Along The Waterfront

Lyra Arrives From the Orient—Freighter to Be Constructed.

Moana Sails For Australia—Torpedo Boats Sought by Five Purchasers.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

It is said that the steam freighter which Capt. Buckholz and associates propose to build will be constructed at Vancouver. Associated with Capt. Buckholz in the venture are the Messrs. Wallace, shipbuilders of Vancouver, Mr. Battle, formerly interested in the lumber industry on the Island coast, and on the Mainland, and Thompson, of Vancouver. It is the intention to use the engines which were recovered from the steamer Alpha, which went down off Yellow Rock, near Pender island, during a December storm of some years ago, in the new vessel, which will be constructed for the northern trade.

Arrangements are also going forward for the construction of another freighter which is to be built for Capt. Stromgren and associates. The steamer Venture is also being made ready for the season's work. She is undergoing repairs at the Victoria Machinery Depot.

TORPEDO BOATS BY TENDER.

Five Seek to Purchase Small and Obsolete Craft at Esquimalt.

Five tenders were received by Mr. Harris, naval storekeeper, for torpedo boats 39 and 40, which are offered for sale at Esquimalt because of instructions received from the Admiralty. Most of the tenderers speak of placing the craft in service—all in the pursuits of peace. Others intend to break up the vessels and use their engines, which are powerful machines capable of developing considerable speed in any small craft. The Messrs. Bullen are among the tenderers, that firm having, it is understood, offered between $2000 and $3000 for the vessels, with the intention of breaking them up. Other tenders have come from Seattle and various ports of British Columbia. The tenders have been sent to the Admiralty and no decision regarding a sale will be made until advices are received from the naval lords.

The two boats are understood to have cost about £8000 each.

FOREST BROOK LATE.

Squabble Arises as to Whether She Has Lost Charter or Was in Time.

When the steamer Forest Brook arrived from the Orient, as was reported, she reached Port Townsend just before sundown on the day upon which her charter expired. The steamer was hurried to Seattle and her owners and crew say that she was alongside the dock with her hatches open ready to receive cargo within fifteen minutes of midnight. The charterers, a Hamburg concern, claim that she arrived too late, a claim which is disputed by the owners of the steamer. Arrangements are, in the meantime, being made to re-charter her. Yesterday another charter was made by a Seattle firm for a large tramp freighter, the 6000-ton steamer Nairn, which sailed from Moji on Feb. 15 for Puget Sound. She will load freight for Japan. The steamer Foreric, as was reported, has also been chartered, and the steamer Ras Elba is on the Sound ready to load. It is expected that other charters will be made.

THE LYRA ARRIVES.

Steamship of Boston Towboat Company's Fleet Reaches William Head.

Steamer Lyra, of the Boston Tugboat Co., reached William Head last night from the Orient, bringing a good cargo of general freight, of which she will discharge two hundred tons at the ocean dock today. The steamer Tydeus, which arrived on Thursday, after discharging cargo at the outer wharf, sailed yesterday.

MOANA SAILS.

Australian Liner Left This Morning for South Sea Ports.

The Canadian-Australian liner Moana, Capt. Gibb, sailed early this morning for Australia, via Honolulu and Suva. She had about 40 passengers and between 1,000 and 1,800 tons of general cargo. The passenger list was as follows: Roland Henry and wife, J. A. McEwan, Capt. Very, Commander Colwell, Mrs. M. Herd, Miss Herd, Mrs. F. F. Ferguson, Mrs. Walsh, I. Stephenson, F. Barrow and wife, Miss Salvana, G. C. Leonard, Sydney Smith, G. H. Brown, John Yeoman, J. H. Leonard, W. H. Leonard, H. Drew, Rev. Grasser and wife.

POWER COMPANY'S ENTERPRISE.

West Kootenay Concern Will Develop Present Works.

