Condition of Lead Industry

Statement Prepared and Circulated By Kaslo Board of Trade.

Strong Appeal For Protection - Industry Threatened With Destruction.

The Board of Trade of Kaslo desires to enlist the energies of the business men of Canada in aid of its efforts to secure renewed and continued prosperity to the Kootenay districts of this province, with special reference to restoring and promoting the silver-lead mining industry, on which the larger part of these districts is entirely dependent. The permanency, under favorable conditions, of this industry has been indisputably demonstrated, and when the enormous area of undeveloped silver-lead-bearing territory known to exist in this province is considered, with the comparatively small area in which mines have been developed and from which production is assured, the future of this industry cannot well be overestimated.

With a return to favorable conditions the developed areas will speedily employ not less than 5,000 men, who, receiving the highest wages paid such labor on this continent—viz., from $3 to $4 per diem—will, directly and indirectly, support a population of ten times their number, which population, prohibited by the physical conditions of this country from supplying its own requirements as to the products of the farm, and dependent upon the East for the products of the factory, will afford to the Dominion at large a market with which in purchasing ability none but a mining community of equal population will compare.

Such market will increase with the growth of the industry, which, accorded adequate tariff adjustment, such as is enjoyed by all other industries of equal importance known to us, and "having the goods to deliver," can only be retarded by a slow development of the domestic consumption, or a low price obtainable abroad for its product, which conditions cannot be anticipated, as with the existing prosperity and increasing population of this Dominion comes an increasing demand for lead and its products; and the foreign price being now at a very low point, it is reasonable to anticipate that higher rather than lower prices will in the near future obtain abroad.

Why this industry, which a few years ago promised continued and increasing prosperity to all directly and indirectly interested, has decayed and is now threatened with total distinction, involving the ruin of the communities on whose behalf we approach you, may not be generally understood, and the following facts are therefore presented:

Lead ores produced in British Columbia were, prior to January, 1900, sold almost entirely to smelters in the United States, where, even after the high duty on lead in ore imposed by that country was paid, a margin of profit remained.

In January, 1900, the American Smelting and Refining Trust absolutely withdrew from purchasing ores in this country, thus closing to our producers the United States market and leaving open only the markets of the world, in which the competition of the product of cheap Mexican and European labor must be met; and the domestic market of Canada, where the competition is equally fatal, as this American trust, favored by the existing insufficient tariff, now sells to the Canadian people the products of lead mined and smelted by cheap Mexican labor, and refined and partially manufactured in bond in the United States; and for such lead products the Canadian consumer now pays practically the same prices as does the American.

With such competition the domestic smelters which handle this product can only pay our producers the European price for their lead, less smelting deductions and freight charges necessary to place it in the markets of the world, the latter from our geographical position being necessarily high, the result being that the Canadian producer now receives at current European prices $1.30 per 100 lbs. for his lead, less smelting charges, as against $3.50 per 100 lbs., less smelting charges, received by the producer in the United States.

The costs of mining and smelting are higher in this country than in the United States, both as regards labor and supplies. General merchandise and the products of the farm and ranch, necessary alike to the miner and to those whom we directly represent, are also generally higher in this country, and of these necessities we are purchasers only, not producers.

In this connection it is interesting to note the protection accorded to those who supply our necessities, in comparison with the entirely inadequate protection accorded the one commodity we have for sale.

(For further particulars see appendix.)

For such a price and under such conditions lead in this province can only be produced at a loss; and even the unusually high silver values carried by the ores of these districts are insufficient to offset such loss and to provide a fair and reasonable margin of profit to the producer.

The majority of our silver-lead mines are closed, and, one after the other, the remainder are joining this majority. The production of lead and the labor employed have diminished to an alarming extent in the past two years, the former from 31,000 tons of lead to an estimated production for this year of less than 12,000 tons, and the latter not less than 75 per cent.

Unless an adequate measure of relief is speedily afforded, the lead industry, which has already attained national importance, must cease to exist, and the silver-lead camps of British Columbia will of necessity be abandoned, involving the ruin of the communities which we represent.

The consensus of opinion of the mining, smelting, transporting and general business interests of these districts, arrived at after much discussion and deliberation, is that relief can only be secured by an increase in the existing tariff on lead and its products, sufficient to absolutely conserve the Canadian market to the Canadian producer, with due consideration of the fact that a preferential tariff rate of one-third is accorded Great Britain.

The Canadian market being thus conserved without unduly increasing the price to the consumer, the producer will be enabled to secure a fair and remunerative price for his entire output by averaging the increased price obtainable from the sale of a portion of his product in the home market with the price obtainable from the sale of his surplus in the markets of the world.

Such a tariff will necessitate the construction and operation in Canada of corroding works and other plants capable of supplying the domestic demand for all the products of lead, thus creating a subsidiary but important industry, the location of which is most likely to be in the Eastern part of the Dominion.

