Godfrey's Band In Victoria.

Organization of Masterly Musicians Delights Two Great Audiences.

The Programme Received With Enthusiastic Encores of Nearly Every Number.

Lieut. Dan Godfrey and his world-famous Guards band treated Victorians yesterday to two such concerts as they have, unhappily, but infrequent opportunities of enjoying. Indeed it may be hazarded that the city has never been treated to so thoroughly meritorious band music in all the past years of its history, while the illustrious record of the Guards gives to Godfrey and his musicians a military prestige appealing strongly to the patriotism of good Britons, as their music does to the critical. The patronage for the two concerts was good, and none who attended at the Drill hall either in the afternoon or the evening, departed otherwise than satisfied. A treat far above the ordinary plane was looked for; such a treat was had.

Even for the matinee there were quite 1500 people in the spacious armory. The ladies predominated, as is their wont at afternoon functions, while the children (at half price) were out in force, to cause the musical a little later in the proceedings to bless the management, and express the fervent hope that on the next occasion a double rate for youngsters will be insisted upon.

The concert opened with the overture "Lampa" (Heroid), a selection sufficiently simple and familiar to thoroughly appear to popular taste. Then followed the "Reminiscences of Balfe," an arrangement of the veteran Godfrey's, in which he, as well as the band, received a veritable ovation, his conducting being in itself a study in masterly simplicity and thoroughness of control. The number called for solos by the majority of the principal performers, and as the familiar and delightful melodies in succession charmed the listening ear, appreciation merged into enthusiasm—an enthusiasm that found full expression in the following item. This was a solo for flute, "There's Nae Luck," the performer being Mr. Redfern, whose polished simplicity of method, delightful phrasing and art concealed by art were only equalled by the perfect subordination, yet perfect sufficiency of the accompaniment. It is indeed in this playing of accompaniments, as well as in the wonderful handling of the basses and the massed volume of its attack, that the band most excels.

So warmed to appreciation were the audience by Mr. Redfern's musicianly interpretation of his theme that an encore was insisted upon, the extra number being "La Carnival de Venise (Titl), a selection lending itself delightfully to the display of the fullest capabilities of the ancient instrument.

"Under the Banner of Victory" showed the band at its best in martial music, the march being given with all the virility and swing of advancing squadrons, the finer phrases picked out with delicacy, and fire marking its every vigorous passage.

An old friend was re-introduced in the selections from "The Geisha," of which Mr. Kettlewell's performance of the song of the amorous goldfish (as a solo for cornet) was a markedly delightful feature, while the band let nothing be lost of the semi-barbaric flavor that is the spirit and chief charm of the opera selected from.

It was in Mascheroni's "For All Eternity" that Mr. Kettlewell was heard at his best, however, the uniform sweetness and sympathy of his tone appealing to the hearts of those not musically educated, while his absolute correctness and phenomenal tonguing were the wonder of critics of cornet playing. As an encore Mr. Kettlewell favored with "Alice, Where Art Thou," and much as they desired it the audience were forced to deny themselves a third appearance.

The "Amaratten Tanz" (Gungl) was presented by the band with a zest that got into the blood and the feet, as well as ear and brain; Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" was played with delicacy and grace that raised it far above the level of general band music; and as a direct contrast the introduction of Act III, and bridal chorus from "Lohengrin" (Wagner) developed the full strength of the great band in its basses—the forte of Godfrey and his men, as thunder and lightning are the great elements of the German genius of majstic sound.

Messrs. Redfern and Spicer were heard in a duet (flute and French horn), the selection being Braga's "The Serenade;" the valse, "Jolly Companions" (Volsted) showed the humorous capabilities of the band; and the grand Fantasia of Scottish airs (Godfrey) closed the afternoon's delights, Mascagni's wonderful intermezzo from "Cavalleria Rusticana" having been given as an encore extra just previously, and proving unquestionably the least attractive of the day.

For while the intermezzo was played with musicianly accuracy and skill, it was undeniably cold—the English band lacks the temperament requisite for this selection to become a veritable poem of passion, laughing, weeping, shrilling in defiance—such heart and fire as gave it spirit when the Del Conte Italian orchestra played it in Victoria some three or more years ago.

The audience at the evening performance was a magnificent one, and the hall presented a striking appearance. Practically epery seat was occupied, and the mass of people on the main floor flanked by the raised seats and surrounded by the galleries, presented a very impressive spectacle.

