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The Weekly Colonist.

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR. VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, MARCH 18 1892. VOLUME XXXIV. NO 15.

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CAPITAL NOTES.

The U. S. Wanted Canada to Do Their Chinese Police Work—Chinese Statistics.

Arrival of Messrs. Earl and Barnard—Numerous Deputations Wait Upon the Government.

Hon. Mr. Carling Declared to be Entitled to Sit For London, Ontario.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 10.—American cheek was strongly exemplified in the return presented to the House to-day. In November, 1890, Earl Salisbury transmitted a copy of the resolution adopted by the U. S. Senate when negotiations were entered into to secure treaty stipulations for the purpose of preventing the entry of Chinese laborers into the United States from Canada and Mexico. The dispatch was referred to a sub-committe of the Dominion Cabinet, which reported in April, 1891, pointing out that the enormous length of frontier between the States and Canada, rendered it impossible to apply an effective policy of protection over this stretch of territory. The sub-committee was of opinion that no practicable way existed by which effect could be given to the U. S. request. It was naturally suggested, why did not the States themselves take effective measures to prevent the Chinese coming into their territory? The correspondence contains an address passed by the Legislature of British Columbia a year ago, asking the Dominion Parliament to make the Chinese Immigration Act more restrictive, also in August last the Vancouver Trades and Labor Councils sent a memorial for transmission to the Imperial authorities, urging them to influence the Canadian Pacific Company not to employ Chinese on the steamers running between Vancouver and Hongkong. On the Government investigating, it was found that the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council was not registered under the Trades' Union Act, neither was it incorporated, and while the body was a useful one, still from the fact of its not being registered or incorporated, it was not in a position to ask official recognition as suggested. Some interesting figures were given in the return. The total number of Chinese who arrived in Canada from January 1st, 1890 to June 30th, 1891, was 2,367; amount of head money collected, $31,950. Total number of return certificates issued was 2,107. The number of Chinese who passed through the country in transit was 2,510, and tourists 19. It may be stated that later correspondence will shortly be presented. Recently the U. S. Government requested the Dominion authorities to pass an exclusion act.

There was a better attendance in the House, to-day, than any time since the session commenced. Many Quebec members have arrived. Two British Columbia representatives have reached here, Messrs. Earl and Barnard. Mr. Earl is accompanied by his wife and daughter. After a short sitting Mr. Tupper introduced a bill to amend the Steamboat Inspection Act. Sir Hector Langevin moved for papers in connection with the boundaries question. The Ontario boundaries were settled three years ago. The matter is pending as regards Quebec, as the latter province wants a good slice of territory on the east shores of Hudson Bay. This the Federal Government is not disposed to grant.

This has been a great day for deputations. The millers want changes in the Inspection Act, viz.: An alteration in the basis of the representation of the Board which selects the flour standards. They are also anxious for the Government to win back for them their flour trade with Newfoundland. Premier Abbott frankly explained the situation. He said the Government was prepared to do everything possible consistent with the interests of the country to make peace with the sister colony, and was not disposed to allow feelings of resentment to interfere with obtaining an amicable settlement. As showing its bona fides, the Government had proposed a conference in London and a *modus vivendi*.

The Prohibition Commission will assemble in Ottawa for organization. The greatest satisfaction is expressed on all sides at the excellent choice of commissioners the Government has made. It is hoped that Mr. Hickson will see his way clear to accepting the chairmanship. It is the desire of the Government that the Commission will prosecute its enquiries with all possible speed in order that a report may be presented to the House next session.

Verily the woes of the Liberals are increasing. Mr. Dyer was elected by acclamation in Brome to-day. Mr. Turcotte, Conservative, will be elected for Montmorenci to-morrow, his opponent having withdrawn to-day. Then to-night comes the news of Mr. Pridham's election in South Perth by fifteen majority over Mr. Trow.

Hon. Mr. Abbott informed the COLONIST to-day that he regarded the States blustering on the Behring Sea dispute as so much tall talk on the part of the newspapers.

The Inland mariners asked that the Yankees be not permitted to participate in the reduced canal tolls in the St. Lawrence, on grain transhipped from Ogdensburg.

A deputation want four or five fish hatcheries established on Georgian Bay.

