Eight Hour Law Illustrated.

Dominion Commissioner Hears In Detail of the Blight Upon Slocan.

Prosperous Workmen Driven From Occupations—Well Satisfied Before.

From the Nelson Miner, Dec. 14.

Commissioner R. C. Clute, appointed by the Dominion government to inquire into the conditions affecting the mining interests of British Columbia, the alleged importation of alien labor, etc., opened court in Nelson yesterday, but as no previous notice had been given of the sitting, the attendance was small. There were only two witnesses examined—in fact only two were available.

Mr. R. H. Tolmie was the first witness examined. He deposed:

"I am general secretary for the Silver-Lead Mines Association of Slocan, and the Nelson District Association. The district covered by these associations are the Slocan and Nelson mining divisions. The members of the association include the principal mine owners in these districts." Asked if he was acquainted with the rate of wages ruling in the Slocan prior to 1st of June last, he said it was $3.50 for a day of ten hours.

Mr. Clute said he had been informed that a nine hour shift prevailed at night.

Witness was asked what action had been taken by his association to procure miners for the mines in the district.

Mr. Tolmie replied that men were advertised for at these rates: Hand drillers, $3; machine men, $3.50; miners in shafts, $3.50 to $4; carmen, $2.50 to $3; shovellers, $2.50; laborers, $2.50; blacksmiths, $3.50 to $4, timbermen, $3.50 to $4.

"What did you do to procure men at the rate of wages advertised?" asked Mr. Clute.

"I had several enquiries in response to the advertisements, and answered them," was the reply.

"What else did you do?"

"That was as far as my duties as secretary went. When men came to me in Sandon and applied for work I directed them to the mines."

"Did many come?"

"Not more than a dozen interviewed me directly."

"Did you go to any of the United States cities to procure help?"

"I did not. I did not enter into any contract for the introduction of alien labor, nor did I get any one to act for me. No such contracts were entered into to my knowledge. I believe that up to May, 1899, the feeling between mine owners and miners was perfectly harmonious."

"Has there been a breach of the alien labor law in southern British Columbia to your knowledge?"

"Not to my knowledge," replied the witness.

Mr. Campbell asked witness if he was aware of the number of men the Silver-Mr. Campbell asked how many employ-He answered: "They advertised for 2,500 men. With the mines in full operation about that number would be required."

Mr. Campbell asked how many unemployed miners there were in the Slocan at the time of advertising.

Witness: "Speaking of Sandon, I should say about 100."

Mr. Clute: "Could a sufficient number of British Columbian subjects be obtained for the mines if they were working full capacity?"

Witness: "Not at present."

To Mr. Campbell—"Of the dozen or so men who applied to me I can only recall one who went to work."

"What reasons did these men assign for not going to work?"

"Two of them told me that they were met by the union men and told not to go to work."

Mr. J. J. Campbell deposed: "I am connected with the Hall Mines assistant manager and chief accountant, and am secretary of the Nelson Mines Association."

Mr. Clute: "Are the conditions between Slocan and Nelson different?"

Witness: "Yes, and not alone between the two divisions, but also between mines in the Slocan."

Witness proceeded to explain the differences, and added that the conditions which would induce men to choose would be the proximity of the mine to town, the bunk-house accommodation, etc., rather than the quality of the ore. Most of the mines in the Nelson division were at work.

"Have you had any difficulty in getting men at the Silver King?"

"Yes, during the current year. Until this eight-hour law was established I never heard of difficulty or trouble of any kind between the men and the mine owners. The relations with the men at the Hall Mines are pleasant enough now. We require more men now, and although our relations are pleasant we have not done as much work or employed as many men. We find a difficulty in getting skilled miners. The demand is greater than the supply. There has been no strike or shut down in the Silver King."

Mr. Clute invited any of the working miners present to testify.

One of the union men explained that their principal officer, Mr. Wilks, was away at Moyie, and would be back next evening. The speaker said that he did not think any of the men would care to give evidence until Mr. Wilks' return.

There being no other available witness, the court adjourned until 10 o'clock this morning.

(Nelson Tribune, Dec. 15.)

Commissioner Clute held another session of his inquiry at the court house yesterday. The witnesses who testified represented the mine owners exclusively. Mr. Clute drew attention to the fact, and expressed the hope that before his mission in the city closed representatives of the workmen or miners' union would offer their testimony in order that the inquiry might attain the fullest possible scope. J. J. Campbell, secretary Nelson Miners' Association, was again present.

The first witness called was Robert W. Graham, a machine man, who has been employed at the Silver King mine for the past year. He testified that he had been doing contract work. During the month of November he had made $5.90 per day. In July and August, with overtime, he averaged $6.40. For the first three months he was there he averaged $4, and the least was $3.20. The witness said he could do as much work in eight hours as in ten. Four men, including himself, working together, however, had not accomplished as much as would have been the case in ten hours. In machine work one could not get as much work out of a machine in eight hours as in ten. With the average men he would say that employers would get more value out of men hired under the ten-hour system. In his opinion there was not enough miners. Miners were constantly wanted up where he was working. He was not a member of the union.

