AGAIN DISCUSSED ROCK BAY BRIDGE

FINAL MEETING OF THE PRESENT YEAR

City Council Had One Little Debate, But Transacted Business in Brief Order, Notwithstanding.

The city council signalized its last session of the year 1904, last night, by polishing off the order paper in about three-quarters of an hour. Even this would have been reduced had it not been for a lively little discussion on that fruitful topic of debate, the Rock Bay bridge. The argument arose from a letter of protest against the closing of the bridge from Messrs. Scott & Peden. Its reading prompted Ald. Grahame to move that the letter be received and filed and the writers informed that the council intended to recommend to the incoming board the construction of a new bridge.

Ald. Beckwith seconded the motion.

Ald. Fell was surprised at this motion. The council had not yet committed itself to any action in the matter. The bridge was closed for two reasons; one was that it was unsafe, and the other that a septic tank was being constructed at the Rock Bay end. He moved that the latter part of the motion be expunged.

Ald. Grahame was willing to amend the latter part so as to intimate that it was probable that the council would likely recommend the construction of a new bridge.

But Ald. Beckwith declined to allow the motion seconded by him changed. There would have to be a new bridge and he thought those so deeply interested should be taken into confidence on the matter.

Finally Ald. Grahame put his motion in writing, as follows:

That the communication be received and filed, and that the writers be informed that the bridge has been only temporarily closed to traffic, owing to its unsafe condition and the fact of a septic tank being built at the northern end, which latter act would alone necessitate the closing of the bridge, and that in all probability the present council will favorably recommend to the incoming council the advisability of building and maintaining a bridge in that vicinity.

Ald. Fell opposed the motion, urging the reasons given by him before. The people should be informed just how the question stood. He wasn't working an election dodge.

Ald. Beckwith scorned the insinuations of Ald. Fell, and contended that it was generally understood that a recommendation such as the motion referred to would be made.

Ald. Oddy said he never understood this to be decided upon, and the mayor expressed a similar view.

The upshot of the discussion was the defeat of Ald. Fell's amendment on the following vote:

Ayes—Alds. Vincent, Kinsman, Fell, Oddy and the mayor.

Nays—Alds. Grahame, Goodacre, Stewart, Beckwith and Elford.

The original motion was defeated on a reverse of this vote, so the letter of Messrs. Scott & Peden was merely received and filed.

Jas. Gaudin, local agent of the marine and fisheries department, acknowledged the receipt of a plan of the proposed Taylor mill wharf, which he stated he would send to Ottawa. A similar communication was read from Capt. Clarke, harbor master. These letters were received and filed.

R. B. McMicking, manager of the telephone company, drew attention to the necessity of the corporation securely fastening its lighting cables. During the recent storm they had interfered with the company's wires at the corner of Government and Johnson streets. Referred to the city electrician.

Jos. Pearson, secretary of the Victoria-Esquimalt branch of the Navy league, urged the council to call a public meeting to press upon the admiralty the inadvisability of reducing the strength of the Esquimalt squadron.

Ald. Stewart moved that the communication be received and filed. While he admitted that the matter was of much importance to Victoria, he didn't think any action the city would take would exercise any influence upon the Lords of the Admiralty.

Ald. Fell concurred in this view. It would be ridiculous on the part of the council to attempt to interfere with the admiralty plans. He seconded the motion, which was carried.

A site for the proposed Old Men's Home at Oak Bay, belonging to T. M. Sproat, was suggested to the council in a communication from G. M. Sproat. The matter was referred to the home committee.

John Alexander urged the removal of an offensive barbed wire fence on Simcoe street, between Oswego and Montreal. He had torn his umbrella and coat sleeve on it, and it was a positive inconvenience to pedestrians.

This was a signal for activity on the part of two of the South ward city fathers. Ald. Oddy moved that the engineer be instructed to remove the fence, while Ald. Vincent corroborated the statement of Mr. Alexander anent the destructiveness of the fence by remarking that he had seen the injured umbrella and coat sleeve. The fence will be relegated to limbo, reserved for all such nuisances.