Mr. Hyman telegraphs his friends here that there is no possibility of his securing his seat from Mr. Carling, the County Judge having decided that Mr. Carling is entitled to the seat. The recount, to-day makes no difference in his majority.

LABOR TROUBLE IN LONDON.

Another Omnibus Men's Strike Expected in London—Ominous Indications.

LONDON, March 10.—There are a number of indications that another strike of omnibus men will take place in a few months in London. Several officers of the business men's union testified, to-day, before the Labor Commission that the conditions upon which the last general strike was settled have been shamefully violated by the companies. One of the chief of these conditions was that the hours of labor should not exceed 12 hours per day. It was shown by the testimony that many of the men are compelled to work 16 hours per day. It was also shown that the companies are gradually discharging the men who took part in the strike, the dismissals being made upon trumped up charges of neglect of duty or imaginary delinquincies. This is in violation of another condition of the settlement, which provided that none of the strikers should be discharged for having taken part in the movement. Little is heard publicly of the threatened renewal of the trouble, but, in secret, the situation is well understood, and it is said that the next strike will be on an even larger scale than the former one. The organization of the men is being perfected very carefully. This was a weak point with them before, and, but for their lack of discipline, they would have won more substantial concessions than they did. It is stated by well posted leaders of the labor organization that the trammen will strike in sympathy with the 'bus men this time. John Burns said in an interview with a correspondent of the United Press, to-day, that it is undeniable that the united Labor and Liberal vote will give Mr. Gladstone many seats for London now held by Conservatives and Unionists. The labor vote was the chief factor in the County Council victory, which will be of great value to the Liberals in the coming parliamentary elections. In fact, said Mr. Burns, unless Mr. Gladstone could count upon a union of the labor vote with that of the Liberals, he could expect to gain very little strength in London. The people of London do not care a straw for Irish Home Rule, except in a far-off way. They do care very much for social reforms affecting the well-being of Londoners, and Mr. Gladstone has a big chance to secure their co-operation, if he is wise enough to take advantage of the situation.

QUEBEC POLITICS.

Mercier Withdraws From Public Life, and Resigns His Seat in Parliament.

English Opinions on the Results of Tuesday's Voting—Policy of the New Government.

QUEBEC, March 10.—Count Mercier has resigned his seat in the Legislature and has issued the following letter:

"TO MY FRIENDS: — Lieut.-Governor Angers is victorious; his *coup d'etat* has received the approbation of the electors. Calumny has got the better of the Constitution. The people have refused to blame the man who submitted himself for the Parliament, and who has dissolved it without good reason. All the good done has been set aside. Ingratitude is my reward. The people are unjust, and will be severely blamed by history; but, meanwhile, I must submit, and return to private life. The province requires a rest after the agitation of the past six months. I forgive those who calumniated me. I will endeavor to ignore even the names of those who were beholden to me, and who betrayed me, and will only remember the friends who were faithful to me in adversity as well as in prosperity. I will return to the labors of the field in order, if possible, to regain my health, and to my lawyer's office for the maintenance of my family. I wish you all, my friends, the happiness and the prosperity which you deserve, and ardently hope that our dear province will not suffer too much from the violence which has been exercised against its institutions."

Mr. Mercier will send in his resignation to the Speaker at once. It is rumored that the Hon. Mr. Shehyn, member for Quebec and formerly Provincial Treasurer, has resigned, and will follow Mr. Mercier into retirement. Mr. Mercier is serious ill, and it is not likely that he will ever again take a prominent part in public life. He may be compelled to take a voyage to Europe in order to restore his shattered health.

MONTREAL, March 10.—A large Conservative meeting has been held at the St. Lawrence Hall and drastic resolutions made to celebrate the recent victory by a big demonstration.

Provincial Treasurer Hall, speaking of the policy of the new Government, said that, as far as financial matters went, the intention was to cut down expenses without impeding material progress. He stated it was the positive intention of the Government to prosecute the men who had been guilty of stealing from the public purse.