Rossland, March 2.—The West Kootenay Power and Light Co. has commenced an elaborate scheme of development of the upper falls of the Kootenay river at Bonnington, by which it is intended to harness the water power at that point to an extent never before contemplated in Western Canada. The work will be rushed to a conclusion with all possible despatch. Already fifty men are at work on the preliminary stages of the proposed improvements, and as matters progress large additions will be made to the force thus employed. The company has commenced operations by the building of a huge temporary dam, which will project from the north bank of the river above the falls 150 feet into the stream, and terminate at a small island at the brink of the falls. The structure will be of timber and of sufficient strength and height to withstand the flow of water at its highest stage. When this work is completed the space immediately below will be so freed of water that the permanent dam which will be of solid concrete can be constructed with comparative ease. The company seems anxious to complete this work during the summer months so that there will be no hindrance or interference in any way by bad weather later in the year.

Outline of Undertaking.

L. A. Campbell, general manager of the West Kootenay Power and Light Co., was asked yesterday if he would give out for publication a detailed outline of the proposed operations of his company in this particular connection, but beyond substantiating the foregoing he had nothing to say.

The decision of the West Kootenay Power and Light Company to make these large additions to its already extensive plant, augurs well for the industrial advancement of the surrounding country in the immediate future. It also means much to all probable consumers of electricity within the natural sphere of the company's operations. The West Kootenay people now generate something over 4,000 horse power in electrical energy, but with the completion of improvements recently inaugurated, it seems highly probable that the present capacity of the plant will be trebled, if not quadrupled.

Extensive Additions.

It has been the policy of the West Kootenay Company to keep well abreast of the district's requirements for electric power and light, but there has been no pressing demand until recently for extensive additions to the plant. Now, however, that the interest of the outside world is being revived in the industrial possibilities of Kootenay, especially in the development of the lower grade of ores of the district, there is certain to be great demand for electric power and light, and this is evidently the reason for the intended large expenditures by the West Kootenay Company.

Cheap Power for Mines.

It naturally follows that the production of electrical energy on such a tremendous scale will greatly reduce its present cost of production. That sweeping reductions will follow is certain, for the reason that the high cost of power is not compatible with the successful operation of the low-grade mines. This means not only cheaper power for the mines and smelters, but cheaper light for all the towns within a radius of fifty miles of Bonnington. It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of this, as in all probability it will result in these municipalities getting lighting facilities as cheap, if not cheaper, than if the source of production were owned and operated as a public utility. Thus will the difficult and harassing problem of economical lighting be overcome without the need of large expenditures by the municipalities themselves.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

A Move Made by Association Towards Better Conserving Home Industry.

At the concluding session of the Dairymen and Live Stock Association the following resolution was carried by a large majority:

"Whereas the importations of dairy products into the province last year amounted in value to $1,727,000, the quantity of butter being 5,586,857 pounds, whilst the butter produced in the province during the same period was in the neighborhood of 2,000,000 pounds; and whereas a large quantity of live stock, much of it good breeding, is produced in British Columbia, and a considerable proportion does not find an adequate market because of the lack of proper information; be it resolved, that the future policy of the Dairymen and Live Stock Association of British Columbia will be in the direction, firstly, towards the education of the producers of dairy products in the art of dairying, to the end that a superior article of uniform quality may be produced at the least possible cost, so as to compete successfully with the imported article, and furthermore, looking towards an increased production with a view to shutting out the immense importations of dairy products, and thus keeping in the province the large sums of money now sent away to purchase products that can, and should, be manufactured in the province; secondly, in the direction of bringing the producers of live stock and possible purchasers together to the end that a fair price may be realized by the former, and animals of good quality and well acclimatized may be acquired by the latter, to the mutual benefit of all concerned."

After the transaction of a number of routine matters, the convention was brought to a close, and already a majority of those in attendance have taken their departure homewards.

BATTLE FAVORS JAPANESE.

Kuroki Has Made Great Gains in Spite of Snowstorm.