The water commissioner submitted a report, disputing the complaint of J. A. Coates regarding the stamping machine. Received and filed.

The finance committee recommended the payment of the sum of $7,962.10 for the usual purposes. Adopted

Walter Keating thanked the council for the appointment of police clerk. Filed.

The city clerk reported that communications from E. Hutber and A. F. Barnet had been referred to the city engineer since the last meeting of the council.

Two resolutions were passed to legalize the voting on the Douglas Street Compensation By-law and the Old Men's Home measure on January 12th. These motions merely remedied a technical inadvertency which would have made the date of polling more than twenty-one days from the time of the by-laws' final passage by the council. The minutes were altered as to register the final steps at last night's meeting. The act provides that the time of notice of polling shall not exceed twenty-one days from the date of the final passing by the council of the measure to be submitted to the will of the people. The council then adjourned.

THE CHRISTMAS MAIL.

Teams Hired to Facilitate the Work of Delivery on Saturday and Monday.

That Victorians received their Christmas mail as promptly as they did is due in no small degree to the excellent arrangements made for the season by Postmaster Noah Shakespeare. When it is considered that the mail was an exceptionally large one, this fact can be better appreciated. The number of parcels delivered during the last few days totalled 2,600, including that in the English and Canadian mails.

In order to facilitate the work of the department three teams were sent out yesterday, in addition to the one on the streets Saturday, and all mail was quickly distributed. That from England did not arrive until Monday, owing to some delay on the Atlantic. It should have reached Victoria on Saturday, but delays at this time, despite every precaution taken to guard against them by steamship and railway companies, not infrequently occur, the month of December being generally one of the worst for snowslides in the whole year.

PLEASED WITH VICTORIA.

G. T. Boulding, of Richmond avenue, who came here last spring from the Northwest, after a stay there extending over twenty-one years, with the intention of paying Victoria a visit for his health, was so much pleased with the climate and general conditions of this city that he decided to remain, and has built a very beautiful residence on the corner of Richmond avenue and Leighton road.

Mr. Boulding states that he knows of very many families desirous of settling here, and has not hesitated to recommend this city as a most desirable place to settle. He expects as a result of his correspondence that quite a few families will definitely decide to come here and make Victoria their future home.

Mr. Boulding originally came from Guelph township, Ontario, and twenty-two years ago located a homestead near Regina, also took up land in the vicinity in what is known there as the valley country. During his twenty years' farming he did his share in raising the wheat crops for which that section of the country is now so justly famous. His average crop for the whole time was 19 bushels of wheat to the acre.

Mr. Boulding is a firm believer in the future of the great Northwest, but thinks that Victoria will be the Mecca for those who have made their pile and wish to spend the remainder of their lives in a less rigorous climate. He and Mrs. Boulding are and have been for many years consistent members of the Methodist church, and have joined the Metropolitan church in this city. Mr. Boulding, as a resident of Regina, commanded the full respect of all the citizens, and his settling here is a distinct gain to Victoria.

MELBA MAY SING.

Great Diva Will Come if Guarantee Is Subscribed.

Melba, the peerless, the world-famed diva whom history will include in that glittering galaxy of songbirds which boasts a Lind, a Patti and a Christine Nilson, will give a concert in this city if it is the will of the Victoria music enthusiasts. The Times is informed by the management of the Victoria opera house that a subscription list will be opened here to-morrow, and should it reach the financial total required by the queen of song she will exhibit her incomparable voice in this city in the early part of February. Of course such luxuries as a Melba concert come high, and the sum that must be guaranteed by Victorians is three thousand dollars.

According to the present programme, Melba will appear in Seattle about the beginning of January, and her itinerary embraces a call at Vancouver. It is quite a little jump from the Sound metropolis to the Terminal City, and if the diva can derive satisfactory financial results by coming here, she will make this a point of call between the two other cities.

