WORKERS COME FROM THE FEDERAL CAPITAL

Ralph Smith, M. P., and William Sloan, M. P., for Provincial Campaign - General Notes of Progress—Esquimalt Liberals Nominate John Jardine

The operations of the Ottawa "machine" become more pronounced as the provincial general election campaign proceeds. It is quite apparent that the Federal authorities have determined to assist J. A. Macdonald, K. C., and his party in their desperate fight for supremacy in British Columbia by every means in their power When it was first rumored that W. W. B. McInnes, then governor of the Yukon, intended resigning his position in order to participate in the election, it was scarcely credited. As soon as definite information to that effect was received it was surmised, not only by Liberal-Conservatives but by the Liberals themselves, that Mr. McInnes had not been altogether prompted by altruistic sentiments in making such a vital change. It was suggested then that the Dominion government, recognizing the growing importance of the Canadian West, had decided to leave no stone unturned in the endeavor to place a Liberal administration in control of its destinies.

Since that time this belief has had substantiation from various sources. For instance, the somewhat startling announcement was made some days ago that Judge Henderson had given up his seat on the bench for the purpose of facing the somewhat uncertain vicissitudes of British Columbia politics. The action of the ex-commissioner of the Yukon taken separately, or that of Mr. Henderson, now one of the Liberal candidates in Vancouver, considered in the same light, might not have caused such widespread discussion. But looked at in the light of other similar events there could be no doubt in the minds of observers that the Ottawa "machine" was being brought to bear upon the present election to an unusually marked extent.

More Machine Men

The conclusion was borne out by an announcement which was made yesterday and which came from authoritative quarters, to the effect that Ralph Smith, M. P., and W. Sloan, M. P. P., had been called upon to assist Mr. McInnes and Mr. Macdonald in the hopeless task of so painting the McBride government that the people will support its opponents on the 2nd of February.

While the latest development is generally accepted as an unmistakable indication that the Federal authorities are interesting themselves in the present campaign, it also shows that Mr. McInnes has failed to sweep through the province like a firebrand, flaming ever fiercer as it progresses. That was what was expected of the ex-governor of the Yukon but what actually occurred fell very much short of what was anticipated. Mr. McInnes was received coolly. His addresses have been listened to with critical interest by fairly large crowds at different places, but he has not succeeded in creating the wildly irresistible enthusiasm among the Liberals which was excepted to materially help them towards turning the voters to their side. Therefore the aid of Messrs. Smith and Sloan has been requested. That they will come is assured. whether they will do better than their predecessor, Mr. McInnes, is another question. As a matter of fact, it is scarcely likely that they will meet with quite as good a reception. Mr. McInnes; off-hand manner, his "hail fellow well met" greeting to all and sundry, his unfailing good humor, are characteristics which make his speeches palatable to the crowd, although the consensus of opinion upon the public issues under discussion may be found by a canvass among local politicians of an unbiased caste, Mr. McInnes was tolerated. It is predicted that the feeling of the electorate will be more plainly expressed when Messrs. Smith and Sloan commence addressing public gatherings in opposition to the present administration.

While a certain section of the Liberals do not object to the intervention of the "machine," there are many who do, and the latter are registering their dissatisfaction very forcibly. This is noticeable in Victoria, a large number having left the ranks of the party because of the tactics adopted in conducting the election. The same is the case, judging from reports, in Saanich district, where the supporters of H. Tanner are believed to feel strongly towards those who brought the influence of the "machine" to bear upon that district, with the result that J. Piercy was substituted for Mr. Tanner.

Through the storm of "unfair criticism, misrepresentation, and innuendo" to use the words of Mr. Green, and despite the machinations of those representing the Ottawa authorities. The Liberal-Conservatives are pursuing an even course unperturbed. From their viewpoint the situation is indeed roseate. But, although the outlook is bright, they are not allowing their energies to slacken; they are working with enterprise and system in every district, and the reports which are constantly being received, given the most moderate interpretation, indicate an overwhelming victory for Premier McBride and his government. Feb. 2, judging from general indications, should be the most triumphant to the Liberal-Conservatives of the West in the history of British Columbia. It is only necessary to "size-up" the situation on the Island and then to note the most sucessful progress being made by the Premier through the interior to realize the correctness of this conclusion.