The audience was very enthusiastic. Encores were many, and Lieut. Godfrey was liberal in responding to them. The opening number, the overture from MacFarren's "Robin Hood," though old enough to have been played at the Peace Jubilee in 1872, was new to most of the Victoria people. It was played in splendid fashion.

The second number, consisting of selections from Gounod's "Faust," was more familiar to the audience, and was splendidly received. Not many audiences are able to catch the full beauty of an involved musical composition at first hearing, and Victorians form no exception. They have a hearty welcome for old favorites, even if they are not equal to what is not so well known, as witness the applause which greeted the opening bars of the two-step played as the first encore.

Mr. Redfern's "Le Carnival de Venise" was exquisitely played, and equally Ottawa platform of 1893 in his presence commendable in its way was the accompaniment, the harmony of which was perfect. Responding to an encore, Mr. Redfern played "Home, Sweet Home." If he will be advised by the Colonist, he will omit the variations when he next renders this air, not that the variations are not well rendered, but this song has been twisted into so many shapes that it is a relief to have it in its natural form, especially when it is done as well as Mr. Redfern does it.

The march, "The British Guards," was given in good style, but most people were not impressed with the idea that marches are the strong suit of this band.

Mr. Kettlewell's cornet solo, "The Children's Home," was given with a sweetness of tone, and yet with a strength and power of expression, that carried the audience up to a pitch of enthusiasm. He responded to an irresistible encore with "Killarney," played in a charming manner.

Mascheroni's "Ave Maria" was in some respects the finest number on the programme; Cayll's "The Patrol" was well received and loudly encored.

After the intermission came the overture from "William Tell." The flute playing of Mr. Redfern, the cornet playing of Mr. Stebbins, and the work of the basses were conspicuous in this splendid composition. The playing of the bass instruments is, indeed, one of the strongest features of this band's work. It was specially notable in the selection from Lohengrin, given at the matinee.

"The Guards Waltzes" were of course played in the best possible style, as they naturally would be, with their composer leading. Then came a selection from "Tannhauser" which brought out the full strength of the band in every direction, and was rendered in a magnificent fashion.

Mr. Campbell's bassoon solo, "Lucy Long," contributed the comic element to the entertainment. The closing number was the descriptive poem, "England and America," which has been already described in the published programmes.

It will greatly interest and delight Victorians to know that a return appearance has been secured by Manager Jameson for next Monday, when both afternoon and evening concerts will be given, children being admitted to the matinee at 10 cents, with an adult admission of 25 cents, while 50 cents will be the one price for seats in the evening.

SIR RICHARD'S SORRY LOT.

Must Rank With Notorious Political Hypocrites or Denounce His Perfidious Colleagues.

From the Montreal Star.

Sir Richard Cartwright is announced to speak in Toronto upon the interesting subject "What the Laurier government has done for Canada." The subject is so extensive that the honorable gentleman may not see his way clear to deal at the same time with the kindred one "What the Laurier government has not done for Canada." As a preliminary Sir Richard should certainly be called upon to read the platform of the Dominion Liberal Convention of 1893, commencing after the style of the Tooley street tailors' proclamation: "We, the Liberal party of Canada, in convention assembled, declare:"

Sir Richard should be permitted to expound each plank as he goes along; explaining how faithfully the government has carried out the solemn pledges made to the people of Canada in each and every one. He should be allowed the utmost latitude in interpretation, because he will need it, if he is going to show the slightest connection between the promises of the government without tying himself in a hopeless knot.

Having read the first plank, he will explain, for instance, how the government found a customs tariff based upon protective principles instead of upon the requirements of the public service and used as a corrupting agency to keep the previous government in power. He will show how that tariff, in the words of the platform, "developed monopolies, trusts and combinations," how it "oppressed the masses to the enrichment of the few," how it "decreased the population, impeded commerce and discriminated against Great Britain;" how it "caused great public and private injury, all of which evils must continue to grow in intensity as long as that tariff system remained in force." Then the good old man will show how nobly the Liberal government has come to the rescue of the down-trodden masses and redeemed its pledges by "reducing the tariff to the needs of honest, economical and efficient government."

Then he can go on to plank number two. He can show how easy it has always been to get a satisfactory Reciprocity Treaty with the United States. He can quote from the platform "That the pretext under which the (Conservative) government in 1891 appealed to the country, respecting negotiations for a treaty with the United States was misleading and dishonest and intended to deceive the electorate." This would be a good place for Sir Richard to produce his pocket-handkerchief and shed a few tears over the wickedness of fallen humanity. Struggling bravely with his emotions the good old man might tell his audience what ought to be done to politicians who are so dishonest as to "mislead and deceive the electorate."

