Closes Yukon Commission

Hon. Sifton States That Instructions Will Be Issued to That End.

The Upper Chamber Resumes Sessions After one Month's Recess.

Mounted Infantry is About to Take A Practical Shape.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, April 14.—Hon. Mr. Sifton stated in the Commons that a new commission would be issued to Judge Britton authorizing him to close up the Yukon Hydraulic commission. Mr. Borden suggested that all the evidence should be printed as soon as possible.

The Ottawa despatch published in the Colonist April 7th through error in the transmission misrepresents Ralph Smith's position with respect to British Columbia legislation. It should have stated that Mr. Smith intended to ask why the acts of last session had been disallowed. The question was put in the House on Monday and answered by Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick.

The Senate resumed tonight after early a month's recess. Mr. Danville gave notice of a bill to make the King's silling a legal tender.

Steps are being taken by the militia department to convert a number of infantry and rifle regiments throughout Canada into cavalry corps. This is an idea recognized as Lord Dundonald's, and mounted troops will play an important part in the defence of Canada.

In the senate today Immigration Commissioner Preston was severely criticized for having advised Englishmen to oppose Chamberlain's preferential policy.

In the House an animated discussion took place regarding the government's striking answers to questions put by the opposition. As a result the government hereafter will furnish fuller replies.

Dr. Macoun, of the geological survey, named Mr. Oliver, the minister for Alberta to a standstill before the agriculture committee today. Mr. Oliver accused Mr. Macoun with being biased in his report on the Peace river country. Macount retorted that Mr. Oliver's constituents were down on him by reason of the fact that a former report had resulted in the stopping of whisky smuggling in Mr. Oliver's constituency.

The King's printer told the debates committee that the publication of Hansard of last session was delayed on account of the rush in the printing bureau to get out voterss' lists. This is evidence that the government is preparing for the general elections. It is stated positively tonight that the elections will take place in October.

Disaster Follows On Disaster

Official Report of Loss of Torpedo Boat, and Damage to Probieda.

Petersburg Again Plunged into Grief By News From Far East.

St. Petersburg, April 14.—The official in conveying the intelligence of the loss of another torpedo boat destroyer and the accidental crippling of another battleship, was almost as severe a blow as the loss of the Petropavlovsk yesterday, and plunged the whole town into grief. It is considered probable here that the Japanese did not take advantage of this terrible accident to attack Port Arthur.

From the official bulletins had been issued this afternoon, there was talk of the possibility of the destruction of the Petropavlovsk having been caused by a submarine boat, but this received no credence in official circles.

The candidates are now mentioned for succeed Admiral Makaroff, Vice-Admiral Skrydloff, Chairman Denissoff, Admiral Rojestvensey and Vice-Admiral Choukunink.

It is confirmed that the Grand Duke Cyrill's injuries consist of burns on the legs. A private despatch to other reports that the wounded prince is better. A life buoy was thrown to the Grand Duke, by which he sustained himself in the water until picked up. One of the boats, which were lowered immediately by the other warships, had the character of the injuries to the Prince not obtainable at this time.

The Petropavlovsk sank two and a half minutes after striking the mine.

St. Petersburg, April 14.—It has been officially decided that Vice-Admiral Togo, commander of the Black Sea fleet, will succeed the late Vice-Admiral Makaroff as commander-in-chief of the navy forces in the Far East. He will have been sent to Vice-Admiral Togo to come to St. Petersburg for the purpose of receiving instructions, which he will leave immediately for the Far East.

The Emperor appointed Vice-Admiral Togo this evening, telegraphing to him to go direct from Sebastopool, where he is in command of the Black Sea fleet, to Port Arthur, and assume command there.

Vice-Admiral Makaroff, Vice-Admiral Skryloff is the most popular figure of this generation in the Russian navy. He is considered a very able and strategist, but as the tools at his disposal will be few in comparison with those in the hands of the Japanese, it is feared he will be unable to accomplish much.

Chinese Craven And Ungrateful

Chinese Complain of Neglect To Enforce Neutrality Regulations.

CABLE TO THE LONDON AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

April 14.—The leading Japanese paper expresses great discontent. China has failed utterly to make an attempt to enforce neutrality regulations, where the whole trade has been drawn upon by Russia for all kinds of supplies. The newspaper declare that Japan seeks no favors, but asks fair play, and that such conduct is craven and ungrateful, seeing that Japan is defending China's integrity.

Meeting of The Agriculturists

Committee Report Results of Conference at Royal City.

The Victoria Exhibition Will Be Held About the End of September.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

A well attended meeting of the British Columbia Agricultural Association was held last night in the city hall.

