country—a large and fashionable concourse of ladies and gentlemen to see the sport, well gowned young womanhood being out in force—an admirably prepared course—and a choice assortment of horseflesh to make the racing These in conjunction made the Hunt Club's races yesterday out at Colwood park an occasion to be pleasantly remembered for some time to come.

That the scene of entertainment was far removed from city sights, sounds and scenes, involving an outing in the country as an auxiliary feature, enhanced rather than detracted from the pleasure of those attending. It removed the meet from the arena of the commonplace and gave—as one Old Country man expressed it—"just the idea of a well organized country meeting in the land beyond the sea."

Of course there were some features of the meeting that are open to criticism—the races were a trifle slow, and the horse carrying popular money did not always win. But these were things the Hunt Club could not be held accountable for; while the fact that the course and fences were in the best of order, together with the filling of all races and the strict adherence to the programme time for starts, surely entitle the projectors and directors of the meeting to liberal praise.

The members of the club on the other hand were pleased to see the public heartily second their efforts by attending and showing their appreciation in a dozen ways.

Nor were the club members, who thoughtfully provided refreshments for their guests, alone the entertainers—the minstrels of H. M. S. Amphion were also on hand to add to the gaiety of the day with their droll antics, and their esidents of the district with their families and friends, entered with equal zest into the fun.

As for the racing—it was not a favorite's day, for save in the first event on the card, the triumphs were all for the horses inconspicuously placed in the betting order. Mr. J. D. Pemberton's stable supplied the heroes of the occasion, and that gentleman had the proud satisfaction of capturing each and every race of the three for which his animals were entered.

In the first the (Hun Cup) race, "Sir Bevys" the favorite, had a practical walk-over with "Lightfoot" as his only rival, "Bones" bolting the course almost at the start..

In race No. 2 "Minovid" and "Ruby" set out to make the running; at about the fifth fence, however, "Ruby" was forced into the post and came to grief, a similar disaster overtaking the favorite ("Minovid") a little later.

The Colwood plate race for ponies, with a field of seven starters, produced excellent sport. "Aguinaldo," Mr. L. Boscowitz's bay, made a strong start, pursued by the favorites, "Mary Anderson" and "Daisy." The leader as the pace grew hot followed the example of his Philippine namesake and took to the hills, the final battle for place being between "Gangway," "Reception" and "The Ghost," who fuished in the order named.

The Victoria Plate—the last race on the card—was, however, the best race of the day. Lieut. Elliott's "Rose" made the running to the last half mile, when "Starlight" took the lead and held it, practically unchallenged, to the finish.

The Farmers' Cup was won by Mr. Parker's bay, but this winner was disqualified on the sustained objection that his rider, King, was not qualified for the race.

Appended is the summary of the day's racing:

1.—"THE HUNT CUP."

Steeplechase for horses the bona fide property at the time of entry of members of the Victoria Hunt Club, any member of the club being entitled to ride. Distance about 2½ miles—the cup to be won twice by the same horse to become the property of any member.

Mr. J. D. Pemberton's b.g. "Sir Bevys".. 1
Mr. A. G. Wrigley's bl.g. "Lightfoot".... 2
Betting: Even money on "Sir Bevys;" 5 to 4 against "Lightfoot."

2.—"THE LADIES' CUP.

Steeplechase for horses the bona fide property of members of the Hunt Club at the time of entry, any member of the club being entitled to ride. Distance about 2½ miles—the cup to be won twice in succession by the same horse to become the absolute property of any member, and the winner of the previous race for this cup to carry a 7-pound penalty.

Mr. J. D. Pemberton's ch.g. "Starlight".. 1
Mr. T. E. Pooley's b.g. "Rattler"..... 2
Mr. T. P. Patton's ch.g. "Thunder"..... 3
Betting: Three to one against "Starlight;" even money "Minovid;" 6 to 4 against "Hilda;" any money against the rest.

3.—"THE COLWOOD PLATE."

Steeplechase for ponies, 14.2 hands and under, the bona fide property at the time of entry of a member of the Hunt Club, any member of the club being entitled to ride. Distance about one mile—ponies to be in the opinion of the committee bona fide paperchasers.

Lt. K. Crawley's r.g. "Gangway"..... 1
Hon. S. Hay's b.m. "Deception"..... 2
Mr. H. E. Newton's g.m. "The Ghost"... 3
Betting: "Mary Anderson" and "Daisy" 2 to 1 against; "Gangway," 12 to 1 in the morning, 5 to 1 or any price at the start.

4.—"THE FARMERS' CUP."
(With money prize added of $50 and $25 for the second horse.)

