ANNUAL CONVENTION OF KING'S DAUGHTERS

First Session Was Held Yesterday Morning—Interesting Proceedings

The seventh annual convention of the British Columbia branch of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons was formally opened by Mrs. Shaw, provincial secretary, at 10 o'clock yesterday morning in the lecture room of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, in this city. The delegates from the various councils in the province who registered their names were as follows:

St. Andrew's circle, Vancouver—Miss Henderson, Miss Chapman.

Scattered circle, Duncans—Miss Wilson, Miss Norcross, Miss Lomas, Miss Duncan.

Looking Out circle, Duncans—Miss Dorothy Bazette.

Happy circle, Metchosin — Mrs. Watt.

Seaside circle, Metchosin — Miss Frenchard.

Ministering circle, Victoria—Mrs. Marvin, Mrs. Jenkinson, Mrs. Hardie, Mrs. McGregor.

Hawthorn circle, Victoria — Miss Mackay, Miss Murray, Miss Whyte, Miss Elford.

Victoria circle, Victoria—Miss Fell, Miss Sorby.

Rose circle, Victoria—Mrs. Day, Mrs. Reynolds, Miss Nora Lugrin, Miss Cecilia Helmcken.

Whatsoever circle, Vancouver—Miss Sutherland.

Quiet Hour circle, Victoria—Mrs. Robert Croft.

The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. W. Leslie Clay, who is ever ready to show his sympathy with the work of the order.

Address of Welcome

The business part of the convention was opened with the address of welcome by Mrs. Watts, as follows:

"Miss Brown and Delegates,—I am glad to have the opportunity of welcoming you on behalf of the King's Daughters of this and adjoining districts to our convention and to our fair city. To the delegates first let us extend a hearty greeting. The great opportunity of a convention is the exchange of ideas and sympathy—it's reason of being is for the transaction of business, but we all need ideas and we all need sympathy, and this is our annual chance to get both. We hope to be of mutual profit; may the tie that binds us be blest indeed. It means much to those from outside places to leave home; let us see that they do not depart without feeling that the trouble was worth while.

"The first visit of a Dominion secretary means more than we can at first realize. It is another link in the great chain which must forever bind the east and the west. Greater far than the shining rails of the national highway is to the invisible chain of common inteests and affection along its wireless length flash constant messages of assurance and encouragement, and looking backwards we can see how we have made the connection from this end. First there was our summoning of our dear Mrs. Davis, fragrant memories of whose inspiring and illuminating visit will ever live in our hearts. Then there was our "Made in Canada Fair," which as a patriotic and educational exhibit, more than fulfilled our highest expectations. Then made possible by the fair was the going of our provincial secretary to the Dominion convention, an event which was of great benefit to her work, and now here is your visit to us which we have looked forward to so eagerly and from which we hope so much, solace our discouragement. So frail are we poor humanity that we often seem unable to draw inspiration from its source. The Father speaks to us through His servants; we seem to need a human interpreter; all good is in His holy word, all life comes from Him, but we look to good women and men to tell us what is in His word and how the unifying principle may actuate our religious life.

"We have not been as much in touch with the members of the order in other parts of Canada as we would like to be. We look to you to show us how to amend our ways. We cannot prosper in isolation. The twentieth century is Canada's, everyone grants the aptness of the prime minister's prophecy. We must have our part in the development of our country. We are citizens of no mean country; it is ours to make her a worthy home for worthy people. There is no standing still, we go forward or backward. Help us to go on. Here in our fortunate province our fight is not against poverty but against the evils attendant upon prosperity. We are easy-going, prosperous and inclined to let well enough alone, but there is urgent need for such work as women can best do.

"We can influence legislation regarding children, we can plan the city's betterment, we can improve the educational facilities of our neighborhood, we can fight against dissemination, of bad literature, and the introduction of bad plays, we can try to make the theatrical productions of our towns of a higher standard. Some day we shall appreciate the possibilities of the theatre, the greatest influence of modern days, and use it to the full as a great reforming influence. We can struggle with the social evil, we can try to make our cities fit places in which to bring up our boys, we can try to solve the problem of domestic service, we can hold up the heads of all reformers.

