# The Colonist.

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## A RICH STRIKE.

Mr. J. F. Wardner, the Kaslo mining man, left for the Sound last night. Just previous to his departure he received both by telegraph and mail a small budget of news from the Upper country, which is of a very encouraging nature, as showing that the wonderful possibilities of that section are not yet half understood.

The telegram was from Mr. H. W. C. Jackson, and was to the effect that in pushing development work in the upper tunnel of the Washington mine, a nine-inch body of $1,400 ore had been struck and that generally, the mine is in better condition than ever before.

Such a strike in a mine which has already some 5,000 sacks of ore in the warehouse in Kaslo, and which has been shipping steadily all winter, possesses an added value from the fact that it demonstrates the permanent nature of the ore bodies of that section and gives assurance that, as the work of developing the present prospects goes on, better and better results may be looked for.

News was also received that the Jackson mine is doing far better than was at first expected. A contract has just been let to Mr. L. Gillian for the delivery in Kaslo of 300 tons of ore from this mine. The contract calls for the delivery of this amount before the snow goes away. The Jackson is owned by Dr. E. C. Kilbourne, of Seattle.

From Mr. James Clark it was learned that the Rico and Wonderful, of which he is superintendent, are preparing to begin shipments in the spring. Both of these properties were untouched last year, and the work of developing them only commenced just before the snow began to fly in the fall.

Mr. McGuigan, of the Noble Five group, has just let a contract for a considerable amount of work, and also for the handling of the output of the mine during the course of the work.

Generally the news received by Mr. Wardner is of a very encouraging nature. All those interested in that section are very sanguine of a good season and expect to see a number of excellent properties added to the already long and valuable list which appears to the credit of this modern El Dorado.

## METLAKAHTLA.

SEATTLE, Feb. 20.—The news of the burning of the mission of Metlakahtla, known as Father Duncan's mission, in Alaska, was brought by the City of Topeka, but no details of the fire were given. The following letter from Father Duncan to Fischer & Macdonald not only gives particulars of the disaster, but explains the sad situation in which the natives are at the present time. He asks for help to rebuild the houses, and the request is being liberally responded to by the people of Seattle. The letter is as follows:

METLAKAHTLA, Alaska, Feb. 10, 1893.

*Messrs. Fischer and Macdonald:* It is with profound grief I write to acquaint you with the sad calamity which has just befallen our village. In the forenoon of the 7th inst., (Tuesday) a fire broke out from a temporarily vacated house, and owing to a strong east wind prevailing at the time all efforts to check or control the flames proved abortive. In less than two hours twenty-eight houses were completely consumed. Unfortunately, as is usual at this time of year, many of our people were away hunting and fishing, so that the loss in household furniture, food and clothing was also very great. From some of the houses burnt up scarcely anything was saved.

During all the years of my residence in this country I do not remember experiencing such extremes in the weather as we have had this winter. For ten days previous to the fire an unusually dry east wind prevailed. This had made everything around so dry that a mere spark was sufficient to start a fire. The intense cold weather, too, we have encountered demanded extra large fires to be kept up. These conditions, so favorable to fire, which would have put experienced people on their guard, produced, I am sorry to say, no extra care or watchfulness on our unsuspecting natives. Thus they are now plunged into deep distress, the first bitter experience of the kind they have ever been called upon to suffer.

After the fire had passed the village it spread furiously in the forest, and a conflagrations of enormous proportions raged through the remainder of the day and all through the night. When the panic had somewhat subsided I called a few people together to consider what was to be done for the sufferers, and it was decided that those who had been denuded of their supply of food, wearing apparel and bedding should be first attended to. A subscription was at once raised to purchase blankets and food for distribution. In the meantime the homeless were being kindly received and sheltered by their more favored neighbors, but from fear of further disaster all the fires in the village were extinguished.

Yesterday, to the relief of our fears, the wind subsided and the snow began to fall. Many of the people who were absent at the time of the fire, returned, but alas! only to see and bewail the ruins of homes they had but recently left. In the afternoon we held a general meeting, at which I was glad to observe a subdued, quiet spirit prevailed. Instead of moroseness, anger, fault-finding and despair which would, under the same circumstances, have undoubtedly appeared in years gone by, there followed only sympathy for the sufferers, pledges to share the heavy burden, resolutions to renewed efforts and the adoption of wiser methods for providing against danger. In the end, therefore, I trust this severe calamity will prove a real gain; for it may be that some of the lessons necessary for their advancement in civilized life can only be learned through actual encounter with disaster.