Steeplechase for horses bred in British Columbia, the bona fide property of farmers in Victoria district who are not members of the Victoria Hunt Club. The riders may be farmers, their sons, or any member of the V. H. C. Distance about two miles. Post entries.

Mr. McDonald's "Manx" won; Mr. Parker's horse being disqualified.

5.—"THE VICTORIA PLATE."

An open flat race of $100 for all horses bred in British Columbia, carrying weight for age. 3-year-olds to carry 135 pounds, 4-year-olds 156 pounds, 5-year-olds 168 pounds, horses to be ridden by members of the V. H. C., and to be nominated by members.

Mr. J. D. Pemberton's ch.g. "Starlight".. 1
Lt. Elliott's b.m. "Rose"..... 2
Betting: Five to one against "Rose;" 6 to 4 against "Starlight."

THE KENNEL.

Victoria's Luck at Tacoma.

Although Victoria's dog fanciers are not a very numerous body, they are enthusiastic and careful breeders and handlers of blue-blooded canines. The result is that the Victoria bench dogs, when brought into keen competition with the pick of the states of California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington—as they were at the Tacoma show last week—are not found wanting. Out of a string of 29 dogs sent to the Sound city in charge of Mr. Turner, 27 prizes were captured, the British Columbia spaniels being especially strong. Strange to say, the Irish and Gordon setters were weak as a class, and Victoria, although fortunate in the possession of some notably good setters, failed to put them in the lists. Any of three local families of Gordons would, if conditioned, have swept the prize card, while as for the Irishmen, the California kennelmen (with memories of the world's champions, Irish Lad and Ireland Yet, both of which are natives of this city), looked for a strong exhibit from Victoria—and were disappointed. Of the 27 prizes captured by Victoria owners, no fewer than 14 were firsts, with nine seconds and four thirds. Rev. J. W. Flinton, Mrs. W. J. McKeon and Mr. J. W. Creighton were the more fortunate of the British Columbia exhibitors. The complete list of prize-winners from this city follows:

Greyhounds, dogs—Dr. G. L. Milne, Russel, 2.
Greyhounds, bitches—Dr. G. L. Milne, Fanny, 1.
Greyhounds, puppy—Charles E. Jones, Fullerton Jones, 1.
Collies, other than tri-colored, open, dogs—T. B. Macabe, Capital, 2.
Collies, other than tri-colored puppies, dogs—T. B. Macabe, Capital, 2.
Collies, other than tri-colored puppies, bitches—T. B. Macabe, Goldie, 2.

Tees From The North.

Local Steamer Reaches Port With Party From Gold Fields.

Fine Weather Prevails in the Yukon—Snow Quickly Disappearing.

Steamer Tees arrived from the North yesterday morning at 5 o'clock with the following passengers: Mrs. C. W. Noyes, G. A. Sheffow, D. J. Shune, James Munger, Spencer C. Field, M. McDougall, F. Fenner, P. V. Goodlove, John M. White, W. H. Pielow, Geo. U. Lalibut, Jno. Burnette, C. H. Thompson, J. Calwell, Louis Otterbreese, P. L. Veneman, Peter Sly, Thomas Beaulieu, B. T. Edwards, J. Green, T. McInnes, Geo. W. Clarke, W. E. Holts, I. W. Charlton, C. Stewart, W. Murphy, H. E. Stockton and R. Hall.

The Tees left Skagway on Thursday and made only one stop coming down, to land a shipment of tin at Rivers Inlet. Of her seven or eight Klondikers aboard only one—James Munger—is a Victorian. He had been in the saloon business in Dawson and was summoned home by a letter announcing the dangerous illness of Mrs. Munger. P. L. Veneman was another of the Dawson arrivals. He started for the coast on April and made the journey uninterrupted, save for one storm at Lake Marsh, in fifteen days actual travelling. Nowhere on the trail was the weather colder than seven below zero, but while the sun was congenial the trails were getting broken up and he and his companions found it most advantageous to rest in the afternoons and evenings and continue their journey in the early part of the day. He heard of a few accidents on the trails but nothing serious. A number of men left Dawson at the time he did, the majority of whom will be on the Cottage City, which will probably be here before this morning as she was at Skagway while the Tees was there.

"Dawson," said Veneman, "is full of scurvy. The hospitals are full and there are a great many turning up their toes. The weather is mild and the snow, which is about up to my chin and in others not more than a foot deep is getting soft. I heard of no new strikes but the reason of this is that most of the streams are now surveyed off and this has a tendency to prevent stampedes. I can say also that that there is much property not being developed because of the royalty, which it is hoped by many will be taken off. In reference to the sanitary condition of Dawson, I understand that a regular system for cleansing the city will be enforced just so soon as warm weather sets in in earnest. Among other things this will include open drains leading throughout the city.

