CANADIAN NOTES.

Ex-Alderman's Sudden Death on New Year's Day.

Hamilton, Ont., Jan. 2.—Ex-Alderman Thos. Patterson, a retired blacksmith, who disappeared from home yesterday, has been found frozen stiff near his barn. He had gone to feed some cattle and was stricken down with heart failure.

To Fight Speyer.

Toronto, Jan. 2.—A number of creditors of insolvent Soo companies have organized to fight the claim of the Speyer Company, the Philadelphia bankers, and have filed a petition with the courts to have liquidators appointed for each of the subsidiary companies.

Decline in Fishing.

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 2.—Nova Scotia codfish fleet has suffered a decline of 105,000 quintals for the year just ended.

Now a City.

By an act of the legislature the town of Sydney, C. B., became a city yesterday.

Candidate.

Wingham, Ont., Jan. 2.—East Huron Conservatives have nominated Dr. T. Chisholm as candidate for the House of Commons.

Shooting Accident.

Winnipeg, Jan. 2.—A shooting accident occurred last night at Shoal Lake. H. C. McGuire, accountant in the Union Bank, when retiring for the night, placed a revolver under his pillow, as had been his custom. The revolver, however, discharged, wounding him dangerously above the ear. His condition is serious.

A WAR RATE OF INSURANCE ISSUED

APPLIES TO FREIGHT SHIPPED TO JAPAN

The Tacoma Arrived Sunday Without a Single Chinese Passenger for Victoria—Notes.

(From Monday's Daily.)

Commerce between British Columbia and the Orient is likely to suffer a severe blow in event of a war between Japan and Russia. Trade in fact has already been affected. A war rate has been put on all commodities shipped on the Japanese line of steamers from this port, and it is possible that in event of those vessels being impressed in war service by the Japanese government that for a time the Nippon Yusen Company, which operates them, will have to suspend commercial relationships with this country and the cities of the Sound. The steamers are all subsidized, and so far as known would be subject to the same conditions as a royal mail steamship flying the British flag. The company has an enormous fleet. It has steamers running to all parts of the world, but it is doubtful if any would be more affected through the outbreak of war than those plying on the Pacific to British Columbia and the Sound and to San Francisco, as they would be sure to pass through territorial water, closely watched by the Czar's men-of-war.

The special war rate referred to was applied last week. It was then placed at a quarter of one per cent. over and above the ordinary rate. Although having been apprised of no further increase, Messrs. Heisterman & Co., the local underwriters, most interested so far, are constantly looking for more changes, and they expect that the rate will be very much more this week. With other underwriters similar instructions have not yet been received, but war risks have been taken at San Francisco and elsewhere on this coast, and it will not be surprising if the same is done here.

Those who have charge of Oriental lines have been speculating quite seriously of late on the probable effect of a war, for, in the event of a blockade of the Japanese ports, steamers would not be allowed to land cargo. All Japanese steamers would be in continual danger of seizure, and any freight coming under the heading of munitions of war would be subject to the same fate. There is no danger of a British merchantman meeting trouble, however. British navigators will guard against this and will take no chances. Sooner than run the risk of entering a Japanese port they will probably clear their vessels for Hongkong, a British port, and there land cargo. From there the cargo could be forwarded as opportunity presented itself and by those willing to stand the risk.

NO CHINESE ARRIVALS.

There can be no doubting the efficacy of the new tax on Chinese entering this country. The Tacoma, which arrived yesterday, and which usually brought a good crowd of Orientals, had not a single Chinaman for this city, and according to advices, the Empress of Japan, which is due here from the Far East to-morrow, is also without her usual complement for Victoria or Vancouver. She has fifty for overland points, but these are probably bonded through to the United States. In the saloon the ship carries 20 people. She has on board 1,370 tons of cargo, including a shipment of 420 tons of raw silk and silk goods which is valued approximately at $1,176,000. The silk will be dispatched to the New York mills by special train immediately upon the arrival of the Japan. Nine hundred tons of general Oriental cargo is destined for various overland points, and but fifty tons is consigned for Victoria.

The Tacoma reported an uneventful trip. She brought 150 tons of freight for this city, and only one saloon passenger, Mr. Major, who had travelled pretty much all through the Orient. The Tacoma proceeded to the Sound from Victoria.

During the past 21 years the P. & O. Company have built ships costing in the aggregate £10,000,000.

A GREAT LONDON PREACHER HERE

REV. MARK GUY PEARSE SPEAKS TO VICTORIANS

Crowds Flocked to Hear the Famous Divine at City Churches Yesterday —His Message.

(From Monday's Daily.)