Mayor Barnard occupied the chair. At some length His Worship went into the matter of the committees visit to New Westminster last week regarding the proposed change of dates of the Westminster exhibition. His Worship said that although they had been received very cordially, the Westminster people had apparently made up their minds long before the committee arrived not to fall in with Victoria's ideas, as they were unanimous in leaving the dates as fixed, and would not hear of any changes. His Worship then presented the following report:

Board of Management British Columbia Agricultural Association:

Gentlemen:—The last meeting of your board was held on January 13, 1904. At that meeting you elected Dr. Tolmie and Mr. M. Baker to be members of the executive. On the 24th of February the city clerk notified the secretary that the city council had appointed Ald. Well and Mr. H. B. Thompson to represent them as members of the executive.

It was also decided that the exhibition should be held on October 4th to the 8th. It being then understood that the New Westminster exhibition would take place on the 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th of September, practically the same week as they had last year. Unfortunately, instead, New Westminster decided on October 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th. Thus the two dates clashed. It would not be advisable to have two exhibitions running at the same time, and if we were to hold our exhibition after New Westminster the dates would be October 11th to 15th. This is considered to be too late in the year, the average rainfall at that time for ten years being greater than the previous week, as shown by official returns.

Chilliwack had chosen September 28th to 30th. It was decided to request Chilliwack to place their dates one week ahead so that our exhibitions could be held on September 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th and October 1st. This they had readily consented to, but requested us to ask New Westminster to move their dates ahead so that we could keep the dates that we had originally settled upon. It was held by the Chilliwack association that it would suit the farmers, exhibitors and agricultural shows of the province better for New Westminster to precede us, as they considered Victoria was a better market for stock, and that it would mean additional freight in case of sales in returning the stock sold previously at Victoria from New Westminster.

Your executive appointed Mayor Barnard and Ald. Bell, Beckwith and Stewart to attend as representatives of this association a general meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Association at New Westminster on the 8th instant, called by them for the purpose of considering and discussing the changing of dates.

Your representatives and the representatives of Chilliwack duly attended this meeting, and spoke thereat, setting forth the reasons for such change. A resolution, however, was passed deciding not to change the dates of the New Westminster exhibition.

Your executive recommend that, in consequence, the dates of the exhibition be changed from those previously decided upon to September 27, 28, 29, 30 and October 1st. For the reason that it would not be advisable to hold the exhibition at the same time as New Westminster, nor would it be advisable to hold it so late in October as would have to be done in holding it after New Westminster. Kamloops has decided on the 28th, 29th and 30th. The proposed change in the dates is not to be regretted, would clash with them. This would not be so serious except that their principal attraction is horse racing, and the horses attending there come also to ours. But it seems impossible to arrange otherwise.

The government grant this year has been reduced from $3,000 to $2,000. A large and representative body of this association awaited on the Premier and asked that the grant be increased. It was promised that the matter should be considered and we would be informed later. As yet no reply has been received.

A very strong committee was appointed to canvass the citizens for collections, and the thanks of this board are due them for the interest and energy they have displayed in making collections, and it is hoped that the $3,000 mark may be reached.

A number of committees have been appointed to consider any alterations to the prize list. It will be possible to have it in the hands of the printers at an early date.

Your executive are putting forth every effort to obtain the Dominion government grant for an exhibition to be held in 1905. It is understood that the province will receive this grant, and it is to be hoped that Victoria will be selected for it.

The report was adopted.

It was decided to allow the executive to amend the regulations except those referring to cattle, which latter will remain the same as last year.

After some discussion as to the rates to be charged attractions, the meeting adjourned.

JAPAN'S PREPAREDNESS.

Probably the world has never seen preparedness for a great war carried on so quietly and secretly, and yet so completely, as is the case in Japan's preparation to meet Russia. During the past few months I have often called to mind the incident of some eight years ago. I was standing in the tower of Nagoya Castle looking out over the wide plain surrounding the barracks. I could see large squads of cavalry maneuvering in one direction; in another plain were infantry going through all sorts of tactics, not simply ordinary drill, but scaling high walls and performing various difficult feats; in the distance another squad was building pontoon bridges, and, as I cast my eye over the field, alive in all directions with men training. I turned to the Japanese officer standing by my side and remarked: "If you keep on training as enthusiastically as this, you will be able to conquer Russia by and by." The officer looked me up and down, as deliberating whether he should make reply or not, and then answered in even more laconic Japanese than the English language permits, "That is what we intend to do."

Soon after the China-Japan war, when Japan entered upon an extensive plan of naval and military expansion, the world said, "She has lost her head. Her victory has puffed her up; why does she not settle down to commercial advancement and educational expansion, instead of wasting her time merely on military expansion and going about with a chip on her shoulder?" Time has proved the wisdom of her course. It would seem that Japan saw the future course of Russia then as clearly as the world sees it today. Had not Japan begun then her preparation for the present situation she would have found it impossible to meet it in the marvelous way that she is doing. Careful plans for self-defense have been maturing from year to year, though, of course, the past year has seen the work of preparation carried on much more rapidly than before.—John L. Dearing, in The World Today for April.

WIRENIUS' SQUADRON.

Arrives at Nyborg, Finland and Casts Anchor.