"Most crying of all, we can give our best endeavors to aid in solving the temperance problem. The horrible curse of drink which is fast debasing the souls of our men and women, of our boys and girls. If it were only the sodden and ignorant and base to whom temptation overcomes it would be sad, but it is immeasurably sadder when we see the brightest and best, the hope of the nation, in drink's terrible clutch. How can we refuse to give our aid to these sacred causes and to the needs of our tuberculosis sanatorium and countless other institutions?

"We do not need you to point out avenues of activity, dear Miss Brown, the gates are open and vistas are visible from every direction, but we do need you to urge us to go through the gates and use the gifts that God has given us. We are pleased and proud to have you with us. You are thrice welcome, welcome as a guest to our city, whose fame for hospitality will not be belied, welcome as a high official of an order dear to us all, welcome as a Canadian who brings with her reminders that we are one country, one people and that we worship one God, the Father Almighty. May His blessing follow you and His tender care protect you."

Miss Brown, the Dominion secretary, replied in a most sympathetic and appreciative manner. She brought greetings from the Dominion and also international executives and dwelt specially on the union of east and west and the oneness in name and purpose of all members of the order. She expressed great delight at the beauty of the scenery and warmth of her reception and that at last the opportunity had been given her of meeting the members of the order in British Columbia. She hoped that as we had been able to send Mrs. Shaw to the Dominion convention on one occasion we would continue to be represented in future.

Mrs. Macdonald said a few words of appreciation for the Cowichan delegates and Mrs. Chapman for those from Vancouver.

After the reading of the minutes of last convention and the interim minutes of the executive the following convenors of committees were appointed:

Credentials, Miss Wilson; resolutions, Mrs. Watt; finange, Mrs. Morley; hospitality, Mrs. Hasell.

The provincial statement was received and will be published later, together with the report of the provincial secretary. There was a very interesting discussion following the statement as to the best means of raising money for carrying on the work of the order, Miss Brown giving some very valuable and helpful suggestions.

In regard to membership the announcement was made that as soon as the membership of the branch reached 250 it will be entitled to elect a member to a seat on the central council of the international order.

After the closing prayer by Miss Brown the delegates adjourned to the "Cosy Corner" tea rooms, where a dainty lunch had been provided.

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session opened with devotional exercises conducted by Miss Brown. The reports of the district secretaries were received, the first being presented by Mrs. Chapman from Vancouver, who reported encouraging work.

The Victoria district secretary's report was full of suggestions and brought out a most valuable discussion, which resulted in a unanimous expression of opinion to support the work of the order and strive for greater unity among the members.

The report presented by Mrs. Watt for Metchosin told of possibilities for future work and suggested other ways in which the order might be more generally useful.

Mrs. McDonald gave a very encouraging report from the Cowichan district, showing progressive and most conscientious work in all the circles in her district.

Rev. W. Leslie Clay on behalf of Dr. Fagan gave a very instructive address on the work of the Anti-Tuberculosis society and thanked the order for the generous contribution of $250 given towards the building fund, which entitles the branch to elect three representatives to the board of governors, from whom the board of directors will be chosen eventually. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Clay for the information he had given and he was assured of the continued sympathy of the order in the great work undertaken by the society.

Miss Brown's address on the work and objects of the order was the feature of the session. Her thoughtful and impressive words will not be easily forgotten. She emphasized especially the spiritual side of the order and asked that the international spirit be cultivated.

After the roll call and closing prayer the convention adjourned until this morning at 10 o'clock.

LAND REGISTRY WORK RAPIDLY INCREASES

Despite Additions to Staff the Officials Are Kept Busy

The business of the land registry department is increasing, and there is probably no man whose office hours are more occupied than those of the registrar-general. Even with the addition to the clerical staff, which was made recently by the government, on representation from the real state agents of the city, it is found difficult to keep apace with the number of applications presented month after month.

During May there were no less than five hundred and ninety-six of these applications attended to by the staff of the registry department. Those who have lived in Victoria and have followed the trend of events, consider the increase, which these figures represent, as really remarkable. It is explained by the registrar that last month was not a record one in this respect. A higher total was attained during some of the months when the recent activity of the realty market was at its height. Since then, however, there was a falling off, and then a gradual increase. This is taken as an indication that the movement having reached its level will continue to gather momentum with increased prosperity.