Now I must come to the real purport of my letter, which is to beg for aid. Though in teaching this people I have ever prompted them to self-reliance and to avoid begging—yet I feel on this occasion I cannot resist their earnest appeal to me to let their friends know of the great loss they have sustained, with a view of soliciting aid for rebuilding their homes. About one-quarter of our village has disappeared, and at the lowest estimate about twelve thousand dollars ($12,000) of property was destroyed. May I therefore, gentlemen, enlist your sympathy and co-operation to make known among our friends our necessities. It may be some will be kindly disposed to aid us. Should our appeal be in any degree successful may I suggest that help be only rendered to those who will comply with our rules to be laid down for securing all possible precautions in building.

## NANAIMO ASSIZES.

NANAIMO, Feb. 20.—(Special)—Sentences were passed this morning on the four men, McNally, Robinson, Massery and Poltine, found guilty to a greater or less degree of the Bawnmore kidnapping affair. In passing sentence, Judge Crease said that had it not been for the recommendations of the jury he would have been compelled to inflict the full penalty of the law. As it was exceptional leniency was to be shown the prisoners. McNally was sentenced to three years' penitentiary, Robinson to two, while Massery and Poltine each received a sentence of one year. Commenting on the sentences passed, Judge Crease wished the people of Nanaimo generally to understand that he thought in this decision the offenders had been dealt with lightly. Should anything of the like occur again, no such clemency would be shown.

Judge Harrison passed sentences on the other prisoners convicted. Dooley and Smith, found guilty of highway robbery at Northfield, were each sentenced to five years' penitentiary. Ah Gong, a Chinaman, guilty of an unnatural offence, four years.

The indictments against Jarensen and Holtz were laid over till next assize.

## THE MISSING "MAGGIE MAC."

### The Schooner "Pioneer" Brings Down Definite News of the Finding of the Wreck.

### Fatal Incident of the Voyage—A Very Rough Trip With Poor Results.

All doubts as to the fate of the schooner Maggie Mac seem to be cleared away by the story brought down by the sealing schooner Pioneer. It will be remembered that something over a year ago the COLONIST published an account of a wreck which had occurred near Cape Scott. A representative of the COLONIST was dispatched to ascertain the particulars of the wreck, but owing to the roughness of the coast and the stormy weather he was unable to reach the scene of the disaster. From the description of the fragments obtained by him from the Indians it was then supposed that the ill-fated vessel was the schooner Henry Dennis. The Quadra made a trip to the same locality a little later, but in some way missed the wreck, and so the matter remained, until the story told by Capt. McLeod, of the Pioneer.

The tale of the location of the wreck was told to the captain by two men who are running a store on Quatsino Sound. According to them, the Indians reported a wreck lying in one of the many small bays south of Cape Scott. As they are often compelled to go across to Fort Rupert for supplies, they resolved on one of these trips to look the matter up, and after some difficulty located the wreckage. On the beach was found a mass of debris, consisting of a side of the schooner, the house, fragments of the boats, boxes, barrels, cordage, etc. The vessel must, in their opinion, have gone down somewhere among the group of small islands between Cape Scott and Triangle Island.

The crew were undoubtedly lost with the vessel, as from the nature of the surroundings the Indians claim that in case of a storm of any magnitude no boat or being could live for any length of time in the angry breakers, or by any possibility make a landing.

The Pioneer has had rather a hard time of it, as during an entire month out of port the wind was so high and the sea so rough that the lowering of a boat would have been impossible. About a month ago, while lying at anchor in St. George's Bay, the anchor chain of the Pioneer snapped and the schooner was driven out to sea. Capt. McLeod resolved to make an attempt to return to Victoria, but owing to heavy head winds the progress was very slow. Last Saturday morning, off Cape Flattery, Ned Cahrill, one of the seamen, went out on the jibboom to make fast the jib. An unusually heavy sea swung the boom suddenly, and washed him away. With great difficulty the schooner was brought to, and a boat lowered in the raging sea.

Though the wind had kept the body afloat by inflating the oil skins worn by the unfortunate sailor, he was dead when the boat reached him. The entire boat's crew almost despaired of life before the schooner was again reached. The body was brought in to Victoria.

No schooners were sighted during the voyage, but Capt. McLeod thinks that the catch must be very small, owing to the rough weather. The seals seemed to be very scarce along the shores of Vancouver Island so far as he could see, though the weather was too rough to lower a boat.

## NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

### Navigation of the Fraser—Building at Vancouver—Donations for a College Site.

### Gold Prospects in the Kootenay—A General Budget of News from the Interior.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 20.—The donators of Clark's park to the city here are making concessions to the B. C. College for the park as a college site.