Sir Richard will then take up plank number three, which shows how the convention deplored "the gross corruption in the management and expenditure of public money" and show how "a government which profited politically by these expenditures" and which "nevertheless never punished the guilty parties must be held responsible for the wrong doing." Here the honest old gentleman might explain how prompt the present government was to punish the Yukon frauds and the Ontario election frauds.

The mere reading of the fourth plank ought to bring down the house. "We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of the public debt and of the controllable annual expenditure of the Dominion and the consequent undue taxation of the people under the governments that have been continuously in power since 1878, and we demand the strictest economy in the administration of the government of the country." Will it be necessary for the grand old statesman to explain how by heroic economies the present government has managed to reduce the expenditure from thirty-eight millions to sixty millions a year?

This ought to be the piece de resistance of the entertainment, and the audience will have comparatively little appetite for the rest of the programme. A few may linger while Sir Richard shows how the government went one better on the plank with reference to investigations of charges against Ministers of the House by deciding not to investigate the Yukon charges at all; how the Senate saved the government from breaking the pledge about selling public lands to settlers only in the case of the Yukon railway deal; how the government, unfortunately for the country, by some accident or other kept its pledge about the provincial franchises; how it tried to cure one gerrymander by another; how it did not reform the Senate; and last, but not least, how nobly it redeemed its pledge with reference to the plebiscite.

"The big Ontario policeman" might then fairly ask his admiring followers to let bygones be by-gones and never mention the again.

Winding Up The Business.

Final Meeting of the Society Demonstration Committee Held Last Evening.

Balance on Hand Donated to Two Worthy Objects—A Presentation.

The final meeting of the committee which devised and carried out the arrangements for the Societies demonstration, was held last evening in Pioneer hall, when a balance sheet was made up, all the accounts having been paid, showing a balance of $102.50 on the right side of the books. Out of this balance $50 was voted to John Price, who had his leg cut off by a train, while returning home to Nanaimo from the reunion, and who is lying in a precarious condition in the Nanaimo hospital. Mr. Price has been very unfortunate of late, being one of those injured in the last explosion in the New Vancouver Coal Company's mines. He was married a short time ago.

The balance of $52.50 was donated to the Protestant Orphans' Home.

The receipts at Caledonia grounds were $1,026.35, and the expenses of the reunion $923.85.

A drawing was held for the next place of meeting, resulting in Nanaimo having the first choice; New Westminster the second, Seattle the third, and Vancouver the fourth. It was considered that this was the only fair way of deciding the question, until a regular rotation is resorted.

During the evening President Robertson, on behalf of the committee, presented the secretary, Mr. Phil R. Smith, with a handsome clock, as a token of their appreciation of his indefatigable efforts on behalf of the reunion. The tombola and other prizes not called for were drawn for by the members of the committee.

Although the attendance at the first reunion was not as large as anticipated, the members of the committee feel that their efforts were not fruitless. It was the means of bringing the members of the various committees together and creating a better feeling, and the annual reunion will keep up this good feeling. It was also a good thing, from a business point of view, merchants reporting largely increased sales on the day of the demonstration.

THE SOUND SERVICE.

Both the Utopia and the Victorian Will Be Run for the Present.

The steamer Utopia lands at Brackman & Ker's wharf at 5 this morning, and sails for Seattle at 8 o'clock. She also leaves for the Sound at 8 a. m. Sunday, to accommodate those wishing to take in the Labor Day demonstrations at Seattle. On the return trip she will leave Seattle at 8 p. m. Monday. This arrangement was made in order to accommodate the lacrosse boys and their admirers, who play Vancouver on Labor day, and no doubt the alteration will be largely availed of.

On Sunday and Tuesday, therefore, Victoria will have two Sound steamers, the Victorian arriving from Tacoma (direct) at 2 p. m. on Sunday, with the Ledger excursion of about 500 people, and Adler's band. She will leave on her return journey at 8 p. m. Sunday, returning for the excursion party at 3 p. m. Monday, leaving for Tacoma via Port Townsend and Seattle, at 5 p. m. On Tuesday the Victorian will go on her permanent run between Tacoma, Seattle, Port Towsend and Victoria, arriving here daily, except Sunday, at 4:15 p. m., and leaving at 5 p. m.