Gen. Kuroki's Headquarters, March 3, via Fusan.—The battle is progressing favorably for the Japanese, although a snowstorm is swirling over the hill tops. The Japanese made great gains by night advances against the Russian position on the extreme left, and they occupy a part of the first line of the triple line of defences in the hill beyond the Shakhe. The main defence lines are higher in the hills beyond.

At Ofueri the Japanese found trenches encircling the hill. They attacked from three sides and beat the Russians, capturing sixty.

The Japanese forces directly west of Waitao mountain took advantage in the positions close to the river during the night. A tremendous bombardment is being made westward today. The cannonading about Waitao mountain was suspended this morning. On Tuesday sixty Russian guns were working. Opposite Waitao mountain yesterday there were only thirty. The Japanese casualties in the right army have been very few compared with the results gained. Those regiments camping in the open ground or making night attacks, muffled in heavy clothes, are put to the hardest tests that soldiers could endure.

SCARLET FEVER IN NEW YORK.

Alarming Prevalence of Disease Connected With Hard Winter.

New York, March 3.—An alarming prevalence of the scarlet fever in New York is a repetition of the epidemic of the first three years of the seventies. In January of this year there were 107 deaths from the disease, and in February there were 149 deaths. It is thought that the disease is in some way brought on by severe winters.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

Vancouver, March 3.—H. E. Huxhaler, a rancher, while crazy with drink attempted to commit suicide here by cutting his throat. He was arrested in time and placed under arrest, together with his wife, who is charged with being an accomplice.

SEVEN KILLED IN COLLISION.

Second Section of Special Crashes Into Rear End of First Half.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 3.—In a rear end collision tonight between two special passenger trains from Cleveland on the Cleveland & Pittsburg railway en route to Washington, six men and one woman were killed and twenty others injured. The accident happened at Clifton station eight miles west of here, and was caused by the first special stopping for a hot box while the second followed so closely that the flagman had not time to get back far enough to prevent the collision. The first train carried a battalion of the Ohio engineers. It was made up of six coaches and a baggage car. The second train with the same number of coaches carried the Tippecanoe Club of Cleveland with a band and twenty-five or thirty women. When the crash came, the passengers in the rear of this train were the principal sufferers and all the fatalities were in that car. The wreckage took fire from the engine and the entire first train and three cars of the second train were burned. Trains were made up and sent to the scene to bring the dead and injured here. Major J. C. McQuigg, who was in command of the Engineers' battalion, had both legs broken at the thigh and will probably die.

ULSTER UNIONISTS' REVOLT.

Movement Against Balfour Growing in Intensity.

London, March 3.—The revolt in the Ulster Unionists against the government is increasing in intensity. At a meeting of the newly-formed Ulster Unionist council at Belfast today angry denunciations at the continuance of the portfolio of Sir Anthony Macdonnell, under secretary to the lord lieutenant of Ireland, and Mr. Wyndham, the chief secretary for Ireland, were heard, coupled with threats to fight the government at all points. The speakers asserted that the "Macdonnell intrigue" had done more to force home rule to the front as a living issue than Mr. Redmond's party had done in the last decade.

POWER OF THE PRESS.

Japan's Success in Muzzling Fourth Estate Commended to British.

London, March 3.—In the House of Lords today Lord Ellenborough (Cons.) drew attention to the dangers to which the country might be exposed during the few hours preceding a declaration of war or the first few days of a contest if the government was unable to check the dissemination of news and asked if the government would take steps to consider an alteration of laws in this connection.

Lord Selborne, first lord of the admiralty, replied saying he knew of no law which could prevent the baneful dissemination of news. The most patriotic journalist might innocently jeopardize an issue. Parliament and the press might be urged to consider a remedy.