Nyborg, Finland, April 14.—The Russian squadron commanded by Admiral Wirenius, consisting of the battleship Osilbia, the protected cruiser Aurora and the torpedo boat destroyers accompanying them, arrived here today and anchored in the roads. The warships probably will remain here until tomorrow.

A DRAMATIC TURN.

Given in Trial of Car Barn Bandits at Chicago.

Chicago, Ill., April 14.—A dramatic turn was given today to the trial of Roeski, the car barn bandit. Another of the bandits, Gustav Marx, who is under sentence to be hanged next week, took the witness stand and swears that he, not Roeski, fired the fatal shot in the murder for which Roeski is on trial.

The story of Marx was made more remarkable by the assertion that he was at the time of the murder trying to kill Roeski. The reason given by Marx for attempting thus to kill his confederate, was that he was suspicious that Roeski would betray the other bandits to the police.

THE OPERATIONS ON THE YALU

The Fortifications Opposite Wiju Cause the Japanese Little Thought.

Seoul, Korea, April 13, 4 p.m.—The Japanese military authorities do not attach great importance to the fortification by the Russian of Chin Liang Yeng, a walled town directly across the Yalu river from Wiju. The town is situated on a plain and is commanded by an old Korean hill fort, near Wiju which is occupied by the Japanese artillery. At low water it is possible to ford the Yalu, which flows in many shallow channels. The Japanese will utilize Koreans and Chinese in cutting timber from the concession which was formerly a source of dispute between Russia and Japan. General Hasagichi, commander of the Japanese forces at Seoul, and suite, were received in audience by the Emperor of Korea today.

The Japanese authorities have established a censorship over Korean newspapers which publish the movements of the Japanese troops.

A Japanese rabble which has followed the army over here has brought in a quantity of counterfeit bank notes, and Korean nickel coins, for circulation among the ignorant natives, and the use of this false money is making much trouble.

The wretched condition of Korea's finances is evidenced by the fact that the war office is without funds, and has been compelled to order the prefects along the routes taken by the Korean troops on their marches to the north to victual and supply the soldiers without compensation. In spite of this condition the minister of public instruction has proposed educational reform, and the reexamination of graduates.

ACTION ON YALU.

An official despatch sent by an aide de camp of Gen. Kuropatkin to the Emperor, dated April 12, says: "General Kachtalinsky, commanding the Russian forces at the Yalu river, reports that on April 11, during an engagement of outposts, our losses were one officer, one sub-officer and two soldiers killed, and two soldiers wounded."

Japanese advices from Northern Korea state that the Russians have strongly fortified Chou Tien Cheng, a walled town on the Manchurian side of the Yalu river about ten miles north of Antung. It is estimated that there are 20,000 Russians of all arms at Antung ready to oppose the Japanese crossing.

Webb Hays has returned here from a journey to Anju, thence to the American mines at Unsan, and thence north to the Yalu river. He reports that he received hospitable treatment among the Japanese and compliments the business management of the Japanese field forces, the effectiveness of their pontoon bridges at Anju and their transport organizations. Japanese Minister Hayashi is urging the Korean foreign office not to permit northern prefects to leave their posts, declaring that their absence would increase the existing feeling of unrest.

MYSTERIOUS FIRE.

Steamer Charmer Sees Strange Blaze at Sea Monday Morning.

The Vancouver Province said yesterday: A mysterious mountain of flame about five miles to the southeast of Discovery Island caused Capt. Griffin to run the steamer Charmer some distance out of her course early yesterday morning, on the supposition that the fire was on board a vessel of some kind.

The blaze was first seen by Capt. Griffin about 3 o'clock, when the Charmer had just rounded Discovery Island, and was just heading up the Gulf. It was thought that the fire was on the American shore, but finally it was determined that it was too close for that and the Charmer was headed for the blaze. After the Charmer had steamed for half a mile or more in the direction of the mysterious fire, it became subdued, and finally died out, leaving only the ordinary masthead light of a vessel visible where the flames had been before.

It was an intensely dark night on the Gulf, but about the time the fire died away Capt. Griffin saw a vessel, coming apparently from the direction of Douglas, steam closely to the object of mystery and he concluded that if help were required it would have been given by the steamer. He therefore turned the Charmer and placed her on her course for Vancouver again. Just as the Charmer was turning Capt. Griffin observed another steamer coming up from the direction of Puget Sound, which was closer to the supposed craft from which the blaze had come than the Charmer, and could furnish aid if required.

The burning vessel, or whatever it was, displayed no signals of distress. She fired no rockets. Capt. Griffin is at a loss to explain the strange fire, which may for ever remain a mystery, although if a vessel were afire and the flames were quelled, a report will be forthcoming when she reaches port.

FIRST DISTRIBUTION OF LEAD BOUNTY

Cheques Were Paid to Provincial Miners at Nelson City Yesterday.