Any tariff adjustment falling short of absolutely preserving the Canadian market for lead and its products to the Canadian producer will be worse than useless. In such case no benefit will accrue to the producer, and no inducement will be offered for the erection and operation in Canada of corroding and other essential lead manufactories.

Half measures are more likely to result in an increase of price to the consumer, without any benefit to the producer.

The tariff on lead and its partially manufactured products to be effective must be specific; an ad valorem duty will afford the least protection when most needed—viz., when the price of European and Mexican lead is lowest.

At a meeting of mine-owners of East and West Kootenay, held at Sandon on 10th December last, the following resolution, which we heartily endorse, was passed:

"Therefore, we, the silver-lead miners of East and West Kootenay districts of British Columbia, in convention assembled, do hereby recommend and respectfully urge the enactment of a tariff act, which will afford ample protection to the producers, manufacturers and transporters of lead, thereby creating and fostering a new and expansive home industry calculated to benefit all classes by the stimulation of national trade and commerce.

"Having in view the interests of the producers, manufacturers and consumers of lead, we would recommend a duty equal to that imposed by the United States, viz.:

On lead in ores, 1½ cents per pound.

"On lead in bullion, pigs, bars and old lead, 2⅛ cents per pound.

"On lead in sheets, pipe, shot, etc., 2½ cents per pound.

"On whitelead, etc., 2⅞ cents per pound.

"On all other products of lead as provided in the Dingley Tariff Act, of July 24, 1897.

"Provided always, that if at any time it shall be proved that a combination has been formed for the purpose of unduly increasing the charges made for smelting lead ores produced in Canada, or for refining or marketing lead bullion, or if the charge for smelting and refining in Canada is proved exhorbitant, then the Governor-General in Council may at his discretion permit the admission into Canada of lead bullion smelted and refined, or smelted or refined in foreign countries, from Canadian lead ores, upon payment of an ad valorem duty of 15 per cent. upon the cost of such smelting and refining."

In requesting your active assistance in advancing the object we have in view, we do not consider that we display any selfishness. In advocating our interests we advance those of Canada and your own. We are your customers, purchasing from you the products of your manufactories and of your farms, and we do but ask adequate protection for the one product on which our business existence depends, as, under the existing tariff, is afforded to your products of which we are purchasers only.

That the product of our lead mines is inadequately provided for under the existing tariff is, no doubt, due to the fact that, when such tariff was framed, Canada had no steady and reliable production of lead ores. Our British Columbia mines had not been discovered, much less developed.

Now that a reliable production of lead, of the best quality, and more than sufficient to supply the domestic demand of this Dominion, is assured, no reason remains for a continuance of the existing inequitable discriminaton against us.

An adequate tariff adjustment on lead ores and its products means the building up of a new and expansive industry, which, with the subsidiary industries thereby created, will benefit by its increased expenditures the trade and commerce of this Dominion.

If the tariff remains as it is, or if half measures are adopted, the lead mining industry will cease to exist, and with it your market in this section of British Columbia.

We therefore confidently request your aid and the aid of every business man in Canada, in our effort to secure for a Canadian industry the benefits of a Canadian market.

APPENDIX.

Duties under Canadian tariff on necessities of which the lead miners use great quantities, and none of which are produced locally:

Butter, 4 cents per pound.
Cheese, 3 cents per pound.
Milk (canned) 3¼ cents per pound, including weight of packages.
Mutton and lamb (fresh), 35 per cent.
Meat, other (fresh), 3 cents per pound.
Meat, salt, 2 cents per pound.
Potatoes, $5 per ton, and 20 per cent. of value of packages.
Fruit (canned), 2¼ cents per pound and upwards and 20 per cent. of value of packages.
Fruit (dried), 1 cent per pound and upwards and 20 per cent. of value of packages.
Fruit (fresh, small), 2 cents per pound, including weight of package.
Vegetables (fresh), 25 per cent.
Vegetables (canned), 1 cent per pound.
Baking powder, 6 cents per pound and 20 per cent. of value of package.
Flour, 60 cents per barrel; if in sacks, 20 per cent. of value of sacks.
Wool, 3 cents per pound.
Clothing, all descriptions, 35 per cent.
Blankets, 35 per cent.
Leather, 15 and 17½ per cent.
Boots and shoes, 25 per cent.
Petroleum (crude), 2½ cents per gallon.
Petroleum (refined), 5 cents per gallon, and 20 per cent. of value of package.
Mining candles, 25 per cent.
Dynamite, 3 cents per pound.
Shovels and spades, 35 per cent.
Tools, sledges, hammers, saws, crowbars, picks, anvils, and hand tools, 30 per cent.
Ore sacks, 20 per cent.
Mining rails, 30 per cent.
Ore cars, 30 per cent.
Mining machinery, averaging 25 per cent.

Duties under existing Canadian tariff affecting the one commodity we depend on:

Lead in ore, nil.
Lead, pig, old, scrap and block, 15 per cent.
Lead, dry, white, 5 per cent.
Lead, dry, red, 5 per cent.
Litharge, free.