Mr. Campbell: "What was the feeling among the miners about the introduction of the eight-hour law?"

The witness: "There did not seem to be any great desire for the law, but of course all were glad to see it when it came."

Mr. Campbell: "If a machine is tended steadily would it do one-fourth more in ten hours than in eight?" Yes."

Mr. Campbell: "What class of men were working with you when the new law came in?"

"The best; some of them had been there three years. They since went away. About one-third were British subjects."

James Wilks, secretary of the Nelson Miners' Union, requested permission to examine the witness, and this was granted. He elicited the fact that the witness carried lunch down into the mine with him. Also that under the ten-hour system the men lost considerable time, half an hour per shift at least, through delays, whereas, under the new system the men were actually at their work at 7 o'clock sharp. The men readily performed eight hours' work, whereas before the eight-hour law he did not think more than nine hours' work was done.

Mr. Wilks: "Is the average miner at the King a good miner in your opinion?"

"No, sir."

The Commissioner: "Why?"

"They have had no experience."

Mr. Wilks: "What is the proportion of good miners?"

"Probably half."

Mr. Wilks: "If the Silver King paid $3.50 per day instead of $3, would they get better men?"

"Yes, I suppose they would."

Mr. Crossdalle: "Had we better miners before the eight-hour law came into force?"

"You had. There were some of the best men who ever came into the district."

The Commissioner: "Will a miner do as much work in eight hours as he will in ten hours?"

"If he is a good miner on hammer work he will. On machine work he will not, because you cannot drive a machine."

William Harvey, another miner from the Silver King, was called. He stated that he had been mining for forty years. Asked about his conclusion as to what a good miner could do at hammer work under the two systems, he said: "I believe a good miner will do as much in eight hours as in ten, for a hammer man who works faithfully will be tired out after eight hours' work."

Mr. Campbell: "How was it working under the old system?"

"I was more exhausted after being in the mine ten hours, but don't think I did any more work."

John Doherty was sworn next. He stated that he had been a miner for 45 years, and and American citizen, and had been at the Silver King mine since June last. Witness stated that he was about to take out naturalization papers. He also stated that good miners would do as much work in eight hours as they formerly did in ten hours, and would do it more cheerfully. Personally he accomplished fully as much. The foreman in charge of the work should be able to tell how much work was accomplished now in comparison with the old system, but they could not determine closely, because the class of men was poor. Soldiers and sailors were often hired, but experienced miners were scarce, and of four partners who worked with him two had never been in a mine before.

Henry E. Croasdalle, general manager of the Hall Mines, was placed on the stand. As to the amount of work accomplished, he stated that he could give evidence as to actual facts. The Silver King had never stopped working, though undermanned for a time. In mines where hammermen only were employed the effects of the eight-hour law was not so great as in the case of mines running machine drills. The best evidence he could give regarding the earnings of miners was to give amounts earned by contractors for the first five months in 1899, and then for five months following June 1st. The same rate per foot was almost uniformly paid. The main difference was in the case of an upraise, when a higher rate of wages was paid after June 1st. Taking the average earnings per man prior to June 1st, they got $4.48 per diem. The average for five months after June 1st was $3.48, so that he could prove the enforcement of the eight hour law made a difference of $1 per day. He did not think there was any change in the quality of the ground sufficient to reduce the earning of the men after June 1st. A statement was filed giving the figures in detail. The Hall Mines represented an investment of $1,351,147, and the smelter $190,381. Of the men employed 92 were British subjects and 32 aliens, the latter being American subjects. The output of the mine for the year prior to the eight-hour law was 53,470 tons, and from October 1, 1898 to September 30, 1899, the output was only 30,757 tons. The pay roll for the year ending September 30, 1898 was $212,485, for the first six months of 1899, $102,143; and from April 1 to September 30, 1899, the sum was $88,220, showing a decrease in the last six months of $14,000, due, he believed, to the operation of the eight-hour law. The output of the smelter for the six months ending September 30, 1898, was $733,347, and from October 30, 1898, to March 1, 1899, $700,924; from April 1, 1899, to September 30, 1899, $375,306, or 50 per cent. less during the last six months. This was largely due to some of the mines being closed down. In the year ending September 30, 1898, the payroll at the smelter was $117,536, and in the following year it was only $91,555.