CONFER ABOUT FILLING IN JAMES BAY FLATS

Representatives of the City Will Meet Mr. Marpole, of the Canadian Pacific Tomorrow.

The question of the dry filling for the grounds of the Empress hotel will be the subject of a conference between the city authorities and R. Marpole, general executive agent of the C.P.R. in British Columbia, tomorrow.

The company is anxious that the matter should be taken up at once and work urged forward.

At present a spur from the street railway line on Government is being run in at the south side of the company's grounds. When completed the company will commence to bring in filling from the neighborhood of Baker's brick yard, Douglas street.

Nothing has as yet been done towards putting in a spur near the Willows where the city expects to obtain 4,000 yards of filling.

Representation will be made by Mr. Marpole urging immediate action.

In a fire in a frame house in Kingston, Mrs. Annie McKay lost over $300 in bank bills which she unfortunately left in her room when she hurried out with the first alarm. She tried to get back, but could not

DISCUSSES SEIZURE OF CARLOTTA G. COX

Capt. J. G. Cox Says Position of British Sealing Vessels is Humiliating One

The seizure of the sealing schooner Carlotta G. Cox, which is to be tried before the Admiralty court in Victoria for illegal sealing is causing considerable feeling in certain circles, at least in Victoria. Although the seizure is the first in many years, local sealers feel strongly the humiliating position they are placed in by the action of the United States government. Capt. J. G. Cox, a director of the Victoria Sealing Company, said yesterday: "It seems to be of little use boasting of the protection offered by the British flag when it comes to pelagic sealing. Not since the cruises of the Adele with the "Flying Dutchman" in command has the position of local sealers been so humiliating as under the present restrictions. The Adele flew the German flag, and as a German vessel, could seal as she pleased at any place outside the three-mile limit. Now the flag of any little South American republic would permit a sealing vessel to hunt indiscriminately, anywhere and how she pleased, as long as the vessel remained outside the international limit of three miles from shore. The Japanese schooners flying the red-ball flag, were not interfered with in any way. Here, we, who have always boasted of the protection enjoyed by all vessels flying our flag, have a cutter come amongst a fleet of Japanese sealing craft, single out a British schooner, and seize her without molesting the Japanese vessels in any way.

"The schooner may have been lawfully seized, and she may be condemned for the alleged offense, but it seems to me the position is not only humiliating to Britishers, but most unfair. Viewing the circumstances in connection with the seizure dispassionately it seems an outrage. The schooner was one of a number sent to the Copper Island sealing ground, and she was on her way across to the hunting grounds, beyond the meridian when she fell in with the fleet of Japanese sealers. These schooners were hunting without interference, and it is reasonable to suppose toe captain was of the opinion that any regulations that were made years before had been suspended. To permit the schooners of any nation to seal in any one place, and restrict others from hunting there does not protect the seals, and the singling out of this British schooner from any of a fleet of Japanese vessels hunting without hindrance would seem as though the act was one solely to annoy the British sealer rather than to protect the seals."

The modus vivendi under the terms of which the schooner was seized is applicable only to British and American vessels, and the latter are prohibited from leaving United States ports on a sealing cruise. Japan has refused at all times to enter into the agreement. Commenting upon this many years ago the Japan Mail said: "Some ill-feeling, it is said, has been caused by Japan's refusal to enter into an agreement to prohibit pelagic sealing on the high sea, off the coast. Such a course could hardly be expected from Japan, apart from the fact that such methods are inconsistent with Japanese ideas of justice, to say nothing of establishing the precedent that a nation or combination of nations can close the high seas to the prosecution of a merely commercial pursuit when no national emergency justifies the action."

Although it is many years since the captured Victoria sealers have been seen at Sitka the sight of seized schooners and imprisoned sealers is no new one to the ancient Alaskan capital. When the seizures began over 20 years ago with the bringing on the Thornton, Onward and Carmelite to Sitka, the sealers were imprisoned and fined after months of hardship ultimately made their way back to Victoria. For these things the United States government paid damages a few years ago. One of the sealing captains, Capt. James Ogilvie, of the schooner Caroline committed suicide, his mind being turned as a result of the hardships endured.