The tactics of the opposition are too "thin," to use a slang but common term, to beguile the intelligent public of British Columbia. As was pointed out yesterday by a prominent local politician, the failure of Mr. Macdonald to advance any definite policy and his action in attacking the government on a basis of scandal is turning away those people who might be inclined to favor him in the opposite direction. In any case the success of the McBride government in dealing with a serious financial situation and its action in introducing progressive legislation, which assisted in bringing about the present very prosperous condition of affairs, has given it a high standing in the estimation of the general public. Therefore its endorsation at the polls is accepted by all having reputations as political prophets, as a foregone conclusion.

ESQUIMALT LIBERALS

John Jardine Again Chosen to Oppose Mr. Pooley

A convention of the Liberal Association of the Esquimalt riding was held last evening at the Esquimalt schoolhouse. A. W. McCurdy occupied the chair. Two names were mentioned—those of John Jardine and Charles McIntosh. The former was elected to represent the party by a vote of 17 to 12. The meeting was quiet throughout. No particular enthusiasm was displayed. A short address by Mr. Jardine and equally brief speeches by others present terminated the proceedings.

MR. MANSON'S TOUR

To Visit West Coast Section of Alberni—Feels Confident

Last evening Hon. W. Manson, provincial secretary, left for Alberni by the steamer Queen City. It is his intention to make a complete tour of his constituency before election day. Yesterday, in conversation with a Colonist representative, he expressed the utmost confidence in the outcome. There was not the slightest doubt in his mind that he would be returned. It was quite apparent that the visit of W. W. B. McInnes, in company with the Liberal candidate, H. C. Brewster, to the district, had not had the effect looked for. The people had not evinced the enthusiasm anticipated. He believed—in fact he was perfectly sure—that his constituents would remain true to him and to the McBride government in the forthcoming election. Some time ago he had spent a month in the constituency, and then had guaged the situation carefully. As a result he had reached the conclusion that the people would support the government by an even larger majority than before.

A STRONG CANDIDATE

Dr. O'Brian Has Excellent Chance in Nanaimo

Nanaimo, Jan. 14.—Supplementary to the brief despatch announcing the nomination of Dr. R. S. O'Brian at the Conservative convention, it can safely be said that the meeting was one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever held in this city, and that the Doctor has every chance of election. The meeting was decidedly optimistic and unanimous in the opinion that Dr. O'Brian had very bright prospects of being elected. The utmost confidence was expressed in the McBride government. The Doctor is a strong candidate, having made a life-long study of politics, and probably there is no man in the province better acquainted with political affairs than he. He is a forcible speaker, a logical debater, and is versatile and aggressive. He will certainly make an able representative. The Conservative vote in Nanaimo is admittedly the largest, and Dr. O'Brian will unquestionably head the poll.

Perfect harmony and confidence exist among Hon. Mr. Manson's supporters in the Alberni district. The Conservatives in that riding were never more confident of victory than they are at the present time. Hon. Mr. Manson is positive that he will be returned. Every day Mr. Brewster's supporters are losing courage, although the opposition candidate is putting up a strenuous fight.

That Robert Grant, the Conservative candidate for Comox district, will be returned by a handsome majority was the prediction of the majority of the passengers coming by the steamer City of Nanaimo from Comox.

CAMPAIGN NOTES

"How do things look?" asked an enthusiastic party man of the secretary of the Liberal-Conservative Association yesterday. "Oh, fine," was the reply, "it's a sure victory for the solid four—Premier McBride, H. B. Thomson, F. Davey and H. F. W. Behnsen."

James H. Schofield, mayor of Trail, was the choice of the Conservative convention for Ymir district. Mr. Schofield is exceedingly popular, especially in Trail, and will easily carry the riding.

Grand Forks Liberals have persuaded Herbert W. Gregory of Grand Forks to become their candidate. There is a large Conservative majority in the district, and Mr. Miller is admitted by even the Liberals to be quite certain of election.

MEXICAN SERVICE TO BE STARTED SHORTLY

Steamer Sails Today—Coasting Regulations Spoken of in House

Ottawa, Jan. 14.—Captain Worsnop, of the British Columbia and Mexican steamship line, is here. He says the first steamer, the Georgia, sails today from Liverpool for Mexico, and will make her first trip on the route early in March. The Lonsdale, the sister ship, will sail three weeks later.