The particulars of this tour are not yet at hand, so it is impossible to state who the accompanying artists are. There will be, of course, but one Melba, although it is to be expected that should she have a concert company with her it will comprise artists of rare merit.

INTERESTING VOLUME.

Illustrated London News of 1854 Is in Possession of Robert Eccles, of This City.

Robert Eccles, of this city, possesses a very interesting volume, consisting of the Illustrated London News from July to December, 1854. Needless to say Mr. Eccles values it very highly.

The Illustrated News of that day resembles the publication of the present time in many ways. It has been increased in size from time to time and has been kept up to date. But, in spite of this, many features which remain with it to-day were in vogue in 1854. The issue of the first half of that year was the 25th volume of the magazine.

Contained in it are illustrations of the Crimean war. The embarkation of troops from England for the front and the early battles of the war are depicted in this volume. The battles of Alma and Inkerman and the charges at Balaclava are given a prominent place in the volume.

Chas. Mackay's poem, "The Battle of Inkerman," was published at this time and appeared in the Illustrated News. Another interesting feature of the volume are the letters written by John Bright on the subject of the war in the Crimea.

HOW SOLDIERS CELEBRATED.

Took Possession of Hotel, Which Suffered Severely Before They Were Ejected.

New York, Dec. 24.—With fixed bayonets, 75 soldiers from the 151st and 87th companies, United States artillery, stationed near Fort Totten, L. I., have charged on a hotel near the post. Fifty patrons of the hotel fled by way of the rear doors.

The artillerymen, who were celebrating Christmas in a noisy manner, piled their guns and haversacks on the hotel veranda. The proprietor hastened to a nearby telephone station and got word to Captain Murray, commanding at Fort Totten, who sent a corporal to bring in the rioters. A fight ensued, in which the plate glass in front of the hotel and behind the bar was smashed. Doors were torn from the hinges in the attempt to force the soldiers to break away, and the place was pretty well wrecked. After a long chase the soldiers were caught and taken back to the fort.

The charge of embezzlement preferred by "Battling" Nelson, the pugilist, against Teddy Murphy, his manager, and Eddie Santry, his sparring partner, was dismissed in San Francisco police court Tuesday. Nelson declared the arrests were made while he was laboring under a misapprehension of facts. The money in the property clerk's hands was then produced, Nelson being given $6,901 and Murphy $2,100.

MASONS INSTALL OFFICERS ELECT

CEREMONY FOLLOWED BY ENJOYABLE FEAST

During Which Speeches, Songs and Stories Contributed to the Delectation of All Present.

The installation of officers of Vancouver and Quadra lodge, No. 2, A. F. & A. M., took place last evening at the Masonic temple, with a large gathering of members present. It was very pleasing to notice a goodly number of visiting brethren in attendance from all portions of the globe, a feature which very frequently distinguishes the delectable functions and interesting ceremonies of this influential craft.

The installation ceremony was carried out in a way that called for considerable praise. V. W. Bro. P. J. Riddell, D. D. G. M. for Victoria district, ably assisted by W. Bro. A. McKeown, Geo. Glover, E. B. Paul, R. B. McMicking, W. Henderson, W. T. Phillips, W. W. Northcott, R. T. Bainbridge, W. K. Houston, W. Burrington and D. S. Christie installed the following officers: A. W. Currie, W. M.; L. Tait, S. W.; A. McAfee, J. W.; B. S. Heisterman, treasurer; R. B. McMicking, secretary; E. H. Russell, S. D.; M. McC. Crawford, J. D.; W. Willis, I. G.; W. Bro. E. B. Paul, director of ceremonies; Chas. McNeill, S. S.; J. Reed, J. S.; F. Stockham, tyler.

W. Bro. W. F. C. Pope then presented W. Bro. J. J. Randolph (on behalf of the lodge) with a very handsome past master's jewel, in recognition of his services, and expressed the hope that he would long be spared to wear it. Reference was also made to the excellent manner in which Bro. Randolph had fulfilled the duties allotted to him during the past year.