Japan, Lord Selborne added, would not have succeeded as she has but for her power in suppressing news in the interest of the nation. He discussed at some length Lord Ellenborough's question regarding the admiralty's precautions against the possibility of a surprise naval attack, similar to that of Port Arthur, and an invasion of Great Britain by a foreign country. He said he did not propose to discuss the question whether Great Britain or any other country was liable to attack from a foreign power at a moment of profound peace when there was not even a diplomatic cloud on the horizon. He said Lord Ellenborough had greatly exaggerated the danger of a surprise invasion and underrated the difficulties which would confront an invader. A temporary loss of command of the sea from negligence or accident by Great Britain would never enable an invader to land in this country. The whole experience of the existing war lent force to that conclusion.

Lord Selborne laid stress on the importance to Japan of the disposing entirely of the Russian fleet. He said the whole issue of the war hinged upon this, and every one who had followed the history of the war had noted the intense nervousness of the Japanese so long as a single vessel of the Russian squadron remained afloat.

TAKES BACK CONFESSION.

Brother of Executed Murderer Now Denies Former Story.

Washington, D. C., March 3.—Adolf J. Bloch, who last night confessed to having murdered Mrs. Kate Fatsinger at Allentown, for which crime his brother, Eugene Bloch, was hanged there this week, took it all back today. He said he had never been in Allentown and the story was intended as a joke.

Allentown, Pa., March 3.—The police authorities here do not believe the reported confession of Adolf J. Bloch, who is in the Washington county jail, that he murdered Mrs. Kate Fatsinger.

Counsel for Eugene Bloch said today: "The woman was not murdered. It was a suicide compact between her and Bloch, as he declared during the trial."

GENERAL STRIKE PROCLAIMED.

Recrudescence of Labor Troubles Reported From St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, March 3.—A general strike was proclaimed at sectional meetings of workmen here today.

Japanese Nearly To Mukden

Advance Continued and Fierce Battle Reported Still Raging.

Morale of Russian Army Severely Impaired by Recent Events.

New Chwang, March 3.—(Via Tientsin)—Chinese from Mukden report that the Japanese have advanced almost to Mukden. The Russians, being reinforced, have captured several positions, out of which they had been driven. The battle is still raging.

The Japanese bivouacking on the outskirts of Simmintin withdrew this morning leaving only a picket.

The Russian station at Changtau has been reinforced. Strings of Chinese carts are moving towards Mukden. Foreigners are still at Mukden. Owing to the absence of traffic, merchants laden with dollars are going to Tiensin. Refugees from the battle are arriving here.

Kuropatkin Will Retreat.

London, March 3.—A despatch from Tokio to the Daily Telegraph states that the Japanese are endeavoring to force a decisive battle in Manchuria, but it is feared Gen. Kuropatkin will retreat fighting a rear guard action. Reports from the Shakhe river indicate, says the same correspondent, that the Russian morale is seriously impaired, and that there are numerous voluntary surrenders, not only of Poles and Jews, but of recently arrived European troops. They relate that the rumors are current in the army that Gen. Kuropatkin has been recalled and knowledge of the internal troubles in Russia causes a deep depression in the army.

Reports are current at Tokio, but not confirmed officially that the Japanese have occupied Sakhalin.

Kuropatkin's Report.

St. Petersburg, March 3.—In a long despatch from Gen. Kuropatkin, which was received here yesterday, the commander in chief of the army of Manchuria gives details of various attacks by the Japanese the last few days, and the Associated Press correspondent at Mukden in a despatch received at midnight indicates a continuation of the artillery duel, but neither report throws any light on the rumored intention of Gen. Kuropatkin to withdraw northward which has been the gossip of St. Petersburg for the last two days.

A private despatch received last night concludes with this significant sentence: "Within two weeks you may expect great events."

LADYSMITH NEWS NOTES.

Coal Shipments for February—St. David's Day Concert and Dance.

Ladysmith, March 2.—(Special)—In spite of February being the shortest month in the year, the coal shipments make a good showing. The returns for the month are: Sixteen vessels cleared foreign, with 14,307 tons register, carrying cargo amounting to 19,042 tons, the value for export amounting to $176,079.

Forty-six vessels, 4,674 tons register, cleared coastwise, the total number of vessels, foreign and coastwise, being 62, and cargoes 23,716 tons.