The Star's special correspondent wires from London: "Mercier's defeat gives unalloyed satisfaction throughout Great Britain. As the Financial News says, "the people cared nothing about political or racial issues, but they realized that Mercier's success would have resulted in continued political corruption, tending to sap the Canadian nationality and destroy Canadian credit." The St James' Gazette says: "The result of this spirited, crushing protest against corruption completely justified Lieut.-Governor Angers, and is a striking proof of the existence of a public conscience in the province of Quebec."

TORONTO, March 10.—A London cable to the Globe says:—"Mercier's defeat has aroused no sympathy here. The British feeling clearly is that however important the constitutional question involved, Canada's first duty is to pronounce for purity and honesty, whether at Ottawa or Quebec. She must clear herself in the eyes of the world."

The Fall in Silver.

NEW YORK, March 11.—Mr. Pixley, of the London bullion house of Pixley & Abell, says: "The heavy fall of silver has its origin in America, and is due to fears of the action that might be taken by Austro-Hungary in reverting to a gold standard. This action came on a weak London market and at a time when India was quite unable to run the market alone. The supply of silver not only has been large from America, but a good deal of silver lead has come from Australia. India will require a large amount of silver for the rice crop in Burmah and some has yet to be found. Five millions sterling will be wanted, and if anything like that amount remains to be found the market will be recovered. It is literally believed to have been financed to the extent of at least half.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

A Public Meeting to Discuss the Defeat of the Amendment to the Miners' Bill.

Westminster Woolen Mills Not Coming to Victoria—Spring Salmon Run Unmolested.

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, March 10.—John A. Green announces himself as an aldermanic candidate for the vacant seat in Ward 2.

The McKay-Spinks block at the corner of Pender and Seymour streets, is underway.

The ordination services of St. James church have been postponed to March 27, owing to the Bishop's illness.

The Iona has been beached. It is found that one propeller is gone and the other more seriously damaged than anticipated.

St. Patrick's night banquet will be held at the Oriental.

C. P. Townley, of New Westminster, has been appointed express agent for the Great Northwestern railway here.

American silver is taken at 10 per cent. discount at Chilliwhack.

Watts & Trott, boat builders, will ship by the s.s. Walla Walla, fifty pairs of oars ordered by a firm in Auckland, New Zealand.

Arrangements have been made by the Rugby Club for a match with Nanaimo, for Saturday, at Brockton Point.

C.P.R. railway bridge, No. 56, is being put through a course of renovation, and is now as solid as a rock. This is the Howe truss span over the main channel of the Coquitlam river.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 10.—A new A.O.U.W. lodge, with 25 members, was organized last night, and another will be instituted on Saturday evening.

A. E. House, of Nicola, says the coal veins in that valley will be developed this year.

Bishop Sillitoe left, to-day, for the upper country, having been ordered away for a few weeks by his medical adviser, for a complete rest.

A petition is in circulation in Chilliwhack, asking the council to levy a special rate on town property, for much needed street improvements.

At the nomination in Surrey, yesterday, to fill the vacancy in ward 3, John Stewart, the only person nominated, was elected by acclamation.

The Southwestern Coal Co. has been organized, and the following committee appointed: Chairman, *pro tem.* T. J. Trapp; permanent chairman, T. F. Fisher; secretary, F. C. Turner; committee, J. W. McColl, W. Manson, J. Douglas and J. W. Stein. The committee will arrange with the property owners on the South side of the river to go on any piece of property and drill for coal, under certain conditions. The committee will also make arrangements for the use of Major Vaughn's diamond drill, and will commence operations as soon as possible.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, March 10.—A meeting of the Miners' and Mine Laborers' Protective Association, will be held, soon as possible, to consider the advisability of cabling the different workings in the mines. A few of the miners, here, have always been anxious to make some changes around the works. Those changes very frequently do more harm than good. It is believed this cabling will bring more expense on the companies without benefit to the miners. Some of the "bloods," here, are looking for new changes, and are anxious to dictate to both men and managers. A large number of miners have been idle for the past three months, and a great many of them might be working, but for such men as are turning unionism into a curse instead of a blessing.

Steamer Isabel brought the news that la grippe was epidemic on Salt Spring Island, not a family being free. In the case of Mr. Gwynne, a colored settler, the grippe proved fatal. Others are in a critical condition.

ALBERNI.

The steamer Maude arrived on the 2nd, with a large number of passengers and a large quantity of freight. She left for Barclay Sound on the 3rd.