Victoria has heard Mark Guy Pearse, and although part of it heard him three times yesterday, the city seems, like Oliver Twist, to desire "more." Crowds thronged the edifices where he spoke, and with each service his fame increased to such an extent that a quarter of an hour before the beginning of the meeting last night the spacious auditorium of the Metropolitan church was packed to its utmost capacity, while aisles and corridors were jammed as well with those who could catch only a sentence here and there from the lips of the famous preacher.

The term "preacher" is not used in its ordinary acceptation, for Mr. Pearse disclaims any qualifications under that classification. "I can't preach, thank God, I can only talk," he said at his first meeting in the city, and so far did he depart from the orthodox lines in this respect that at one of his meetings he did what no mere preacher would dream of doing—he omitted a text.

Not that Mr. Pearse ignores his Bible. On the contrary, while he studiously avoids the stock phrases and quotations which are so frequently heard in the pulpit he displays a most intimate knowledge of the Bible in general, but particularly of the Gospels. Confronted in his great mission in London with the problem of regenerating men of the lowest degrees of society, he seems to have been driven to a minute scrutiny of the human side of the life of Christ, and it is this aspect of the life of the Saviour which he keeps constantly in the foreground. At every meeting he addressed yesterday this was apparent. In the morning his teachings were based largely on the analogy between the relationship of parent to child with that of Christ to His creatures.

In the afternoon he spoke of the "homliness of Christ" as exemplified in His domestic relations with the people of His day and His perfect naturalness and freedom from ostentation or reserve. In the evening he dealt with the incident of stilling of the storm on Galilee and the the interest of his hearers was enthralled by his pathetic picture of a weary and exhausted Saviour as He slept in the fisherman's boat.

The listener cannot fail to note the absolute simplicity of the doctrines which he teaches. This is undoubtedly another outcome of his mission work in the West End of London. A Gospel hampered with what Mr. Pearse himself describes as "mechanical and harsh processes reared between the soul and God" could scarcely be expected to appeal effectually to men such as those whom he is striving to reach. The result has been that Mr. Fearse, and his fellow workers have struck off from their theological teaching all the superimposed auxiliaries which have grown up around the primitive simplicity of the Gospel and have reduced it to its primaries.

"Look at me" (this in illustration of the complex processes with which some teachers seek to encumber religion); "watch me breathe. There" (as he respired once or twice); "nothing in the world more natural, easier or simpler than that. But suppose I say 'fellow mortal' (that word fellow mortal is enough to frighten me from breathing), fellow mortal! you must breathe twenty times a minute; you must watch and breathe, or perish! Isn't that enough to frighten me out of breathing at all?"

In his morning service particularly Mr. Pearse was radical enough to cause a shock to the sensibilities of some. "It is splendid," he said, "alluding to his severance for several years from regular church work, "to get away for a while from the church with its starch and its sanctimoniousness and its pious twang. You are awfully proper in this country—almost as proper as we are at home, and perhaps even more so." Then he launched into a vigorous denunciation of those who sought to tie people up by discipline, with foot notes and annotations the conditions of which Christ never enforced. "Who are you," he continued, "to enforce your views on other people? If you succeed in doing so you make them as proper and as prim and as silly as you are yourself."

"Let people go their own gait," he went on. "There are only ten commandments. Who are you that you should make twenty? I am so disappointed when churches bring in amusements and condemn them, and drive away their young people, and it serves them right. There are a thousand things in this world that are neither right nor wrong. Who are you to condemn them?"

"Let people talk to one another in newspaper English, not in the pious twang that sickens you. Talk about original sin! Yes, but there's lots of original grace."

Another fallacy upon which Mr. Pearse lays his mailed fist is the teaching that the road to Heaven is hard. "That man blasphemes against God," he comments, "who makes the road to Heaven so hard that only a mountaineer can climb it. It's a great deal harder to go to hell than to go to Heaven." And then he has another go at the "long-faced canting Christian" who teaches such a theory, at least by inference, and gravely adds that "he does a lot of harm."

Then the preacher comes forward with his definition of the Christian life. What is it? "It is the child life—skipping, dancing (unless you are a Methodist) exhuberant, overflowing, abundant life."

The reference to child life brings the speaker back again to the nursery for an illustration, and it is a notable fact that in all his addresses he draws his parables from childhood and to the same touchstone he brings knotty theological points. The relationship between mother and child he contends to be the truest type of that higher relationship which it is his mission to preach. He doesn't say so much for the parental relationship. The mother is wide awake at the slightest motion of distress on the child's part. "You, sir, sleep for ten minutes after that, you know you do."

Mr. Pearse's description of the spiritual process by which men receive salvation was simplicity itself, being a mere opening of the mind and heart to those influences which are available for their regeneration. And here again he took issue with those who talk of repentance. "Repentance," he said, "there is nothing in the world about which people, more particularly Methodist people, have got tied up in a knot than over this matter of repentance. Would to God you had never heard the word if you put it before Jesus Christ. What is repentance? Not as you suggest, weepings and agonies, and spasms and paroxysms, and trances and earthquakes. A thousand times no. He is exalted to give repentance. He who receives salvation receives repentance."