Green, caretaker of the court, was badly used up by a wild drunken man last night on Homer street. Green's assailant will be arrested.

Workmen have started on a handsome block next to the Bank of B. C.

Rev. H. P. Hobson's friends gave him a farewell at his residence to-eight. He leaves for England to-morrow to interview the Archbishop of Canterbury re his incumbency.

Numerous merchants are advertising to take American silver at par.

Christ Church has been re-opened. Westminster ministers are filling the pulpit for the present.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 21.—The Council will endeavor to secure such amendments to its charter as will give the License Commissioners power to regulate liquor licenses and enforce the by-law. There has been a great deal of complaint for some time among the License Commissioners that they had no power to carry out their regulations. They had an inspector, but he was practically independent of them. The complaint is to some extent due to the license board not having full control of the licenses.

Ald. Salisbury objected to the filing of the balance sheet of the Finance committee. It showed a deficit of $600,000 against the city, and it must certainly be wrong. They should send it back where it came from and have it properly prepared. Ald. Anderson said that the deficit was made up of improvements on streets, bridges and parks. Victoria, he continued, had not as large a debt as Vancouver, and her statement of liabilities and assets showed a deficit of a million dollars, and that statement had been prepared by an accountant of forty years standing. Ald. Salisbury said he hadn't forty years experience, but if Ald. Anderson sent the Victoria accountant to him, he'd show him how to make out a statement properly.

The changes, one or two unimportant ones, recommended by the committee appointed to inquire into the number of city officials and expenditure on salary account, were thought too trifling to endorse and their report was filed.

The city will move to secure the right of way for water works purposes across the Indian reserve and ten acres of foreshore.

Auditor Rea, in reporting on the books of the clerk of Richmond municipality for 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, says: And the apparent fact is that the then clerk and collector was in the habit of most unwarrantably holding municipal funds, whilst the bank account was even overdrawn, and although another person (Mr. Tuttle) was appointed Collector for 1891, and paid the collections direct to the bank, yet the Clerk must have had a large sum on hand for the whole of the year, as it was not until the thirty-first December, 1891, that he paid into the bank the alleged balance of $1,534.24. The books have been kept in a very imperfect and slovenly manner; in fact, no cash book entries at all were made for about twelve months. The report covers twenty-five pages of legal cap and is bristling with small financial sensations.

Messrs. E. Hutcherson and A. W. B. McGowan are preparing the B. C. exhibit for Chicago.

A deputation of aldermen went to Victoria to-day on civic business.

Vancouver Knights of Pythias escorted Grand Chancellor Hughes and Col. Behnsen of the U. R., Victoria, to Westminster to-day.

The Dominion Express Co. offer to ship American silver to Whatcom for $1.50 per $1,000. Two-thirds of the merchants say they will take all American silver at par for goods and 5 per cent. off for cash.

Steamer Comox arrived from the North last night.

The Empress of China will sail on March 6th.

The steamer Coquitlam returned last night, bringing back 20,000 lbs. of halibut. Capt. McLellan experienced very bad weather; there being only one day they could fish to advantage on the whole trip. For ten days fires had to be built to keep the machinery from freezing, and the vessel was covered with ice. The Indians were very threatening when they were refused work. The sea was rough but the vessel behaved well.

Mr. Gregory, private secretary to Mr. Beecher, Hastings Mill, has gone to Seattle to live. Mr. and Mrs. Gregory will be missed. Mr. Gregory improves himself financially.

The service of song in the Homer Street Methodist church last Sunday was very successful. Church was crowded to the doors. The sermon preached by Rev. Mr. Maitland was very much appreciated.

A case of smallpox has been discovered at Keefers quarry, 12 miles from Vancouver, 40 men are working in the quarry.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Feb. 20.—The ice began to move out of the Fraser yesterday morning, and near sundown the river was clear for several miles above the city, but further up the bridge still holds. The Islander to-day had plain sailing up the river.

McLean Bros. take their dyking machine to Mud Bay to-morrow to begin work on the Delta dyke.

A large piece of ice struck the steamer Kildonan to-day and tore her from her moorings. She was carried down stream and came into collision with the steamer Surrey, the latter sustaining slight damage.

The Tramway Company intend extending their line to Sapperton and down the full length of Lulu island shortly.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Feb. 21.—The ice has given way all along the river. Steamer service has been resumed to Ladner's and Steveston, and the river steamers begin their up trips on Thursday.

The City band intends going to the World's Fair, having been offered free transportation and free board for two weeks in Chicago.

The first fishing boat of the season went out to-day to try for spring salmon.