G. W. Ross, ex-premier of Ontario, Robert Beith, ex-M. P., John Costigan and D. Gillmore have been appointed senators. It is claimed that the appointments of Costigan and Gillmore are illegal, as neither is resident in New Brunswick, for which province they are appointed.

Mr. Macpherson will move that it is advisable for the government to take active steps towards the establishment of terminal elevators at Vancouver for the better handling of grain and other western province crops, whose natural output is by the Pacific Coast.

A formal offer of the Yukon commissionership was made to Ralph Smith today. It is generally believed he will accept, but in any case the appointment will not be made until April.

In the House tonight an interesting discussion took place on the coasting question. Both sides agreed that the privileges now enjoyed by foreign vessels under old treaties should be withdrawn. Mr. Fielding declared that this was a question affecting not only the Maritime Provinces, but the Great Lakes and the Pacific Coast. He felt that the only assistance which could be given to Canadian shipbuilding was by means of a bounty, and this was now under consideration by the government.

FIERCE PRAIRIE STORM

Severe Cold Causes One Death and Much Suffering

Macleod, Alta., Jan. 14.—The extremely cold weather continues. Range cattle are suffering for want of feed, shelter and water. Building operations are all suspended. Trains are tied up in all directions.

Medicine Hat, Alta., Jan. 14.—The worst storm of the year has been raging at Medicine Hat. The west end of the Crow's Nest Pass line is in very bad shape. A yard engine sent to Hillcrest to do some work got stuck in the snow. A freight engine was sent down to pull it out, and that got stock also, and both went dead. A freight train got stuck in the snow between Cowley and Pincher, and went dead.

Winnipeg, Jan. 14.—A telegram from North Battleford announces the freezing to death on the prairie of Alex. Crawford, a homesteader, who was living near Strathcona. He came from Dunham, Ont.

OVER EMBANKMENT

Injuries to Passengers on Train Near Macleod

Macleod, Alta., Jan. 14.—The passenger train from Calgary, due here about 11 o'clock on Saturday morning, met with a serious mishap while climbing the grade at full speed. Three passenger coaches jumped over the twelve-foot embankment. The brakeman and three passengers were badly injured. Two ladies and the conductor, who were occupants of the first class coach, escaped with but few bruises owing to the fact that the coach did not follow the others down the embankment. The passengers were transferred to a coach despatched to the scene shortly after the accident and were brought into town. The injured were taken to the hospital, where Dr. Milburn gave them attention. The injured are: Oscar Sanderson, both legs badly bruised, not serious; T. McLean, brakeman, scalp wounds, not serious; T. Seigle, who was on his way to Fernie, right thigh fractured, right hand badly smashed, injuries serious but not dangerous.

TWENTY-FIVE DROWN FROM BRITISH SHIP

Pengwern Wrecked and Her Crew Lost off the Coast of Germany

Hamburg, Jan. 14.—The captain of the tug Vulkan tells a graphic story of the attempts to save the crew of the British ship Pengwern, from Chili for Falmouth, which went ashore off the Scharhorn yesterday.

When the captain noticed that the Pengwern was steering directly toward the Scharhorn, he turned the Vulkan about to warn Capt. Williams of the Pengwern of his danger, but before the tug reached the doomed vessel she had struck, and the breakers, which were whipped up by the gale and a strong tide, threw her on her beam ends.

The Vulkan steamed alongside the Pengwern, actually grazing the stranded vessel's side, but the crew, despite repeated requests, refused to jump. One of the apprentices who attempted to do so was held back by his companions.

The tug eventually passed a hawser to the Pengwern, but her crew declined to attempt to cross on it. In trying to pull off the wrecked ship, the hawser broke, and the Vulkan started toward the Elbe lightship for a lifeboat. Before she returned the ship had been engulfed by the waves and the crew numbering twenty-five officers and men, were drowned.

CHARGE AGAINST PEIRCE

Alleged Crooked Work in Connection With Sealing Seizure

Washington, Jan. 14.—Sensational charges against Herbert D. Pierce, United States minister to Norway, who was formerly third assistant secretary of state, were made before the house committee on ways and means today by Prof. W. H. Elliott, of Cleveland, Ohio, in connection with a hearing on a resolution for the further protection of fur seals upon the high seas.