The St. David's Day promenade concert, supper and dance, under the auspices of the Welshmen of this city, held in the opera house last night, was a great success, both from a financial and social standpoint. Every available foot of space was occupied almost at the commencement of the entertainment, which started promptly at 8 p. m. The several numbers rendered by the St. John's Glee Club were very pleasing. The solos and duets by the Nanaimo contingent were well rendered. The duet by Mrs. (Dr.) Drysdale and Mayor Planta of Nanaimo was particularly praiseworthy and merited the hearty applause which greeted the efforts of these two talented vocalists. At 10:30 the floor was cleared for dancing. A most enjoyable time was spent until early this morning.

The supper was prepared by Mrs. Tate of the Island Home hotel. Mr. D. Thomas made an efficient chairman.

PROVISIONS ARE SHORT.

Serious State of Affairs Developing in Siberia.

St. Petersburg, March 3.—According to a semi-official note the manager of the Chinese Western railway denies that the bridge between Tie pass and Kaiyuen has been destroyed. The manager declares that traffic is uninterrupted.

The Siberian railway which is being worked to its full capacity by purely military traffic is about to have a further burden imposed upon it, namely that of feeding the resident non-combatant population. The stocks of provisions in Irkutsk and other towns in Siberia were not as large as usual at the beginning of the winter and are now running low. The government has been informed that provisions must be imported by the railroad or that the towns will be face to face with famine within a fortnight.

WESTERN CANADIAN PRESSMEN.

Winnipeg, March 3.—George McCuish, of the Morden Chronicle, was elected president of the Western Canada Press Association.

COTTON STEAMER BURNED.

New Orleans, La., March 3.—The steamer Columbia, owned by the Carter Packet Company, was partly destroyed by fire today soon after arriving from Monroe. Besides considerable miscellaneous freight, the steamer carried 1,182 bales of cotton. The crew escaped. Much of the cotton was saved.

COUNCIL ON THE WAR.

Grippenberg-Kuropatkin Incident and War Generally to Be Investigated.

St. Petersburg, March 3.—Confirmation has been obtained of the report that Emperor Nicholas has summoned a council to discuss the Grippenberg-Kuropatkin incident and the position at the front in general.

POISONOUS MATCHES.

Responsible for Death of Baby Turner in Vancouver.

Vancouver, B. C., March 3.—The three-year-old daughter of S. O. Turner, of this city, got hold of a number of matches and ate their poisonous brimstone ends. Medical assistance was at once called, but was unavailing, and the child died in a short time after great suffering.

NEW KIND OF BURGLARY.

New York State Provides Long Imprisonment for Using Dynamite.

Albany, N. Y., March 3.—A bill introduced today in the New York assembly recognized a new kind of burglary, to be known as "burglary with explosives." The bill provides that a person who breaks into a house in which there is a human being by the use of dynamite or other explosives, is guilty of burglary with explosives and subject to imprisonment for 25 to 40 years.

CONGRESSMAN INDICTED.

Binger Hermann Is Charged With Illegally Destroying Public Documents.

Washington, D. C., March 3.—Binger Hermann, member of Congress from Oregon, and former commissioner of the general land office, was today indicted by the federal grand jury here on the charge of destroying public records.

The substance of the charge is that Mr. Hermann, just previous to his resignation as commissioner of the general land office, which was on February 1, 1903, destroyed 33 letterpress copying books containing copies of official communications written by him as commissioner of the land office and relating to the business of that bureau.

Mr. Hermann's attorney appeared in court immediately after the indictment had been found, and waived the exemption due to a member of Congress and asked that bail be fixed. The district attorney suggested $5,000, while Mr. Hermann's counsel named $2,500, the latter figure being fixed.

NAN PATTERSON'S FATE.

Permission to See Her Dying Sister Has to Be Refused Prisoner.