It will be observed that the sailing hour has been advanced by half an hour, the old schedule being 8:30 p. m. From advices received from Tacoma it is learned that the Victorian is almost ready for active service, and having satisfied in every respect the Canadian and United States inspectors she will doubtless be welcomed with open arms by her long-suffering namesakes, who have been so seriously inconvenienced since the loss of the Kingston. During her stay at the outer wharf to-morrow she will be visited by large numbers from this city. This will give them an excellent opportunity of seeing the magnificent vessel.

On Monday's trip the Victorian will call at the usual ports down Sound, but will not handle any freight business, the Utopia being detailed for the service.

What will be the Utopia's future sphere of usefulness has not yet been announced, but it is probable that she will continue on the present route as a cargo boat.

READY FOR SALMON CARRYING.

Freighters Making Preparations to Handle Fish—Drahna Loads Wheat at Tacoma.

The freighter Lapwing, after being put in first-class running order, was launched from Turpel's shipyard yesterday, and soon afterwards the Oscar was taken on the cradle of the ways for the same treatment. Most of the freighters are now preparing to carry salmon to the fleet of sailing ships soon to load. There is, however, but one of these that has yet arrived, and she, the River Falloch, is now discharging merchandise at Seattle. The German ship Drehna, in the roads, which had an option to load wheat, and is now waiting orders before proceeding to Tacoma, at which port she will load.

FREIGHT FOR DAWSON.

Material for Canadian Development Company's New Ways Being Shipped on Barge Georgian.

The barge Georgian, in tow of the tug Hope, will probably sail from here today, loaded to her capacity with freight for Dawson. The cargo is of an interesting character, including material for a marine ways across the Yukon river from Dawson, which, as previously told in the Colonist, is for the Canadian Development Company. Lumber and other building material for the ways was being loaded at the Sayward mill yesterday and will be transferred to the White Pass & Yukon Railway at Skagway. With other cargo of hay and grain and steam thawing machines, the barge, it is expected, will carry 450 tons.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

GRAND FORKS.

Grand Forks, Aug. 30.—The activity in building circles here shows no signs of abatement. About forty stores and dwellings will be completed before the first of November. There has been a great scarcity of lumber lately. The latest project to be undertaken will ge the erection of a large cold storage warehouse. The C. P. R. track layers to-day reached the first crossing of the Kettle river, one and one-half miles east of this city.

W. A. Campbell, who with J. K. McGregor, recently purchased the water power franchise at the Boundary Falls, was in town to-day. Mr. Campbell states that the work of developing the power will be completed within sixty days. A turbine water wheel, and a Westinghouse dynamo will be installed. The water will be conveyed to the water wheel through a twenty-eight inch steel pipe five hundred feet long. A contract has been let for supplying Greenwood with 2,000 incandescent electric lights. B. C. Riblet, a Spokane hydraulic engineer, who was employed to make an examination of the falls, states that the proposed improvements will develop 600 h.p. at low water, and nearly four times that amount at high water.

Harvesting in the Kettle river valley is nearly finished. The crop has been an abundant one. An idea of the fertility of the valley can be formed from the results accomplished this season on the ranch of W. H. Covert, one of the pioneer ranchers. He had over 200 hundred acres under cultivation. Mr. Covert reports that the potato crop was very large. The yield exceeded 800 bushels to the acre. Wheat and oats both average 60 bushels to the acre. Carrots, turnips and cabbages did exceedingly well. The apple crop will be small, owing to the hard winter. There was an abundant yield of prunes, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. Mr. Covert estimated his receipts from the sale of small fruit at $400 per month. He declared this section to be the best fruit growing portion of the province. He purposes putting an additional one hundred and fifty acres under fruit cultivation next season. He stated that he had no difficulty in obtaining a ready local market for his products; in fact the demand was greater than the supply. His ranch is watered by irrigation. Hay averaged thirty tons to the acre. Mr. Covert expressed the belief that the ranchers of the valley will soon abandon general farming and will devote all their energies to fruit cultivation. With the increase of the mining population he believed that the market will become better very year. Mr. Covert added that the acreage under cultivation exceeded 3,000.

ROSSLAND.

The police investigation was formally opened at the city hall on Monday morning, although no evidence was taken. Alderman Clute's objection to sitting was overruled, and he took his seat along with Mayor and Mr. W. F. McNeil, the other members of the board of police commissioners. There was a private conference between the commissioners and Messrs. J. A. Macdonald and A. H. McNeill, representing respectively the police officials and the Trades and Labor Council, which body is bringing the charges that are to be inquired into. Having settled the method of procedure to be followed in the investigation, the commissioners and lawyers entered the council chamber, and the mayor opened the inquiry with a brief statement of the reasons for holding an investigation. Up to this stage of the proceedings the doors had been kept closed. The Trades and Labor men asked their counsel to object to the proceedings being carried on in private. The commissioners agreed to open the doors, and the public was admitted. The two lawyers addressed the board, each expressing the desire of his clients for a thorough investigation of the charges. The inquiry was adjourned to Wednesday evening.