Produce merchants are buying up all the hay they can find in the district.

Bill Feeny, a pioneer of the Province and one of the first to penetrate Cassiar for gold, is dead. He has been an inmate of the Royal Columbian Hospital for many years. He was 59 years of age and had no relatives in this city.

The Irish people here will celebrate St. Patrick's day with a grand concert, in which the best Victoria and Seattle talent will assist.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Feb. 21.—Another fine brick and stone block is to be erected shortly on Front street by Mr. R. Hilbert. Two old houses which now occupy the land are being pulled down, and as soon as the spring opens it is expected that building operations will commence.

Enoch Shakespeare, the Northfield constable who was held up and robbed last Saturday week, has been removed from that position. A younger and more active man will take his place. Shakespeare's appointment in the first place was ill-advised; he was too old for the work.

The funeral of the late D. W. Gordon, this afternoon, was a very impressive affair. Every store and business house in the town was closed. The coffin was followed to the grave by the largest concourse ever seen in Nanaimo, including Premier Davie, several members of the local Legislature, Judges Crease and Harrison, the Mayor and Council, the local lodges of Foresters, the Infantry corps, Silver Cornet band, and representative business and professional men of the city and district. The funeral services were held at St. Paul's Church. Rev. Canon Good officiated.

A fire at A. T. Williams' house, Newcastle townsite, caused by a child upsetting an oil lamp, brought the fire boys out this evening, but before they arrived the conflagration was entirely extinguished. The damage done was slight.

UNION.

UNION, B. C., Feb. 17.—Rev. J. Robson gave a lecture, entitled "The Genuine Boy," in the public hall, Union, on Thursday evening. Mr. W. B. Walker, J.P., occupied the chair, and the subject, which was both amusing and instructive, was ably handled by the lecturer. The proceeds are to be devoted to the new church building fund. The sum of $600 has already been promised in aid of the above object and it is hoped that Union will soon be in possession of a neat little church.

The San Mateo is loading a cargo of Union coal and will leave for San Francisco on Saturday next. The ship Forest Queen arrived on Tuesday to load 1,000 tons of coal for the same port.

Mr. Robert Grant has succeeded in filling his icehouse with excellent ice, so that Union will have a plentiful supply of this needful crystal during the summer months.

Union has not as yet got clear of the snow which fell during the last week, and a further consignment, nine inches deep, was duly delivered here on Tuesday night, much to the annoyance of the female residents.

The Chinese are celebrating their new year, which commenced to-day. At this season "John" is very hospitable, and as a result the white man will visit him and partake of his hospitality as demonstrated by the number of cigars, &c., which protrude from the pockets of those who return from Chinatown.

Messrs. Grant & McGregor are making considerable progress with the new railroad cars in course of construction at the Union Car Works.

The Joan arrived yesterday, and was as usual heavily loaded with passengers and freight. Amongst the passengers were: Mr. Galloway, Indian Missionary of Cape Mudge, Messrs. Trevellyn, Hill, Davidge, Hop Kues, Pohl, Swetter, Gilchrist, Peterson, Johnson, Capt. Dyreborg, Thttt, Mrs. and Miss Rogers, Matson, Baldwin, Roberts, McPhee, Burton, Dunne, Aason, McNeil, Raines, and Rev. P. McF. Macleod, of Victoria, who is up on a visit to Union and Comox. He is expected to lecture at the public hall here on Saturday; subject, "That young man."

The steam yacht belonging to Rev. Mr. Nixon, of Denman Island, slipped from its moorings on Wednesday, and was driven opposite Union wharf. Capt. Butler of the Joan, seeing the perilous position of the rev. gentleman, very kindly went to his assistance, and towed the little vessel into safety.

PLUMPER'S PASS.

PLUMPER'S PASS, Feb. 19.—Steamer Alert brought up a scowload of lumber for Saturna last week. Things are progressing steadily on that island and are in a flourishing condition. The recent heavy weather interfered with many anticipations in the building line, but work is now going ahead. Messrs. Welstead, Higgs and G. Payne are foremost in opening up spring work with new residences, while W. J. Wessell is adding to his list of outbuildings. Messrs. Mikuni and Imbert are busy with contracts for cordwood and are shipping to Victoria every week. They have also secured contracts to supply fuel to the Fraser River canneries, which will keep them busy for some time. If fine weather continues work in the stone quarries will begin next week.

An entertainment was given by the young folks in the hall on Saturday evening, when a varied programme consisting of songs, choruses and jokes was gone through. Conviviality marked the evening.