Some years ago Judge G. Swan, of Port Townsend wrote strongly concerning the United States laws regarding sealing. He said: "I consider our laws regarding fur-seals as a monumental humbug system, inaugurated solely for the benefit of the Alaska Commercial Company, and their successors, the present lessees of the Pribyloff Islands, and not for the public good. It is true that the government derives a rent from the lessees of those islands, but when we look at the expense of maintaining a fleet of armed vessels as a police patrol in Bering Sea, and the expense of litigation and the sums of money to be paid to Canadian vessels for unlawful seizures, all the vaunted benefits of the lease of Pribyloff Island dwindles into insignificance and the credit side of the government ledger presents but a sorry sight. We are told that the seals are decreasing in number and soon will be exterminated as they were said to be at Cape Horn, and the facts are cited as parallel cases. The seals were driven from the Cape Horn Islands by the greed of the hunters, as they are being driven from the Pribyloff Islands by the actions of the company themselves; but the fur seals have not been exterminated at Cape Horn, nor will they be exterminated when the last one leaves the Pribyloff Islands; they will simply go to some other place. The Cape Horn fur seals have multiplied in increditable numbers on the South Shetland Islands, and the Pribyloff Island seals are returning to Copper Islands and the Japan Coast. They will not be extinguished notwithstanding the howls of the fur dealers of San Francisco, but they will surely be driven from the Pribyloff Islands. The laws should be altered or amended so the public and not a powerful monopoly should be benefitted. I believe that the same men who are protected on the Atlantic as fishermen should be protected on the Pacific and branded as pirates and poachers."

THE NORTHWESTERN

Survey of Damage to Steamer Made Yesterday at Esquimalt Dock

The survey held by Capt. Gibbs, of Seattle, and by Messrs. Fowler and Mitchell, Lloyds surveyors at Tacoma and Seattle, on the damaged steamer Northwestern, raised from La Touche by the B. C. Salvage company, and brought to Esquimalt, was completed yesterday and specifications of the work necessary to be done will be drawn today. The work will include the renewal of 40 plates, 60 feet of keel, 38 frames, 36 floors, as well as the fairing of other work and much minor repair. It is estimated that the work cannot be done at a cost of much less than $50,000. A large number of Puget Sound marine workers were at Esquimalt yesterday looking over the injured steamer. Representatives of Moran's shipyard, Fox & Co., Heffernan & Co., of Tacoma, and other firms were here, but it is not known whether they will bid for the work. It is confidently expected that the B. C. Marine Railway company will secure the work.

The many marine men who looked over the Northwestern yesterday in the dry dock were loud in their praise of the salvage feat performed by the B. C. Salvage company in floating and bringing the vessel to Esquimalt, 1,600 miles from where she struck. The injured place was practically covered by a cofferdam, so complete was the false work done by Mr. Bushby and his fellow workers in the foreholds. Fortunately all the injuries were forward of the bulkhead, which shuts off the fire room and engine room, and when the two extra bulkheads of wood had been built on this and the heavy flooring shored down the pumps did the rest. It was no mean salvage feat, in the opinion of the experienced men who examined the vessel yesterday.

Capt. J. F. Trowbridge, representing the Northwestern Steamship company, J. D. Phare and a number of other Puget Sound marine men were also here yesterday to examine the vessel, and the most of the Seattle and Tacoma men returned home last night. A large number of the Northwestern's crew also proceeded to Seattle last night.

A GRUESOME FIND.

Danish Divers Discover Wreck Lost Five Years Ago Near Christiania.

While some divers were at work about two weeks ago just outside the harbor of Moss, near Christiania, they unexpectedly came upon a huge wreck at the bottom of the sea.

Investigation proved it to be the St. John Lornez, which had been missing since 1902. In the cabins were found 13 corpses. From all appearances the vessel went down suddenly, and all on board were drowned.

SKAGWAY SERVICE.

Weekly Trips to Lynn Canal Commenced—Princess Beatrice Sails.

The steamer Princess Beatrice started last night on the first trip to Skagway this season, and will hereafter alternate with the steamer Princess May on a weekly schedule until the Princess Royal, now about completed at Esquimalt, is ready for service. The Princess Royal is expected to commence service at the beginning of July. The steamer Princess May, which has been alone on the Alaskan run for the C. P. R. has been on a ten-day schedule, and under the new arrangement will have fourteen days. The schedule provides for one of the two Lynn canal liners relieving the steamer Princess May on her lay-over day each week.