NELSON.

Yet another man has escaped from the provincial gaol making four men in little more than two months. The first three got away from the chain gang when out at work, but on Sunday, between 1 and 2 p.m, Thomas Burns got out of the prison yard, where he and other prisoners were taking exercise. Thomas Burns was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for holding up a saloon at the ball ground, at Rossland. Professor Frank Lewis and several others are undergoing terms of imprisonment for being implicated in the same scrape.

SIDNEY.

Mrs. Macdonald is having a very fine granite tombstone erected in the North Saanich churchyard in memory of her husband and daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Winslow are visiting at Duncans.

School Inspector Netherby was visiting the North Saanich and Sidney schools on Wednesday.

Mr. Norris has gone up the E. & N. to look for grouse.

Mr. Julius Brethour is home again.

MONEY IN THE MINES.

Fortunes in Rossland District Illustrated at Company Meeting in London.

From the British Columbia Review, Aug. 10.

The second annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the New Goldfields of British Columbia, Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., G.C.M.G., C.B., M.P., presiding.

The secretary (Mr. W. A. Stearns) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The chairman, after dealing with the financial position of the company, which was referred to at length in the "Review" of August 5th, said: The net profit for the year is £17,380. With regard to dividend, the directors propose to pay a balance dividend for the half-year at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, which, with the additional remuneration due to the directors and allowance for income tax, will absorb £8,405, and leave a balance of £8,212 to be carried forward. It might be thought by some that a larger dividend could be paid, but it must be borne in mind that this is only the second year of the company's operations, and we prefer to walk before we run. (Applause.) Your directors have adopted a conservative policy. Further, the cash retained will be of great value, and turned, we are satisfied, to good account. It is most necessary for a company of this kind to have ample resources. (Renewed applause.) When I last had the pleasure of meeting you in July, 1898, I stated that a great future lay before the company, and that important interests were held in various properties then in course of development, which promised large and profitable returns to the shareholders. The promise of success then held out has been realized to the fullest extent.

THE VELVET AND PORTLAND.

The successful development of the Velvet, having regard to the comparatively very short time work thereon has been in progress, has been the most remarkable of any mine in the whole of the Rossland district, probably in the whole of Canada. It would appear now, in the light of recent and more extensive developments, that the estimate I gave you of the probable value of the mine is a figure which can be justified by proofs from actual working. The estimate referred to was based upon the facts that our Velvet property is 3,000 feet in length, including the Portland, that we had proved it to a depth of 80 feet, and that at that level the ore body was 18 feet wide, of which 5 feet was first-class ore. Assuming that the ore body ran throughout the property, as there was then good reason to believe, and as now there is still more for believing that it does, the quantity of first-class ore to the 80 foot level amounted to 310,000 tons, which, at a moderate valuation of £2 per ton net profit, gave a value of £620,000. The lode has been proved to a depth of 100 feet for a length of 300 feet; it has been cross-cut 10 to 50 feet, and this enormous body of ore has been driven upon for a distance of 300 feet. From surface indications, and from the underground workings, there is every reason to believe most confidently that this great ore body runs through the Velvet property form end to end. (Applause.) The latest advices from the chief engineer of the company, Mr. James Morrish, are to the effect that the ore body continues to improve in quality, that the assay value of the gold is $20, or £5 5s. per ton, with 20 per cent. of copper, and that at the several points opened the mine is looking well, and promises better. Regarding a railway to the Velvet, before the railway company would undertake the expense of building the proposed branch line, they necessarily required a guarantee that we would be in a position to supply a sufficient quantity of ore for the railway to carry. The quantity asked for was a minimum output of 100 tons per day for a period of three years, or about 90,000 tons. Mr. Morrish advises that the company may now with perfect safety give the required guarantee; that not only is this quantity of ore in sight and ready for stoping, but that this output could be easily doubled should the necessity arise. (Applause.) This quantity of ore—namely, 30,000 tons per annum—which you will see that the Velvet Mine Company is at the present time ready to deliver to the railway company, would, at a moderate profit of only £2 per ton—a very conservative estimate of the value—give the company a revenue of £60,000 per annum. I venture to assert that if the property owned by this company, and with such brilliant prospects, were situated on the Rand, in Western Australia, or even in Rhodesia, that the price of the shares would stand at least double or treble their present market value. This is a property about 1,500 feet square, situated on the west side of the Sophie mountains, Rossland, and immediately adjoins the Velvet mine, of which it is an extension. The important developments which have taken place in the Velvet have exposed a strong body of rich gold and copper ore running through the property, which has also been traced by Mr. James Morrish through the Portland claim. Mr. Morrish states that the existence of so wide, rich and persistent a body of ore as that exposed on the Velvet, coupled with surface indications on the Portland of the continuity of the same ore body traversing that property, enables him to express his confident belief that the developments on the Portland will prove it to be as valuable as the Velvet. With a view to providing working capital for the development of the Portland claim, a separate company has been formed with a capital of £120,000, of which 10,000 shares have been issued and Mr. W. F. McNeil, the other members of the board of police commissioners. There was a private conference between the commissioners and Messrs. J. A. Macdonald and A. H. McNeill, representing respectively the police officials and the Trades and Labor Council, which body is bringing the charges that are to be inquired into. Having settled the method of procedure to be followed in the investigation, the commissioners and lawyers entered the council chamber, and the mayor opened the inquiry with a brief statement of the reasons for holding an investigation. Up to this stage of the proceedings the doors had been kept closed. The Trades and Labor men asked their counsel to object to the proceedings being carried on in private. The commissioners agreed to open the doors, and the public was admitted. The two lawyers addressed the board, each expressing the desire of his clients for a thorough investigation of the charges. The inquiry was adjourned to Wednesday evening.