Nelson, B. C., April 13.—G. O. Buchanan, official administrator of the Dominion lead bounty, today disbursed the first checks to mine owners paid out under the act. The mines receiving checks were: Sovereign, Highland, White Water, Enterprise, Sullivan, Rambler, Cariboo, Black Prince, Willcox, Silver Cup, North Star, Prince, Bosun, Pontiac and Marion. Now that the first money has been disbursed it is thought it will stimulate the silver-lead mines to large-ly increase the output. Already the silver-lead mines have mined over $100,000 under the terms of the bounty act. Mr. Buchanan refused to give out the amounts paid to individual mining companies.

ANOTHER RUSSIAN CRUISER DAMAGED

The Bayan Was Observed Making For Port Arthur Apparently Crippled.

London, April 13.—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Wei Hai Wei telegraphing under date of April 13th, says: "The British cruiser Espiegle reports that at 5.40 o'clock this morning she sighted five Japanese warships engaging the Russian cruiser Bayan, making for Port Arthur from the Yalu. The Russian cruiser Askold and another cruiser issued from Port Arthur to assist the Bayan. At 6.45 o'clock the Russians got under the shelter of the forts but the Bayan was evidently damaged, as quantities of steam were seen escaping. At 8 o'clock the Japanese ships opened a heavy gun fire on the forts, which did not reply, and after 15 minutes bombardment the Japanese retired to the eastward."

Harry—Couldn't you get her father's consent? Jack—I don't know, I couldn't get my own consent to take him for a father-in-law.—Detroit Free Press.

IS AN AID TO GENERAL PEACE

Lord Lansdowne on Significance of Anglo-French Colonial Treaty.

London, April 12.—The text of the Anglo-French colonial treaty was officially issued this afternoon. It is prefaced by a despatch from Foreign Minister Lansdowne to the British ambassador to France, Sir Edmund J. Monson, in which Lord Lansdowne says that a settlement was notoriously desired on both sides of the channel and that the movement in its favor received powerful influence from the respective visits of King Edward and President Loubet.

Lord Lansdowne lengthily reviews the main features of the agreement, and concludes: "It may perhaps be permitted for the two countries to hope that in thus basing the composition of their long-standing differences upon mutual concessions and a recognition of each others legitimate wants and aspirations, they may afford a precedent which will contribute something to the maintenance of international good-will and the preservation of general peace."

LIEUT. BILSE'S BOOK

Real Scenes and Characters from German Garrison Life

It is indeed small wonder that, in a country whose language contains a special word, "Amtsbeleidigung," to express lese majeste as committed against any uniform or official, the appearance of a "Life in a Garrison Town" (by Lieut. Bilse; English translation, John Lane) should have aroused wild sensations, and its author be expelled from the army, says the London Morning Leader. Taught by all the tradition of the country to regard their own class and profession as at once the foundation and apex of the nation, accustomed to give as little heed to civilian opinion as the ancient Roman noble gave to the feelings of the slaves whom he threw into his fishpond fattened on the lampreys—the German officers suddenly awoke to find their vices and the brutalities of their system exposed to the eyes of the world with cruel microscopic exactitude. And it was one of their own clan that had done th's thing.

A REGIMENTAL DRAGON.

The book consists not of one consecutive story so much as of a series of scenes designed to show in turn the scandal-mongering, eavesdropping, blackmailing, debauchery and drunkenness of German garrison life. In the first chapter most of the characters meet for a social evening at the house of Capt. Konig, one of the very few decent people in the book. Here is one personnel which must have been recognizable enough by the author's brother officers:

The door opened, and in darted a great fat lady, most outrageously powdered, and whose badly fitting black and yellow dress was made in the worst possible taste. She rushed up to Frau Clara, then turning to the gentlemen held her big, fishy hand so close under their noses that they were forced to imprint the customary kiss.

This is the Frau Stark, the regimental dragon, who takes what horses she likes from the stable, rates the men's wives like a fish-wife, and introduces such regulations as she pleases—all because, as Lieutenant Lelmann narrates after the lady is gone home, she saved the colonel (who is a coward), from fighting a duel with a civilian whom he had insulted.

. . . and now she has him well under her thumb, and when she commands he obeys her like a lap-dog.

"That is glorious," cries Borgart. "Do you know any more stories? It's high time that we got rid of these arrogant creatures. He has the manner of a stable boy and she of a washer-woman."

Not unnaturally after this specimen of conversation, Frau Konig, the hostess, tells Borgert that she wonders "how he would talk about her some day if they should cease to be on good terms."

GARRISON DANCES.

Then comes scenes from an impromptu dance at the local casino. Borgert, the eavesdropper, while strolling in the garden . . . caught sight of a white dress through the foliage at the foot of the garden. Silently he hurried across the lawn and hid behind a bush. There they saw Clara (Lieut. Pommer and the senior captain's wife) clasped in a passionate embrace. Pommer occasionally pressed a kiss on her mouth and hands. His right arm clasped her slender waist, and one big hand rested on her throbbing breast. . . . Meanwhile, in the ballroom,

Lieutenant Lelmann had reached the maudlin stage, his usual condition after too much wine—and was reeling about the garden sobbing and weeping most dolefully. The gentlemen had nearly all succumbed to the influence of the punch, and were in one very noisy and coarse mood in their jokes. It was high time to separate.