Mr. H. Guillod, Indian agent of the West Coast, and his family, have returned from Uculet, and will henceforth make Alberni their headquarters.

Lumber has arrived for several parties who are about to erect buildings on Alberni town site. Supplies were also brought for the work on the Paper Mill Co.'s works at the mill site. Mr. Hewitson is increasing his force of workers, and the work will progress rapidly.

There are already some five proposed sites for cities in the valley and two on Barclay Sound. As Anderson & Co. have at length opened their valuable property for sale, it is a sign that the boom has begun in earnest at Alberni.

Rev. W. Staples Smith, Presbyterian minister, and J. A. McDonald, B C. Indian missionary, have gone to Victoria to attend a meeting of the Columbia Presbytery. A Sunday-school will be opened on the first Sunday of March, conducted by Mr. Jas. Thompson and a good staff of teachers.

The weather throughout February has been delightful in this valley, and farming operations have been carried on during the month. The Indians are for the most part on the Sound, sealing and "potlaching."

The Alberni M.I. association at its last regular meeting had a profitable and enjoyable evening with the poets and English authors. The Band of Hope department of the association will hold its meeting on the evening of the 8th. The musical committee is preparing for a concert on the 22d. The library committee is arranging for the circulation of reading matter among the members, and may venture upon a newspaper for the association.

It will be seen from the above that Alberni is not behind her more populous sisters in her various enterprises.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 11.—McCorvie & Bonson have been awarded the contract for constructing a new Howe Truss bridge across Vedder Creek.

Chief Ackerman, of the fire brigade, has made arrangements with the Toronto Rubber Co., for handling his new spring horse collars.

The manager of the Westminster Slate Co., has succeeded in procuring a sufficient number of carrier pigeons to perform an air line message service between the company's office in this city and the quarry at Jarvis Inlet.

It is understood that the Westminster Woolen Mills will not be removed to Victoria as proposed some months ago. The promoters of the scheme build a large new mill in Victoria, and continue to operate the mill in this city as usual.

There is said to be a fair run of spring salmon in the river at present, but they are allowed to pass up unmolested.

A few days ago a couple of young men, residing in the vicinity, broke into the Surrey school house, and covered the blackboard and slates with obscene drawings and writings. The names of the perpetrators were ascertained, and the school trustees swore out a warrant for their arrest. They were this morning brought to the city, and remanded until next week. In the meantime, they will remain in the provincial jail. The affair has created a good deal of excitement, and the trustees intend prosecuting the charge with vigor.

A young man, of Surrey, disappeared mysteriously, last week. He came into the city to transact some important business for his uncle, a farmer. He had to attend to some financial matters, including the handling of a large sum of money. The young man concluded his business, went over to Vancouver for a few hours, returned to the city and crossed on the ferry steamer, ostensibly on his way home to Surrey. He never reached home, and, as he had a large sum of money on him, suspicions of foul play were aroused. The authorities were notified, and, without arousing curiosity, they proceeded to investigate. Mr. Moresby personally conducted the search, and followed one clue after another, until he finally traced the young man to Seattle. He was safe and sound, and considerably wiser than before he took the management of his uncle's business in hand.

McPhee Bros.' shipyard, on the North Arm, is as busy as ever. A number of sealhunting boats are under construction, and the keel of a large sealing schooner will be laid before long. Several parties are asking estimates on steamers, and a number of launches are to be built. The steamer Gladys, which is being overhauled at this yard, is almost ready for service, and will be launched some time next week.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, March 11.—A public meeting will be held here soon to discuss the defeat of Mr. Keith's bill to amend the Coal Miners' Regulation Bill.

S.S. Empire on her way from San Francisco to this port became disabled near Coos Bay. She will return to San Francisco for repairs. It is thought the damage is not serious.

Sneak thieves last night entered E. Hughes' boot and shoe store, carrying off a few articles and some money. Entrance was effected through the window.

S.S. Danube has arrived from the North. Times are not very brisk at present at Port Simpson and on the Skeena. Some preparations are being made at the canneries for the coming season. The snowfall during the winter was very heavy.