Prof. Elliott states that while Mr. Pierce was representing the United States government before The Hague tribunal in the settlement of claims growing out of the seizure of the sealing vessel J. Hamilton Lewis, by the Russian government, on the charge of piracy, he represented the owners of the vessel, and even instituted action in the United States district court for the district of Columbia to insure the payment of his fees out of the money awarded to the vessel owners.

FROZEN TO DEATH

Three Women Victims of the Cold in North Dakota

Washington, Jan. 14. — Senator Hansbrough, who was at the White House today, said he had received a letter from Minot, North Dakota, saying that three women had been found frozen to death, and the facts had been kept out of the newspapers.

In response to an appeal from Superintendent Zeibach, of the Totten Indian school, in North Dakota, interstate Commissioner Harlan has requested President Elliott of the Northern Pacific to break the blockade and rush a supply of coal to towns on the Jamestown and Northern branch of the road without regard to effect or expense.

THE BARRACOUTA ASHORE

San Francisco, Jan. 14.—The Merchants' Exchange has received a message stating that the Pacific Mail steamship Barracouta is ashore at Corinto, Nicaragua. A portion of the cargo is being taken off by lighters, and it is expected that the vessel will be floated at the next high tide. Corinto is not a port of call for the Barracouta, and it is not known why she stopped there.

SUIT AGAINST RAILWAYS

New York, Jan. 14.—Violation of the Sherman Act, prohibiting combinations in restraint of trade, is charged in a suit against several steamship companies and their New York agents, brought in the United States circuit court today by Thomas & Co. of this city, exporters.

EAST KOOTENAY SOLID IN SUPPORT OF PREMIER

Enthusiastic People of Cranbrook Listen to Conservative Speakers

LOOKS WELL FOR THE CANDIDATE

Dr. King's Weak Effort—Opposition Has Little Chance in Any of the Districts

Cranbrook, Jan. 14.—The coldest weather the pioneers of Cranbrook have ever experienced was not cold enough to interfere with their interest in the political issues of the day, and with the thermometer 35 degrees below zero tonight the turnout was larger than the theatre could accommodate. In the audience were electors who had come all the way from Fort Steele and Moyie to give evidence of their approval of the administration of Premier McBride.

The sentiment of the meeting was the same as it had been all along the line since the Premier and W. J. Bowser left Vancouver a week ago, and the supporters of J. A. Harvey, the Conservative candidate, are now assured that their cause is popular, and that the people who have votes are with them in numbers sufficient to render a large majority on February 2. Premier McBride said after the meeting that it was another strong indication of a general sweep of the interior constituencies for the Conservative party.

C. T. Rogers, mayor of the city, occupied the chair, and the speakers were Premier McBride, W. J. Bowser, J. A. Harvey, John Lehney (Labor), and Dr. King (Liberal). Dr. King did not arrive until the meeting was about to close, and consequently had very little to say. What he did have to say was about the Midway & Vernon, Columbia & Western and the Kalen Island deals. He was followed by the Premier, who in his denunciation of the opposition as represented by the Doctor, provoked such cheering as has never before been heard at a political meeting in Cranbrook. Premier McBride dealt with the record of his government from 1903 to 1907. He realized the necessities of all parts of the province, and would hand out a square deal to all.

It was nearly 1 o'clock in the morning when the meeting broke up, and nearly all of the large audience were there at the finish, and when called upon to give three cheers for Premier McBride, the Conservative party and its local candidate, they did it with a royal vim and with an effect that was felt all over the town.

The Fernie Situation

Fernie, Jan. 14.—The strong gathering of Conservative forces here on Saturday night, on the occasion of the visit of Premier McBride and W. J. Bowser, and subsequent political gossip, clearly demonstrated the fact that the contest in this riding is between W. R. Ross, Conservative, and W. H. Moore, Socialist-Labor candidate. The standing and chances of William Dicken, the Liberal nominee, are fairly reflected in the columns of the Fernie Ledger, the dissatisfied organ of Liberalism, which in its issue of Saturday said: "Thursday night about 30 delegates and a few spectators gathered in Miners' Union Hall and went through the farce of naming a Liberal candidate to stand for slaughter on February 2, groundhog day. After having been offered to seven or eight bashful gentlemen, who courteously but firmly declined the gold brick, it finally found a resting place in the hands of William Dicken, who thereupon was made the unanimous choice of the densely packed convention."