Then Mr. Pearse concludes with these New Year's rules: 1, get a good start; 2, put the Word in the right place; 3, pray for what you want; 4, get dinner for the soul; 5, end the day rightly.

Summarized, his morning discourse was contained in the words, "A day at a time," and a reminiscence of childhood rounded off his remarks. He told of going as a boy to visit at a farm house three miles from home, and how having delayed the homeward journey until after nightfall he was terrified at the prospect of a three-mile journey across the fields to his home, where the country was peopled with ghosts and horrid shapes, and with a thunderstorm coming up to add to the terrors of the trip. But just as he started he saw far down the lane the form of his father with a cloak over his arm, and heard his cheery shout, "Come on my lad." Under his protection, although the storm broke, the journey was made in happiness. "What are we," he added, "but poor, little frightened children? Between us and our Father's house what evils lurk till He comes and taking our hand says, 'Come on my children,' and dispelling our fears leads us safely home."

At the afternoon meeting Mr. Pearse took for his text "The Son of Man came eating and drinking." On this he based a delightful picture of the daily life of the Master as He passed from house to house and supped with the people. This personal domestic note in the ministry of the Saviour has furnished the key to Mr. Pearse's work in London, where a corps of sisters carry on hand to hand work among the poorer people of the great metropolis.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Pearse advanced the opinion that the next great revival would be one of religious communism, and that the church, whether it liked it or not, might as well prepare for the eventuality and get the sluices open and the ditches dug for the coming of the floods.

His evening sermon, as before mentioned, was based on the incidents of the stilling of the storm. First he pictured the sleeping Saviour, and mentioned the causes of his exhaustion, overwork, hunger, importuning of friends who though Him mad, etc. On this last point the speaker dwelt on the horror of religious enthusiasm. "When a man becomes enthusiastic about religion," he said, "his enemies say he is mad and his friends say he is self-sacrificing. Self-sacrificing! As though a man cannot get as much enjoyment out of helping men and women as in growing orchids or collecting beetles."

Then the speaker passed to the constant temptation to Christ to avail Himself of His Divine powers to minister to His human needs. It was in this bearing of the burden of humanity that He endeared Himself to men. "I would care little," he said, "for a dead Christ on a cross 1,800 years ago. Men love the sympathy of that One who was the perfect man as well as the Son of God. He is the Christ who comes alongside of the tired man and the weary woman and says 'I know.'"

Adam and Christ, the speaker continued, were the only two mentioned in the Bible as sleeping the sleep of the just. Yet how different were the circumstances. One lay amid sylvan beauty with everything to charm the senses, the other exhausted and almost in a swoon, slept heavily amid the tarred cordage in the stern of a fishing smack, sharing the perils of his disciples.

"We need Christ more on Monday than on Sunday," said Mr. Pearse, "because the devil goes half asleep on Sunday, and some other people also."

The remainder of the discourse dwelt on the fact that redemption was obtained in and not through Christ, and on the readiness with which the cry of a disciples awoke One whom the surging elements failed to disturb.

In personal appearance Rev. Mr. Pearse is, to say the least, prepossessing. It is perhaps his personality which is his chiefest asset as a preacher. He rarely attempts oratorical flights, although his dramatic instinct was apparent on more than one instance, but particularly in his description of a storm at sea. He has the profile of a leader of men—resolution, authority and resource revealed in every motion of his body, in every flash of his eye and in the treatment of his theme. He has a rubicund face and a well nourished appearance, and an alert step and resonant voice which belie his gray hairs. While in the city he is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. D. Spencer.

To-night he lectures in the Metropolitan Methodist church on "The Old Folks at Home." On Wednesday afternoon at 4 he will give a Bible reading on the 23rd Psalm at the same place, and in the evening at 8 o'clock will speak on "Christian Socialism," as exemplified in the West London mission work.

During the afternoon service yesterday the choir of the Reform Episcopal church assisted with several musical selections, and in the evening the Metropolitan choir rendered an interesting programme. The solo parts in the voluntary were taken by Mrs. Hicks, whose sympathetic treatment of devotional music is so uniformly enjoyable, by Mrs. Gifin and by Miss Charlotte Spencer, who has just returned from finishing her musical education in Minneapolis. The latter is possessed of a sweet and well modulated voice, which will make her a valued acquisition to local musical circles. Jesse Longfield also contributed a violin solo towards the close of the service, accompanied by A. Longfield on the organ.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Monthly Report of City Superintendent —Pupils Present During December.