E. Nelson Fell, general manager of the Athabasca gold mine, was the first witness examined after lunch. He states that $100,000 was invested in the property outside of the purchase price. At the present time 125 men were employed at the mine and mill. The company was paying $3 to miners, $2.50 to muckers, and at the mill $3 and $3.50 to mill men and $2.50 to laborers. Under the ten-hour system $3.50 was paid to miners and $3 to laborers in the mine. When the final announcement of the eight-hour day was made, Mr. Fell notified the men that wages would be reduced fifty cents per day, and a reduction made in the rate of board from $7 per week to $5.50 per week. This was discussed at a meeting of the men. Later the whole force came down the hill, four miners and half a dozen other men being left. In about ten days applications for work began to come in, and by July 1 about 25 men were at work in and about the mine. By August 1 the number had increased to 50, and since then there has been no lack of labor. Of the men at the mine 64 were British, 21 American, 6 German and 14 Swedes. In response to a query he expressed the opinion that there was a large surplus of men just now, but the present circumstances were very unusual. During the summer season there was usually a lack of miners. Asked as to whether there were sufficient British subjects in the country to man the mines, he replied in the negative. He knew of no friction between the men and the employers at the present time, and his view was that if patience and forbearance was exercised on both sides an amicable adjustment would be reached.

Samuel S. Fowler, mining engineer, went on the stand. He gave some technical information regarding the Ymir mine, where 130 men are now employed. He believed the proportion of British subjects was about 25 per cent., the balance being largely Americans, with a few Scandinavians. Prior to the introduction of the eight-hour law the wages were 50 cents higher than at present and there was no dissatisfaction. When the reduction went into force the men quit work. On June 10 half a dozen came back at the reduced figures, and since then the force has gradually increased so that on December 12 there were 42 men underground of all classes. This force enabled the company to operate the 40-stamp mill, which crushes about 100 tons per 24 hours. He could not afford any information as to the relative merits of the two systems, but in one instance where a shaft was sunk under both systems the cost per foot of shaft sunk by the three eight-hour shifts was 15 per cent. greater than that sunk under the two nominally ten-hour shifts. In reply to Mr. Campbell, witness expressed the opinion that there were not enough skilled miners in the country to operate all the mines if they were opened. He thought an increase of wages or a withdrawal of government restrictions as to working hours would bring good men to the country. His experience was that men preferred to work in districts where they could work ten hours at a proportionately larger wage than to work eight hours at smaller wages.

KLONDIKE QUARTZ.

Further Details of the Reported Find Within a Short Distance of Dawson.

Referring to the reported discovery of a rich quartz ledge near Dawson, the Yukon Sun says:

"Discovered a year ago and attracting the attention of many people a short time ago, over 200 claims 1,500x1,500 feet in size, were staked in this locality and recorded within the past six weeks.

"The exact location of this ore body is given as the left bank of the Yukon, seven miles above Dawson. It is neither a deposit of placer gravel nor a quartz ledge. As defined and described by one of Dawson's best known metallurgists, it is an oxidized mass of quartzotic porphyrite rock, containing more or less free gold throughout the porous oxidized material, as well as in the beccia and hard quartzite.

"Twenty-six of these claims have been secured by such well known men as James O. Nichols, George O. Hayne, S. S. Tobin, Ronald Morrison, James Bell, John S. Day and others, and have been pooled with a view of joint operations on a gigantic scale. Mr. Hayne left Dawson on the steamer Clara on the 13th October, with the purpose of visiting London as the representative of the parties named and carrying the necessary preliminaries for the prosecution of the work contemplated. It will be necessary to erect stamp mills of immense proportions to handle this ore.

"The assayer above alluded to stated to the Sun's representative that samples assayed by him ran as high as $400 per ton in gold, while Mr. Nichol states that assays as high as $800 have been obtained, and that the lowest assay thus far obtained was $28.

"This story, we must confess, sounds almost incredible. If future developments prove to be reliable—well, 'we shall see what we shall see!'

"James Bell is credited with being the discoverer of this reputed 'King Solomon's Mine' in embryo, and if the expectations of his associates are not widely amiss, he is in imminent danger of being burdened in the not very remote future with both wealth and fame."

TRADE WITH TRINIDAD.

Draft Treaty With the United States Rejected and Canada May Now Profit.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—The department of trade and commerce has been advised that the colony of Trinidad has rejected the proposed reciprocity treaty with the United States, on the ground of its one-sided character. This is not unwelcome news, as it leaves the door open for Canada making an arrangement with the colony.

SAMOANS WARRING AGAIN.

Germans Give Liberty to Choose Their Own King and Old Trouble Revives.

Apia, Samoa, Dec. 13, via Auckland, N. Z., Dec. 19.—The German flag was hoisted over the court house to-day as an official notification of the annexation of the islands by agreement to Germany.

The German consul was interviewed by the Samoan chiefs. He replied that the Samoans could have their own kings and chiefs. They then informed the consul that Mataafa would be selected. Having declared their government established, the Mataafans are driving the Malietoans out of the villages.

Trouble appears imminent.

OHIO COLLEGE BURNED.

Main Building of Buchel College Destroyed With Several Annexes.