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, March 11.—While on a trip to the halibut fisheries, Mr. James Edwards, of Vancouver, found upon a rock a species of sponge. Though too small to be of commercial value, it is of good quality, and may yet be found in paying quantities.

The newly elected Council of the Board of Trade held its first meeting last night. Resolutions were passed regarding the salmon industry for presentation to the Fisheries Commission, also referring to the redistribution of seats for the House of Commons.

The four masted schooner W. H. Talbot, of San Francisco, 765 tons, with lumber from the Hastings Sawmill, will sail on Sunday for Tientsin, China.

A VICTORIA WRESTLER.

McLeod Beats the Little Demon—Best Match Seen in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 10.—An audience of about 1,500 gathered at the new Wigwam this evening, to witness the wrestling match between Joe Acton, known as "the Little Demon," and H. S. McLeod, of Victoria, B.C. Both men had trained faithfully for the event, and were in fine condition, Acton, however, having too much stomach. The contest was for $2,100, Acton putting up $1,100 against $1,000 of McLeod's. Two more evenly matched men could scarcely be found, they being almost exactly the same weight, height and general build. McLeod, if anything, was more powerful. Betting was brisk, starting in at 20 to 17 on Acton, but evening up before the struggle began. Hiram Cook was referee. The men entered the ring at 8:45 p.m. The first bout was won by McLeod, after a hard struggle, in forty-one minutes. Acton secured a half-Nelson several times on his antagonist, but each time he cleverly broke it. During one of his manœuvres for hold, Acton bumped his man badly and McLeod's back looked like a side of beef for the rest of the bout. McLeod finally secured a half-Nelson and turned his man over. After a rest of twenty minutes, the men came together again. As in the preceding bout, Joe did most of the work, but seemed unable to do anything with his sturdy antagonist, and tired perceptibly toward the end. McLeod finally secured a full Nelson, and, after a hard struggle, threw his man. Time 23 minutes. It was one of the best wrestling matches that had been seen for a long time. — Catch-as-catch-can; best two in three falls; no hold barred.

The New York Bomber.

NEW YORK, March 11.—The inquest into the death of Henry L. Norcross, author of the bomb tragedy in Russel Sage's office, December 4th, was resumed, to-day. The Jury returned a verdict, "that Henry L. Norcross came to his death by dropping a dynamite bomb, from his own hand, in Russel Sage's office," and recommended the Legislature to pass a law, immediately, making the offense punishable by imprisonment, for any person to carry, without proper authority, any object whatever, capable of destroying life and property.

DEFENCES OF ESQUIMALT

Imperial and International Aspect of Pacific Coast Fortifications and Armament.

Pertinent Questions Submitted, and the Answers Given Satisfactorily to Canada.

The House in a Hubbub Because of Ferguson's Insinuations Against Canadian Loyalty.

LONDON, March 10.—The question of the Harbor of Esquimalt, on Vancouver Island, was raised in the House of Commons this afternoon, and was discussed with great zeal by Lord George Francis Hamilton, first Lord of the Admiralty, and several Liberal interrogatories. Hardly had this breeze died out, when the Behring Sea controversy was brought before the House by the questions addressed by Edward Temperley Gourley, the advanced Liberal member from Sunderland and answered for the Government by Rt. Hon. James William Lowther, Under Secretary of the Foreign Office. Mr. Ronald Craufurd Munro Ferguson, Liberal member from Leith, led off in the matter of Esquimalt's defences by asking these questions from the first lord of the Admiralty—

"Does the site of the navy yard at Esquimalt belong to Canada or the Crown?"

"If Canada provides the stores, guns and sites, will she also provide the garrison?"

"Will the work of improving the defences of the harbor, including the plans of engineering and construction, be done by the Canadian Government or the Crown?"

"What rights of control, as regards stores, coal, support of the garrison in case of need, and harbor anchorage, has the commander of the Pacific fleet?"

"Are any advantages secured to Her Majesty's vessels at Esquimalt harbor, that are not accorded them in such foreign ports of the U. S., France or other civilized nations."

"In case the proposed fortifications should be erected, would the guns mounted there be the property of Canada or the Crown?"

"Will the garrison of the harbor defences receive their orders from the Imperial or Canadian Government?"