N. B.—On lead, the product of cheap European labor, imported through Great Britain, this duty is reduced 33⅓ per cent., for which concession this community receives practically no offsetting advantage.

DRILL HALL CONCERT.

A Large Audience Enjoys Good Music and Basketball.

The concert at the Drill Hall last evening, as rendered by the Fifth Regiment band, was undoubtedly one of the best given by this organization this season. Band Sergeant Carroll, who was the soloist for the evening, was in perfect form, and his execution and technique showed him to be a master of his chosen instrument. His solo, "Polka Caprice," for the piccolo, was faultlessly rendered, and he was obliged to respond to an encore. "Light Cavalry" an overture by Suppe, was very well rendered, as was "Robert Bruce," a pot-pourri of Scottish airs. Mr. Finn, the bandmaster, has a personal magnetism which he imparts to the men under him, and the result is an interpretation of the music played, which would do credit to any large and metropolitan organization. Taken all in all, the concert was the best we have heard this season.

The extra attraction was basketball, the contesting teams being the Fernwoods and Vancouvers, resulting in a win for the Fernwoods by 9 to 6.

AMERICA'S CUP.

Work on the Defender Is Progressing Well.

Bristol, R. I., Jan. 24.—It is expected that the new 90-footer now building at the Herreshoff's shops will be all framed in next week and at the close of tonight more than half of the ribs were in place.

More Trouble in Unhappy China

Rebels Massing in the Northwest -- New Emperor Proclaimed.

Insurgents are Arming and Planning For Concerted Movement.

According to advices received from China, another crisis is imminent in the North. Another great movement, which may bid fair to be as serious as that of the Boxer troubles of 1901, is being fomented by the ex-Boxer leader, General Tung Fu Hsiang, and the notorious Prince Tuan in the northwest of China, and foreigners resident in Shensi state that the Peking government is aiding the rising. The troops of the rebel leaders are said to be paid by the Chinese government, which has reinforced the rebels recently by 4,000 imperial troops who were ordered to disband at Kuyuan. This force, taking their arms, joined Tung Fu Hsiang.

A new emperor has been proclaimed by the rebels. Letters from Shensi to Shanghai papers state that Tung Fu Hsiang has proclaimed Prince Pu Chun, the son of Prince Tuan, and the youth who was made prince apparent by the Empress Dowager and then dismissed, as Emperor of China, under the title of Tung Hsu. The new Emperor was proclaimed in the presence of 10,000 armed troops of the rebel leaders at the town of the Alashan Mongols, Tingyuening, two days' travel northwest of Hinghsia. Prince Chun was living at Peking until two months ago, when he left the capital with an escort and proceeded to Tung Fu Hsiang's rally at Tingyuening.

The palace at Hsianfu, the city at which the Dowager Empress rested when she and the Emperor fled from Peking at the approach of the foreign troops, is being made ready to receive the newly proclaimed Emperor, and the agents of Tung Fu Hsiang are hard at work preparing for the big rising which is to mark his enthronement at the western city. It was part of the plan for the agents of the anti-foreign force which is massing in the northwest to seize Chang, the capital of Szechuan; and the movement which was made some time ago and frustrated by the new viceroy's arrival there was part of the programme, but the defeat of the Boxers has spoiled this scheme.

That a crisis is imminent in Northern China is shown by the following well-authenticated letter received by the North China Daily News, of Shanghai, from a foreigner who for ten years has been intimate with all that has transpired in the northwest. He says:

"Tung Fu Hsiang is very actively preparing for some great move. He has at least 10,000 soldiers in good condition, and is buying up large quantities of grain and fodder. How he gets his money is a mystery. There is constant communication between Tung Fuh Hsiang and Prince Tuan. The exact location of Tung Fu Hsiang is Heichengtzse, a place 90 miles northwest of Kuyuan, in Kansu. The provincial military commander residing in Kuyuan has no troops to oppose Tung Fu Hsiang, having disbanded 4,000 by imperial command. These troops immediately went over to Tung, who gives better pay. The belief of the soldiers of Tung is that they are going to exterminate all foreigners in Shensi and Kansu, and march on Hsianfu.

"Friendly officials are advising missionaries to leave Kansu, as trouble is brewing. Friends say that the officials in Kansu dare not report the state of affairs to Peking. What I have stated are facts, well authenticated. It seems as if the government is unwilling or powerless to act against Tung Fu Hsiang, who really means mischief. I hope we shall not have another disturbance, but things look threatening, especially in Kansu. And now there are few friendly officials here to help foreigners."