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The chairman, after dealing with the financial position of the company, which was referred to at length in the "Review" of August 5th, said: The net profit for the year is £17,380. With regard to dividend, the directors propose to pay a balance dividend for the half-year at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, which, with the additional remuneration due to the directors and allowance for income tax, will absorb £8,405, and leave a balance of £8,212 to be carried forward. It might be thought by some that a larger dividend could be paid, but it must be borne in mind that this is only the second year of the company's operations, and we prefer to walk before we run. (Applause.) Your directors have adopted a conservative policy. Further, the cash retained will be of great value, and turned, we are satisfied, to good account. It is most necessary for a company of this kind to have ample resources. (Renewed applause.) When I last had the pleasure of meeting you in July, 1898, I stated that a great future lay before the company, and that important interests were held in various properties then in course of development, which promised large and profitable returns to the shareholders. The promise of success then held out has been realized to the fullest extent.

THE VELVET AND PORTLAND.

The successful development of the Velvet, having regard to the comparatively very short time work thereon has been in progress, has been the most remarkable of any mine in the whole of the Rossland district, probably in the whole of Canada. It would appear now, in the light of recent and more extensive developments, that the estimate I gave you of the probable value of the mine is a figure which can be justified by proofs from actual working. The estimate referred to was based upon the facts that our Velvet property is 3,000 feet in length, including the Portland, that we had proved it to a depth of 80 feet, and that at that level the ore body was 18 feet wide, of which 5 feet was first-class ore. Assuming that the ore body ran throughout the property, as there was then good reason to believe, and as now there is still more for believing that it does, the quantity of first-class ore to the 80 foot level amounted to 310,000 tons, which, at a moderate valuation of £2 per ton net profit, gave a value of £620,000. The lode has been proved to a depth of 100 feet for a length of 300 feet; it has been cross-cut 10 to 50 feet, and this enormous body of ore has been driven upon for a distance of 300 feet. From surface indications, and from the underground workings, there is every reason to believe most confidently that this great ore body runs through the Velvet property form end to end. (Applause.) The latest advices from the chief engineer of the company, Mr. James Morrish, are to the effect that the ore body continues to improve in quality, that the assay value of the gold is $20, or £5 5s. per ton, with 20 per cent. of copper, and that at the several points opened the mine is looking well, and promises better. Regarding a railway to the Velvet, before the railway company would undertake the expense of building the proposed branch line, they necessarily required a guarantee that we would be in a position to supply a sufficient quantity of ore for the railway to carry. The quantity asked for was a minimum output of 100 tons per day for a period of three years, or about 90,000 tons. Mr. Morrish advises that the company may now with perfect safety give the required guarantee; that not only is this quantity of ore in sight and ready for stoping, but that this output could be easily doubled should the necessity arise. (Applause.) This quantity of ore—namely, 30,000 tons per annum—which you will see that the Velvet Mine Company is at the present time ready to deliver to the railway company, would, at a moderate profit of only £2 per ton—a very conservative estimate of the value—give the company a revenue of £60,000 per annum. I venture to assert that if the property owned by this company, and with such brilliant prospects, were situated on the Rand, in Western Australia, or even in Rhodesia, that the price of the shares would stand at least double or treble their present market value. This is a property about 1,500 feet square, situated on the west side of the Sophie mountains, Rossland, and immediately adjoins the Velvet mine, of which it is an extension. The important developments which have taken place in the Velvet have exposed a strong body of rich gold and copper ore running through the property, which has also been traced by Mr. James Morrish through the Portland claim. Mr. Morrish states that the existence of so wide, rich and persistent a body of ore as that exposed on the Velvet, coupled with surface indications on the Portland of the continuity of the same ore body traversing that property, enables him to express his confident belief that the developments on the Portland will prove it to be as valuable as the Velvet. With a view to providing working capital for the development of the Portland claim, a separate company has been formed with a capital of £120,000, of which 10,000 shares have been issued and are fully paid up. This money has been raised without in any way taxing the resources of this, the parent company. The shareholders of the New Goldfields Company are to be congratulated on this arrangement, which promises to make this property in which they hold a preponderating interest as valuable as the Velvet itself. The company still own the Bluebell property, which is also adjacent to the Velvet on the eastern boundary. No development has been done by us, but the ground is being proved by the operations of a neighboring company working the Victory and Triumph claims adjoining.