The recipient responded in feeling and appropriate terms, thanking the brethren for the many kindnesses shown to him during his stewardship, and hoping to be of service to the lodge in the future.

After the completion of the installation ceremony the brethren adjourned to Victoria hall, where the banquet was served, and after full justice had been done to the good things provided the toasts were proceeded with. The first was the usual Masonic toast: "The King and Craft," proposed by the Worshipful Master.

"The Grand Lodge of B. C." was then proposed by A. W. Currie, W. M., who paid high tribute to the many members who comprised that body. V. W. Bro. P. J. Riddell replied in suitable terms.

"The Newly Installed Officers" was proposed by W. Bro. G. Glover, who complimented the lodge on having selected such an excellent staff of officers.

W. Bro. J. J. Randolph in responding said that on behalf of the newly installed officers he desired to thank the brethren for the hearty manner in which they had received the toast. He referred to them as being the most capable selection the lodge could make, and assured all present that the new office bearers would give a good account of themselves during their term of office.

Bros. Alex. Muir and B. S. Heisterman then favored the company with vocal selections in a very creditable manner, which were appreciated by the brethren.

"Sister Lodges" was next given by Bro. L. Tait, S. W., who spoke in favorable terms of the characteristics of the lodges in this jurisdiction, and hoped that the relationship existing would long continue. W. K. Houston, W. M., of Victoria-Columbia, No. 1, responded in his usual genial way, giving several very amusing anecdotes, which proved entirely apropos. Bro. Burrington, of United Service, No. 24, also made a few remarks suitable to the occasion. Bro. E. S. Rowe then addressed the assembly with one of his clever speeches, his witty sallies evoking continued merriment. The speaker thought that Vancouver-Quadra lodge entered the year under very auspices circumstances, having the advantage of the good counsel of a number of school teachers.

Bro. A. McAfee gave "The Visiting Brethren" in a neat speech. Bro. G. K. B. Adams responded in friendly terms. He complimented the lodges of Victoria on the standing they had in the community, and advised all to practice the teachings that were laid down in the several lectures of the Masonic institution.

Bro. W. K. Houston's recitation "Marguerite of France," which was given at this juncture, proved a thorough treat, and elicited loud applause. It was a most creditable elocutionary effort.

W. Bro. E. B. Paul proposed "Absent Brethren."

W. Bro. H. L. Salmon favored the gathering with a song, "Sailing," in fine style.

W. Bro. Dr. C. N. Cobbett then gave the "Tyler's Toast" in right loyal fashion, after which all sang "God Save the King" and dispersed.

SMUGGLING SCHEME.

How It Is Proposed to Secure Admission of Chinamen Into States.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Information has reached the immigration authorities of a scheme by which it is proposed to bring into this country Chinese, who in the regular order of events might be refused admission. The proposition is to take the Chinamen from China to Liverpool, and then through to New York via Halifax or St. John. At Rouse's point, on the border, no detention house of the immigration service is located, and the Chinese entering the country there would not be subjected to the investigation of the immigration board of inspectors. They would be searched, however, by United States marshals, but this proceeding would bring the case in due course before the United States commissioner. Each Chinaman would be provided with papers indicating that he was a resident of this country, and had a right, therefore, to return to it. Such papers, the officials assert, are not difficut to obtain.

The same scheme was worked successfully several years ago along the Canadian border until broken up by the establishment of detention houses.

Because the Burgomaster of Pilgram, in Bohemia (Herr Bosol), gave his weight as four stones less than it really was when effecting a life insurance, the Vienna High court decided that the insurance was invalid on the ground of "concealment of excessive corpulency."

COAL MARKET REPORT.

British Columbia Product is Popular With San Francisco Consumers.