New York, March 3.—A request by Nan Patterson's aged father that the girl be allowed to go to Washington in custody of a keeper to see her sister, May Queen Kilburn, who he said is dying, was denied today by District Attorney Jerome. Mr. Jerome said there was no way under the law in which such a proceeding could be permitted, and that the only hope he could give the father was in telling him that Miss Patterson would be put on trial again early next month.

Nan Patterson has been in the Tombs prison nine months lacking one day, charged with the murder of Caesar Young, a wealthy turfman and bookmaker. She has had one trial, but the jury could not agree.

TEST OF THE WELL-READ MAN.

Let him who pretends to be a master of English letters say whether he has read the prose works of Milton and of Dryden. Has he first-hand knowledge of the Elizabethan dramatists other than Shakespeare? Has he really perused all of Edmund Spenser's poetry? What does he know, from his own reading, of the "Advancement of Learning"? Has he read all of Sir Thomas Browne's prose and John Donne's poetry? And the great English pulpit orators, Jeremy Taylor, Fuller, South and Barrow, has he mastered their sermons.

Can he truthfully testify that he knows all of Swift, Johnson and Burke, all of Bishop Berkeley, Daniel Defoe: the novels of Richardson, Fielding, Smollett and Sterne; the histories of Hume, Robertson and Gibbon, and also Hume's philosophical essays; the prose of Coleridge, Wordsworth's "Excursion," all of Shelley, Jane Austen's, Maria Edgeworth's and Disraeli's novels? These are English classics, books which no gentleman's library should be without, and with the contents of which a well-read man ought to be acquainted.

One would wager much against little that the ordinary man who calls himself well read has not read 50 per cent of the classics here enumerated.

THE RIGHTS OF PROVINCES.

In connection with the autonomy of the proposed new provinces there is an aspect of the separate school question which has not in the current controversy received the attention to which it is from its importance entitled. It seems to be in some quarters assumed that because the Dominion parliament had a right in 1875 to create a "territory" to establish separate schools it has a right in 1905 to require a "province" to continue them. This assumption is based on the theory that quo ad hoc the legislative authority of the Dominion parliament over a "province" is co-extensive with its legislative authority over a "territory," because they are alike its legislative creations. The question of the validity of this theory cannot be finally determined without a careful reading of the British North America Act.

The Imperial act of 1867 provides in section 146 for the admission into the Dominion (1) of other provinces already established and endowed with "legislatures," and (2) of "Rupert's Land and the North-western Territory," or either of them, on such terms and conditions as may be specified in addresses from provincial legislatures and the Dominion parliament requesting the admission of provinces, and in an address from the Dominion parliament requesting the admission of the above territory. It is provided in the same section of the act that the desired admission is to be effected by order of the Queen in Council "subject to the provisions" of the British North America Act. It is obvious that a "province" admitted by order in council must come in with the institutions it has at the time of its admission, and, as a matter of fact, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island afterward did so; it is equally obvious that the Territories one after the other were annexed without any institutional conditions of any sort, for there were no institutions properly so-called under the Hudson's Bay Company's regime.

It is necessary to a fair and full discussion of the constitutional question to recall what the "provisions" of the British North America Act are with respect to legislative jurisdiction over public education. In section 92 there is an enumeration of sixteen "classes of subjects" in relation to which "in each province the legislature may exclusively make laws," and section 93 is devoted solely to education, with respect to which also the legislature of each province may "exclusively make laws," but subject to certain limiting provisions; that is to say, the Dominion parliament cannot legislate regarding education in a province except to redress some authoritatively ascertained injustice inflicted on a minority in the matter of denominational schools existent "by law" prior to the union. There is no such "provision" with regard to the "Territories," and, therefore, there is no such limitation of the legislative authority of the Dominion parliament. In 1875, had it chosen to do so, it might lawfully have established separate schools instead of requiring the territorial legislature to establish them, and, a fortiori, it was quite within its constitutional competence, in prescribing for that body its duty in the premises, to give it the peremptory instruction which the Dominion parliament is now asked to continue in the statute purporting to abolish the Northwest Territories and create two provinces within its area.