THE MALDON MINE.

The Maldon mine is situated in the colony of Victoria, Australia. The company owning it was formed by the New Goldfields of British Columbia, which owns a very large interest in it, and the developments have also been of a remarkable and highly satisfactory character. So great is the confidence of local people in the Maldon Goldfields mine that a sum of £8,000 has been raised by subscriptions for shares at par in the colony of Victoria, and with this amount plant for the recovery of the gold from the ore is being erected and will be in operation almost immediately. The returns are expected to be of a very highly remunerative character, as large bodies of rich ore are available for crushing immediately the plant is in readiness to crush it. The South German mine, which is quite close to the Maldon, working on one of the parallel lodes of the district, and which started with a capital of only £12,000, has paid no less than £300,000 in dividends, and there appears to be no reason why the Maldon should not be as great a success. Mr. Gray has brought over with him a property of about 65 acres immediately adjoining the Maldon Goldfields ground on the north, and he states that our rich reef runs through it from end to end, and the new Goldfields company has the first refusal of it on very advantageous terms. It immediately adjoins a property we are so largely interested in, and which promises such splendid results, that it has been suggested to the directors that they should abandon the Clunes proposition and take up the Maldon extension lease instead. They are disposed to consider this, because the experience gained in developing the Maldon Goldfields ground would enable Mr. Gray to open up the new ground immediately adjoining it in the most economical manner and with comparatively little delay, whereas the Clunes, although believed to be a very valuable property, is one which, to secure successful working, might require a very much larger outlay and be more costly in every way. The Exchange group of mines in the Slocan district of British Columbia, owned by this company, remain practically undeveloped. Their value is being proved by the development of neighboring properties, some of which are proving wonderfully rich. The Exchange group will be taken in hand now that the company has money available for their further exploration, and it is hoped that the result will be as satisfactory as the directors have reason to expect.

THE OUTLOOK.

There is a vast field for the employment of capital in the great mining districts of British Columbia as well as in other parts of Canada. New discoveries are constantly being made, but it must always be remembered that mining operations cannot be carried on without the risks inseparable from ventures of this description, and further new ground, as you have already experienced, however valuable it may ultimately be proved, cannot be developed or even proved without expenditure of time and considerable sums of money. The directors feel confident that they will in the future render satisfactory returns to the shareholders. The chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts and the declaration of the dividend recommended.

Mr. G. Brooke Mee seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts and the declaration of the dividend recommended. It was carried unanimously.

Sir C. M. Kennedy and Mr. F. E. Harman were re-elected directors, and Messrs. F. H. Klugham & Co. were reappointed auditors.

Mr. Gray then addressed the meeting with regard to the Maldon mine, which, he said, had so far proved a remarkably valuable property. As the mine was opened up it should prove very remunerative. He had sunk 735 feet, and as the levels were opened up the lode was improving. The plant was being erected, and at the end of October he hoped it would be in operation; a month or two after that they would be able to receive dividends. There were several years' supply of ore in sight.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the meeting.

A Night of Costly Fires.

Japanese Cities Lose Thousands of Houses in a Sweep of Flame.