The following is the report of J. W. Harrison on the coal market at San Francisco, under date of December 22nd, 1904:

Since the steamship Sonoma left there have been but two arrivals of Australian coal from Newcastle, N. S. W., totalling 4,302 tons. The liberal arrivals during the last month have fully supplied the market for all immediate requirements of Australian coals, still the quantity on hand should be largely consumed by the end of January next.

There are at present chartered to load coal at Newcastle 16 vessels with a carrying capacity of about 40,000 tons. A large proportion of this amount will not be delivered for four months to come. As soon as our rainfall commences, the demands for all our Australian grades will be very generous, and stocks will be freely eaten into; selling prices are steady, and there is no probability that any reduction will be made before next summer. The present rates of freights on coal from Newcastle are very firm, with no probability of any marked reduction for several months to come.

The total amount of Australian coal received here this year is about one-half the quantity which was delivered here in 1903. This will show demonstratively the falling off in consumption of colonial fuel. This is mainly to be attributed to the free shipments of British Columbian products, which are very popular in this market, and leave a generous profit to importers.

HOTEL CONTRACT TO BE LET TO-DAY

New C. P. R. Building Will be of Haddington Island Sandstone, Eight Stories High.

The tenders for the new C. P. R. hotel will be opened to-morrow in Vancouver in the office of J. H. Webster, superintendent engineer of the western division of the railway. It is said that there are quite a number of tenders in.

The tenderers include several local contractors, and also some of the big contracting firms of the East. The work is to be completed by May, 1906. This will allow the successful tenderer over a year to finish the building.

The time will be none too long when the character of the work is considered. The hotel is to be eight stories. It is specified that it is to be Haddington stone—the same as that used in the provincial parliament buildings. It is to be finished in rock faced stone, with cut stone fittings, which is exactly similar to that used in the parliament buildings.

Haddington stone is peculiarly well adapted for the purposes of building in this climate. It is very lasting and keeps a good color. The rock is an igneous sandstone, and the quarries at the Island are capable of turning out an abundant supply of the stone. These two structures, the parliament buildings and the new hotel, finished with the same variety of stone, and in such close proximity to one another, will present a very substantial appearance.

The new hotel will attain the same height as the topmost point of the parliament building.

The foundations for the hotel are progressing very favorably.

The excavating has been practically completed, and six weeks, it is believed, will complete the work.

The contractor for the superstructure will want at least that time to make the necessary arrangements for beginning his part of the work, so that there is likely to be no delay in the construction of the hotel.

THE RUSSIAN DEFENCE.

Delegates on Commission Claim They Can Prove Presence of Japanese Torpedo Boats.

Paris, Dec. 24.—The Russian defence before the international commission, which is to inquire into the North Sea incident, is practically complete. The main features are:

First—That the firing by the Russian squadron was justified as a defence against attack. This entails proving the presence of Japanese torpedo boats. The Russian delegates inform the Associated Press that they possess this proof in the most positive and overwhelming form.

Second—That even if the Russians were not attacked, they believed they were attacked, and therefore the defensive measures taken were in absolute good faith.

Third—At most it was an accident at sea where the dangers and risks are extreme and analogous to the British battleship Camperdown ramming and sinking the British battleship Victoria and the recent firing by a British warship upon a coasting vessel during target practice.

The preliminaries of the commission have clearly shown that the British are anxious for a prompt disposal of the case, while the Russians do not object to deny it, therefore the postponement of the opening of the sessions of the commission owing to the non-arrival of Rear-Admiral Charles H. Davis, the America representative, developed an incident showing the insignificant greeting of delegates, the Russians sharing the American view that Admiral Davis is entitled to ample time, while the British and French sentiment did not approve of the postponement.

It develops that American Ambassador Choate sent a wireless telegraph message to Finland notifying Admiral Davis that the commission would be opened December 22nd. This probably was the first use of the wireless system in an important official communication in mid-ocean.

DISORDERS IN POLAND.