Mr. Veneman states that about a week before he left Dawson a small second hand store opposite the Klondike bridge in Dawson and belonging to a Seattle man, was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of $3,000 or $4,000.

Word was received by the Tees of he death of ex-Customs Officer Joseph E. Floy and of his funeral at Skagway on Thursday last. Mr. Floy had bought some claims in Atlin and was on his way into that country when death overtook him. His remains are being sent to Seattle on the Farallon.

H. E. Flockeon and R. Hall, of the Bennett Lake and Klondike Navigation company, who returned on the Tees, have been through to Bennett. Mr. Hall thinks navigation will open on the lakes about May 10.

Speaking of the arrival of Mr. H. Maitland Kersey on the Tees, the Skagway Alaskan says: "Mr. Kersey will leave Skagway to-day (Thursday) and go through to Hootalinqua on the ice. Men and provisions for the company are constantly going down to Hootalinqua, so that this will be an easy matter. At the Hootalinqua he will board the steamer Canadian, of his company, and start on her for Dawson as soon as the ice breaks. He expects to get to Dawson before the first of June. He will meet Captain Ritchie, the Dawson City agent, who is on his way in, at Hootalinqua, and they will travel together to Dawson.

"Mr. Ritchie's principal work in Dawson will be to arrange for the shipment of gold up the river and out by way of Skagway. Mr. Kersey, before he left Canada, made arrangements with the principal Canadian banks to bring out all gold for the branch banks and trading companies in Dawson. He estimates that ninety per cent. of a'l the gold will come up the Yukon river, and the Canadian Development company is making a strenuous effort to handle its full share.

"Passenger traffic rates down the Yukon will also demand a share of Mr. Kersey's attention. He will establish local freight and passenger rates along the line and see that all the offices along the river are properly opened for the season's work.

"It is now the intention of the company to have a boat leave Dawson and Bennett simultaneously every day, all of which will carry mail. An excellent mail service has been arranged for the interior. There were only two applications made to the Ottawa government for the mail contract on the Upper Yukon River. One by Captain John Irving and the other by the Canadian Development company. The matter was not definitely settled which company should carry the mail, but it was agreed between the Canadian Development company and Captain Irving to act promptly in the matter. Captain Richardson made an agreement with the company whereby all American mail will go on the company's steamers."

Ian Maclaren On Thursday.

Third of the "Trio of Scottish Literary Kings" toLecture in Victoria.

Dr. Watson's Career and the Works That Make Him Famous.

Rev. Dr. John Watson, whom the reading world knows as "Ian Maclaren," is to pay Victoria a visit this week in his new capacity as lecturer and reader, Thursday evening being the date set by the theatre management for the literary treat. As a preacher Dr. Watson is noted throughout Great Britain; as the author of "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" he enjoys fame somewhat resembling Byron's in that it burst spontaneously upon the public and himself; as a platform entertainer he is credited by the press of America (and more particularly that of the Pacific Coast) with being equally successful.

Of course it is as "Ian Maclaren" the author that Dr. Watson enjoys the largest circle of acquaintances and his greatest fame—a fame the more remarkable in that it is built up upon a single small volume of sketches of homely Scottish life brought together under the pleasant title of "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush." These stories, besides being natural in the extreme, are even more admirable presentations of the marked traits of Scottish character individualized than Mr. J. M. Barrie's "Auld Licht Idyls." They are destined to exist through centuries as Scottish classics, outliving a present popularity through the fact that their charm is not found in any scholarly quality they contain so much as that they speak from the heart to the heart.

The characters are familiar to every Scotsman, and while Dr. Watson has idealized perhaps (departing from realistic portraiture), therein is found his truest art. His duty as a minister of God's church is well discharged through his stories of homely life where he accentuates the beauties of nature's work, the charm of true domesticity, and the calmness and sweet content, coupled with courage, of a rightly-spent life.

His nationality shines in pungent humor never caustic; in his reverent treatment of religious themes; and in his gentle, affectionate regard for the mother and the home.

It is especially interesting to Victorians that his lecture here should be upon Drumtochty folk and scenes, from the fact that he has recently announced his intention of abandoning the literary material of the krail yard and writing hereafter in English, his present employment being a sequel to "The Mind of the Master"—he has forsworn dialect fiction to take up work that is closely akin to theology.

The dryness of Dr. Watson's humor in real life as well as in his books may be judged from an epigrammatic bon mot which he delivered for the benefit of a New York reporter quite recently. He had just arrived in America and the up-to-date newspaper worker made haste to interview him on the edict of the Jersey City Y. M. C. A. secretary that the kilt was an immodest and indecent costume no longer to be tolerated. This opinion, in print, was shown to Dr. Watson, and he was asked what he had to say in defence of the highlanders' garb.