Commenting on this, the North China Daily News says: "The foreign authorities in Peking called us alarmists three years ago, and refused to believe the warnings with which our columns were filled at that time. We trust that they will be better informed and more on the alert this winter. The snake that was scotched, not killed, in 1900 is rearing its head again menacingly in the northwest of China, if the reports that reach us from foreigners conversant with what is going on in Kansu are correct, and there is certainly no inherent improbability in them. We mentioned that 4,000 imperial troops had been disbanded by the provincial commander-in-chief of Kansu, under orders from the Peking government—which means Yung Lu—and had at once gone over to Tung Fu Hsiang, which is not remarkable, as they were previously some of Tung Fu Hsiang's men. These men are well provided with modern arms, and Tung's agents are reported to be busy enrolling recruits throughout the northwest. Large quantities of war material were, it is asserted, sent up the Han river for Hsian during 1900-1901, while quick-firing guns and ammunition were sent up as lately as last October. It is added that Tung Fu Hsiang's 10,000 men, who are divided into twenty battalions of 500 men each, their camps being in the wilderness between Kuyuan and Ninghsia, are paid from imperial funds.

"It must be remembered that the origin of the Boxers was not to begin till winter; but the Boxer emissaries were to practise their arts and circulate calumnies about foreigners as far and as widely as possible. They have permeated Szechuan in addition to the northern provinces, and the leaders in the northern provinces are keeping the embers red hot. The news that the new viceroy of Szechuan is anxious to resign owing to the difficulties in which he finds himself involved, is not without its significance. H. E. Tsen is not, as we understand him, a man to shirk a difficulty in which he is allowed a free hand to deal with it. But if he is not supported by the government in his efforts to repress the Boxers, it is not unnatural that he should be disheartened. Wei Kuang-tao, the new viceroy at Nanking, was removed from Kansu because he was not friendly to Tung Fu Hsiang and Prince Tuan; and it would not be at all surprising to find that the Empress Dowager and Yung Lu are again secretly encouraging the Boxers, while openly professing the greatest friendliness to foreigners. Another significant fact is the anxiety of H. E. Chang Chih-Tung to retire.

"The fault lies with the foreign powers. They did but skin and film the ulcer o'er in 1900—they did not eradicate it. They allowed the Empress Dowager and Yung Lu to re-assume the government of the empire, and they consented to be satisfied with the retirement of Prince Tuan and Tung Fu Hsiang to Kansu, where, almost secret from observation, they could prepare to make another attack on the foreign intruders. The government at Peking has not attempted to disguise its preparations; our columns have been filled all through the year with orders to various viceroys and governors to devote themselves strenuously to the improvement and drilling of their armies, while the prohibition to import arms has been set at naught, and their manufacture in the government arsenals has been proceeding ceaselessly. Our hope has been that the government would defer a renewal of the attempt of 1900 until they were better prepared, because we felt that the longer it was postponed and the more the education of the younger generation of China was extended, the less probable a renewal became. But the hand of the government may be forced as it was in 1900; and we trust that the diplomatic body will make a thorough inquiry into the reports from Kansu, and insist on the government repressing the preparations that are undoubtedly being made for another outbreak. It will be well meanwhile for the missionary societies not to neglect the warnings of officials whom they know to be really friendly, and to withdraw their men in time from dangerous posts. By staying they imperil not only their own lives, but the lives of their converts. They have a natural dislike to appear to desert their flocks; but if they cannot successfully defend their flocks, and if they embarrass by their presence the friendly officials, it is as true heroism to obey the dictates of prudence as to stay and be massacred.

"The news of trouble impending in the northwest has reached the British consul-general at Hankow, and he has reported to the legation and is advising the British subjects likely to be affected to stand by to evacuate their stations.

"It is believed that Yung Lu is privy to all this, though it is hard to imagine that he is a consenting party to the setting up of a rival emperor of the West; but there have been, as we have said before, a number of indications that something serious is imminent. The proposed absorption by the government of the telegraphs throughout the empire is a step that will strengthen the hands of the government and may be disastrous to foreigners in the event of trouble. It seems certain that the government is not supporting Viceroy Tsen in his efforts to put down disorder in Szechuan; and it is, to say the least, remarkable that China's leading statesman, Chang Chih-tung, has been removed from Nanking and has not been given any other post, one of the suppositions connected with him being that he will come to Shanghai to conclude the commercial treaties that are still being negotiated, and another that he is to be the virtual secretary of state for foreign affairs at Peking or Tientsin. On the other hand, it is believed in the north that Yung Lu is working to get his son-in-law, Prince Chun, the Emperor's younger brother, made heir-apparent; but it is more probable that, should Prince Chun have a son, it is on that son that the doubtful boon of being heir-apparent to the throne of China will be conferred."

BOUNDARY ORE SHIPMENTS

Over Ten Thousand Tons Shipped to Smelters During Week.

Phoenix, Jan. 24.—(Special)—For the week past ore shipments for the Boundary are about the same as last week, as but four out of seven blast furnaces have been in operation most of the week, on account of lack of coke. As the Granby smelter has, however, just blown in two more furnaces, next week's total promises to be larger.

This week the Snowshoe mine again broke its record for ore shipments. In detail the shipments were as follows for the different mines:

Granby mines to Granby smelter, 4,916 tons.
Mother Lode mine to Mother Lode smelter, 2,464 tons.
Snowshoe mine to Sunset smelter, 1,500 tons.
Sunset mine to Sunset smelter, 240 tons.
B. C. Mine to Sunset smelter, 690 tons.
Emma mine to Trail smelter, 840 tons.
Total for the week, 10,650 tons.
Total for 1903, 36,655 tons.