Akron, Ohio, Dec. 20.—The main building of Buchel College, including all the laboratories, library, men's and women's dormitories, were burned to the ground to-night. The fire started in the men's dormitory about 5 o'clock, and spread to the other points of the building rapidly. Much of the personal property of the students and a large number of valuable books from the library were saved. The loss is fully $100,000, with $65,000 insurance.

CANADIANS IN NEW YORK.

New York, Dec. 19.—Intense enthusiasm for Anglo-American friendship and interest in Great Britain's cause in South Africa was shown to-night at the annual dinner of the Canadian Society at the Hotel St. Andrew. The friendship between the American and British people was the keynote of every toast, and always evoked enthusiasm. Women attended the dinner for the first time in the society's history.

EMINENT MUSICIAN'S DEATH.

New York, Dec. 20.—Cable advices received here to-day announce the death in Dublin on Tuesday of Prof. J. W. Glover, the eminent musician. He was born in Dublin 89 years ago, and gained world-wide prominence from the edition of Moore's Melodies, which he harmonized and edited. Among his numerous compositions were an oratorio, "St. Patrick at Tara," "The Deserted Village," an opera founded on Oliver Goldsmith's poem, and an ode to Parnell. He was for many years organist of the cathedral in Dublin.

POISONING TRIAL.

New York, Dec. 19.—The cross-examination of Wm. J. Kinsley, the handwriting expert, in the trial of Roland B. Molineux, was completed this afternoon. The attorney for the defence has been unable to shake Mr. Kinsley's confidence that the hand of Roland B. Molineux penned the address on the famous poison package.

BARBADOES' EXPORTS.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—The German federal council has discontinued the favored nations privileges to products from the island of Barbadoes, British West Indies.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

GREENWOOD.

Greenwood, Dec. 16.—The Golconda, Smith's camp, is showing up splendidly under development. The company is running a tunnel at a depth of 200 feet to strike the old shaft at 350 or 400 feet distant. They are now in 70 feet and are drifting on a vein of splendid looking ore which was encountered at 40 feet from the mouth, after passing through 12 feet of blue lime rock. The ore here is in a blind vein, not being exposed on the surface, and was quite unexpected. The lead is a well mineralized quartz, carrying iron pyrites, and it is anticipated that a very large body of ore will be met with as soon as the main lead is tapped. It is the intention, as soon as the tunnel is driven to a point directly under the old shaft, to make an upraise. Six men are at work, and all the necessary buildings, etc., have been erected.

All the mills at Fairview, it is understood, have closed down for the season.

The Granite and Banner, Camp McKinney, have ceased operations. It is understood that there are negotiations proceeding in the East for the purchase of this property.

City Engineer C. E. Alston is engaged in making investigations as to the possibility of obtaining water supply from Boundary creek north of the city. He is finding the fall from Hall's ranch to the city, and when that has been ascertained he will be in a position to know whether or not it will be necessary to go further up the creek. It is probable, however, that it will be necessary to do so. The city engineer strongly favors a system of gravity as opposed to a pumping station, and says it will pay the city to incur a much greater initial cost in conveying the water by pipes than erecting a pumping station which will entail a constant expenditure for operation and maintenance. It will be necessary to go high enough up in order to bring the water to the highest residential points. After the waterworks investigation has been concluded, the question of sewerage and drainage will next have to be considered, and Mr. Alston is in communication with various cities as to septic tank and other systems which would be adapted to the conditions of this city.

Greenwood, Dec. 13.—B. M. McEntire, manager of the Review, Myers Creek, arrived in town on Monday. He says that they are drifting on the 200-foot level with a well defined lead six or seven feet wide. Six men are at work. The property never looked better than it does at the present time. The bunk house has been completed and so also has the survey of the claim.

R. Mechin, mining broker, Montreal, and Mr. Ernest Beck, atorney, Chesaw, arrived in the city on Sunday from Myers Creek and are at the Armstrong. Mr. Mecham, during his visit to that camp purchased the Poland China group and a number of other smaller claims for a Montreal company. The Poland China, next to the Review, is being developed. Mr. Mecham will remain here all winter, and acquaint himself with the district generally. Mr. Peck returned to Chesaw yesterday.

Fred. Oliver, Spokane returned here on Monday and is engaged in superintending the development of the Greyhound and this property has a surface showing of between 150 and 200 feet and a shaft about thirty feet deep. A steam hoist has been purchased and shipped from Rossland on Monday. It is the intention of Mr. Oliver to sink to the 100-foot level and crosscut the drift.

The Morrison, which is now perhaps one of the best known on the stock market has been closed down pending the re-organization of the company. It is understood that the property is being taken hold of by a strong British company and will be incorporated for. It is thought about one million and a half in Montreal. The reorganization Mr. Oliver says will place this mine on a much beter basis.

R. E. GOSNELL.

GRAND FORKS.

Grand Forks, Dec. 16.—Dave Evans has resigned the superintendentship of the Earthquake to accept a similar position with the Hartford, in Wellington camp.