"Oh, nothing," he replied with a smile. "Some people do object to it. I have even heard of armies on the battlefield who did not like to see the highlanders coming toward them at the charge."

There is much in Dr. Watson's best literary work that reminds one strongly of Mr. J. M. Barrie's exquisite and strong "Window in Thrums." "Ian Maclaren" differs, however, from Barrie and also from Mr. Crockett in being more of a sentimentalist. There is, too, a deeper thrill of religious emotion in his work, more of what Matthew Arnold in his ignorance of or contempt for the depths of Scottish nature termed "intolerable pathos."

The mission of the preacher is evident in his eclectisism; for while he has chosen to subject himself to the difficulties in the way of handling human nature in the rough, he has preferred the good, the true, the noble, the suffering and the sorrowing of his little community. Indeed as one critic declares, there is an insolence of security in his attitude towards sorrow and death which grates harshly when brought into touch with reality. This criticism is borne, however, more by his first than by his second volume, which is less spiritual and therefore more natural—more real. But "Ian Maclaren's" power unquestionably lies in his large sympathy and enthusiasm in humanity, which is just another term for religious emotion. The transfiguring touch in all his characters, commonplace in themselves, takes place when the light of love and sacrifice falls upon them: "as when the sun shines on a fallow field"—to quote a passage of his own—"and the rough furrows melt into warmth and beauty."

His humor, too—homely, strong and flexible as the vernacular in which much of it is clothed—saves him on the whole from maudlin scenes, and the excess of an essentially optimistic sentimentalism; as also does his sturdy, shrewd, Scottish common sense.

For pure and dry but not ungenial drollery there is nothing in the two volumes to match "Our Sermon Taster" and "A Triumph in Diplomacy' unless it be parts of "A Nippy Tongue," where "Ian Maclaren" comes nearer to Galt than any of his contemporaries, Barrie himself not excepted. And it is in the introduction of this perfect character "Jamie Soutar" into "A Servant Lass' which prevents that tale from becoming depressingly sad, and gives us "Ian Maclaren" at his best through one whole story.

Popular favor, however, is not always guided by artistic principles, and for obvious reasons "The Doctor of the Old School" will probably continue to hold a first place; and in that section of the "Bonnie Brier Bush" the chapter entitled "The Doctor's Last Journey" will always stir the emotions most deeply. The pathos of the closing scenes is almost unbearable and no Scotsman can read them with a dry heart.

Rev. John Watson, whose widely familiar pen-name is "Ian Maclaren," is a pure Scot, although he was born some 48 years ago in Manningtree, Essex, where his father, who was engaged in the Excise, happened to be stationed at the time. Shortly after his birth the family removed to London, where they remained long enough for Dr. Watson to retain a distinct recollection of their residence there.

The formative years of his childhood were spent, however, in Scotland, first at Perth and then at Stirling. He was an only child, and his parents were both remarkable personalities. To his mother's influence and gifts are due much of her son's equipment in life. She was a Highlander and understood the Gaelic, which she used to say was the best language extant for love and for anger.

To the observant reader of "The Bonnie Brier Bush" it is needless to add that Dr. Watson's mother died while he was still a young man.

In due time the son went to the University of Edinburgh, where he excelled in the classics and in philosophy. He became secretary and afterwards president of the Philosophical Society connected with the university.

When he had completed his studies he decided to enter the Free Church of Scotland, and passed through the curriculum of the New College. He also spent some time at Tubingen. Robert Louis Stevenson was a classmate of his in the English literature class in the university; and Dr. Watson recalls with pleasure the occasional visits Stevenson made to the class, and the rounds of cheers which invariably greeted his entrance.

Dr. A. B. Davidson, the well known professor of Hebrew, made a deep impression on his mind while at college; and he was greatly molded by the friendships he formed there with such men as Dr. James Stalker, Professor Henry Drummond and Professor George Adam Smith.

At the gatherings of the Gaiety Club, Dr. Watson used to tell with the perfect art of a consummate recanteur the stories which have since been woven into the famous Drumtochy sketches.

He says that the first author who made any impression upon his mind was Scott, whom he read eagerly. He studied the Waverley novels with their prefaces, introductions and notes, and thereby became saturated with Scott's spirit. Another stages of his development was marked by the influence of Carlyle, and still another by that of Matthew Arnold. Browning and Arnold and Seeley, the author of "Ecce Homo," have perhaps made the deepest impression upon his intellectual and spiritual activity. Thackeray was a later favorite.