"If the garrison be put under the orders of the Canadian Government will the Home Government have any means of assuring itself of the support of the same for Her Majesty's fleet in times of war?"

"If, as has been suggested, Canada should decide to cast her lot with the United States, and become incorporated with that country, would she carry with her the guns and other portable equipments of fortifications?"

While making these interrogatories, Mr. Ferguson was interrupted frequently by cries of, "Oh, oh!" irony laughter and other noisy demonstrations of the ministerial majority. All his interrogatories after the one concerning the support of the Pacific fleet by the garrison, were delivered amid a storm of exclamations of remonstrance. This was due to the fact that the last six questions were put in such a way as to suggest that, in times of war or threatened war, the Imperial Government could not rely upon the loyalty of the Dominion Government for support, and that, therefore, it was foolish to place in uncertain hands a fortified harbor that might be used as effectively against the Empire as for it. The impression left by his inquiries and by the emphatic "Hear, Hears," with which the last six questions were greeted from the Opposition was that he intended to say that Canada had drifted too far toward the United States to be trusted to co-operate with the mother country in case of trouble with the American Government. This was Lord Hamilton's view of the question, and he declined to answer any except the first three questions. Upon rising to reply to Mr. Ferguson's interrogatories, he said: "The site of the dockyards at Esquimalt belongs to the Crown, and the Canadian Government has reserved for Her Majesty's ships exclusively a part of the harbor. The Canadian Government will provide the site for the fortifications and the guns, and will be responsible for the manning of them. The hon. gentleman's other questions seem to have been put with the object of causing the inference to be drawn that, in time of trouble or danger, Canada will not be ready to co-operate with the Home Government in the common defence of both against the enemy that will threaten us. The Home Government must be excused, therefore, if I decline to answer hypothetical questions, which are prompted by suppositions at once injudicious and dangerous."

The close of Lord Hamilton's reply was greeted with ministerial cheers, which had not died away when Mr. Ferguson was on his feet, asking, "I beg the First Lord of the Admiralty to answer my enquiry whether or not in the event of Canada's separating herself from Her Majesty's Empire (cries, "oh! oh! don't answer.") The guns, stores and ammunition, as well as the fortifications, will belong to the Imperial Government." The House was in a hubbub when Mr. Ferguson sat down, and rang with cries of "order," "don't answer!" Lord Hamilton made no reply to Mr. Ferguson's repeated questions.

Under Secretary Lowther, of the Foreign office, in response to enquiries, said that all the commissioners had signed the joint report embodying the points upon which they were agreed as regards the protection and preservation of the seal industry. The points upon which no agreement could be arrived at, and these were the main points, he added, concerned the length of the season, and other questions which would be referred to the arbitration commission for settlement.

BEHRING SEA.

Nothing New—Opinions at Washington—The London "Standard's" Opinion.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 10.—It was quiet about the State Department, to-day. The Behring Sea matter was a subject of discussion, but there was nothing new developed. Sir Julian Pauncefote did not visit the department, and it was stated that no communication had been received from the British Government direct, to indicate the tone of Lord Salisbury's reply to the note of the 8th instant. In official circles, departmental and congressional, there was expressed a desire "to call England's bluff." Inquiry at the Capitol, to-day, revealed the fact that in its present shape and under present conditions, the arbitration treaty will hardly be ratified. The President will take no further action regarding the Behring Sea matter until he receives a reply from Salisbury to Wharton's note insisting on a renewal of the *modus vivendi* of last year.

LONDON, March 11.—The Standard says, to-day, on the Behring Sea controversy: "The impression prevails that the easy-going disposition of Great Britain in this matter is not reciprocated by the government at Washington. The British government's desire to bring this conflict to an amicable issue is as strong as ever, but there is an obvious limit to good nature when the yielding has to be done by one side. Mr. Harrison is trading too much upon our past amicability. Every impartial American sees that Great Britain is making considerable concessions. The suggestion that she would be glad not to submit the dispute to arbitration is ridiculous. The British government wishes to remain on good terms with the whole world, and especially with the United States, to which it is bound by the ties of kinship. The element in the United States hostile to Great Britain is allowed to exercise an excessive influence upon the negotiations, and, by its force of numbers, to dictate to the more intelligent of the people."

THE SALMON COMMISSION.