A petition asking the Provincial government to contribute $2,400 towards the construction of a bridge across the north fork of Kettle River, near the mouth of Pass Creek, 14 miles from Grand Forks, has been extensively signed by various Boundary towns. The only structure across the river is at Grand Forks, and miners in the upper camps who desire to cross the streams in high water are unable to do so at any nearer point. In the position, which originated with J. D. Soars, of this city it is pointed out that the proposed structure will greatly facilitate travel between the various camps. Mr. Soars has offered to donate the right of way across his property. He has already expended considerable money in building a temporary bridge across ce channel of the river leading to the summer ford across the main channel.

The following telegram from L. C. McQuade, vice-president of the Victoria board of trade, to Richard Armstrong, president of the Grand Forks board of trade explains itself. "Victoria contingent home. Convey thanks to citizens for their many courtesies."

R. A. Brown, president of the Sunset, near Princeton, Similkameen district writes that the main shaft is down nearly 80 feet, and taht the ore steadily improves in character. A steam hoisting plant is in operation. Three shifts are employed. Mr. Brown says shares are now selling from 25 cents each at Princeton. He enclosed an assay of Sunset ore recently made by Chas. B. Harris, assayer of Princeton. It yielded values of $101.25 in copper, and $7.02 in gold gold per ton.

Fred. H. Oliver, of Spokane has taken up a bond on the Greyhound in Deadwood camp. The Western Copper Co., Ltd., with a capitalization of $1,000,000 in shares of $1 each, will develop the property upon an extensive scale. Already the vein for a length of 1,300 feet has been opened by a series of prospects from 25 to 300 feet in width, and all of which are in ore. The deepest workings is a shaft 30 feet deep. Near the surface the values did not exceed one quarter of one per cent. in copper; now at the botom of the shaft the values range from three to ten per cent. in copper, as well as about $5 in gold and silver values.

A boiler, hoist and pump has just been ordered. Two shafts are employed. The property is only one and a half miles from the Motherlode smelter, and is traversed by the C. P. R. spur. The flotation is not to be undertaken until it is proved beyond a doubt that the property will make a mine. These expectations, it is expected will be realized shortly. Mr. Oliver recently refused $100,000 for the property, the terms being $15,000 cash, and the balance in six months.

W. J. Harris, one of the original owners of the Le Roy, formerly owned the Greyhound. He bonded it to J. H. Morrison, the locator of the Morrison, who in turn bonded it to F. H. Oliver.

PHOENIX.

The Phoenix Waterworks Co. will build a tank in the spring with a capacity of 100,000 gallons, for domestic and business purposes, and the main streets will be piped. There are several sources of supply available, so that water for a place of several thousand will be had.

There is enough ore in sight at Phoenix camp to supply 3,000 tons a day just as easily as 700. The ore bodies opened in that camp are simply amazing. They are beyond all precedent and they are going to astound the whole mining world. —Grand Forks Miner.

Ed. Callahan, lately from Grand Forks, committed some decidedly queer pranks last Sunday, and in examining him, Justice of the Peace W. R. Williams had his first case. Drs. Gordon and Slack were called to examine Callahan, and recommended that he be sent to the hospital for the insane at New Westminster. Accordingly Constable Dinsmore took charge of him. Callahan was not violent, but was evidently beside himself, and the physicians think treatment at New Westminster will be beneficial. He broke into A. W. Stewart's residence and arrayed himself in the best in the house, but first tried to cut down a tree in attire not permitted in polite society.

Phoenix Carpenters' Union is making arrangements for a grand ball and supper to be given on December 15, at Old Ironsides hotel. The committee in charge consists of J. W. Stewart, J. McLeod, J. E. Meaher, Thomas Corner and H. E. Cramer. The net proceeds will be set aside as a nucleus for a sick benefit fund for members of the union.

Traffic on the Boundary railway was delayed a little a week ago by a rock slide near Shield's Landing on Lower Arrow lake. The passenger train ran into the obstruction and narrowly escaped being hurled hundreds of feet down the mountain side. Fortunately no one was hurt. The next day a freight train got beyond control and ran off one of the legs of the switchback, the cars piling up one on the other, and killing a tramp, who was stealing a ride. Traffic delay was of short duration in each case.

Since Black Jack took his departure several days since, there has been a gradual shrinkage of the number of tinhorns, grafters and sure-thing men around town.

This place has been recognized at last by the placing of a provincial constable here. Application was made a couple of months ago to have this done, and in accordance with the request Constable D. J. Darraugh, of Cascade, was ordered to make his headquarters here in the future. Mr. Darraugh, who is well and favorably known on the force, arrived in Phoenix Thursday night to remain permanently.