The number of pupils in attendance at the public schools during the month of December was nearly two hundred less than the number actually belonging. This shortage in the last month of the year is quite the usual thing. The sick list accumulates toward the end of the autumn, and convalescents are kept home for the last few weeks of the term because their parents fancy it doesn't much matter if the children who have already lost time lose a little more than is necessary, so that they start afresh "after the holidays."

Nevertheless, the regularity percentage was exceedingly good, the figures being: Number belonging, about 2,725; number present, 2,527; daily average, 2,396.71, or 90.88 per cent. The schools which failed to reach the 90 per cent. standard were the High school, the Girls' school, the Hillside and the Rock Bay. Spring Ridge led with the very high record of 94.30 per cent., Victoria West being a close second with 93.79 per cent. to its credit. The comparatively few cases of tardiness in all the schools is a gratifying feature of the month's attendance, which gave a punctuality record of 99.9 per cent.

Following is a summary of the attendance by schools:

	No. Present.	Daily Attend. Ave.	Tardiness.
High School	172	150.90	87.15 22
Boys' School	481	441.49	91.78 22
Girls' School	428	382.78	89.43 11
North Ward	441	398.25	90.53 30
South Park	355	324.48	91.31 21
Victoria West	193	181.03	93.79 15
Spring Ridge	154	145.23	94.30 4
Kingston St.	130	119.52	91.94 6
Hillside	113	99.27	87.14 17
Rock Bay	60	53.06	88.43 4
Total	2,527	2,296.71	90.88 152

The individual divisions in which the attendance was 95 per cent. were:

High school, Div. 1, 97.85 per cent.; South Park, Div. 1, 96.66 per cent., Miss Cameron, teacher; South Park, Div. 7, 96.51 per cent., Miss McLean, teacher; Spring Ridge, Div. 4, 96.42 per cent., Miss Browne, teacher; Victoria West, Div. 3, 96.09 per cent., Miss Holmes, teacher; Boys' school, Div. 2, 95.66 per cent., Mr. Sallaway, teacher; South Park, Div. 8, 95.29 per cent., Miss Wriglesworth, teacher; Girls' school, Div. 2, 95.10 per cent., Miss Robinson, teacher; North Ward, Div. 5, 95.09 per cent., Miss Murton, teacher.

MINER DISAPPEARS.

Has Been Missing Since August Last—Worker Crushed to Death.

Dawson advices tell of the disappearance of W. Elliott, a miner, who left Livingstone creek, in the Big Salmon country, last August, to cross the divide to the Pelly country. The Northwest Mounted Police have sent a detachment of police across the divide in charge of Corporal Head in search of the missing man. It is feared that Elliott is lost. He started on the last trip because he heard a new strike had been made in the Pelly country.

Henry McCabe, formerly of Mullan, Idaho, was crushed to death while working in a drift on No. 69 below on Hunker. A mass of frozen earth weighing about a ton fell on him while he was using the pick. His head and the body were frightfully crushed. The two Redmond brothers, for whom McCabe was working, and Edward Janson attacked the pile of fallen earth immediately, and had McCabe out in a few minutes, but he was dead. McCabe was born in Halifax county, Nova Scotia, forty-five or fifty years ago.

All the freight for Dawson delayed at White Horse by the closing of navigation, which the consignees later decided to have brought over the ice this winter, has arrived in Dawson. This statement is made by George Pulham, superintendent of the White Pass winter stage service. "Now that the goods most desired out of the blockaded shipments have reached Dawson," says Mr. Pulham, "we have only the current business ahead of us. Later in the season inward travel should be much more brisk and the usual spring shipments over the ice should give an impetus. Our company has 200 horses in the service between Dawson and White Horse. Although there is no big rush of business, we are prepared for it should it come."

James H. Rogers, general agent at Dawson for the White Pass Company, will leave in a week or ten days for a visit of five weeks to his old home in Victoria. This will be his first visit home in two years. During Mr. Rogers's absence John Scott, cashier in the Dawson office for the White Pass, will act as Dawson agent.

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

Fourteenth Annual Meeting to Be Held in New Westminster This Week.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the B. C. Fruit Growers' Association will be held in the city hall, New Westminster, on Thursday and Friday. The programme is as follows:

Thursday.

Address of welcome, Mayor Keary; president's address; address by Hon. R. G. Tatlow, minister of agriculture; reading minutes of last meeting; executive committee's report; secretary's report; financial statement and report of auditors; reading of correspondence; election of officers.

Evening Session—Maxwell Smith, "Benefits of Fruit Inspection"; A. C. Wells, "Mutual Fire Insurance"; W. J. Brandrith, "How to Plant a Tree.

Friday.