Granby smelter this week treated 6,232 tons, making 18,074 tons this year.

CANADIAN FLOUR.

The Best in the World Is Made in the Dominion.

In discussing flour, a Northwest paper, after a lengthy dissertation on wheat and flour milling, says: Strength is determined by the presence in wheat of what is known as gluten, and that of the right kind. And so to-day Canada is, in every sense of the term, "the granary of the world," and is growing the best wheat in the world, as proved by comparison of analyses. Canadian best patent shows wet gluten 34.22, and dry gluten 12.33, as against 26.17 wet gluten and 9.79 dry gluten in the best grades that can be found to compare with it at all. Then take the percentages of albuminoids or protein, the most important part from a nutritive point of view, and what are the results? By the same comparison Canadian patents come out at 12.59 per cent., as compared with 11.27 in the other samples. British bakers have personally demonstrated that not only is Canadian flour unsurpassed for whiteness, sweetness and strength, and that it is unadulterated, but that from it they can make not only the best quality of bread, but the largest quantity per barrel. Three tests in London gave the following results, each using 700 pounds of flour—146 pounds of bread, 151 pounds of bread, and 152 pounds of bread.

In 1884 Canada exported in value wheat, $812,923; in the following year it had risen to $1,966,287; then it leapt up to $3,025,864 in 1886, and in 1900 had grown to $11,995,488. Flour that in 1884 only amounted to $1,025,995, in 1886 had risen to $1,744,969, and last year toed the mark at $4,015,226. Without being wearisome these figures tell, and they bear repetition.

And this is one of the results of Canadian farming of "the refinement of common sense guided by experience, substituting sound and rational principles in farming for vague popular prejudices." It is practical proof that "obedience is better than sacrifice." The Canadian farmer is an apt pupil, but only so long as he wills to do that which the department of agriculture sets before him as the straight path of duty, defined after long years of patient trial and investigation, will be in the happy position of being able to capture the markets of the world in the production of all that the world's markets require in general, and wheat and flour in particular. The departmental experimentalists are never at rest, yet they never get weary of well-doing, and in their tasks they are greatly stimulated by the knowledge that they possess the confidence of our farmers and are doing the best for the development of Canada and all things Canadian in the most useful of all callings.

SCHOONERS COLLIDE.

Run Into Each Other Off Massachusetts Coast.

Vineyard Haven, Mass., Jan. 24.—The schooner John H. Buttrick, bound from Boston for Wilmington, N. C., collided with the granite-laden schooner Hattie C. Luce, of Rockport, Maine, 20 miles Southeast of Highland light last night. One man from the Luce is known to have been drowned and two others clambered aboard the Buttrick, which put in here today. The fate of the Luce is unknown.

ROSSLAND OUTPUT.

Shipments of Mines for the Week.

Rossland, Jan. 24.—Shipments for the Rossland camp this week are: Le Roi, 4,389 tons; Centre Star, 1,800 tons; War Eagle, 1,020 tons; Velvet, 200 tons; Kootenay, 25 tons; Le Roi No. 2, 250 tons; total, 7,684 tons; shipments for the year to date, 21,741 tons. The Trail smelter has shut down a copper furnace because of a shortage of coke.

Was Given Up as Lost

Long Overdue Steamer Dawson City Reaches Port After Many Incidents.

Was Eighty-Six Days in Coming From Cape Nome Via Ports.

Steamer Dawson City, the little steamer which was so long overdue that she had been given up as lost, reached Port Townsend on Sunday.

The Dawson City left Nome on October 30. She was out but two days when her boiler began leaking and the steamer was forced to depend entirely upon her small sails. On November 7 she anchored in Nash harbor and repairs were made to the boiler and engine and fresh water was obtained. A supply of fire wood was also gathered and on November 10 the Dawson City resumed her voyage and headed for False Pass. She was unable to proceed against the strong current and headwinds of the Pass, however, so her course was changed for Port Moller, where it was understood coal was available. The data available on board did not mention the fact that the coal mine was five miles from tidewater, with no means of communication except by a rugged trail over the mountains. Coal had to be had, however, so the plucky crew started out and by each man packing a 50-pound sack from the mine to the beach they finally, after two weeks of unceasing labor refilled the steamer's bunkers. An attempt to replenish the water supply resulted in smashing one of the two available lifeboats of the Dawson City, but the casks were finally towed alongside and emptied into the tanks.

The Dawson City reports that the schooner Lettie is ashore at Moller, she having been driven on the beach while entering that port to weather a storm. She is high and dry on a soft bottom and can be rescued. The Lettie was bound from Nome to Valdez and carried several passengers, all of whom, with the crew, proceeded to Sand Point, from whence they made their destination by a regular steamer.