H. M. Newton, of Victoria, is here spending a two months' vacation. Hunting, shooting and fishing will form the chief attractions.

W. H. Mawdsley, of Point Comfort, returned home on Sunday with the good weather. He also brings good news concerning the hotel scheme, which promises a busy time of it next month.

J. C. Campbell, contractor, returned from Victoria on Wednesday. For the past few days he has been in a state of valetudinarianism, but is slowly recovering. His contract for the erection of the new store and dwelling house, however, is in the hands of experienced workmen, and will be completed by the end of the month.

According to hearsay, the only elk known to exist on Galiano Island was seen some two weeks ago by Mr. Johnny Cook on the upper end of that island. It was a fine specimen of its race, and must have migrated from a distant shore.

Fishermen are out catching herrings. A good market for cod makes them get a rustle" on themselves.

KAMLOOPS.

(From the Inland Sentinel.)

The annual meeting of the Royal Inland Hospital was held on Wednesday afternoon last, G. C. Tunstall in the chair. Secretary E. H. Jones presented his report, which showed that there had been 80 patients under treatment during the year, an increase of 16 over the number of the previous year, and that eight remained in the hospital February 1, 1893. $993.12 had been received from patients, and $243.48 due from the previous year had been paid, making $1,236.60 as the total receipts. Dr. Furrer, the medical officer, presented a very interesting report. G. C. Tunstall, C. R. Slater and J. W. Mackay were appointed to audit the treasurer's report. The retiring directors, J. McIntosh, R. E. Smith, R. H. Lee and James Vair, were re-elected.

William Mackay, about 27 years old, who had been ailing for a long time of heart disease and consumption, was striken on Monday morning with partial paralysis, and after a few hours became unconscious, dying on Tuesday evening. He had lived at Nicola for some years until last fall, when he came to Kamloops, stopping at the Dominion hotel, where he died. He was much respected. He had insurance for $1,000. His father resides at Durham, Ontario, and his sister is settled at Lorrain, Ohio. His remains were given a respectable burial at Kamloops.

Mr. George P. Raven returned on Tuesday evening with the remains of William Carmichael. Mr. Raven's ranch, where the tragedy occurred, is fourteen miles from the North Thompson, up Lewis to Forest creek, where only a trail exists, and the body was brought out this distance on a toboggan. The testimony of Mr. Raven at the inquest showed that the death must have taken place on the evening of the 6th or the morning of the 7th February, because the figure 6 was crossed from calendar. A 44-calibre Winchester was used, which contained an empty shell. The verdict was that deceased came to his death by the discharge of a rifle in his own hands, but whether by accident or suicidal intent they were unable from the evidence adduced to decide. It is believed that his friends reside in Eastern Canada.

At Clinton on February 7, before Judge Cornwall, an Indian called "Crooked-Mouth-Jack" was sentenced to nine months with hard labor for stealing hay from the Kelly ranch, one of the Western Canadian Ranching Co.'s properties.

W. J. Unwin, of the Dominion hotel, has given out the contract to build a hotel and business place at the Kamloops Coal Co.'s townsite, 56 miles up the North Thompson. If business warrants he will run a weekly stage from Kamloops when the boat stops running.

Work on the Coal Hill mine, which was discontinued during cold weather, is being pushed again actively. The incline is now down 200 feet, and a contract has been let to drive it 100 feet further. The work will be vigorously prosecuted until the value of the mine is thoroughly proven.

REVELSTOKE.

(From the Kootenay Star.)

Gus Lund, from McCullough creek, Big Bend, where he was prospecting last summer and fall, has located three good quartz veins, two of them ten inches wide and the other six inches. The best samples assayed as high as $5,000 to the ton, while the lowest went $150. With stamp mills on the spot this percentage of gold per ton would be highly remunerative, and a bonanza awaits the capitalist who will take the venture in hand. Mr. Lund is very enthusiastic over his prospects at the creek. He says there are several quartz veins there which would pay well to work, and that it would be a paying investment to erect stamps there. About the middle of December he visited the Consolation placer mine on French creek, and the nine men employed there were then taking out in coarse grains and nuggets $16 a day each, and the ground improving.

Cruely to cattle has been very prevalent this winter. Along the line of the C.P.R., between Ducks and Kamloops, heaps of cattle (dying and dead) are to be seen in the open fields, and not a wisp of straw or food of any description in sight. As for shelter, the ordinary rancher would laugh at the idea of putting up shelter for cattle. At Ashcroft, Kamloops and many other inland grazing districts numerous losses from the same cause are reported. At Grand Prairie, where the weather has been warmer, cattle are doing well. In Revelstoke district no losses are reported.