Thos. Cunningham, "Care of the Orchard"; Thos. G. Earle, "Apple Growing in Interior"; J. W. White, "Strawberry Growing"; R. M. Palmer, "Fruit Markets in the Northwest"; H. Kipp, "Apple and Pear Growing in Lower Fraser"; W. J. Brandrith, "The Cultivation of the Raspberry."

A CASKET OF PEARLS.—Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets would prove a great solace to the disheartened dyspeptic if he would but test their potency. They're veritable gems in preventing the seating of stomach disorders, by aiding and stimulating digestion—60 of these health "pearls" in a box, and they cost 35 cents. Recommended by most eminent physicians. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—64.

R. Kelly and wife, of Vancouver, are at the Driard.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

VANCOUVER.

A trial trip was made on Thursday over the line of the V. W. & Y. railway between this city and New Westminster. The rails have been laid to the head of False Creek and President Hendry and other officials of the company made a trip over the road from New Westminster.

Oliver Chavasse, alias Oliva Chausse, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment by Acting Police Magistrate Alexander on Thursday for giving a cheque to the manager of the Badminton hotel for $4, knowing at the time that he had no funds to meet the cheque.

The number of cases tried in the police court during the month of December was 158. If to these are added 12 cases adjourned till this month, it brings the total to 170 in all.

After a lingering illness, Charles Donald Needham died on Friday at St. Paul's hospital, aged 40 years. The deceased was a relative of the Earl of Kilmorey, and leaves a widow to mourn his loss.

About two weeks ago the four robins left of 50 which were shipped were liberated in Stanley Park. They remained in the vicinity of the house for a few days, and then flew away. One pair has taken up quarters on Deadman's Island. In the aviary at the park were about 50 gold finches, and a dozen of these were allowed to go on Thursday. They disappeared immediately among the trees surrounding the deer park. Twenty-five meadow larks, also of the consignment from England, were taken to Sea Island on New Year's Day and given their freedom.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

The fire department answered 36 calls last year. The amount of insurance on the property affected is $132,000 and the total losses by fire $10,326, much less than in 1902. The principal blaze was at the Coulthard residence on Fourth street.

The vital statistics for last year were: Births, 176; deaths, 172; marriages, 85. In 1902 they were: Births, 203; deaths, 185, and marriages, 116. The returns from Ladner sub-registry for the last three months are not included in the 1903 returns.

The ferry boat Surrey carried in the neighborhood of 80,000 passengers last year. About 15,000 teams and carriages crossed the Fraser during the twelve months on the ferry. There were also hundreds of head of cattle and other live stock. The receipts were about $11,000, an increase of $2,000 over 1902.

The police records for 1903 show: Number of offences charged, 415; convictions, 323; dismissed or otherwise disposed of, 76; committed for trial, 16; fines, $2,850. Among the notable captures here last year were: Boles wanted in Denver for murder; Pensacola wanted in California for murder; Leonard and Lorenzo wanted in Victoria for robbery under arms.

Frank Rische, the unfortunate Italian killed at the Coquitlam end of the Vancouver Power Company's tunnel last week, was not the victim of an explosion as first reported. He was asphyxiated through inhaling smoke in one of the small outbuildings at the tunnel works. Rische was employed in handling the dynamite and other explosives used in blasting in the tunnel, and part of his work was to keep on the fire in a small building attached by hot water pipes to one in which the dynamite sticks were "thawed" before using. About 10 o'clock in the morning the building took fire, and Rische went to put it out. He must have inhaled the smoke almost as soon as he got in the place. The other men were busy placing the explosives in the other building out of danger and later, when they missed Rische, they found the poor fellow in the shack quite dead, his body being completely burned.

KAMLOOPS.

Wednesday night saw the end of the mortgage on the Methodist church. The liabilities of the church having been paid off, a public burning of the mortgage deed was held in the now unencumbered edifice.

Contractor Robt. MacKay has commenced work on the boarding house and sawmill at the Iron Mask mine. The sawmill will be used for preparing lumber for the construction of the concentrator and for general mine purposes.

Although the names of only a few of the better known mineral claims are mentioned in connection with the mining operations carried on within the district, there is a good deal of work done in a quiet way, attracting no present attention but which will, or much of it, in the near future have an abundant reward. Since January 1st, 1903, there were issued at the office of the mining recorder here 306 miners' licenses, and 108 claims were recorded. Assessment work has been done on no fewer than 187 claims, this number representing a cash value of $18,700 in assessment work done.

During the past twelve months there has been a considerable amount of activity in the building trades, the local contractors being kept busy, not only in the city itself, but in the country. A partial list of the new buildings erected in the city shows that the value of these additions amounts to between $25,000 and $30,000.

SLOCAN.