Mr. Dicken first announced himself as a Labor-Liberal candidate, but the labor men refused the bait, and those of them who were opposed to Mr. Ross endorsed the Socialist.

Mr. Ross has a large following among the miners, is a strong favorite with the lumbermen, and with the solid support of the Conservatives is generally regarded as an easy winner.

A few machine Liberals who are trying to work up some enthusiasm over the visit of W. W. B. McInnes, who is booked to appear here on Wednesday night, have lost heart in their work. If the plans for the appearance of the Ottawa agent from the Yukon are not cancelled, Mr. Ross will meet him on the platform and is prepared to hand him enough to keep him busy with his nut-cracker during most of the time he will have at his disposal.

IN OTHER CITIES

Results of Nomination Proceedings Yesterday

Nanaimo, Jan. 14.—The civic nominations today resulted as follows: Mayor, A. E. Planta, re-elected by acclamation. Nominations for aldermen: North Ward, William Kirkham, Thos. Hodgson, Alex. Forrester, D. G. Dailey, G. D. Barlow; Middle Ward, J. Young, W. H. Morton, J. S. Knarston, W. Dick, E. C. Barnes; South Ward, C. Wilson, W. T. Kemp, J. Newton, H. McRae. Trustees, J. Young, E. Quennell, J. Mahrer, A. Forrester, A. E. Planta.

Cumberland, Jan. 14.—The nominations were: North Ward, T. White; Middle Ward, T. E. Bate; South Ward, C. H. Tarbell, J. N. Macleod. So little interest was taken in the municipal elections this year that the board is short two members—one for Middle and one for North Ward. W. Willard was elected mayor by acclamation.

GERMAN INSURANCE COMPANIES

Hamburg, Jan. 14.—At the stockholders' meeting held here of the Trans-Atlantic Fire Insurance company and the North German Fire Insurance company, resolutions to dissolve and liquidate were unanimously approved. It was announced that a local court had decided that the North German Fire Insurance company must pay the losses which it incurred as a result of the San Francisco earthquake of last year, and that the Trans-Atlantic Fire Insurance company should reimburse two English companies which had reinsured San Francisco risks with it for losses already settled.

MILLIONAIRES' TAXES

New York, Jan. 14.—Andrew Carnegie will be the heaviest personal taxpayer in New York, if the list of assessments made public today is not amended. The value of his personal property is fixed at $5,000,000, and that of John D. Rockefeller at $2,500,000.

BOUNDARY ARBITRATION

Buenos Ayres, Jan. 14.—The boundary dispute between Bolivia and Paraguay has been submitted to the President of Argentina for arbitration.

NEWFOUNDLAND WRECKS

St. John's, Nfld., Jan. 14.—The fishing schooner Richard Wainwright, of Gloucester, Mass., from Bay of Islands, was wrecked Friday at Flat Bay, St. George. One man was drowned. The schooner is a total wreck. Another schooner, the Romeo, of Burgeo, Nfld., with a load of herring, was also wrecked yesterday at Grand River. The crew escaped, but the schooner is lost.

OYSTER BEDS FROZEN

Tacoma, Jan. 14.—The lowest tide of the year occurred last night. This exposed the oyster beds of Puget Sound to the cold, 10 above zero, which was sufficient to freeze the oysters, so that all are dead. New beds will have to be planted, and it will be five years before the so-called "Olympia" oyster will again be on the market. The loss amounts to several hundred thousand dollars.

A COAST PROTEST

Washington, Jan. 14.—The house committee on foreign affairs granted a hearing today to Representatives Kahn, McKinley and Hayes, all of California, the committee named by Pacific Coast representatives to oppose efforts to modify the Chinese exclusion act and to work for a Japanese exclusion act. It was stated by the Californians that they will fight against the bill under consideration by the committee to amend the Chinese exclusion act by having inspection of Chinese at ports in China from which they sail, as well as in the American ports where they land. The bill is regarded by the Californians as a relaxation of the exclusion act.