For a short period—about a year—after his ordination, he served as assistant pastor to Dr. J. H. Wilson, of the Barclay church in Edinburgh, before he became minister of the Free Church in Harrietfield, a small village of one main street belonging to the estate of Logiealmond in Perthshire, and now farfamed as Drumtochy; an uncle of his had been parish minister there at the time of the disruption in 1843.

The work amongst this people of primitive instincts and simple fundamental needs, proved congenial; and he made a close study of them with a half-formed intention of some day using the material. But self-distrust and various plans intervening, his literary schemes were laid aside and discarded, as the years distanced him from these early scenes and experiences.

His gifts as a brilliant preacher could not be hid under a bushel; and two and a half years were all that he was permitted to spend at Logiealmond. Calls multiplied and became insistent until he at last accepted one from St. Matthew's in Glasgow, where he became the colleague of Dr. Samuel Miller, whose pulpit is now that of Dr. James Stalker.

But he found his true sphere when three years later he became minister of Sefton Park Presbyterian church, Liverpool. This took place in 1880, and Dr. Watson still remains the pastor of that church. His liberal views and catholicity of thought, his geniality and bright, winning disposition, have drawn to him men of all schools; and young men especially have found a haven in Sefton Park for their varied intellectual cravings and aspirations.

Dr. Watson's church when he is at home is constantly crowded by one of the largest and most influential congregations in Liverpool; and among the younger generation of English preachers he holds a foremost place. He is a pulpit speaker of extraordinary force and clearness, mingling scholarship, culture and devotion with a strong sense of reverence and deep-seated earnestness. In 1896 the University of Saint Andrew's conferred the degree of D. D. upon him, and in the same year he visited the United States; delivered the Lyman Beecher lectures at Yale (since published as "The Mind of the Master"); and was heard throughout the country as a lecturer and a reader from his own works.

Dr. Watson's literary plans of early years, when his young and alert mind was casting about for material to fasten upon for future developments, had been laid aside and treated as dreams of a presumptuous youth. Up to 1894 he was quite unknown to the public as an author; and yet, in little more than a year after the publication of his first volume, "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," the sales in England and America had exceeded 200,000 copies.

Much curiosity prevailed in England while the stories were appearing serially in the British Weekly under the pen-name "Ian Maclaren" (Ian being the Gaelic for John, and Maclaren his mother's maiden name); and not until a month after the book had been published was the author's identity discovered.

A year later another volume of Drumtochy sketches, entitled "The Days of Auld Lang Syne," dealing with the same scenes and characters, was published, with similar success. A small volume of consecutive sermons, applicable to the communion season, was issued at the beginning of 1896 under the title "The Upper Room;" and a large volume of discourses on practical religious themes, called "The Mind of the Master," appeared in the spring of the same year.

In his first novel, "Kate Carnegie," Dr. Watson is wise in keeping to Drumtochy and introducing a number of new characters while bringing his readers into touch with others pleasantly familiar. In the central character, the young minister, Carmichael, who figures already in "His Mother's Sermon," one perceives a strong element of spiritual autobiography.

No real person living or dead has been drawn in these Drumtochy stories. When types have been suggested to the mind of the author they have been so idealized as to be beyond recognition in the original.

Became Young Again.—A lady and gentleman drove last Sunday to visit the ruins of Vancouver Island's first stone church, built by Rev. Father Rondeault on the Comiaken reservation, Cowichan district, when without apparent cause their 24-year-old horse bolted and upset the buggy. Fortunately the occupants, though violently thrown against a grassy hill slope, came off without a sore or scratch.

Schroeder the Hypnotist.—Mr. Schroeder, the hypnotist and mind reader, gave his second entertainment at the A. O. U. W. hall last evening, being even more successful in his mystic work than on the introductory night. The audiences will no doubt grow in size, continually increasing as the excellence of his entertainment becomes generally known.

Aldermen at Free and Easy

Fort Street South Side to Be Freed of Tramway Blockade.

This Year's New Sewers—Latest Engineer Asked to Come Quickly.

The special meeting of the board of aldermen held last evening was convened in the committee room at the City hall, the board room having been granted to the illumination committee for a gathering of that body. The business taken up included a variety of subjects but the matter of street work was the main theme of discussion—the Fort street improvements occupying the greater portion of the sitting. The acceptance of the proffered position of city engineer by Mr. Topp was read in the shape of a telegram received on Thursday by the Mayor as follows:

Chatham, Ont., April 20.
"Accept offer city engineer. Will be there in three weeks. Wire if wanted sooner. (Sd.) C. H. Topp."