"With this week's shipments ends the output of the division for the year," says Friday's Drill. "For the week the Black Prince shipped 50 tons and the Enterprise 20, giving a total for the entire year of 1339 tons. In comparison with the preceding year the output shows a great falling off, the figures for the previous twelve months being 6,333 tons. The decrease is due to the suspended operations at the Arlington and the change in affairs at the Enterprise. In 1902 the former shipped 3,797 tons and the latter 2,300, while last year the figures were 40 and 935 tons respectively. Apart from this the total from the division reveals a gratifying increase, being 236 tons from the smaller properties in 1902 as against 334 for the year just closed. In 1902 there were 12 shipping properties on the list, while in 1903 there were no less than 17, a most encouraging record. That 1904 will equal the shipments of last year there can be no doubt, and the promise is of much better things. The outlook is cheering, with few bad features in sight."

ROSSLAND.

The officers of the Rossland Civilian Rifle Association are preparing the annual reports of the association for submission to the militia department. Full statements as to the scores and other information relating to the association's work will be included in the reports. The organization was decidedly successful for a new institution, and winds up the season with all obligations paid and cash in the treasury.

The following letter from Sheriff Tuck has been received by Deputy Sheriff Robinson: "After mature consideration I have decided to ask for your resignation of the office of deputy sheriff for the bailiwick of South Kootenay, effective from and after the 5th day of January, 1904. I shall personally take over from you on that date such books and papers as appertain to the office and arrange all matters connected with the position." Sheriff Robinson has occupied the position since May, 1896.

NELSON.

Delegates from Nelson city to the Liberal nominating convention to be held here on January 12th were elected at a special meeting of the Liberal Association last week. On the basis of representation agreed upon, that is, one delegate for each fifty votes or fraction thereof cast at the recent provincial elections, this city is entitled to 17 delegates. The following were elected as delegates: Dr. E. C. Arthur, W. W. Beer, M. Scully, A. K. Wattie, James McPhee, R. J. Hamilton, S. S. Taylor, Wm. Gillett, John McLeod, Otto Gebert, Thos. Madden, John A. Turner, John Hamilton, G. Gilchrist, F. J. Deane, Dr. Geo. A. B. Hall and F. Fred Hume. Four alternates were also elected. They are: P. E. Wilson, A. B. Docksteader, G. Hale and J. A. McDonald. On the question of whether or not the delegates should be instructed as to whom to support, some discussion arose, but while all present were unanimously of the opinion that W. A. Galliher, M. P., was entitled to the gratitude and support of the entire constituency, it was decided that his candidature would not be strengthened by binding the delegates to support him. A motion to the effect that the delegates should be given a free hand was carried. A committee consisting of Dr. Arthur, J. Fred Hume, J. A. Turner, T. Madden and John Hamilton was appointed to engage a suitable hall and made all necessary arrangements for the convention.

Alderman John Hamilton has formally announced himself as a candidate for mayor, to oppose Ald. J. A. Irving, also out.

Interviews with local wholesalers showed that the trade for the last three months had been from 25 to 40 per cent. greater than for the corresponding period of 1902.

Messrs. Brackman & Ker have purchased the big warehouse of P. Burns & Company on Front street, doubling their storage capacity. P. Burns & Company are erecting new warehouses on the C. P. R. flats.

BOARDS OF EXAMINERS

Appointed For the Various Mining Camps in the Province.

Last week's issue of the Provincial Gazette contains notice of the boards of examiners for the different camps. They are as follows:

Cumberland—Appointed by the owners: Richard Short, David Walker; alternates, Jas. Strang, Charles Matthews. Appointed by the Lieut.-Governor: John Kesley, secretary. Elected by the miners: James Reid, John Comb; alternates, W. McLellan, Thomas Ripley.

Michel—Appointed by the owners: A. R. Wilson, John S. Lee; alternates, Wm. Powell, Thomas Corkhill. Appointed by the Lieut.-Governor: Evan Evans, secretary. Elected by the miners: James Wylie, Xenophon Harmer; alternates, Harry Wilson, Richard Nimmo.

Morrissey—Appointed by the owners: H. F. Martin, Chas. Simister; alternates, David G. Wilson, Elijah Heathcote. Appointed by the Lieut.-Governor: J. K. Miller, secretary. Elected by the miners: James Greenman, W. D. Robertson; alternates, Robert Wilkie, John Panic.

Extension—Appointed by the owners: James Sharp, Alex. Bryden; alternates, Alex. Shaw, William Jones. Appointed by the Lieut.-Governor: W. G. Simpson, secretary. Elected by the miners: Wm. Anderson, Samuel K. Mottishaw; alternates, Benj. Berto, Fred Greaves.

Nanaimo—Appointed by the owners: Thos. Budge, John Newton; alternates, Jas. Malpass, James Dudley. Appointed by the Lieut.-Governor: J. P. Planta, secretary. Elected by the miners: Geo. Johnson, William Neave; alternates, James Frame, Arthur H. Spencer.