There is good reason to believe, from a careful study of the provisions of the British North America Act, that, while it is undoubtedly intra vires of the Dominion parliament to impose separate schools on a "territory" for which the Imperial act provides no constitution, it is ultra vires of that body to impose them on a province, whether admitted with its institutions or created out of Dominion territory and ipso facto endowed with institutions. There is a general "provincial" constitution enacted by the British North America Act and capable of being defined in its terms, and no province of the Dominion, whether admitted or created, can be effectively limited by additional provisions imposed by the Dominion parliament.

To admit the contention of those who desire to continue the separate school section of the Territories Act of 1875 would be to admit the competence of the Dominion parliament to amend an Imperial statute, which, as stated, is absolutely untenable. Complete proof of the correctness of this dictum is afforded by the procedure in connection with the establishment of the province of Manitoba, which was not required to pass through the intermediate territorial status. The Dominion parliament undertook to create a "province," and it was found necessary to have its work immediately validated by an Imperial statute supplementary of the British North America Acts, 34 and 35 Vic., Chap. 28). This Imperial act, however, very carefully and consistently provides that the Dominion parliament shall not be allowed, after it has created a "province" in harmony with the provisions of the British North America Act, to alter the provisions of the statute establishing it. This limitation on the legislative authority of the Dominion marks with unmistakeable clearness the difference between a "territory" and a "province" in their respective relations to the Dominion parliament.

OREGON LAND FRAUDS.

Federal Grand Jury to Return Indictment Against Official.

Washington, March 3.—The federal grand jury here today held a special session, and at 3 o'clock this afternoon will return another indictment in the land fraud cases against a former prominent official, who at present is under indictment in Oregon. A number of witnesses went before the jury today. Among those who were summoned were: William Burns, the secret service official, whose work in Oregon has been most beneficial in working up the land fraud cases; Elliott P. Hough, a clerk in the general land office, who has for some years been private secretary to Representative Hermann of Oregon when the latter was commissioner of the general land office; Harry S. Reger, who has been in the office of the commissioner of the general land office for some time, and other employees of the land office.

Mining Laws For The Yukon

Dr. Thompson M. P. Wants the Dominion Government to Frame Code.

B. C. Laws Recognized as a Pattern—Their Is None Better.

After spending a couple of days in Victoria, Dr. Alfred Thompson, member-elect for the Yukon in the Dominion House, left this morning en route to Ottawa.

Having in contemplation the discussion of mining matters with the Dominion government, Dr. Thompson said he naturally turned toward British Columbia for information.

"I came here," said he last night, "to discuss the question of the placer mining laws with your minister of mines, and I have had a very satisfactory interview with him. The fact that your code has been selected for the Philippines after expert enquiry as the best procurable has not escaped observation in the Yukon, where we are seeking to have substituted a similar code for the unsatisfactory regulations now in force. Before I left Dawson, I called a convention of mining men with a view of getting a conclusion as to the best system for adoption in the Yukon Territory, and many valuable suggestions were taken from the British Columbia code. In fact, the convention decided after full discussion that the sections of your code with respect to 'tailings' and 'dumps,' a most important matter in our country, where much of the mineral wealth is produced from hillside diggings, should be adopted in full. Many of our people claim that your placer mining laws are the best in the world.

"Of course you will understand," said he, "that we have no mining laws at present in the Yukon. Mining is governed by regulations, and as these require no other authorization than the will of the government, they lack that permanency of character from which the best results can be obtained. They have been tinkered with too much.

"It is my desire, therefore, to secure the passage of a suitable code of regulations in the shape of an act which shall only be subject to disturbance by the will of parliament, to secure greater stability, and, of course, if possible, the improvement of the system."

"In the Yukon country," said Dr. Thompson, "there is an immense area of unprospected ground, lying directly in the gold bearing belt, and capable, if exploited, of supporting several hundred thousand people, every one of whom must be clothed and fed by the outside world, and should be clothed and fed in Canada."