Mr. Topp's application to the council in March last was as follows:

Chatham, March 14, 1899.
To His Worship the Mayor and City Council, Victoria, B. C.:

Gentlemen,—Referring to your advertisement in the Toronto Globe re the position of city and water works engineer to take charge of public works, I beg to tender my application for the above position together with my recommendation. I shall certainly discharge my duties economically and to the best of my ability. I may say I succeeded in securing this position in competition with over thirty Ontario engineers, which it is only necessary to mention regarding qualifications. My reason for making a change would be the increase in salary you offer. Should my application not be successful I would ask to have all my papers returned promptly with care to above address. I am, sincerely,

C. H. TOPP.

On motion it was agreed that the Mayor should wire Mr. Topp to come as soon as he conveniently could.

The meeting being somewhat in private was also somewhat informal—those who cared to do so indulging in the luxury of a smoke.

The following defererd recommendations as to sewer work for the present year was then read:

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 27, 1899.
To His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen:

Gentlemen,—In accordance with instructions, I have the honor to submit the following report as regards the sewerage work that can be carried out to the best advantage during the present year, with the estimated amount that will be available from the sewerage rental fund, viz., about $4,000:

1st. Michigan street between Menzies and Parry; Parry street between Michigan and Toronto—Length of street, 830 feet; estimated cost, $603; 18 houses.

2nd. Quebec street between Menzies and Oswego—Length of street, 590 feet; estimated cost, $593; 8 houses.

3rd. Quadra street between Pandora and Frederick—Length of street, 510 feet; estimated cost, $1,548; 4 houses.

4th. Frederick street between Quadra and Cook—Length of street, 1,400 feet; $1,402 feet; 36 houses.

Total, 3,290 feet, $4,146, 66 houses.

It was resolved that the work should be carried out as specified.

A report from the city engineer as to street work dated February 27 which has already been published, and which has been "on the table" ever since, was then read and partly gone through with. It will receive further attention at another session.

There is about $30,000 available for street work in three wards whereas the demands from each particular section of the city is more than half those figures. Out of this $2,000 will be required for the permanent sidewalks in Centre ward which with the paving of Fort street it was thought will about exhaust the share to be allotted to the Centre ward.

During the discussion, an alderman mentioned the condition of Esquimalt road, he having been told that the naval officers prepared to remain in port at Vancouver as there they are able to enjoy a spin on their bikes, whereas here they can not come into town on their wheels.

Ald. Stewart: "Never mind; when we have the Sunday by-law they won't be able to ride at all."

Another prominent idea about which the talk centred on was where the street railway company should be made to lay their rails on Fort street, Ald. Cameron stating it was plain it would not do to lay the rails in the centre and over the sewers as on Johnson street the centre of the roadway was certainly sinking, caused by the presence of the sewers under the car line..

Ald. Humphrey said the present arrangement was utterly unfair to people whose premises are on the side on which the rails are laid, as they are at present on Fort street, as it was impossible to get a carriage or a wagon close to the sidewalk.

This view was shared by His Worship, who thought that it practically deprived people residing on the south side of the thoroughfare from using at least six feet of the street—and there was at least six feet of the street absolutely wasted.

Finally in order to bring matters to a head, Ald. Hayward moved that the rails on Fort street be re-laid in the centre and that they be laid on the present grade.

But before this motion was passed a discussion arose as to where the new poles should be placed—outside or inside the curb lines, and also as to the sizes to be used, one of the aldermen remarking that some of the poles at present in use were "snorters."

Instead of putting this motion in order the keep within the law—on the advice of the Mayor—it was decided to let the tram company make application for permission to move the line, they being anxious to do so, and thus the cost of moving would fall upon the latter. In this connection His Worship remarked that the company showed every disposition to treat the corporation in an extremely fair manner.

The Belmont avenue ditch was suggested by Ald. MacGregor as a subject likely to be particularly fruitful in food for discussion, and the present was a very happy occasion on which to go into the matter. The remark of one alderman that the offending pond was perfectly harmless as the operators of dairies in that neighborhood watered their cows from this source, was matched by a remark from a brother alderman that if any one was in need of manure he could obtain an almost limitless supply from the same locality when the hot sun of June had dried up the aqeous element.

While talking of manure and kindred subjects Mayor Redfern stated that Inspector Chipchase had recommended that a fence be erected across the front of the garbage wharf in order to prevent accidents. This idea was adopted.

Reverting to the Fort street improvements it was moved that the new poles (if any) should be placed inside the line of the curb. It was also resolved that sidewalks on Fort street be ten feet wide to Cook street and eight feet from there eastward. The cinder sidewalk on Fort street above Vancouver it was agreed to have coated with tar and raised to its proper grade at an additional expenditure of $35 over the $65 already appropriated.