Coal Creek—Appointed by the owners: Robert G. Drinnan, David Martin; alternates, Andrew Colville, John Hunt. Appointed by the Lieut.-Governor: John McCliment, secretary. Elected by the miners: John Cobus, John Norton; alternates, Charles Burrows, John Howbrook.

Alternates act as members of the board in the absence of those regularly appointed or elected to act thereon.

The resignation of Dr. A. S. Munro as a member of the board of licensing commissioners for the city of Vancouver has been accepted.

Among the companies incorporated are noted the following: The Fraser River Coal Company, Ltd., with a capital of $10,000; Hardscrabble Hydraulic Gold Mines, Ltd., with a capital of $90,000; the Lake View Land Company, Ltd., with a capital of $10,000; Queen's School, Ltd., with a capital of $15,000 to acquire Queen's school, Vancouver, from R. H. Harvey and carry it on; Ship Brodick Castle Company, Ltd., with a capital of $45,000.

Notice is given that John Bray and William Perrett Bassett, of Victoria, carrying on business under the firm name of 'British Columbia Jobbing & Confectionery Company," have, by deed bearing date the 16th day of December, A.D. 1903, assigned all their personal property, real estate, credits and effects which may be seized and sold under execution unto William Henry Price, of Victoria, manufacturer, for the purpose of paying and satisfying, ratably and proportionately, without preference or priority, all the creditors of the said John Bray and William Perrett Bassett, or the said British Columbia Jobbing & Confectionery Company, their just debts.

THE G. T. P.

The Toronto Mail and Empire says the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway will never be built because the company has failed to put up the required security. That is not the reason at all. If the railway be not built it will be because the mighty McBride government is opposed to construction upon the terms made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his ministers.

But we are still hopeful that the work will go ahead in spite of the opposition of the Premier of British Columbia and all the rest of the obstructionists. The company has shown no abatement of zeal in preliminary operations. The weather in the territory in which surveys are being made cannot be very salubrious. We know it is not as mild as Victoria weather. As the squads of surveyors have instructions to push the work regardless of consequences to noses and toes, it is fair to presume the company means business. In the beginning of this new year of hope we prefer to keep up a feeling of optimism as long as possible. There is no project that was ever discussed that meant more for British Columbia than the construction of the G. T. P. And as the men who control capital are standing afar off and viewing the scheme with doubtful eyes, it can no longer be maintained by opposition newspapers that the terms are extravagant from the point of view of the public. If the men who control the money bags are doubtful about the nature of the investment, the government must surely have made a tight bargain. That is only a reasonable deduction. But the practical men behind the scheme know what they are doing, and the success of the undertaking is as sure as the prospects of Canada are bright.

THAT UNHOLY ALLIANCE.

Yes, as has been remarked, the Ross government of Ontario is in a bad way. But the Ross government has a clear majority yet in the Legislature, and that majority was elected to support it, not in opposition to its candidates, as is the case of a government nearer home.

Why members of the British Columbia Legislature who were elected in opposition to candidates of the present administration are keeping that administration in power is by no means clear. Probably the mists which obscure the bargain will roll away by-and-bye. The Socialists have tendered one explanation, which may be accepted or not according to the credulity of the recipient. They say the more corrupt and incapable a government proves itself to be the sooner their day of triumph will come. If that excuse be accepted, it must be confessed that the Socialists are sustaining just the type of government that should speedily bring about the desire of their hearts.

But we do not think that is the sole reason for Hawthornthwaite's championship of the cause of McBride. As we have said, the mists of obscurity will some day roll away and reveal the terms of the most extraordinary compact that has yet been made in the political history of Canada. And while the conspiracy is in force the electorate will prepare to deal with the conspirators. We congratulate the Conservative party upon the position in which its champion has placed it before the face of the people.

HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser demands an investigation into the municipal school system. The results of the recent High School entrance examinations are not satisfactory to our contemporary, and it wants to know whether the department, the teachers, or the raw material the pedagogues and their directors have to work upon, to wit: the scholars, are to blame for the alleged humiliation put upon the Terminal City. "Vancouver (says the News-Advertiser) occupies a very unsatisfactory position, in regard to the number of pupils that passed as compared with other cities and towns in the province. Let us take Victoria, New Westminster and Vancouver and see how they compare. Victoria sent 66 candidates, of whom 47 passed, or 71.21 per cent. New Westminster had 21 candidates, of whom 15 passed, or 71.42 per cent. Vancouver sent 85 candidates, only 32 passing, equal to 37.64 per cent., or not more than 53 per cent. of the numbers that were successful from Victoria and New Westminster. Nor is this the first time in which Vancouver has made an unsatisfactory showing as compared with other towns, and neither the parents of the pupils in our schools nor the civic taxpayers who are called on to contribute so heavily for the support of those schools will be content that such a state of things shall continue without an investigation to discover who are what is responsible for it." The conclusion of our contemporary is that the raw material is quite as susceptible to educational influences, properly applied, as that found in any other part of the province. There cannot be any dispute over that point. It is also held that the influence of the department cannot be benignant in one section and malignant in another. That is also a reasonable assumption. It narrows the question of responsibility down to trustees and teachers.