Little or No Interest Taken in the Proceedings at the Coal City.

After Hearing Several Witnesses the Board Adjourns to Meet at Vancouver.

NANAIMO, March 10.—The Fish Commission sat yesterday afternoon, Commissioners Wilmot and Armstrong being present. Walter Roose, examined, stated that he was in the fish business. He had ten boats fishing for the last three months. Principally pink colored salmon were caught. He also caught trout, which had never been seen on the Pacific Coast before. A practical fisherman had informed him that turbot go in the deepest water. Hitherto he had only fished a depth of 150 fathoms. There were halibut on the Coast, but not in great quantities. He referred to the herring oil factories, stating that wherever these were established the herring fishery had been destroyed.

In reply to Mr. Wilmot the witness said that attempts had been made of an experimental nature to see if deep sea fishing was profitable.

Frank Vozza, an Italian, formerly engaged in salmon fishing on the Fraser river, but at present dogfish fishing, was desirous of getting a license to fish in the Fraser river and other districts, but had been refused. During the time he had fished in the Fraser river his catches were from 40 to 500 salmon a day. Ten cents a piece were generally paid.

D. S. McDonald gave information regarding Fishhook, Thunder and Trobois Lakes, connected with the stream which runs into the bay. A dam had been placed across the stream. Now there were no fish in the lakes. Previously he had been able to fish there; now there was nothing.

J. F. Curry said with reference to this dam, that since it had been put up the fish had been kept out of the lakes. A petition had been got up three years ago by the settlers of the district to have the dam removed, but nothing came of it.

Ed. Quennell, sworn, said that at one time he lived alongside Fishhook Lake before the dam was erected salmon came to the lakes in hundreds regularly every year about November, but after the dam had been put across, the salmon came no more. There were oyster beds at Oyster Bay and Nanoose Bay.

Wm. Green, a trader resident in Nanaimo, said the Indians 70 or 80 miles above the canneries on the Naas river put seines across, catching vast quantities of fish, of which they destroyed the greater part. The Indians are accustomed to catch more fish than they can possibly use. Not only in the Naas river, but in the streams tributary the Indians would leave hundreds to rot on the beach. They keep the sockeye for their own use. The spring salmon are taken to the canneries. He had caught one salmon weighing 75 lbs. At Port Essington there were two other canneries in the village where about 400 Indians reside all winter.

The commission adjourned as no more witnesses were present. Very little interest is taken in the proceedings here. The commissioners leave to-morrow morning for Vancouver.

BIG STORM IN BRITAIN.

A Wintry Aspect Everywhere—Trains and Telegraphs Suspended—Loss of Cattle and Sheep.

LONDON, March 10.—Reports from the North of Scotland show that the storm has done much damage to flocks and herds, and it is feared that lives have been lost in remote parts of the country. The heavy snowfall appears to have taken people by surprise, especially in the Scottish Highlands and the mountainous districts of Wales. A large number of sheep have been chilled to death. The telegraph lines in many places are down, and railway trains are snow bound, while the ordinary roads are almost impassible. Horse races and other spring appointments for to-day have been postponed, and the whole country wears a wintry aspect. Reports of shipwreck along the Welsh and North British coasts have been received. The weather has greatly aggravated the suffering from the lack of coal, especially in the Northern manufacturing towns, where the poor had allowed their supplies to run out in the expectation of genial weather.

Aid for the World's Fair.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Mrs. Potter Palmer to-day made an address before the special house committee on the World's Columbian Exposition for the favorable action of the bill to appropriate $135,000, to be distributed directly by the board of lady managers of the Exposition.

U. S. TARIFF REFORM.

Discussion in the House of Representatives on the Free Wool Bill.

The McKinley Bill Vigorously Denounced by Democrats—Reductions Demanded.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The House went into committee of the whole on the free wool bill. Mr. Stevens, Democrat, of Massachusetts, spoke from the standpoint of the manufacturer. Reduced taxes, lower prices, he said, always meant increased consumption. Free wool meant lower prices and better goods. The one was the equivalent of the other. While American manufacturers maintained their high standard of enterprise and workmanship, there was nothing to be feared from foreign competition. Quoting from the leading manufacturers of the country, he showed that the free wool bill was satisfactory to them. The bill proposed an immense boon to manufacturers, and one of universal benefit. The bill represented as wise a distribution of the duties as could be made. If the bill passed, it would result in good to the people.