WINNIPEGGERS HERE GET TO BUSINESS

Hugo Ross Realty Co. Incorporated with $100,000 Capital —Many Sales Reported

The first tangible evidence in the records of the province of the "Winnipeg invasion" was the incorporation yesterday of the Hugo Ross Realty Co., Ltd., with a capital of $100,000. This company is composed of several prominent real estate men of the Manitoban capital, and is allied with the corporation of the same name that is one of the foremost operators in land there. Hugo Ross, the president of the company, is president also of the Winnipeg concern, and is connected with the vice-president, H. Percy Simpson, in several prosperous enterprises. The latter was until recently connected with D. A. Ross & Co., one of the foremost retail firms of Manitoba. W. L. Foote, the secretary, is an expert in insurance, having been inspector for the Hartford Fire company for several years.

One Winnipeg investor showed his confidence in the future of Victoria by purchasing no less than 104 city lots yesterday in the north end of the city, through the agency of Pemberton & Son. They are all situated in the vicinity of Edmonton road and west of Fernwood road, and form two compact sections of fine residential property. The consideration was in the vicinity of $17,500.

The British Columbia Land & Investment agency is about to place the Carnsew Dairy farm on the market, subdivided into city lots. This forms part of the Fairfield estate, and will doubtless be as well received as the Phoenix and other subdivisions. Steady inquiry was reported yesterday by the manager, who stated that the visitors from the prairie were anxiously looking into all properties offered for sale. Though the somewhat cold weather prevented many actual sales, when the usual climatic conditions return there will be many deals made.

Parsons, Love & Co. sold yesterday four acres on Cadboro Bay road, two lots in the north end of the city and one acre near Mount Tolmie. Grant & Lineham disposed of 11 lots in Esquimalt district for a most satisfactory figure. Among the sales by the Dominion Real Estate exchange was the house formerly belonging to Mr. Weir of Ladysmith. This was bought by Mr. Robins of Cedar Hill road. Another sale by the same firm was two lots on Government street, outside the business district, the property of A. Peden. These were bought by Dr. Ernest Hall.

SPOKANE'S FIGHT

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 14.—A battle over freight rates, the result of which may affect wholesale centres all over the nation, began at the court house this morning before interstate commerce commissioners Charles A. Prouty and Franklin K. Lane. It is the suit of the city of Spokane, the Chamber of Commerce and the Spokane Jobbers' association against the Great Northern, the Northern Pacific and allied railway lines.

The complaint charges unjust discrimination in freight rates, the rates on goods shipped from eastern points to Spokane being based on the through rate from the east to the Pacific coast, plus the return rate from the coast to Spokane. The shippers of this city contend that it is unjust to charge more to haul goods to this city than to haul them through Spokane and 400 miles further on to the coast. The railways and the wholesale dealers of the coast cities contend that the lower rate is justified by the danger that water competition would throw the traffic to steamer lines if the roads charged higher rates. It is also contended that to adopt the principle of requiring rates from the interior points to Spokane to be equal to or less than the rates to the coast might revolutionize the jobbing trade all over the country, the system of giving lower rates to coast cities being general.

Spokane is represented in the rate fight by Brooks Adams of Boston, H. M. Stephens and the corporation's counsel, J. M. Geraghty of this city. The railways are represented by a strong corps of legal advisers, it being estimated that 200 or 300 attorneys have been enlisted in one manner or another in this case.

GUGGENHEIMS AFTER MINES ON ISLAND

Bond Three Claims on Sooke Harbor and Property Head of Leech River—Quarter of Million Dollars Involved in the Transaction

The copper property of D. E. Campbell, druggist, and J. Collister, of Barnsley & Co., consisting of three claims on Sooke harbor, has been bonded to the Guggenheims of New York for $100,000, and the copper claims of Finley and Martin, situate on the north fork of Leech river, at the headwaters, have been bonded by the same New York mining magnates for $150,000. The option taken by the Guggenheims on both properties is for thirty days, and expires at the end of this month.

If the option on the properties is taken up by the Guggenheims, and it is believed the deals will be consummated, the mines will be developed without delay. Machinery will be sent in, and a number of miners employed in camps established at each property, both of which are tributory to Victoria.