We do not know whether there was any warrant for it, but there was an impression on the public mind that the school board of Vancouver, in order to secure the highest efficiency, had determined to weed out the weaker vessels on its staff, the female teachers, and to replace them with males as fast as circumstances would permit. It would be interesting to know whether that programme has been carried out. There are people who hold that the question of sex has not as much to do with ability to impart instruction as is sometimes contended. We have heard illogical fellows maintain that teachers are born, not made, just as special qualifications for particular occupations are distributed by Nature, in her blindness, upon all and sundry, and that in whatever direction one may turn he will find round pegs in square holes. The Times is not bigoted in its opinions. At least we hope not. Other qualifications being present, we should be inclined to think that a man of strong physique and character would be likely to produce the better educational results in a roomful of naturally tumultuous youngsters. But light upon the Vancouver situation would be interesting.

TELEGRAPHIC NONSENSE.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Colonist is evidently a being of most fertile imagination; also of considerable contempt for the intelligence of our contemporary's readers. We are not so densely ignorant out here as this genius in the manufacture of "news" assumes, however. We know that when intelligence is telegraphed from the capital of Canada that word has been sent out to win the Ontario municipal elections for the Grit party in order to strengthen the hands of the government in the Dominion campaign, the veriest rubbish is being served up in the vain hope of influencing public opinion here.

No such word as politics in the federal sense is permitted to intrude in the affairs of Ontario municipalities. It is true that in Toronto an attempt has been made by what would be called "the machine" if it were a Grit institution to inject party questions into the municipal government of the city. But the hungry individuals who cannot find anything to feed upon in any part of Canada outside of Manitoba and British Columbia have not succeeded in fastening themselves upon admittedly Tory Toronto. The citizens know their game and have frustrated every attempt to introduce the methods of Tammany on this side of the boundary.

Sir Charles Tupper once mapped out a plan of campaign which predicated as the conditions of success in the federal field the capture of all the provinces by his party. That plan did not work well. Probably the successors of Sir Charles concluded that the Baronet's scheme was not comprehensive enough; that it did not take the fighting cohorts back far enough. That may have been the reason for the issue of secret instructions at the end of the year 1902 that Tory candidates should be put up for all important offices in municipalities. The plot was a failure. Communities supposedly Tory in sentiment voted for men, not for politicians, and the degradation of our local affairs was averted. The people of Canada are strongly partizan when aroused, but they have not yet been reduced to such a depth of partizanship as to fight their municipal battles over questions as remote from connection with the real issues as the earth is from the sun.

The newspapers of the East are considering the case of the average city boy and the attention he receives from those who are responsible for his being and his doings. In Victoria it is no doubt a fact that mothers attend to the duties of their households first, leaving mothers' meetings, religious meetings, prayer meetings, public meetings, meetings of all kinds, to wait upon leisure and convenience. But there are evidently places where they do things differently. The Hamilton Times must have had some such in view when it said: Referring to the statement that the mother of one of the Chicago car barn murderers devoted so much of her time to organizing boys' clubs to keep boys from saloons, and other evils, never suspecting that her own boy needed reforming, the Brockville Recorder says it "knows several cases where mothers, with the very best intention, spend much time and energy looking after other mothers' boys, while their own went to the devil." The Recorder's experience is not unique. Almost every city and town has cases such as it cites, where devoted women have worked and prayed for the youth of their neighborhood, and, although not neglecting their own offspring, have seen them spending wasted lives and going down to untimely, unhonored graves.

* * *

In 1902 and 1903 Canada sent to Great Britain bacon and hams to the value of $28,230,387. In the whole eighteen years of Tory rule the amount sent was only $22,543,060. And the people are asked to turn back the hands of the trade clock and revert to the conditions under which progress seemed to be impossible. There is only one speck of a cloud on the trade horizon. British Columbia is not sharing to the full in the general prosperity. We are suffering for the besetting sins of various governments and cannot rise in full strength until the atonement is complete. By and bye we shall lead all the provinces of the Dominion in exports quite as valuable as hams and bacon.

Rev. W. Rawei, of New Zealand, left for Vancouver last evening accompanied by Mrs. Rawei and family. He will occupy the pulpits of Wesley and St. Andrew's churches, Vancouver, to-morrow.