Three days after resuming her voyage the Dawson City ran into a gale in bucking ice which the greater part of her hard-earned coal supply was exhausted. On December 9 she was in Akutan Pass, when a storm of unusual fury broke suddenly, driving her dangerously near the breakers on Cape Cheerful. Those aboard expected momentarily to be dashed on the rock-bound coast, but the engineer raised sufficient steam to turn over her engines with the assistance of which she was enabled to work herself out of her dangerous position. From here, after numerous bad spells of weather, the steamer proceeded to Dutch harbor, where she found the Towboat company's Oriental liner Pleiades.

The Pleiades had been forced to put in for fuel. Captain Purrington was given cablegrams and advices to file upon arriving at Yokohama, telling of the Dawson City's safety, but up to date he has failed to give the important matter any attention. His carelessness is severely condemned by seafaring men here who resent such negligence on a matter of such importance, and resent his discourtesy to a brother mariner.

At Dutch harbor seven of the crew left the Dawson City, the deserters including the chief and second engineers. The latter, with one fireman, was later prevailed upon to remain by the vessel to make such repairs as was possible. Dutch harbor was filled with sailors and other unemployed men, but they all refused to ship on the Dawson City, even when offered $100 per month for the voyage to Puget Sound.

At the Alaska Commercial company's store Captain Hanson found a small supply of canvas, which he purchased and used to repair his tattered sails. The Dawson City started from Dutch harbor January 3 and, despite unusually heavy weather, she reached her anchorage in 22 days, a remarkable trip considering the facilities. She brought no passengers from the North aside from Felix Brown, of Seattle, the owner, and Mrs. Hanson, wife of the master, the latter of whom bore up bravely during the voyage and disheartening incidents and proved the mainstay of the sterner sex aboard during the darkest hours of the memorable voyage.

The steamer gives no outward signs of the terrible voyage, but casual inspection aboard shows the difficulties. The boiler is leaking to the point of being absolutely useless, while the machinery, through continuous buffeting about and lack of facilities for repairs, tells a plain story. Felix Brown, owner of the vessel, shows the effects of the troubles to which he has been subjected in his efforts to get his property back to civilization. While a comparatively young man his hair is white and long lines of care are traceable in his countenance.

Her crew includes Captain H. Hanson, Mate A. C. Heckman, Chief Engineer William Smith, Fireman J. Mitchell, Steward Fredericks and George Schultz, cabin boy.

WESTMINSTER CAR SHOPS.

B. C. Electric Company's Works Busy.

Mr. J. Buntzen, general manager of the B. C. Electric Railway Company, was in town yesterday, says the Westminster Columbian of Friday, making his official quarterly inspection of the New Westminster branch. The inspection this time included the company's car shops on Twelfth street. Mr. Buntzen expressed himself as more than pleased at the way the affairs of the company hereabouts are being managed, and at the way business has increased of late.

When Mr. Buntzen visited the car shops he found a score of skilled mechanics at work on the frames for the first three cars to be manufactured in British Columbia. The superintendent promised him these cars would be practically finished before Mr. Buntzen leaves for the Old Country, in March.

It may be mentioned in this connection that the staff at these shops is steadily increasing as the work on the cars progresses. Today two more men were taken on, and within the next two weeks there will be over thirty employed there. Before he left, the general manager gave the superintendent orders to prepare plans for large interurban service cars. The construction of these will be undertaken just as soon as the present demand for city cars is met. Already over $20,000 has been expended in buildings and equipment; and this is only the beginning. Other buildings are already contemplated, one a paint shop, 40x60 feet, and another for a car house, 400x120 feet. Other extensions of the company's service and plant will be announced in due course.

Another considerable item is the fencing of the track between Vancouver and New Westminster. Already several miles have been fenced, but the remaining thirteen miles or so will be completed this spring.

If sick headache is misery, what are Carter's Little Liver Pills if they will positively cure it? People who have used them speak frankly of their worth. They are small and easy to take.

A GREAT DINNER.

Celebration of Coronation of King Edward.

Calcutta, Jan. 27.—In celebrating the coronation of King Edward, 60,000 poor people were banqueted this afternoon. A display of fireworks which followed was witnessed by about 250,000 persons.

CHILLIWACK COUNCIL.

The last regular meeting of the council of 1902 was held in the court house on Jan. 13, 1903.

Present: Reeve Paisley, Councillors Lickman, Wilson, Ashwell, Thornton, Good and McConnell.

Minutes of last regular and adjourned meetings were read and approved. Communications. From Jacob Zink respecting his contract on the new road to the Lumsden ranch. From J. J. Cambridge acknowledging receipt of two by-laws for filing in his office.

Board of Works report: Coun. Thornton reported having examined the contract of W. H. Higginson of moving fence on the Chilliwack river road, found the work well done and recommended payment.

Motions: By Councillors Lickman and Wilson, that Jacob Zink be paid the sum of $30 on account of his contract on the new road to the Lumsden ranch, when the same is found satisfactory by the board of works. By Councillors Thornton and Ashwell, that the communication from J.J. Cambridge be read and filed.