With regard to block paving the entrance to the Market building opposite the new fire hall, a long discussion again broke out, during which His Worship was heard to remark, sotto voce, "I am heartily tired of this," and lighted a fresh cigar.

Still the talk went on, nothing being definitely decided in this connection.

The Pembroke street drain again came to the front and the aldermen broke up into little knots talking of this and many other items at one and the same time, during which "pine blocks," "a Vancouver engineer," and sundry other topics were passed to and fro. Finally a motion to adjourn was put and carried, thus terminating what one alderman termed "a free and easy."

Preparations For Cricket.

Otto Weiler Won the First Shoot for the Victoria Gun Club Trophy.

The coming season should be a most successful one as far as cricket is concerned, the prospects being that there will be at least six clubs to place teams in the field this year. This will include the Army, Navy, Victoria, Victoria College, Albion and Fifth Regiment teams. They are all preparing for a busy season. Fifth Regiment completed their organization some weeks ago, the Albions met last evening and organized, the Victorias hold their first meeting to-night and the others of course are always organized. The Albions did not play a team last season but this year they propose to make up for lost time and get together a strong combination. That they will be successful was shown by the enthusiasm displayed at the meeting held last evening at the Occidental hotel, with Mr. Walter Porter in the chair. It was decided to ask Mayor Redfern to accept the presidency and Messrs. Joseph York and John Earsman to be vice-presidents. The other officers are: Captain, H. J. Martin; secretary, W. H. Porter; treasurer, J. E. Martin; committee, P. Goepel, A. Green and A. W. Hardie. The secretary announced that the club started with twenty members and that Nanaimo had already asked for a game here on May 24, the return match to be played at Nanaimo on July 1. This offer was accepted.

LACROSSE.

Uniforms Selected.

The lacrosse committee of the J. B. A. A. met last evening and made preliminary arrangements for taking Victoria's share of the schedule of the British Columbia senior lacross association. It was decided that the uniform shall be a blue jersey with white collars and cuffs and a white cap with blue band. The necessary uniforms and sticks will be secured at once. A team will also be entered in the intermediate league. Negotiations are now pending with the St. Andrew's and Caledonia Society for the use of the Caledonian grounds.

THE GUN.

Trophy Shoot.

The first shoot of the season for the Victoria Gun Club trophy was won by Otto Weiler. The match was at 25 blue rocks. Weiler and Minor both broke 22 out of the 25, while in a shoot-off at 10 birds Weiler broke 9 and Minor 8. Others making good scores were W. H. Adams and Capt. Sears 21 each and W. Bickford 19. The high wind interfered with the shooting.

To Coerce The Transvaal

By Associated Press.

London, April 21.—In the House of Commons this evening while the estimates were under consideration the Advanced Radicals raised the question of the increase of the British troops at the Cape from 3,000 to 9,000 in two years.

They suggested that this was intended to coerce the Transvaal, and moved a reduction of the vote. The committee rejected the motion to reduce the estimate by 150 against 80.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the opposition leader, said that such a permanent increase was a grave matter.

Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, first lord of the treasury and government leader in the house, appealed to the committee not to continue an irritating discussion. He declared that the idea of coercion was "too extravagant to dwell upon," and had never entered the mind of any responsible person. The increase, he said, was due to the necessity of protecting coaling stations, and in part "to conceivable possibilities that might arise."

The Johannesburg correspondent of the Times says: "The Imperial government's decision is anxiously awaited in response to the petition recently forwarded through Mr. Conyngham Greene, British agent and charge d'affaires at Pretoria. Everything indicates that the Transvaal would yield to pressure on behalf of the petitioners, but if the present opportunity is missed, capitalists will almost certainly make peace with the Boer government, at the expense possibly of Imperial interests."

Censorship for the Stage.—The management of the Bijou theatre in Toronto have just been fined $5 and costs for presenting an indecent exhibition—to wit, a Cairo dance—on their boards, and in connection the police magistrate of Toronto expressed the hope that hereafter a stage censor would be detailed from the police to go through each dramatic attraction prior to its public performance, eliminating such portions as he might deem objectionable. The dancer who was the cause of the prosecution filled an engagement here quite recently at one of the music halls.

News of the Far East.

Great Losses Sustained by American Forces in the Philippines.

Mahomedan Communities in Rebellion—Crew of American Ship Safe.

The operations in the Philippines is the all-absorbing topic of the China mail advices received last night by the R. M. S. Empress of China.