## THE TWO FLAGSHIPS.

### Last Word Received From H. M. S. "Warspite" Now Voyaging to England.

### Orders From the Ships of the Squadron—The "Royal Arthur" in Commission.

Letters just received from H.M.S. Warspite give an entertaining account of the voyage of the flagship and her companion, the Melpomene, since they bade Victorians good-bye. From these letters the appended extracts are taken; they give the latest news of the departing flagship, which it is doubtful if Victorians will see again for some time. Her successor, the Royal Arthur, went in commission yesterday, and will bring Admiral Stephenson here, via Hawaii, at once.

New Year's day was passed by those aboard the Warspite and the Melpomene at Acapulco, stoppages being made on the way down at Santa Barbara and San Diego. The Melpomene got in over the bar, but the flagship was too big to follow, and so remained at anchor six miles off the great Coronado Beach hotel, which, at the time of the warships' visit had almost its complement of one thousand guests.

"The beach," says the letter quoted, "is not more beautiful than that of Oak Bay, and the tropical climate of the place is certainly not so well adapted to European constitutions. Two balls, in honor of the British naval officers, were given during the stay of the warships at San Diego."

The Warspite is not likely to be relieved so as to get home earlier than July. H. M. S. Royal Arthur, Admiral Stephenson's flagship, is reported to have entered commission yesterday, preparatory to voyaging by easy stages to Esquimalt, accompanied by H.M.S. Temeraire. The Garnet will come here to relieve the Hyacinth, which, upon her arrival, will leave for Honolulu; the Melpomene goes to Chili.

Lord Brassey's Naval Annual thus describes the new flagship: "H. M. S. Royal Arthur, first-class cruiser, originally named Centaur before she was launched. She is copper-sheathed. She has twin screws, and is a 7,700 tons ship, with 1,200 horse-power. Her draught of water is 23 feet 9 inches, length 360 feet, beam 60 feet. She was launched at Portsmouth in 1891. The makers of her engines were Maudsley & Co. Her total coast was £377,230. Her armament is one 22-22 tons B.L.R., twelve 6 quick firing, seventeen 6-pounders and 3-pounders, eight machine guns, four fish torpedoes, and one launching carriage. Her speed is 19.5 knots. She carries 850 tons of coal, which is estimated to take her 10,000 knots at 10 knots per hour. On her trial trip she made over 20 knots. She is not armored, but has a steel protected deck over her vital parts."

## FOR THE SEALERS.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The supplementary civil service estimates contain an item for the compensation of Behring Sea sealers for losses due to the delay in arranging a modus vivendi in 1891.

## SMALLPOX PROPHYLACTICS.

### What the Royal Commission Report Has to Say About Preventing the Disease.

### Vaccination Discussed and Strongly Recommended—The Norwich Inquiry Examined Into.

The Royal Commission report, which was briefly summarized yesterday, contains an interesting chapter on "Protection against contagion from abroad—smallpox and vaccination." The report says:

"The best protection against all invasions of contagion seems to reside, not in the first line of defence, viz., quarantine—through any quarantine isolated cases, it is shown by experience, will find their way; but in the second line, isolation and sanitation. Any case which penetrates through quarantine must be immediately taken up, isolated, and treated in such a manner as to prevent its propagation. It seems to be universally admitted that all these contagions are propagated by means of germs; whether carried in the air, or by water, or in solid filth of any description may be disputed. But this further is everywhere admitted, that cleanliness, both of the person and of a man's surroundings, diminishes the *nidus* in which such germs flourish, and also diminishes the susceptibility of individuals to yield to their attacks. And as a principal means of cleanliness a copious supply of pure water is essential. With these precautions it is tolerably certain that no contagion will ever become epidemic.

"As against all other contagions these are the only provisions which can be made, viz., isolation and sanitation. But as against the particular disease of smallpox there is the well known and approved prophylactic, vaccination, to the supereminent value of which all the professional men examined before us testified quite unanimously. There were differences of opinion as to the mode of operating, some preferring calf lymph provided from vaccine farms, some preferring arm to arm vaccination, but all agreeing as to the great value of the operation. The experience of the Province in the recent epidemic shows, however, that vaccination, and re-vaccination, by no means afford the perfect protection against contagion which has been sometimes supposed. The experience here, however, may to some extent be due to the inert points used. Yet there can be no doubt that vaccination very greatly lessens the chances of infection, and still more frequently disarms smallpox of its virulence.