The infidelities of Frau Kahle become notorious in the regiment, but nobody says anything, for fear of the inevitable duel, for the colonel of the regiment would not interfere, because

. . . he foresaw circumstances that might be personally unpleasant; either he might be made a party in a libel suit, or his position as colonel would be compromised if his superiors got wind of what was going on in his regiment.

THE SENSELESS DUEL.

Needless to say the scandal does reach Capt. Kahle's ears; and this gives the author an opportunity to put forward the German military duel in all its senseless brutality:

Because his wife had deceived him in the most outrageous manner, he was bound in honor to risk being shot down by the bullet of her seducer. He was no coward, but he could not see why the fruits of his strenuous efforts, the future of his child, should be hazarded because another man had behaved like a despicable scoundrel.

In the duel the villain escapes, and the wronged husband is wounded.

At the end of the winter he came out of hospital a complete wreck mentally and physically, forced to resign his commission, being incapable of military service.

LIFE IN THE RANKS.

One of the most terrible chapters is the one which shows the cruelties and injustice practised on the common soldiers, and the way in which the ranks of anarchy are recruited.

The sergeant-major wheeled round on the fat corporal, cuffed him in the back with his fist, took hold of his throat from behind, and pressed him down to the ground, then gave him a shove which brought him into contact with Napoleon's hinder. The horse struck out with both powerful hindlegs and hurled the poor corporal out into the stable lane, where he lay, unconscious. It was likely to be a serious business, for the poor fellow had been kicked in the face.

Then there is the story of Pte. Rose, the smartest man in the regiment, reported by the spite of a drunken officer for being asleep on sentry-go, when the poor fellow was only sheltering from the snow. Again, there is the case of Sergt. Schmitz, who for refusing to obey a senseless, drunken order given him in the stable by the sergeant-major, is broken on the iron wheel of German military justice, and flung upon the world, in spite of his nine years' spotless record of faithful service. What wonder that the end of the book finds him under the red flag of Socialism, the sworn foe of that other army he was once so proud to serve.

The extravagance of Lieut. Borgert—whose method of raising money is to buy furniture on credit and then give a bill of sale on it—his intrigue with the wife of his brother officer and old friend, and his eventual flight with his mistress from his creditors, round off the book, which winds up with something of a holocaust, the bad characters broken or disgraced, the decent ones sending in their papers.

THE MORAL OF THE BOOK.

Throughout the book Capt. Konig from time to time makes useful commentaries on passing incidents. All the evils that so sore around him arise, he thinks, from the fact that some "trampish civilian outsmate," as Mulvaney says, are left by the German system to vegetate in forsaken little frontier towns:

"One goes to the Casino and drinks out of pure weariness. In a large garrison there are other means of driving dulness away than by immoderate drinking. If a man is given to running after women there is the devil to pay. In a large town there are enough, but here he makes up instead to the wives of his comrades.

The number of officers ruined by debt passes belief . . . The office should be given more intellectual employment. An army is created for war, and it must suffer under 50 years of peace. We need no war to eradicate this evil, but we do need prudent, level-headed men, who will confess that "there is something rotten in the state of Denmark."

FAR-REACHING INFLUENCE.

What chiefly strikes one in reading this book is that its indictments extend very much farther than the little frontier town. With certain limitations, varying in inverse proportion to the size of the community, society all over the world is as much implicated as the village of Forbachs, where Lieut. Bilse was stationed. Slightly to alter Mr. Arnold White's words in the preface: "The publication of this book is marked by an audacity of courage deserving universal gratitude."

THE PASSING OF THE SAIL.

Old Fashioned Means of Propulsion Rapidly Being Displaced.

(Translation made for The Literary Digest.)

As a long distance means of commercial transportation, the sailing vessel is doomed—so we are assured by M. Daniel Bellet, who furnishes, in an article contributed to the Revue Scientifique, facts and figures to support his assertions. The substitution of the motor for the sail is going forward, he says, more and more rapidly, and except for pleasure and for certain special purposes the latter is fast going out of use. The day will come, perhaps, when as a means of propulsion for any but the smallest craft the sail will be as obsolete as the oar. Says M. Bellet:

"Everywhere, in all the commercial marines of the world, we see this disappearance of sails before steam. Thus, in the largest fleet of sail, the English, we now find only one ton of sailing vessel to nearly five of steamers; and, moreover, in the sailing fleet is included a host of secondary boats built for the short distance coasting trade, where speed is less important than in international commerce, and where the freights might be insufficient to pay the cost of construction and maintenance of a steam vessel. In Germany we have one ton of sails to four of steam, and the situation is constantly changing in favor of the latter. There are nevertheless, two countries where this phenomenon is not taking place—Norway, where the existence of great numbers of sailing vessels is due to the fact that they are largely wooden boats that carry the lumber of the country, and France, where the multiplication of sailing vessels have been artificially favored by absurd legislation.