Colonel Killed at Razon During Trouble Following Mobilizing of Troops.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 27.—While the new mobilization is proceeding quietly in most places, disorders are reported to have occurred in Poland. The most serious disturbance was at Razon, where a colonel was killed and a gendarme wounded. There also has been much rioting at Bakshoul, where 6,000 conscripts pillaged a few houses and fruit stations. No one, however, was killed.

The Emperor has his personal aides-de-camp at all of the mobilization centres in order to see that everything is done for the inhabitants and conscripts and to obtain immediate reports at first hand of any disturbance.

A Brussels man has been arrested for wandering abroad with a pot of varnish, with which he bedaubs the dresses of all the ladies he meets.

ZEMSTVO CONGRESS HAS ADJOURNED

NO DATE FIXED FOR THE NEXT MEETING

President Refers to Dissentient Statements Which Have Been Appended to the Minutes.

Moscow, Dec. 28.—The Zemstvo congress of the Moscow government, which opened yesterday, adjourned indefinitely last evening after the adoption of a resolution as follows:

"This Zemstvo, deeply moved by the government's note in regard to proceedings at Zemstvo meetings, is unable to continue its business with the necessary calm, and therefore adjourns sine die."

The resolution was signed by 34 delegates. Seven delegates voted against it.

Prior to putting the resolution, President Truebetzkoi said that two dissentient statements had been appended to the minutes of the previous sitting. One had a single signature attached to it. The other had thirteen.

The latter was as follows: "We find it impossible to sign the proposed address to the Emperor. Together with the great mass of the Russian people we firmly believe in the ancient principle of the Emperor's autocracy, and unconditionally repudiate any attempt to limit or belittle it, regarding it as the fundamental basis of Russia's state life. Every change which aims at a limitation of the imperial power cannot but be received by the people in the most hostile spirit, because they cannot conceive any other form of government than autocracy, and will not permit any alien institutions to impose upon them what would be doing violence to their ancient ideals and views.

"No less firmly do we believe that the autocrat power will find the right way to terminate the disorganization of the state and public life, and introduce reforms corresponding with the mature needs of the people, without recourse to a radical rupture of the existing order of things in the state at the present moment when Russia is involved in war.

"We regard the attempt to inaugurate radical government reforms as particularly inopportune. The whole energy of the people must be concentrated toward the goal, namely, the defence of the honor, dignity and might of the Fatherland. All Russia must rally round the throne and help it to extricate the country from its serious plight. To utilize such a moment for carrying out radicalistic reforms would bring to a head the international disorders from which the country is already suffering sufficiently. By adopting a petition of a political nature, the Zemstvo exceeds the limit of its powers and the right of protesting against interference in the conduct of the Zemstvos own affairs."

NEW CANNERIES TO BE CONSTRUCTED

SITES ARE SELECTED IN ESQUIMALT HARBOR

In All Seven Traps Are Likely to Be Operated Next Year in These Waters.

There will be a wonderful transformation in the appearance of Esquimalt harbor during the coming season. The place will no longer be the busy naval base that it has been for more than a score of years. His Majesty's ships have nearly all gone, the naval dock yard may close and the harbor instead of being mined and animated by the presence of numerous launches, torpedo and naval boats of all kinds, will present a scene of commercial activity.

Canners have designs on the harbor, and two companies have now applications before the Dominion government for waterfront privileges. Correspondence from Ottawa alluded to one of these applications a few days ago. The other is believed to be that of the Capital City Packing & Canning Company. This company has been organized in Victoria. As previously related the company has acquired three sites for traps, and in addition to the cannery which they purpose building in Esquimalt they have in contemplation three traps, all of which will be constructed next spring. Two sites are situated between Otter and Sherrington Points, and one beyond the latter place.

There are already two traps in the Straits, and these three will make five to be operated this coming season. Findlay, Durham & Brodie, it is believed, have a sixth in view, and H. Bell-Irving a seventh. Both have fishing interests on the Fraser, and while they may operate their traps on the Island shore it is understood to be their intention to temporarily ship all fish to the river for canning.