"In the recent epidemic, out of 100 cases treated by Dr. Richardson, 53 had been vaccinated, but only six showed four scars, *i. e.*, fully vaccinated. And out of 13 deaths only one vaccinated person died, and he was suffering from a complication of disorders. That is, one vaccinated person died out of 53 attacked, and 12 unvaccinated persons out of 47 attacks. This is certain, that although doctors and professional nurses are obviously more exposed to contagion than any other classes of the community, not a single doctor or professional nurse was attacked during the whole course of the epidemic here. They all believed and trusted in vaccination. There are no statistics to show the numbers of vaccinated and unvaccinated persons here; but probably the vaccinated are far more numerous—far more than the ratio of 53 to 47; in which case the percentage of attacks, as well as of deaths, is largely in favor of vaccination. In fact, only 6 out of 100 attacks had been fully vaccinated.

"Against this universal consent of all who had made a professional study of the question, we offered to take the evidence of all who professed the contrary opinion. Two champions presented themselves. One, who appeared much the stronger in his views, had confessedly not studied the question at all, and the mere vehemence of the expression of his opinions of course entitled them to no weight, but rather deducted from their impressiveness. The other, Mr. Greig, had devoted a great deal of time and study to the subject of vaccination; and adduced a vast quantity of figures in support of his propositions, which were chiefly that (1) vaccination is in no degree a protection against smallpox, but rather predisposes to the disease; (2) the Austrian statistics show that the mortality per cent. in vaccinated cases is nearly double that of the unvaccinated; (3) smallpox in the eighteenth century was not usually fatal, nor an object of dread, except among infants; it was in fact a merely infantile disorder; (4) vaccinia in itself was a highly dangerous disease, though perhaps not so immediately fatal as smallpox, but with a high probability of conveying into the vaccinated persons various deadly poisons: erysipelas, syphilitic, and scorbutic disorders, consumption, etc., more to be dreaded than smallpox itself.

"These propositions are so utterly contrary to all the accepted ideas of educated persons, and to all common knowledge, that we examined a little into the tables and figures adduced. But we found that they were all (with one exception) merely one-sided, extracted or constructed, in order to support the foregone conclusion (though we are quite sure that Mr. Greig did not think so, and, in fact, that it would be impossible to persuade him to that effect) and utterly unworthy of any reliance. The exception to which we allude, the only one in which the whole case was placed before us, was the Blue Book on the Parliamentary investigation in the Norwich case. Mr. Greig handed this Blue Book up to us in order that we might see the *ipsissima verba* of one or two witnesses, contained in one or two lines. This, of course, we declined to do, and looked at the whole report. And it was so extraordinary, and so completely exploded the whole case of the anti-vaccinationists that we shall shortly state the case as it appears by the report of the commissioners:—

"The Norwich case arose in this wise: Shortly after certain vaccinations by the Norwich public vaccinator in June, 1882, nine of the infants had contracted erysipelas, and four had died—two sickening a very few hours after the operation. Complaints having thus arisen, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the case. It was ascertained that it was perfectly true that nine children who had been vaccinated at the public station by the public vaccinator had been seized with erysipelas—one within two hours after the operation—and that four had died of that disease. The vaccination had been by arm to arm, taken on bone points which had been frequently used before, a practice which the Commissioners condemned. Erysipelas was very prevalent in Norwich at the time, though not epidemic. None of the vaccinifers were affected, either then or later on, with erysipelas. The vaccinator had occupied his situation for nine and a half years, vaccinating 1,000 or 1,200 annually, and this was the first complaint concerning any cases vaccinated by him. The Commissioners exonerated him from all blame. They profess to be unable to assign with any certainty the origin of the fatal erysipelas in any case, but think that in two cases it was contracted while attending at the public station in order to be vaccinated, and that a "strong case of suspicion" is raised against the purity of the vaccine lymph employed in these two cases. As to the third child, they believe the erysipelas was also contracted at the station, but that there was no evidence as to the probable source of infection. As to the fourth child, they find that it caught the infection at the station, but at the inspection of its arm on the eighth day after vaccination, and not from the operation at all. The Norwich Commissioners therefore found that these four are the only deaths which it had been attempted to connect with any one of 10,000 or 12,000 operations—that as to one child, it did not catch erysipelas till eight days after vaccination, and therefore clearly not from the operation at all; that as to another child, there was nothing to connect the erysipelas with the operation, though there was no conclusive disproof.