Primitive Preventive Methods Entirely Inadequate--A Tragedy.

Japan, on the night of the 12th instant, experienced a remarkable visitation of fire, three immense conflagrations raging simultaneously at the cities of Toyama, Yokosuka and Yokohama, and upwards of 70,000 persons being rendered homeless in consequence. The financial loss is estimated at 6,000,000 yen, while 6,000 houses were destroyed at Toyama and 3,750 at Yokohama. The blaze at Yokosuka was a comparatively insignificant affair, but 100 homes going up in smoke and fire.

In Toyama the fire had its origin in the district known as Nakanocho, and spread quickly to embrace the entire lower quarter. The 6,000 buildings totally destroyed, with their contents in almost every instance, included the Toyama Kencho, two police stations, the prefectural assembly hall, the middle and commercial schools, post office, city hall, three newspaper offices, and the branch temple of Hongwanji.

At Yokohama the fateful lamp, which at Chicago, at Boston, at Dawson and at Buffalo, has been the cause of incalculable distress through fire, was once again in evidence as the cause of the conflagration. The stories differ, but the lamp figures with equal prominence in all versions.

One report is that a quarrel occurred between the keeper of a Shosiekwan bath-house and his wife, in the course of which the husband threw a lighted kerosene lamp at his better half. Another account is to the effect that the lamp was accidentally overturned.

In any event, the bath-house proprietor is blamed, and so vindictively inclined are the sufferers by the fire toward him and his, that on the day after the fire the man, Hiraoka Otokichi, and his wife were dragged out of the house in which they had taken temporary quarters, and so severely beaten that both will die. At this date 15 had already been counted on the roll of deaths caused by the blaze, while subscriptions toward the relief of the destitute totalled 65,000 yen.

Of course the buildings were, according to American ideas of structural importance, nothing more than shacks of paper and bamboo—yet they were the homes of the common people of Japan, and the structures of greatest interest to is sojourner in the land. As for the fire itself, it threatened to wipe the entire city out of existence, and would apparently have done so had it not been for the protecting network of canals, for the fire department was useless to save. In its report of the disaster, the Advertiser, of Yokohama, says:

"It was soon apparent that the puny streams of water thrown from the hydrants, after water had been obtained, were utterly inadequate to stay the advance of the flames, which, in addition to their advance before the wind, soon began to spread laterally, and in a little while a dozen streets were burning. Before long it was clear that Iszakicho, the famous theatre street, known to all globe-trotters and theatre-goers, was doomed. It was one of the broadest, most animated and most picturesque streets of the native quarter, and contained five theatres and countless shows, acrobatic galleries, wrestling, and story-tellers' places, tea houses, restaurants and other haunts of pleasure. Most of the buildings were of a character not calculated to offer resistance to the flames, and before long the whole thoroughfare was one huge furnace.

"By this time the fire was rapidly approaching the creek which bounds the native town from the settlement, and with a view of preventing the possible advance of the fire across the creek, Superintendent Morgin of the Yokohama brigade sent the No. 1 engine and a party of firemen to the front, and, drawing water from the creek, played first, at the request of one of the police inspectors, on the Isezakicho police station, which it was hoped could be saved. In spite of this attempt to save it, the building, which was a substantial one of brick, was eventually gutted. The Greek church, however, near by, was saved, though at one time surrounded by fierce flames. The Yoshida school, the post office at Fukutomicho, the Musashi Shogyo bank and a school where lectures were given by foreign missionaries were among the buildings destroyed in this neighborhood. When the fire reached the creek-side near Yoshidabashi, a number of lighters and sampans were set fire to, and in escaping from the burning boats by jumping into the water, it is reported that several persons were drowned.

"The loss of life has also been heavy. The police have received reports of 15 deaths and 17 persons severely injured. With regard to four of the fatalities reported, the cause of death was exceptionally shocking. Four men appear to have entered a brick or fire-proof storehouse to remove some of the goods, and while they were inside one of the hangers on at fires, who make a business of going round with mortar and trowel to plaster up the entrances of the brick stores so as to make them air and fire proof, closed the door on the men inside and cemented it up. When the door was opened the bodies of the four unfortunates were found, not burned, indeed, but suffocated and smoked like ham. Of the wounded men seven were firemen and three policemen."

Mrs. Gladstone, widow of the grand old man, is a woman of wonderful strength and endurance. Not long ago she was driving in a pony carriage when the animal started to run and overturned the vehicle. Though much shaken up and shocked at the time he venerable lady soon recovered and showed no ill effects of her accident.

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