Phoenix will enjoy electric lights concurrently with Greenwood. That is to say, the lights will be turned on in both places at one and the same time. Since the syndicate having Duncan McIntosh and C. S. Collins at its head were awarded the contract for furnishing Greenwood with electric lights, and also for building a tramway between the two places, the above mentioned gentlemen have not been idle. The franchise called for lights to be turned on in Greenwood within ninety days from November 8 last. Not only will this be done, but Phoenix will enjoy the same plivilege at the same time. The following schedule of charges is incorporated in the by-law passed by the Greenwood city council, and the assurance is given that the same prices will prevail here:

For incandescent lamps of 16 candle power, $1.50 per light per month for all night lights; $1.25 per light per month for stores, business houses, etc.; $1 per light per month for dining rooms, etc.; 65 cents per month per light for private houses and bedrooms, etc.; street arc lights of 2,000 candle power, $10 per light per month.

This morning at 10 o'clock an election was held at the school house for three fire wardens. W. R. Williams, J. F. Hemingway and G. W. Rumberger were the only nominees, and were elected by acclamation.—Pioneer, Dec. 9.

Letters to the Editor.

WEST COAST TELEGRAPH LINE.

Sir,—We have ample evidence this week (see reports of wrecks on the West Coast) as to the disorganized state of the telegraph line, which I believe has now been down since November 16. From some letters I have received I am led to suppose I greatly underestimated the truth regarding the condition in a former letter. It is pretty clear that as long as this government line is controlled by the C. P. R., especially for the use of reporting the arrival of the C. P. R. Empress steamers, at which time the line is usually in good working order, it will be used for no other purpose. Not only do all the local shipping interests complain, about this state of things, as well as those on the American side. But recently the Japanese line of steamers has been starting to call at Victoria have lodged a complaint about it at Ottawa. If this neglect should continue under the influence of the C. P. R. we may expect to see, as we see this week, wrecks that might have been saved. It has already expended through gross neglect of duty on the part of officials who are encouraged to act as they now do. The only report we may expect to have will be by local steamers, who bring back the wrecked passengers, with reports. What is absolutely needed is, that a powerful tug boat should be stationed at one of the harbours, San Juan or Alberni, in daily communication with this line of telegraph along the coast, to proceed without delay to the rescue of ships in distress. Anything in the shape of lifeboats would be useless at the present on this coast. I believe some years back this plan of having a good tug boat was suggested by government and the telegraph laid for that purpose. But no movement was made by local enterprise and the whole matter was dropped. It might meet with approval now, and the time is ripe for a change, but it can only be by a local combination to get things righted, and a determination that this gross neglect shall be remedied. I have for supposing that both operators and linemen on this telegraph line have other occupations more lucrative and less hazardous than attending to the line. If I am correct one runs a stage, another the local postoffice, others are farmers. There is no reason why they should not continue such, but as paid officials at from $60 to $100 a month one would generally suppose the line is the first duty. Let it be so and there would be no complaint from the public. Some three years ago a petition was got up and signed by residents in Victoria to obtain a more efficient service in our local meterological office with daily reports of the weather. The department at Ottawa immediately granted that request by an annual grant of $2,000 for the purpose, and woke up the officials to their duty. It seems to me that a similar transformation might occur in the local telegraph department, provided the government took it in hand. A petition now lies ready to be signed by any parties who are interested in local shipping matters at the office of the Board of Trade buildings.

W. G. H. ELLISON,
Harbor Chapiain.

December 18, 1899.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH CURE ... 25c.
is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. Heals the ulcers, clears the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. Blower free. All dealers, or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.

GEN. HUTTON'S AMBITION.

Wants Canadian Fighting Forces 100,000 Strong on War Footing and 50,000 During Peace.

Ottawa, Dec. 8.—The total number of men in the active militia of Canada, according to the last establishment list, is 36,652. The desire of the major-general commanding is to increase this number by 7,000 men, and eventually to bring up the total strength of the Canadian national army to 50,000 men on a peace footing, and 100,000 men on a war footing. Gen. Hutten has evolved the necessary machinery for augmenting the strength of existing units. He contends that it is impracticable to attempt any form of administration for the mobilization of a large body of men unless the existing small units of varying strength are increased in numerical strength, and made up to a uniform establishment. Regiments of cavalry, batteries or artillery, and battalions of infantry, he maintains, must necessarily be of uniform strength. The suggested change could be carried out gradually.

The General believes that existing battalions which are weak should be combined into provisional regiments without interfering with their present identity. In time of war these battalions would revert to their original status, and would furnish the nuclei for strong regiments. The General has repeatedly pointed out that Canada pays less per head of its population towards the defence of its own territory than any other country in the world, the per capita payment in Canada being only 33 cents, as against 44 cents in New Zealand and Cape Colony, and 66 cents in Australia. France spends on her army $3.28 per head of population, Germany $2.16, Holland $1.95, Switzerland $1.55, and Great Britain $2.24.

The General has talked the matter over with the minister, and Dr. Borden will announce the government's view of the General suggestions when the estimates are brought down.