"As to the third and fourth cases, the Commissioners seem quite puzzled. If they attributed it to the points; these were inserted four times in the vaccinifer, and only once in the patients, yet the vaccinifer never caught erysipelas. On the other hand, since he never had erysipelas, it seemed impossible that he could give it. However, the Commissioners strongly suspected the lymph. Notwithstanding this, Mr. Greig actually says (Evid. II, p. 329): 'The result of the Norwich Commission was to prove that the whole of the four deaths resulted from vaccination.'—'According to the report, Dr. Guy killed all the four children.'—'They (the Norwich Commissioners) reported that there was no doubt about the cause of death of the four children.' And it was impossible to convince Mr. Greig that he was under a complete hallucination as to the express declaration of those Commissioners; or that they had in the clearest terms declared the exact contrary of what he so vividly imagined. When a man cannot, as to a particular subject, be brought to understand the meaning of what he himself says, or of what others have written, he cannot expect his opinions on that subject to be treated with great deference, however respectable in other respects. Whereas, in fact, the Commissioners' report does not distinctly trace one single case of infection to the lymph of the vaccinator out of 10,000 operations, and only dubiously traces two deaths to the operation, and that at a time when erysipelas was in the air in the city—expressly pointing out, that the erysipelas might have been caught from others at the station, or from the doctor himself. Whether vaccination should at all be proceeded with in the presence of such a plague, and whether it should not at such times be postponed until the atmosphere becomes more healthy, may be questioned. The Norwich inquiry seems to us to prove that careful public vaccination, at times when the general health of the city is in a normal state, is almost wholly free from the slightest appreciable risk, either substantively in itself, or as the vehicle of more serious infection. And this is all that the medical profession generally allege. And against this minute percentage of risk is to be weighed its well-proved efficacy as a prophylactic during a whole century in every civilized country in the world—tested too, in the face of most virulent opposition on all sorts of grounds, physical, sentimental and religious.

"The extreme and unjust vehemence of the anti-vaccinationist mind may be perceived by the degrading prejudice exhibited against the entire medical profession by Mr. Greig, who we are quite convinced would be most fair and temperate upon any other topic. As to all public vaccinators in England, he over and over again referred to the necessary bias in their minds by reason of the fee (three shillings). And he greatly preferred private vaccinators, because, he insinuated, any of them might, to please the parents, vaccinate the infant with milk instead of vaccine lymph and then give a vaccination certificate. And although repeatedly pressed, whether he really and seriously thought that the latter would be guilty of such a fraud, or that the former would be willing to out-Herod Herod by poisoning innocent infants at six bits a head, he still smilingly adhered to his views: that if these motives were not always put in practice, they were always present; nor was it possible to make him perceive that he was ascribing the basest conduct to the entire muster-roll of the profession, since doctors who are public vaccinators, and doctors who are not, necessarily exhaust the whole category.

"In our opinion, though vaccination is not infallible—probably there is no infallible remedy or prophylactic against any disorder in the world—yet it is so potent that, if universally adopted, smallpox might be eliminated from the nomenclature of existing diseases. The evidence of Mr. Kito, the Japanese consul at Vancouver city, is valuable as illustrating the high degree of appreciative intelligence possessed by his fellow-countrymen.

"We think that vaccination should be compulsory on all children before attaining the age of three months, followed by re-vaccination at the age of puberty.

"Though we have no doubt but that humanized lymph and arm to arm vaccination is the most efficient and economical method, yet as there is considerable divergence of professional opinion in the Province on the subject, and as there may be, and doubtless are, many non-professional people who entertain sentimental or real objections to its compulsory adoption, we suggest that the subject, or the parents or guardians of the subject, should have the choice of being operated on with humanized or bovine lymph.

"To ensure due performance of the operation, we recommend the appointment of public vaccinators by Government, who alone should be authorized to issue certificates of successful vaccination, of insusceptibility, and of unfitness for submitting to the operation. They should keep a register of all cases and results, and be subject to the supervision of a superior officer.

"When the disease is prevalent, or threatens to become so, extra provision should be made for vaccination and re-vaccination, and the routes of travel should be properly guarded to prevent the departure from an infected place of any person capable of carrying the infection elsewhere.

"But these and all other measures of a like nature are best left to the discretion of a Provincial Health Officer, who should, we think, be appointed by the Government and responsible to the Executive; and to whom all health officers should report on any matters connected with disease or sanitation as he may from time to time specify.

"We strongly recommend that the various municipalities should, so soon as such officer is appointed, be deprived of the right to legislate in any way upon matters relating to the public health, but that to ensure uniformity these should be regulated either by Parliament or by the Provincial Health Officer, so far as Parliament may think fit; and that the several municipalities should be confined to administrative powers only. And in this view we suggest that the entire Province be mapped out into health districts as large as may be, with a health officer in each, to whom all reports from medical men in such district are to be made in the first instance."