A correspondent writing from Manila on the 30th of last month says the Americans have cleared the country from Mariquina to Marilao, a distance of twenty miles. The Americans are having some hard fighting, the insurgents showing a stubborn resistance. The American losses number 31 killed and 230 wounded. The insurgent losses are severe. In the island of Negros the natives have settled down to their peaceful avocations, a constitution having been drafted on American lines. Efforts have been made by British residents to reach the leaders of the insurgents in the southern islands, and arrange unofficially a settlement of affairs, but they had proved abortive, the Tagalog emissaries sent down by Aguinaldo nolding sway over the natives. It was stated that Major-General Otis had received instructions to turn over his command of the forces operating against the Filipinos to an inferior officer, and devote himself solely to the ever-increasing duties of the civil governor. This he had absolutely refused to do, and as he favors a lenient policy there is much discontent amongst the military party. A British subject named Nicholson made a plucky journey to Malolos, the headquarters of the Filipinos, to intercede for the release of the British subjects held prisoners in their homes in the country. After a most hazardous journey, he reached Malolos and was successful in his mission. Provisions are selling at a premium in Manila, and large quantities of stores are being sent down from Hongkong to Manila by every steamer.

It is reported at Wuchoo that the prefect has received information that the rebellion has broken out again in that part of the Kwangsi province.

When, last year, the rebellion of July and August was suppressed with ruthless severity, its leader, Li Lae Ting, retired into the Tai Kwai mountains. He has now, it appears, taken the field again.

The outlook is rendered more serious because drought, cattle plague, and the increased cost of food are producing widespread discontent; also, because large quantities of arms and ammunition have recently been imported into Kwangsi.

The trade of the West River is already beginning to suffer interruption.

News has lately been received at Pekin from Lanchou, capital of Kansu province, that the Mahomedan communities of the northwest of that city—known as the Salah Mussulmans, the most savage and bigoted of that faith in the Chinese dominions—have rebelled. The green sacred banner of the prophet has been unfurled by their akhoon, or chief mulla, and the word passed to all the Mahomedan townships in Kansu, Shensi and Chinese Turkestan to wage war to the knife upon the Buddhist unbelievers.

A telegraphic despatch from Viceroy Tao of Kansu has been received, reporting the massacre of over thirty Chinese Buddhists by rebel Salah Mahomedans and that a general conflagration is feared with the return of warm weather in April or May, when communication becomes easier, unless a strong army is assembled in Kansu.

Mr. J. G. Hitchfield, F.R.G.S., master and owner of the British auxiliary schooner Queen of the Isles, now lying at Wanchai, reports very trying weather for the last two months at the Caroline Islands, several westerly gales, accompanied with tidal waves, doing considerable damage to the low islands—killing all the bread fruit and taro, the only luxury the natives have to vary their usual meal of cocoanuts and fish. In December last the Quen of the Isles picked up the crew and passengers, 29 in all, of the American mission schooner R. W. Logan, of Boston, which was wrecked in a westerly gale on one of the Mortlock islands. Landing the missionaries in safety on their own island, the Queen of the Isles proceeded east, and after a day's sail past the Bordelaise reefs the master was so impressed with the idea that he ought to visit them that he turned back and found the Island of St. Augustine half washed away, and 14 people just on the verge of starvation. These were taken on board and handed over to the Spanish governor at Ponape. On the present trip the Queen of the Isles landed them at their original home on one of the Western High islands. Not long ago Mr. Hitchfield was the means of saving the lives of over 200 people at one of the Gillest islands. Mr. Hitchfield is the son of Capt. J. J. P. Hitchfield, R.N.

At the request of the director of the Kowloon observatory an order issued by the war secretary has forbidden the sending from Manila observatory of the usual warnings for any place outside the Philippines. This is true misfortune for the shipping of all flags in the Far East. The director of the Kowloon observatory is at liberty to refuse the help of all his colleagues in the Far East.

CANADIAN WHEELS ABROAD.

Remarkable Success of Massey-Harris Bicycles in Australia.

In the final of the £400 Austral Wheel Race, the greatest of all cycling events, for which 187 of the world's fastest riders accepted, the 16 heat winners started on Saturday last. Of the 16, seven were mounted on English-made machines, five on Colonial-made machines, two on American machines and two on the Canadian Massey-Harris. In the 11 heats bicycles of almost every kind, made in almost every country in the world, were used. The result of this exacting test of perfection in quality and easiness of propulsion resulted in both Massey-Harris bicycles finishing 1st and 2nd. A striking confirmation of the makers' trade phrase—"Massey-Harris bicycles run easy and keep running easy." In addition to their success in the Austral Wheel Race, the Massey-Harris people were successful in landing three out of five of the classic international scratch races, including the Austral Derby, the blue ribbon event of the cycle path. At this meeting Massey-Harris riders won £472 10s. in prize money, more by £103 10s. than half of all offered.