Montgomery, Democrat, of Kentucky, followed with a long argument in support of the bill, which he read. He said he was an ardent tariff reformer. The measure reported endeavored to make a sharp and distinct issue with the Republican party whether 65,000,000 of people shall continue to pay 91¼ per cent. increase on all the clothes and woollen goods they consume under the McKinley act or whether they shall pay only 25 per cent. as fixed in this measure. Whether 36¼ per cent. of the unnecessary taxation now imposed upon $370,000,000 worth of goods used yearly by the people shall be realized, was a question that every member would be called upon to say. On the cheap lands and great ranches of the West, the only portion of the country where wool was largely grown, but a small element, either of labor or property, except that interested in the flocks, entered into the interests of wool growing. There was no reason why the wool-growers should be favored beyond the millions engaged in other pursuits, who get no benefit from the protection of this. The country could not raise either the quantity or quality of wool necessary to clothe the people comfortably and successfully. Under the increased rates of the McKinley bill, the importations of wool increased from 124,000,000 pounds in 1888, to 136,000,000 pounds in 1891, which the manufacturers must pay duty on. This large importation, and the price of raw material, must be added to the price of the goods and finally paid for by the consumer. If the duty on foreign wool was added to the manufactured goods, thereby increasing the cost of woolen goods to the consumer, being no benefit to the wool grower, why shall not this duty be removed? Under the McKinley bill, wages had not been increased in a single instance. The cost of labor in the manufacture of textile fabrics here differed very little from that paid by European competitors, for while the prices paid for labor were greater, our machinery and methods of manufacture were so superior that the amount expended in labor yielded as great an output of production in a shorter time as the labor of Europe yielded in a longer time. The old countries were conservative and slow to change their methods. Labor there was more abundant, and there was less incentive to invent and use labor-saving machiners. We were progressing, and alert to invent and adopt new, cheaper and speedier methods. Were American woollen manufacturers given free wool, free dye stuffs, free machinery, and placed on an equal footing, otherwise, with the European countries, we could pay American wages, and not only hold the home market for our products, but compete with woollen markets of the world. The American manufacturer was protected in the home market by the cost of transportation and other disadvantages, which burdened his foreign competitors. The policy of the Democratic party was to maintain wages; broaden the fields of all labor and increase their comforts. This bill repaid the home manufacturers ten per cent. more than the entire wages they paid for production. There was nothing in the Republican arguments that higher rates than were carried in this bill were needed to maintain American wages. The zeal with which American labor was put forward to justify the burdens of the tariff was a shame and a fraud. There was more protection afforded in this bill than was necessary. The people wanted the tariff reduced. This bill was not theoretical. It's benefit was universal. It removed two thirds of the tax paid by sixty-five millions of people on all the wool clothes they wore; but which fell heaviest on the poor, who wore cheaper goods on which "McKinley" imposed higher duties. He believed the bill would meet the approval of four-fifths of the wool growers and manufacturers themselves. There was behind it a public sentiment irrespective of the political, which neither the Senate nor President could ignore. The Democratic policy now was war on all wasteful and extravagant appropriations, economy in public expenditures, and a radical and sweeping reduction in expenses borne by the people.

The Van Zandt Suicide.

NEW YORK, March 12.—Norman Lubbock, son of Professor Lubbock, the English scientist, and chairman of the London County Council, and his sister, Mrs. Constance Buxton, arrived here on the Teutonic, on Wednesday, on the way to their sister, Mrs. Ferdinand Van Zandt, whose husband committed suicide a week ago, in London. They leave for Buffalo, to-day. Mrs. Van Zandt will meet them there. She has already left her home in Menlo Park as is on her way east. She will return with them to London. Mrs. Van Zandt's relatives are much disturbed by the reports in American papers that business entanglements caused Van Zandt's suicide. It is true that low prices had somewhat involved the Blue Bird mine in Montana, but this was only one of the many ventures in which Van Zantd was interested. Grip, it is believed, by his friends, was the real cause of the suicide. He left his business affairs in excellent condition.