Leech river, at the head of which is the Finley and Martin property, has been the goal of many stampedes of gold-seekers, both placer hunters and quartz seekers, and there was also a buried treasure hunt eight years ago at Leechtown, at the junction of the Leech and Sooke rivers. Sixty thousand dollars worth of stolen gold dust was reported to have been buried near "the large house," and many hunts were made, all, like those to Cocos Island, being without success. It seems that in the spring of 1898 a dying man in the county jail at San Francisco confessed to the jailer who cared for him that he had in 1868 stolen $60,000 in California and had buried it at Leech river a certain distance from the large house in the camp. At the direction of the dying man a map was made, and in company with another San Francisco policeman, the jailer came to Victoria in July, 1898, on a treasure-hunt. The two San Franciscans while here told some local men of their map and destination, and other treasure-hunters joined them. All failed to locate the buried gold, and the policemen returned to San Francisco.

There have also been various small stampedes to Leech river on account of new finds reported, the last stampede having taken place from Victoria in 1900.

ARRANGING FOR AN INFORMAL REUNION

Winnipeggers Now In City Will Hold Banquet on Saturday Evening Next

Winnipeg is going to celebrate in Victoria on Saturday night. There are so many prominent men from the Manitoba capital now here, not only residents, but visitors, that some of the most energetic have determined to show the capital of British Columbia how residents of the capital of Manitoba are always ready and willing to foregather wherever they may chance to be.

It is not intended to make the function which will probably be held at the Driard hotel, a formal affair. Neither will it be limited to Winnipeggers alone, all "prairie wolves" being welcome. There will, of course, be both solid and liquid refreshments, and between smiles short discourses to remind those present of the country of blizzards and snowdrifts.

Those in charge urgently request everyone allied either now or formerly with the east of the Rockies to leave their names at the Colonist business office before Thursday, so that proper arrangements can be made. There will be no "pork, beans and hard tack," like the Ninetieth used to sing about, but good British Columbia victuals and maybe a "wee drappie o't." The promoters want the first Winnipeg night to become one to be remembered in Victoria, and look to the common friendliness of all prairie folk to bring the celebration to a satisfactory consummation.

CHARGES MADE AGAINST LESSEES OF ROOKERIES

Investigation of Claims That They Violated Regulations on Seal Islands

Charges that the lease of the Pribyloff seal rookeries have been violated by the lessees, the North American Commercial company, have been made by "Prof." H. W. Elliott, who poses as an expert on fur sealing. The United States ways and means committee gave a hearing to Mr. Elliott yesterday. A Washington despatch to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer says in this regard: "Prof. Elliott charges that the lessees have been guilty of crooked dealing in that the terms of lease granted by the government have been violated. The company or persons controlling it, Prof. Elliott charges, have been guilty of pelagic sealing, and involved in the charges are Hermman and Isaac Lieber, of San Francisco, organizers of North American Commercial company; Lloyd Davis, of San Francisco, and D. O. Mills, of New York. Senator B. Elkins, of West Virginia, is also mentioned in the charges as "one of the lessees of the fur seal islands, and as their Washington representative."

"I have documentary and official evidence," said Prof. Elliott tonight, 'to lay before the committee that will substantiate all my charges."

Sealing schooners Libbie, Ida Etta and Jessie have been added to the fleet that has left to hunt seals off the southern coast and to follow the herds north. The Libbie and Jessie go to the West coast of Vancouver Island to pick up crews of Indian hunters, while the Ida Etta has a full complement of white hunters and is outfitted for a long cruise, extending over nine months. Other schooners are being made ready to follow. Capt. Harry Brown went as master of the Jessie.

Representatives Clarke and John Sharp Williams questioned Mr. Elliott closely about the charge, and said that it reflected so seriously upon the administration that it must be looked into carefully. The purpose of Prof. Elliott in appearing before the committee was to have the United States annul the lease of the sealing privileges upon the Pribyloff islands which it has granted to the North American Commercial company. He stated that the officers of the company perjured themselves when they obtained the lease, as they swore they were not engaged in pelagic sealing. In spite of this oath, he says, they equipped the J. Hamilton Lewis, in command of Capt. McClay, which Prof. Elliott alleges, was rightfully seized by the Russian government. This seizure was in 1901, and Mr. Elliott made the statement that Mr. Pierce's activity in collecting a fee from the vessel owners was in 1905.