"The Germans and the Americans have recently built gigantic sailing vessels, for instance, the Preussen, of 12,000 tons. . . . The Americans have built ships of 10,000 tons, with no less than seven masts. But we may consider that the limit of the modernized sailing vessel has here been reached. . . . Doubtless we hear of extraordinary quick transatlantic passages by these boats . . . but these are due to fortunate combinations of circumstances. And, in fact, the giant sailing vessels are far from being completely safe; some of them have been mysteriously lost, like the famous Maria Rickmers, of the German firm of the same name, which was probably broken in two by the strain to which such a long vessel must be exposed. In fact the law of progress has decreed that the sail should be gradually abandoned in favor of steam transportation, and the English merchant marine has come to a realization of this."

But the ordinary passenger steamer, we are further told, is not fitted for freight business, and in place of the division between steamers and sailing vessels, we are going to have two kinds of steamers, first, those intended exclusively for passengers, which will move more and more rapidly and so demand higher and higher prices; secondly, freight or cargo boats, with two subdivisions—those of considerable dimensions, with powerful engines, constituting express boats, which will also carry passengers who do not care for the highest speeds; and slower boats that will take nothing but freight.

The evolution of this state of things is already in progress according to the author, and great strides have been made toward it in the past decade. In 1891 the Tokomarn, of 6,200 tons, was considered huge cargo boat; but in 1899 we had reached the Ivernia, of 13,200 tons. The latest, the Cedric, will reach 37,870 tons. A recent special investigator, Mr. McKerchine, is quoted as saying that as we build more of the larger and slower steamers we are finding that the necessary power does not increase proportionally to the capacity. These huge cargo boats are, therefore, proportionately cheaper than the small ones, and can thus compete more successfully with sail power. A curious development is that of large sailing vessels with auxiliary steam power, which have come into use at the same time that the large steamers are more and more abandoning their auxiliary sails, which were once so common. The author believes that these are uneconomical, on account of the expense and the drag of the unused propeller; and he points out that their use originated through a desire to utilize for occasional motive power the steam engines already installed for the manipulation of the huge sails.

The abandonment of sails, the writer notes, is even to be seen now in the fishing fleets, where mechanical propulsion is found to be peculiarly valuable. It is believed that the petroleum motor has a future here on the smaller fishing boats, where cheap power is necessary. These motors are now used in Denmark both to drive the boat and to operate its nets. The naphtha dory, a still smaller form, is employed more and more frequently by fishermen on our northern coasts from Maine to Newfoundland. Finally, the writer calls our attention to the displacement of the old familiar pilot boat by the larger steam vessels—an entire transformation of the pilot's trade—which has now taken place in New York, and will shortly have been accomplished in all the great ports of the world. Mr. Bellet concludes:

"We see that the disappearance of the sail is spreading more and more widely, and although it may be desirable to make use of the wind's free power on land, especially for the production of the electric current, mechanical propulsion is becoming more and more the rule at sea, and sail navigation is doomed to disappear, except where it is only a sport and not a means of commercial transportation."

CHINA NEUTRAL.

St. Petersburg, April 14.—Russia has received satisfactory assurances from China regarding the Japanese instructors in the Chinese army. From these it appears that there are no Japanese officers with the Northern Chinese armies as has been believed.

NEW COAL MINE AT NORTHFIELD

Feared That Water In The Shaft May Now Interrupt The Operations.

Good progress is being made with the surface work of the new mine at Northfield, says the Nanaimo Herald. The two large boilers have been installed and the shell of the boiler house will soon be completed. A couple of days at the most, should see both boilers in and the roof over of the house completed, after which the pouring and walling should not take much time. The shell of the engine-house has also been finished with the exception of the roof, and just behind it the wooden foundation, on concrete piers of a large water tank, has been completed.

As regards the shaft itself, progress in it has been fairly good, but there are fears of grave difficulties ahead. The shaft has now been sunk to a depth of about thirty feet, and for the last three or three days the sinkers have been troubled with water, especially at high tide. Now it is well known that there are regular fissures in the strata, sometimes running for a long distance, and the fear is that water should come in at high tide suggests that one of these fissures ran through the shaft. One of them ran into the mine and greatly added to the cost and difficulty of driving it.

Should the fears at present entertained be realized, it will probably mean that sinking work in the shaft will have to be temporarily suspended. For if the inrush of water, is at all heavy, it will necessitate a drift being driven from the slope to where the shaft will tap the seam, and a borehole put down to run the water off. The plan as this would, of course, considerably delay the sinking, materially add to the cost, and will therefore only be resorted to under the most urgent necessity.

LATEST ON THE WAR.

Important Cable Message From the Jiji Skamokawaru's Correspondent at Wiju.

eot at Wiju.