The importance, however, of two big canneries working in Esquimalt will have a most stimulating effect on the commercial life of the city. In connection with the two plants named new wharves will have to be erected for the accommodation of steamers bringing the catch of the traps in from the Straits.

While the canneries might be located nearer to the scene of fishing operations, Esquimalt is said to possess advantages in the matter of water supply, railway connection and convenience to the city, which locations in the Straits would not have. Water is a very essential thing in the working of a cannery. In Esquimalt it can be obtained from the Esquimalt Waterworks, and this consideration is one of the greatest inducements which the place has to offer.

THE YACHT RACE.

Berlin, Dec. 23.—It developed to-day, upon investigation, that the list of American entries for the trans-Atlantic yacht race, published by the Lokal Anzeiger in a dispatch from Kiel yesterday, although purporting to be official, was only the impression which the imperial yacht club's officials derived from American letters. The entries will not be officially announced until they are closed.

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STATEMENTS BY FISHERMEN

Alleged to Have Sworn to Having Seen Foreign Torpedo Boats Among Hull Fleet.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—According to a local paper a number of English fishermen have appeared before the Russian consul in London and have deposed to have seen foreign torpedo boats among the Hull fishing fleet. Their deposition, it is added, will be submitted to the international commission now in Paris, the circumstances under which they obtained the information being explained.

Declares Statement Untrue.

London, Dec. 22.—The publication in St. Petersburg of the statement that the Hull fishermen have voluntarily declared that foreign torpedo boats were among the trawlers off Dogger Bank when the latter were fired upon by the Russians, probably is a repetition of similar statements recently emanating from Hull and appearing in London papers. These are circumstantial, and it would certainly appear to be true that some men of the Gamecock fleet have made statements before the Russian consul.

The name of one of those has been revealed. He is the boatswain on the trawler Ava, and he said to-day that he was induced to make the statement while intoxicated. He admits that he received money, but now says the statement he made is untrue.

All published reports from Hull say positively that those statements were secured by two agents of the Russian government, but the Russian embassy in London to-night repeated its general denial of December 11th regarding the subject. It was pointed out, however, that although Russia had offered a reward for information, the Russian government was not responsible for the course taken by any person desiring to secure the reward. The Russian consul at Hull tonight said the boatswain of the Ava swore before the commissioner of oaths that he saw a Japanese torpedo boat with the trawlers. The consul says he knows other trawlers who are ready to make similar statements, but that they are afraid of the consequences.

Altogether an air of mystery surrounds the matter, but no credence is given in responsible quarters to the statements that unfair methods have been used by Russia.

CHASED BY SHARKS.

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—A voyage of 200 miles by oar, almost destitute of provisions and pursued by a horde of giant sharks that threatened momentarily and mightily to capsize the craft and devour its occupants, was the experience of Captain Sam Harris and four South Sea Islanders, who composed the crew of the little trading schooner Victor, wrecked on Apitaki Island on November 30th. Apitaki is 200 miles from Papeete, the port of Tahiti.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

Increase in the Mileage in the United Kingdom.

In 1897 there were forty miles of electric tramways in the United Kingdom, there are now nearly 1,000 miles; and the number of passengers carried on British tramways increased from eight millions in 1897 to about 1,500,000,000 in 1903. This extraordinary growth of traffic was practically all carried by the electrification of existing lines, the employment of larger cars, and more frequent running.

A few months ago there was opened for public service the first few miles of a complete scheme in the northern suburbs, comparable with the system of the London United Company in the districts westward of Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush and the London county council is again agitating for permission to extend the lines south of the Thames across the river in order to link up the southern and northern tramway systems when both shall have been electrified.

A British electric car is rarely given a body longer than 25 feet, but the seating capacity is more than double that of the American car. The new London county council cars carry 66 passengers, 28 inside and 38 outside. These, and other cars like them, must weigh nearly 20 tons, and the tendency is still further to increase the weight by giving the outside passengers a roof.