A CHARLOTTE BRONTE POEM

London, Jan.—The Times publishes a Bronte poem in today's issue, and says it was received from a correspondent at Haworth, to whose mother it was given by Charlotte Bronte. "Our correspondent," says the Times, thinks the poem has never been printed, and, as far as we have been able to ascertain, it doesn't appear in any of the collected editions of poems by the Brontes."

An epileptic dropped in a fit on the streets of Boston not long ago and was taken to a hospital. Upon removing his coat there was found pinned to his waistcoat a slip of paper on which was written: "This is to inform the house surgeon that his is just a case of plain fit; not appendicitis. My appendix has already been removed twice."—Ladies Home Journal.

NEARLY WRECKED BY A SHORTAGE OF FUEL

Steamer's Adventure—Drowning of a Sailor—Herring at Nanaimo

Nanaimo, Jan. 14.—After cutting up her deckload of lumber to keep up steam and save her from going ashore in Cowichan Gap the other day, the British steamer Islesworth, lumber-laden from Port Blakeley to Shanghai, arrived at Union Bay with just enough coal in her bunkers to cover a sheet of window-glass, which is now on exhibition at Howe's grocery store at Union Bay. Pilot Owens, boarded the vessel off Flattery Light and piloted her up the straits, headed for Comox. When passing Cowichan Gap, below Nanaimo, bucking a strong head tide, her fuel being exhausted, her steam went down and she was turned right about by the current and drifted back with the tide, fortunately without injury, the Gap being a ticklish channel. Clearing the channel, she came to anchor under the lee of Valdez Island and lay there until the weather, thick at the time, had cleared. Part of a deckload of lumber she was carrying was cut up into fuel, and with this she worked her way up. The vessel is now bunkering at the colliery docks.

Thomas Munsie Killed

Owing to the great shortage of coal, work was carried on on Sunday for the first time at Extension mines yesterday. The occasion was marked by a most deplorable accident, by which Thomas Munsie lost his life. Yesterday, while he was working, a fall of coal occurred, ten tons coming down instantly and crushing out his life. The late Mr. Munsie was very well known throughout the district, having resided here for 19 years.

Wrestling Match

After much preliminary sparring, Ralph Johnston of Nanaimo and Simmonds have finally been matched to wrestle in this city on January 26. A long-distance telephone message received from Simmonds at Tacoma today says that he is quite confident of throwing Johnston. The latter is equally prepared to hold his own, and a fierce struggle is looked for.

A Sailor's Death

A sailor named William Fortnan was drowned from the U. S. S. Thetis at Union Bay yesterday. It appears that Fortnan, accompanied by three companions, left Union Bay for their vessel, which was anchored out in the stream, on Thursday night. The night was one of the stormiest ever experienced on Baynes Sound, the wind blowing at a velocity, it is said by arrivals on the steamer City of Nanaimo today, of nearly 50 miles an hour, accompanied by blinding snow. It is alleged that Fortnan fell overboard unperceived, the party being under the influence of liquor. The body was picked up on the shore of Denman Island yesterday by a Japanese living there.

Cruelty to a Dog

A case that should come under the observance of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is reported from Cumberland today. Miners while on their way to work discovered lying in the road a sack with something moving inside. Untying the cord with which the mouth of the bag was fastened, a poor starving dog was liberated. So thin had it become from its confinement that its bones were defined through the skin. The animal had evidently been tied in the bag and left to die a lingering, miserable death.

Found Dead

John Connell, a pioneer of Oyster River, was found dead on the banks of a creek on his farm at Valdez Island yesterday. From what can be learned he had fallen into the stream while attempting to ford it, and died from exhaustion and exposure after getting himself out of the water. Deceased was an old-timer in Comox Valley.

Plenty of Herring

A school consisting of hundreds of whales today had the effect of driving the herring inshore, and they are now fairly tumbling over each other to seek shelter. At present the harbor is congested with fish, and the fishermen are making large hauls.

NO INCOME TAX

New York, Jan. 14.—The special tax commission, which has been sitting here for several days, decided today not to recommend the adoption of an income tax law by the present legislature. The commission will report to the governor and legislature tomorrow.