The following accounts were received and ordered paid: H. Webb, $5; A. H. Gillanders, $5; G.W. Chadsey, $5; S. A. Cawley, $10; W. H. Higginson, $40; James Mercer and others, $109; S. Mellard, $2; and George Cooper, $10.

The minutes were then read, adopted and signed, after which the council adjourned sine die.

Minutes of Council-Elect for 1903.

The newly elected council of the township of Chilliwack held their first regular meeting in the court house on the 19th day of January, 1903, in accordance with the provisions of the municipal clauses act.

Present, His Worship Reeve Paisley, Councillors McConnell, Good, Ashwell, Thornton, Wilson and Lickman.

Moved by Councillors Wilson and Thornton that S. A. Cawley be appointed clerk pro tem. The clerk reported that all the members of the council had subscribed to the necessary declaration and that Magistrate Pelly had deposited his certificate of said declarations having been made before him.

On motion the following officers were retained for the year 1903: Clerk and assessor, S. A. Cawley; collector and caretaker, George W. Chadsey; auditor, C. W. Webb; constable, J. H. Atkinson; solicitor, J. Pelly.

His Worship Reeve Paisley made the following appointments of standing committees, the first named as chairman: Finance, Councillors Wilson, Ashwell and Thornton; police, Paisley, Ashwell and Lickman; board of health, Paisley Wilson and Dr. Henderson. Moved by Coun. McConnell and Good that the appointment of the several standing committees as made by the reeve be confirmed by this council.

Moved by Councillors Wilson and Lickman that the whole council constitute the board of works.

Moved by Councillors Wilson and Ashwell that the following gentlemen be appointed fence viewers for the year 1903: F. C.Kickbush, J. Watson, and M. F. Gillanders.

Moved by Councillors Wilson and Thornton that the following gentlemen be appointed poundkeepers for the year 1903: J. H. Collinnson, district No. 1; H. Webb, district No. 2; J. H. Atkinson, district No. 3; A. E. Willis, district No. 4; Ludwick Snyder, district No. 5; John Chapman and John McDonald, district No. 6.

Moved by Councillors Thornton and Ashwell that the clerk write Dr. Henderson and tender him the thanks of the council for the valuable services rendered this council during the past year as medical health officer.

Moved by Councillors Ashwell and Lickman that Reeve Paisley, Councillors Thornton and Wilson, and Justices of the Peace G. R. Ashwell and M. McSween be appointed as a licensing board for the year 1903.

Moved by Councillors Wilson and Ashwell that G. W. Chadsey be apointed clerk of the police court.

Moved by Councillors Thornton and Wilson that the persons whose mortgages fall due in April, 1903, be notified to provide for the same at maturity.

Moved by Councillors Lickman and Good that the assessment for 1903 be made from house to house and that the assessor return the roll to the council on or before the 7th day of March, 1903.

Moved by Councillors Wilson and Ashwell that the holders of the roads and bridges debentures be notified that we intend retiring $4,200 of the same on the 15th of April.

Moved by Councillors Wilson and Ashwell that the clerk be instructed to call for tenders for all supplies required for 1903 tenders to be in by noon of Feb. 7th, 1903.

Moved by Councillors Thornton and Lickman that the caretaker be instructed to procure five cords of wood for the use of the court house.

A communication was received from J. Pelly offering the lot in the rear of the court house to the council at a given figure.

Moved by Councillors Thornton and Wilson that the communication of J. Pelly be received and that the clerk be instructed to communicate with C. W. Munro, M. P. P., requesting him to lay the matter before the Provincial Government, with a view of procuring the same as an addition to the present grounds.

Councillor Wilson gave notice that at the next regular meetin of the council he would introduce a by-law to amend the "Municipal Officers Remuneration By-law."

Councillor Ashwell gave notice that at the next regular meeting of the council he would introduce a by-law to amend the "Chilliwack Municipal Council Regulations By-law."

Councillor Thornton gave notice that at the next regular meeting of the council he would introduce a by-law to amend the "Trades License By-law."

The collector reported that the sum of $284.27 had been collected this year to date, $50 of which had been placed to the credit of the Big Prairie Drainage account in the savings bank.

Council then adjourned.

S. A. CAWLEY, C. M. O.

AN ORIENTAL MAIL SERVICE.

Curious System in the Land of 1,001 Nights.

There is a glamor around Bagdad, a halo of mystery tinged with pomp and splendor. The home of Haroun-al Rashid and the scene of his adventures, it is known as widely as the Thousand and One Nights, but like Constantinople, the capital of the empire in which Bagdad stands, it glitters from the distance, the nearer view dispelling many a cherished ideal. Still, even amid the strange bygone, quaint etiquette and odd ways of the place, the resident comes across scenes and incidents so odd as to make one believe it is yet the days of Haroun—that the sun of history has gone back many degrees on the dial. Some things cannot be compared with our institutions, and others can—the management of the mail is one of the latter.