Nearly every summer there are some cases of genuine cholera in St. Petersburg. Last summer there were three.

Land Registry Act.

In the Matter of an Application for a Duplicate Certificate of Title to Sub-Division No. 10 of Lot 121 A., Victoria City.

Notice is hereby given that it is my intention at the expiration of one month from the first publication hereof to issue a duplicate of the Certificate of Title to the above land, issued to Ellen Carroll on the 13th day of May, 1885, and numbered 1553.

S. Y. WOOTTON,
Registrar-General.

Land Registry Office, Victoria, B. C., 13th day of December, A. D., 1904.

G. R. LAWRENCE:—

Please take notice that should you fail to meet your portion of expenditure for assessment work for year ending Sept. 11th, 1904, on mineral claims Cascade and Forest King, on head waters of Chemainus River, your interest in same will be forfeited in time and as provided for by statute.

A. R. SHERK.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In the Matter of Anna Rebecca Sieh, Deceased, Intestate, and in the Matter of the Official Administrator's Act.

Notice is hereby given that under an order made by the Honorable Mr. Justice Duff, dated 5th day of December, 1904, I, the undersigned, was appointed administrator of the estate of the above deceased. All parties having claims against the said estate are requested to send particulars of same to me, on or before the 5th day of January, 1905, and all parties indebted thereto are required to pay such indebtedness to me forthwith.

WM. MONTEITH,
Official Administrator.

Victoria, B. C., December 6th, 1904.

NOTICE.

We, the undersigned, being petitioners for the incorporation of the Districts of Victoria, Lake and South Saanich into a Municipality, hereby give notice of our intention to apply to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for Letters Patent under the Public Seal incorporating the Districts of Victoria, Lake and South Saanich into a District Municipality (excepting only such portions thereof as form Indian Reservations), under the name of The Corporation of the District of Saanich.

ANDREW STEACHAN.
J. STUART YATES.
JNO. G. ELLIOTT.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that sixty days after date I intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for leave to purchase forty (40) acres of land situate on Dease Lake, Cassiar District, opposite Porter's Landing, and about one (1) mile south of the outlet of the said Lake into Dease River: Commencing at the northwest corner two (2) chains west of this point, thence twenty (20) chains south, thence twenty (20) chains east, thence twenty (20) chains north, and thence back to northwest corner.

WARBURTON PIKE.

Dease Lake, Cassiar, B.C., Oct. 2nd, 1904.

Notice is hereby given that 30 days after date I intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and carry away timber from the following described lands: Fraction S. W. ¼ Sec. 31, Fraction Sec. 32 and Fraction Sec. 33, Denman Island, Nanaimo District, containing in the aggregate 487 acres more or less.

H. McFARLAN.

December 5th, 1904.

Sixty days after date I intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase 320 acres of land, more or less, commencing at the southeast corner of the Indian Reserve at Quat leo, thence south 80 chains, thence west 40 chains, thence north 80 chains, and thence east to point of commencement.

(Sgd.) THOS. JONES.

Sept. 25th, 1904.

SECOND-HAND PIANO FOR SALE—$135. This instrument has been used by a teacher and is thoroughly well made. Will be delivered free to any wharf or railway station in B. C. Hicks & Lovick Piano Co., 88 Government street, Victoria; 132 Hastings street, Vancouver. We have others. Write us for catalogue.

WANTED—A teacher for the Vesuvius Bay school after the Xmas holidays. Apply to the secretary, T. D. Mansell.

WANTED—Employment on a farm, by experienced hand; wages no object. Apply 28, this office.

OTTAWA NOTES.

Ottawa, Dec. 27. — Major Delaronde, of the 42nd regiment, Ottawa, has been appointed chief of police here.

Berkeley Powell has refused the Conservative nomination for the legislature.

A. E. Donly, brother of Hal. B. Donly, who ran against Col. Tisdale at the last federal elections, has been appointed commercial agent for Canada in Mexico.