At the Front, April 1.—I have dated this Wiju, but I am not there. I cannot say that I am anywhere, lest the enemy should learn my plans. Since joining the forces, I have been investigating the report that buttermilk is good for the complexion. I have come to the conclusion that it is, but can find nothing to indicate whether it should be used internally or externally.

LATER.—I have just learned important news from General Shampooshimpo. He does not believe that bee stings are good for rheumatism, but he declares his unalterable conviction that the moon is made of yellow journals.

TOMORROW.—Tokio will be thrown into spasms of joy when the Jiji Shamokawaru announces on the authority of a high army officer that the canary has 43 different notes. I am sending this in cipher, lest the information should leak out in transmission.—Wex J., in Oregonian.

WEEKLY WEATHER SYNOPSIS.

Victoria Meteorological Office, April 6th to 12th.

The weather during this week has been remarkably fine and warm, not only along the Coast, but for the last four days these conditions have prevailed between the Cascade Ranges. In Victoria rain only fell upon one day and upon two on the Lower Mainland, while at Port Simpson there was only one day when rain did not fall, and the total amounted to 2.66 inches. There has been a large proportion of bright sunshine registered here, the daily average was over 8 hours. The cause of this abnormal warm spell so early in the season was due to the prevalence of high barometric pressure over the North Pacific Ocean, while to the southward the barometer remained comparatively low. These conditions caused a large proportion of the winds to be from the Interior towards the Coast, consequently there was little moisture in the air which was exceptionally free from clouds. The warmest day was the 12th, when the temperature both here and on the Lower Mainland rose to 74, 70 in the Kootenay and 62 in Cariboo, while at Seattle 80 was recorded and 90 in Southern Oregon.

There have been no high winds during the week except at the entrance of the Strait of Fuca an easterly gale occurred on the 12th. The present mild weather in the Interior is likely to cause the Fraser river to rise considerably and there is much snow in the mountains. Several inches of snow has fallen in Manitoba during the first few days of the week, and towards the latter milder weather set in which has caused the rivers to rise considerably. In Alberta the weather has been very mild, and upon the last day the temperature rose to 68. In Dawson the daily average temperature was 32 and the average daily highest temperature 42.

Victoria—Amoun of bright sunshine registered, 59 hours and 54 minutes; rain, .02 inches; highest temperature, 74 on 12th and lowest 33 on 7th.

New Westminster—Rain, .08 inches; temperature, 74 on 12th, lowest 32 on 7th.

Kamloops—No rain; highest temperature, 70 on 12th, and lowest, 28 on 7th.

Bakerville—Snow, one inch; highest temperature, 64 on 12th, and lowest, 14 on 7th.

Port Simpson—Rain, 2.66 inches; highest temperature, 64 on 12th, and lowest, 30 on 10th.

Dawson—Highest temperature, 56 on 12th and lowest 10 on 6th.

THEY LIVE IN NESTS.

Travelers who have returned from the heart of Africa and the Australasian continent tell wonderful stories of nest building people who inhabit the wilds of those countries. In the bushmen of Australia we find, perhaps, the lowest order of men that is known, says the Penny Magazine. They are so primitive that they do not know enough to build even the simplest form of huts for shelter. The nearest they can approach to it is to gather a lot of twigs and grass, and taking them into a thicket or jungle, build a nest for a home. The nest is usually built large enough for the family, and if the latter be numerous then the nests are of a large size. Sometimes the foliage above will form a natural covering, but there is never any attempt at constructing a protection from the rain and storms.

Pupils Are Being Turned Away

City Superintendent so Reported At Meeting of School Board Last Night.

Unless By-Law Passes Today---Board Up Against Difficult Problem.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of School Trustees was held in the council chamber at the City hall last evening, at which were present: Chairman, Trustee Jay; Trustee Mrs. Jenkins and Trustees Dr. Lewis Hall, R. Mowat, E. A. Lewis and Beaumont Boggs.

The business transacted tended mostly on the lines of the great and immediate need there was for more school accommodation, the superintendent reporting that he could, at present, not authorize more children to be taken into the schools, all being full.

Communications were read from the following:

Principal L. Tait, of the North Ward school, asking for book shelves for school library, subscriptions having been received from His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, Miss A. D. Cameron and others. Referred to the buildings and grounds committee for report as to cost.

From the janitor of the Central school asking for an increase in salary. The communication was received and laid on the table until midsummer.

From the city clerk replying to letters from the board. Received and filed.

From Lieut.-Colonel Holmes saying that he had detailed Sergt.-Major Mulcahy to instruct the cadet corps. Letter received and writer to be thanked for his action.

From Principal Paul asking for the faculty a roller for the grounds and the cinder tennis court. Laid on the table.

Another from Principal Paul asking for an increase in appropriation of $45 to the Victoria college library fund for a set of Encyclopaedia Britannica. Laid on the table.

From the principal of the Hillside school asking if the fences be completed round the school grounds. Referred to the buildings and grounds committee for report.