There are two ways of sending this in Bagdad—one the Turkish, the other the British. Pratically all letters going West go by the Turkish system. By this there are two routes, one by camels to Damascus, and thence to Beirut, whence it is transported by steamer to Brindisi, and afterwards by rail; the other by camels to Mosul, and then by mules and rail to Constantinople. Letters from Constantinople take some 12 days; not long ago the time suddenly jumped up to 46 days, and when the post-office officials were asked to explain they said: "Now the mail comes partly by mail, hence the delay." This is a sweetly Oriental idea—a railroad to take 34 days longer than camels.

When your letters come depends upon when the mail arrives, and may be any time of the day. Perhaps one of the most comical parts of the service is that the carrier cannot read. At the office he is told what houses are to have the letters. Then he slings his bag over his shoulder and trots off, hopping from side to side of the concavity that is gutter and street, and thus wends his tortuous way through the city till he arrives at a house for which he has mail. Upon entering he unslings his bag, opens it and pours the contents on the floor, at the same time telling you to pick out such letters as belong to you. There is a charming naivete and ingenuousness about the whole proceeding which strikes the Westerner as irresistibly comic. When you have taken out your share the remainder is bundled back, and off he goes to the next house.

IMMENSE ICE FLOES.

Steamer Has Difficult Passage in Gulf.

St. John's, Nfld., Jan. 24.—The steamer Thorpe, from Sydney, Cape Breton, has arrived here and reports the presence of immense ice floes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which extend beyond the range of vision. The floes evidently are Arctic ice, which has been forced through the Strait of Belle Isle and driven to the Southward. It took the Thorpe 18 hours to work her way through the ice and part of the time she was in danger. The ice was forced over her rail and carried away a section of her bulwarks.

If you once try Carter's Little Liver Pills for sick headache, biliousness or constipation, you will never be without them. They are purely vegetable, small and easy to take. Don't forget this.

Horse Fanciers Form a Club

Took Initial Steps at a Meeting Held Yesterday Evening.

Will Try and Secure Use o Bowker Park for Members.

(From Sunday's Daily.)

At a well attended meeting of horse fanciers held yesterday evening at the rooms of the Tourist Association, it was decided to proceed forthwith to organize a club to be known as the Victoria Driving Club. A committee was appointed to ascertain upon what terms the right to use the Bowker driving park may be obtained, and another committee will take up the task of preparing a constitution and bylaws. Another meeting will be held on Thursday evening next.

His Worship Mayor McCandless presided, and there were also present C. B. Sylvester, Dr. R. Hamilton, F. W. Stevenson, W. Murray, A. Henderson, Richard Daverne, J. V. Wellington, Gerald Simon, B. Boggs, W. A. Millington, B. Taylor, J. H. Greer, A. B. Wade, Dr. A. A. Humber, W. J. Hanna, F. R. Jennings, R. C. Davis, J. A. McNeil, George W. Wynne, D. A. Upper and Jack Morris.

Mr. Upper was appointed to the position of secretary. The chairman having explained the object of the meeting, Mr. Upper went a little more fully into the project. The principal idea was to form a permanent organization of the horse fanciers of the city with the purpose of obtaining track facilities for the driving and training of horses owned by those who admired a good horse and were fond of driving. He thought there would be no difficulty in securing at least a hundred members of such a club at a fee of $5 per annum. He mentioned that small sum as a membership fee, as he thought it would be better to get 100 members at $5 each than 50 at $10.

Beaumont Boggs asked if it was the intention of the promoters of the project to confine the club to those with driving horses? He thought that those who owned and fancied saddle horses should also be included in the membership. He explained that up to two years ago there was a singular lack of interest among horsemen in the condition of the track at the fair grounds. Latterly, however, the track had been placed in good shape. The success of last year's meet was due to the efforts of the committee which went to Seattle and enlisted the co-operation of the Sound horsemen. The Agricultural Association had an agreement with the Bowker Park Co. for the use of the track for three more years during fair time, and the holding of the annual fall meets. A fee of $5 was charged for the use of the track by each horseman. In order to put the track in good shape an expenditure of three or four hundred dollars must be made.

Mr. Upper explained that it was not intended to confine the scope of the club to the providing of facilities for the handling of driving horses. Saddle horses would enjoy similar privileges.

Mr. Greer said he understood that what was aimed at was to endeavor to raise sufficient funds to put the Oak Bay track in good shape, providing its use by the club could be obtained on a reasonable basis. Now was the time to put the track in shape, as it could be done cheaper now than at a later date.

There was considerable discussion on the question of the possibilities of getting facilities for a speedway, track ownership, etc., and general aims of the club, and finally it was decided to proceed with initial steps of organizing a club to be known as the Victoria Driving Club. A committee consisting of Messrs. Wynne, Wade and Upper, was appointed to confer with the Hunt Club, the Agricultural Association and the Bowker Park Co., to see what arrangements could be made for joint action in putting the present track in shape, and upon what terms its use could be acquired by the Victo