At different points in British Columbia, Rossland, Nelson, Kamloops, Kaslo and Revelstoke, effective rifle companies exist. It is proposed to constitute them into a regiment of Rocky Mountain Rifles, and to bring them together each year for twelve days' training.

KIPLING TO THE VOLUNTEERS.

London, Dec. 19.—Mr. Rudyard Kipling addressed a meeting at Rottingdean last evening, called for the purpose of forming a Volunteer company.

RAILWAY FREIGHT RATES.

New York, Dec. 19.—As a result of the protests of shippers the interstate commerce committee has set December 12 for hearing the proposed advance in railway rates. New York merchants claim that the proposed advance is so radical as to create a very serious disturbance in trade relations.

CONSUL AT PRETORIA.

Washington, Dec. 19.—United States Consul Collis has sent a cable despatch to the state department announcing his arrival at Pretoria Monday morning. He will act as consul until the arrival there of Adelbert Hay. Mr. Macrum, whom he relieves at Pretoria, was to sail from Lorenzo Marques.

A WORRIED CABINET.

London, Dec. 19.—A special despatch from Vienna announces that in consequence of the paralysis of parliamentary business due to persistent Czech obstruction, the Austrian cabinet, headed by Count Clary Aldringen, which was formed last October to succeed the ministry of Count Thun Hohenstein, will resign to-day (Tuesday).

DUTCH ARE OFFENSIVE.

London, Dec. 19.—The Daily Mail publishes the following despatch from Antwerp. "The British and American ministers at The Hague have asked permission to retire to Antwerp, with a view of avoiding personal unpleasantness during the anti-English meetings of the Dutch. There is no foundation for the reports on the Continent that the diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the Netherlands are strained."

MARCONI IN COMERCE.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—The Toledo Ann Arbor and North Michigan Railway Co. to-day signed a contract with the Marconi wireless telegraph in connection with the ferry line across Lake Michigan and between Frankfort and Menominee.

MONTREAL'S ELEVATOR.

Buffalo Promoter Objects to Further Cutting of Profits of the Enterprise.

Montreal, Dec. 18.—W. J. Conners, head of the syndicate bearing his name which proposes to erect grain elevators in Montreal harbor, had an interview with the harbor board to-day. Since the last interview, the board, pressed by local interests, has been adding protection clauses to the agreement. At today's meeting Mr. Conners stated bluntly that this had to stop. They had reached a business-like agreement, and if the harbor board proposed to go on changing it, thus making the provisions more severe, they could get somebody else to build their elevators.

The board entered into a clause by clause discussion of the agreement, which was not concluded when the meeting adjourned.

AGUINALDO'S REFUGE.

Manila, Dec. 18.—Gen. Grant has discovered hidden in Subig bay a steamer, the Bol Francisco, fully equipped and coaled. She is supposed to be the vessel Aguinaldo was keeping ready for his escape.

ON CALLING TERMS.

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 18.—Spain, Italy and Germany have to-day indicated their recognition of President Castro's government, which has now been formally recognized by all nations.

MINERAL ACT, 1896.
(Form F.)

CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS.

NOTICE.

Iron Duke, Count of Monte Christo and Condor Mineral Claims, situate in the West Coast, Vancouver Island, Mining Division of Clayoquot District.

Where located—On Monte Cristo Mountain, Tranquil Creek, Tofino Inlet.

Take notice that I, A. S. Going, agent for James M. Ashton, Free Miner's Certificate No. B19610, intend sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this 16th day of December, 1899.

A. S. GOING.

THE PACIFIC CABLE.

Suggestion That Construction of Rival Project May Be Responsible for Recent Neglect.

From the Toronto Globe.

What has become of the all-British Pacific cable scheme? Nothing has been heard of it for some months now. Does South Africa monopolize the attention of the Colonial Office to the exclusion of all other questions? Howsoever it may concentrate attention on itself, there are circumstances which should make the subject of deep-sea cables of more than usual interest at this juncture. It was only the other day that owing to some defect in the means of communication between South Africa and the mother country the whole Empire was left to guess as to what was going on at the front. The list of the dead and wounded at Modder River was delayed in spite of the natural anxiety of relatives of soldiers to ascertain how the husband, son or father had fared in the fray. It is easy to imagine how vital such an interruption of communication between the various portions of the empire might at any time become. It would be thought, then, that now would be a particularly likely time for the Imperial government to be concerned about all projects which promised to make such isolation reasonably improbable.