Viewing these great possibilities, Dr. Thompson remarked that he was very anxious that the interests of the prospector should be properly considered in drafting the new mining laws, realizing that the future development of the country largely depended upon his efforts.

"For one thing," said he, "my proposal is that the prospector be given an absolutely free claim. That means that he will not have to pay any royalty on his gold or taxation in the way of mining fees to hold his ground. And in the case of the discovery of a new creek, I would give the prospector locating it a bonus from the renewal fees which the miners now pay to the government.

"In the discussion of the proposed new mining code attention will also be directed to a remedy for existing grievances with respect to concessions. Considerable areas of ground are locked up in this way, and have been for the past seven years. Some of these are held by absentee landlords, so to speak, and what the miners asked is, as expressed by Dr. Thompson, "that they shall either work their holdings or get off the ground."

In conclusion Dr. Thompson remarked that the Yukon last year produced ten million dollars in gold, and is good for several hundred millions more if the Dominion government will assist in the way of perfecting the laws to facilitate the mining of the gold.

AN EASTERN VIEW OF IT.

Montreal Gazette.

The people of Trail have voted against the proposal now before the British Columbia legislature to make eight hours a legal day's work in the smelters of the province. British Columbia is doing its best to attract capital for the purpose of developing its mineral resources. It will be well for it to remember that people with capital are looking for places where they can secure attractive returns and not for an opportunity of contributing to the welfare of the province and its people. A lot of money has gone into British Columbia mining schemes, and mighty little of it has ever come back. That legitimately invested has not fared any better than that which went into boom projects.

FATE OF AN ILLINOIS REFORMER.

The Illinois legislature has given notice that "while vigilant in shielding corrupters," it "will be vigorous in punishing accusers," remarks the Chicago Public, a reform weekly, in commenting upon the expulsion of Representative Comerford. Mr. Comerford, who is the first member of the Illinois legislature to suffer this punishment, had delivered a lecture before the Illinois College of Law, in which he scored the legislature in biting terms, saying, among other things, that it was "a great auction-mart for the sale of special privileges." The speech made a great sensation, and a commission was appointed to investigate the matter. The commission ruled that it would consider charges against the present legislature only, which has just begun its session, and as Mr. Comerford had little or no proof of corruption at this session, his charges were held to be slanderous, and by a vote of 121 to 13 he was expelled. The Chicago Inter Ocean and Journal criticize the legislature severely for this action, but the other Chicago papers think Mr. Comerford brought his fate upon himself by making charges he could not prove. "The assembly has the right to demand that it shall not be prejudged, and that no one of its own members shall, without proof, scandalize it in the public estimation," says the Chicago Tribune; and the Chicago Evening Post remarks that "no legislative body could retain its own self-respect or the confidence of its constituents if it failed to punish one of its members who called his colleagues boodlers": but "on the action of the legislature during the remainder of its career will depend the final judgment." Says the Chicago Chronicle:

"It is perfectly obvious that a habit of reckless accusation is just as harmful to the cause of truth and morality as bona fide exposures are beneficial to it. The cry of 'wolf' made too often in sport always results at last in its failing to arouse attention when the wolf is really coming. There is no surer way to plunge the community into hopelessness and indifference in regard to official corruption than by a succession of sensational exposures which turn out to be no exposures at all."

A LEGISLATOR'S GREAT DISCOVERY.

Toronto News.

A member of the Australian parliament has evolved an ingenious plan for giving every legislator a free trip to England and return. It appears that the federal mail subvention to the P. & O. Company is £200 for every ten hundredweight of mail matter. The first class fare is £77, allowing ten hundredweight of baggage. He suggests, therefore, that the members should travel at the government's expense, providing they carry ten hundredweight of mail matter as private baggage. In that way the commonwealth would save £123 on each ten hundredweight of mail, and give the members a free trip as well. This way of putting it brings out strongly the excessive subsidy paid.