From the superintendent of education to the effect that, after receipt of the board's letter dated April 9th, he had interviewed the attorney-general and the chief commissioner of lands and works, and that those men assured that at the next session of the legislature a bill would be introduced providing for the deeding over of the present site of the Victoria West school. Received and filed.

The chairman said that he had since seen the Premier, who also had also assured him that such would be done.

The city superintendent reported that the per capita grant from the provincial government based on the average actual attendance of the public schools upon which is based the grant for cities of the first class for the quarters ending March and 30th June, amounted to 2,342.61, which, at $2.50 per capita per quarter, amounted to $7,613.48. This was in addition to the High school grant of $1,800 per annum.

Trustee Hall spoke on the matter of the letters which have appeared in the papers re the number of scholars over the age of 16 years attending the public schools at present. He said if these might be included the board would lose $240 per capita grant and no teachers could be dispensed with.

The superintendent then read the attendance average and percentage for the month of March this year and last, showing great increases.

The finance committee reported accounts amounting to $638.73, which included one item of $60 rent for extra room at Victoria West, which Trustee Hall said had been paid regularly for the past five years.

The report of the buildings and grounds committee was then taken up and the following work decided upon: That the ground outside the boiler-room at the South Park school be designed. General repairs to Central school. Swing doors between the two infant rooms at the Central school. The committee reported that they had paid $8 for mowing the Victoria college lawns. In this connection it was decided that mowing the lawns was a portion of the janitor's duties, and that he be so notified. The report was adopted as a whole and the committee was authorized to call for tenders for the various works.

Tenders were received from Mr. Carse and Messrs. Stevens & Hawkins for installing tuzzer fire alarm systems in the North Ward, South Park and Central schools; total 38 rooms. They were referred to the buildings and grounds committee for award.

The city superintendent referred to the excellence of the Victoria school exhibit at Vancouver during the teachers' convention last week. He said it was the admiration of all. He also referred to the necessity of more accommodation for the Central school. At present he was giving no more permits, and could not give any, as every room was full to overflowing.

It was resolved that the matter be referred to the buildings and grounds committee. In moving the resolution, Trustee Hall said it was imperative that the board should provide accommodation for the children of school age who are now forbidden admission to the city schools. It was also pointed out that in the event of the bylaw passing today, it would still be necessary to provide temporary accommodation immediately for the large number of children to whom education was due by statute.

Trustee Lewis said he was assured that there were over 200 Chinese children of school age, and that sooner or later the board would have this problem to face.

Some discussion arose on Trustee Mowat's notice regarding proposed High school fees, and a committee was appointed to look into the matter and report at the next meeting of the board. The meeting then adjourned.

"Do you think authors ought to be pensioned?" asked the young historical novelist. "Well," replied the Senator, "if it would keep them from writing, I think pensioning some of them would be a good thing."—Chicago Record-Herald.

CORRESPONDENTS REACH THE FRONT

Landed in Korea Some Days Ago And Find Conditions Changed.

Chinampo, April 14, by De Forrest wireless telegraph to Wei Hai Wei, April 14.—Although Korean ports are no longer the centre of interest in the present war, yet the Japanese are still reinforcing the first army scattered from the Yalu to Seoul, with fresh battalions of reserves.

The weather is improving, as the correspondents assigned to General Kuroki's division discovered when they were landed here some days ago. They came with heavy outfits of winter clothing, but were glad to change to the lighter grade for summer wear. The bare, brown hills in the neighborhood of this harbor are already becoming green.

SUFFERED FOR THREE YEARS.

HEADACHES AND RUSHING OF BLOOD TO THE HEAD.

APPETITE WAS GONE.

TRIED MANY DIFFERENT REMEDIES BUT

BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS CURED

MRS. WALTER MANTHORNE, BROOKLYN, N.S.

She says: "I suffered for three years with terrible headaches and rushing of blood to my head. I lost my appetite and became very thin and weak. I tried many different remedies and consulted doctors, but all in vain until I started to use Burdock Blood Bitters. I had not taken more than two bottles when I began to feel better, my appetite improved wonderfully and I increased rapidly in weight. I took altogether four bottles and am now as well as can be, for which I owe my thanks to Burdock Blood Bitters. I can recommend it to all those suffering as I did."

A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

This is the age of research and experiment, when all nature, so to speak, is ransacked by the scientific for the comfort and happiness of man. Science has indeed made giant strides during the past century, and among the—by no means least important—discoveries in medicine comes that of

"THERAPION."

This preparation is unquestionably one of the most genuine and reliable Patent Medicines ever introduced, and has, we understand, been used in the continental Hospitals of Paris, Rouen, Jobert, Velpeau, Maisonneuve, the well-known Chassaignac, and indeed by all who are regarded as authorities in surgical matters, including the celebrated Lallemand, and Roux, by whom it was some time since uniformly adopted, and that it is worthy the attention of those who require such