It is nearly six months since we were all congratulating ourselves that every difficulty threatening the Pacific cable scheme had been overcome, and that the mysterious influences that interposed one barrier after another had at length been effectually defeated. But our hopes in this regard seem to have been ill-founded. So far as the general public can see, we are no further forward to-day than we were on the 6th of July last, when our representatives were told that the Imperial government had come over to the colonial view and had determined to construct the work along with the colonies, on the principle of partnership. That was a great point gained. It seemed the end of all difficulty, indeed, and there appeared to be nothing to do but go on with the work. Not a step in that direction seems to have been taken, however. What is the cause? We cannot suppose that a great department of the Imperial government is so ill-organized that it can only deal with one great subject at a time. The principle of the cable having been decided on by the Minister and the government, the carrying of it out would fall to the officials of the proper departments, and we cannot believe that the hundred and one interests of the empire are allowed to stand still because a war is proceeding in South Africa.

The delay is all the more annoying because it is but a chapter in a history that consists chiefly of delays. Whether rightly or wrongly, the colonies have attributed these delays in the past to the machinations of the Eastern Extension Cable Company, and it will be hard to convince them that the same influence is not still at work. This view is supported by the fact that the company has recently been negotiating with the Australian colonies with a view to gaining certain concessions in consideration of its laying a cable from some point in Australia to South Africa. The concessions it desires are that it should have the privilege of receiving and delivering messages over the Australian land lines, these being owned by the various Australian governments. Against the project of laying such a cable not a word can be said, although the time seems to have come when all such works must have conditions attached to them that insure, at least, ultimate public control. Before permission was given to lay the second cable between Singapore and Hong Kong a condition was attached that the Imperial government could, upon giving twelve months' notice, assume the proprietorship by the payment of £300,000. A similar condition should apply henceforth to every ocean cable constructed by private capital, and if it were imposed on the proposed line from Australia to South Africa, it could be welcomed as another addition to the nerve-connections of the empire.

If it is being used, however, to delay the construction of the Pacific cable, with the hope finally to burke that project, the colonies interested should not fail to enter a prompt protest. Whatever the Eastern Extension Company hotly opposes the Pacific cable is a matter of knowledge, and it is not unnatural that the various checks which the project has received should be attributed to the intriguing of the company. The laying of such a cable was resolved upon at the Colonial Conference of 1887. The history of the enterprise since has been one of discouragements, delays and retreats, a good example being the fact that the first report of the committee appointed to consider the matter was held back two years after it had been presented to the government. The colonies have not changed their minds, nor are they likely to do so, in spite of the persistent campaigning of adversaries whom they have already worsted at every point. A bill is, we understand, to be presented at the present session of congress providing for the construction of a cable from San Francisco to the Philippines on the strength of a government subsidy of $400,000 a year. We can have nothing to urge against such an enterprise, but it will be anything but creditable to us if this line is laid on the ocean bed before our much-talked-about but unaccountably delayed all-British line.

CHESS MASTERS.

Vienna, Dec. 18.—The National Chess Masters' Congress opened at the Vienna Chess Club last night, when twelve experts declared their readiness to play in the tournament for which the late Baron Kolisech had provided the prizes in his will. Albin, Alapin, Mario, Schlechter, Schwarz, Wolf and Zinkl, of Vienna; Popial, of Dochnia; Kortlo, of Prague; Brody and Maroczy, of Buda Pesth, and Prock, were the men.

Prompt relief in sick headache, dizziness, nausea, constipation, pain in the side, guaranteed to those using Carter's Little Liver Pills. One a dose. Small dose. Small Pill.

MARRIED.

COLES—SCHWENGERS—On the 19th inst., at the Church of Our Lord, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Cridge, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Wilson, John Howell Coles, second son of John Coles, Esq., of Kensington Park Gardens, London, Eng., and director of Hudson's Bay Company, to Katherine Bertha, eldest daughter of Mrs. Schwengers, of Victoria, British Columbia.

DIED.

RAITT—In this city on the 16th inst., F. F. Raitt, a native of Bathurst, N. B., aged 49 years.

BARWIS—At the residence of her daughter (Mrs. W. C. Holt), Alpha street, Burnside Road, on the 14th instant, Mary Grace Barwis, relict of the late William Ryland Barwis, a native of Devonshire, England, aged 68 years.

GRAY—At Lake Bennett, B. C., on the 29th November, Edward James Gray, a native of London, England, aged 44 years.

FORTY-S ECO

Victory a Any

People of Great Bri Hopefully for In Afric

While Boers Are Pre Ident McKinley for Peac

Mr. Stead Has a Raid on Lond Frenchme

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 23.—Not past has London been in as confronts her this C to meet it there has arise which by its virility and admiration even from he tinental critics. The co foreign papers—at least printed here—are couche more friendly than when a speedy victory awaite As repeatedly asserted, t hood of European inter W. T. Stead in the Dai day has a very alarmi which he has visions o Jamieson raid by 6,000 London in the absence fleet." Mr. Stead points what in his opinion m plished, and says: "To appear to do, upon the number of raw recruits, citement and stimulus of fever, is to rely on a broke which arsenal might see t color flying over Westmin fore the first of the new have learned to handle a Though Great Britain's South Africa seems tempo the Associated Press lea Boers