The Princess Beatrice took a fair amount of freight from this port, and will load considerable at Vancouver. Among the passengers on the steamer were Capt. John Irving, who is returning to White Horse to look after his mining interests in the northern camp, R. Weaver, L. S. Bell, Mrs. C. Halpenny, A. Arita and Justa Artaza.

Opens New Hospital

The Bishop of Columbia officiated yesterday at the formal opening of the new hospital at Van Anda, Texada Island.

BIG BOARDING SCHOOL PLANNED FOR VICTORIA

Rev. W. W. Bolton Already Has Arrangements Well Under Way

A large boarding school, modelled after those which are common in England, will be established in Victoria. This announcement is made by Rev. W. W. Bolton, who has conducted a small educational institution in this city for many years. His accommodation being taxed to its utmost capacity he has decided, on the advice of numerous friends, to organize a company for the purpose of providing the capital necessary for the construction and maintenance of the proposed new school.

Rev. Mr. Bolton announces that the preparations are well under way and that the institution is assured. He intends that it shall have room for one hundred boarders. He also contemplates obtaining a large area of land in one of the most suitable suburban districts, so that it will be possible to give the students the advantage of a first-class recreation grounds. With a thoroughly modern school, an efficient staff of teachers, and a fine play ground, Rev. Mr. Bolton believes that boys will be sent here from as far east as Winnipeg. It is the people within that section to whom he intends to cater and he is confident of success. "I believe that Victoria must become recognized as the educational centre of the west" he remarked yesterday. "Though I have no prejudice against public schools there is a demand for a private institution of the type found throughout the old country. I do not think that, once such a school became established, there would be any difficulty in obtaining patronage."

In order to provide temporary quarters for a school Rev. Mr. Bolton has entered into negotiations with the federal and imperial authorities for the use of the old naval hospital, which is vacant. He has had no definite reply but believes that he will be able to come to an arrangement.

Great Britain and Ireland have about 1,600,000 dogs, Germany not quite so many, while France has no fewer than 2,900,000.

There is every indication that bees will soon be extinct in the Isle of Wight. A strange disease has been spreading among them for the past three years. It assumes the form of a kind of paralysis, and up to the present all efforts to combat the malady have been useless.

A London maker has finished for Capetown what he claims to be the largest fire-escape in the world. The main ladder reaches to ninety feet.

Worth $300, an egg of a tall, flightless bird, the aepyornis maximus, is on exhibition in Liverpool. This gigantic bird made its home in Madagascar and only twenty of its mammoth eggs are known to exist. Each is a foot long and nearly a yard in circumference. One will hold two gallons of water.

REGULATIONS DO NOT MEET REQUIREMENTS

Dominion's Change of Policy, However, Will Help Salmon Industry

"Although the Ottawa authorities have not seen their way clear to sanction the recommendations of the fisheries commission, in respect to the regulation of salmon fishing in British Columbia, the announcement which had been made of some slight changes in the law is in the nature of a compromise. They have declared a forty-eight hour close season every week on the Fraser river above the bridge, only those residing in that vicinity being permitted to fish on that stretch of water, and they have prohibited either the export or the import of salmon to or from the other side for canning purposes." With these remarks J. P. Babcock, provincial fisheries commissioner opened an interesting conversation, on the salmon fishing situation, yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Babcock has just returned from a visit to the Seton Lake hatchery. He stated that he had made the trip for the purpose of conferring with the management. "You know we must prepare for the reception of fish just as if we expected that there would be a large run. It is necessary that the hatchery should be in readiness and, although this season is not likely to witness a heavy inflow of the salmon, still the plant will be prepared to accommodate as many as find their way there."

He then made the statement which has been quoted. The federal government, he said, had not carried out the wishes of the commission but fishing above the bridge had been prohibited to all those not living there. The effect of this would be awaited with great interest by all concerned in the preservation of the salmon fishing to British Columbia. There was no doubt in his mind that the barring of outsiders and the lengthening of the weekly close season some twelve hours would result in many more salmon reaching the spawning beds. He had been on the upper reaches of the Fraser river during the fishing and had seen large quantities caught. In one of the off years when salmon were more or less scarce at the cost and were valued at between twenty-five and thirty cents apiece. They were kept by canneries of the immediate vicinity because it was thought that the plants there could handle them, consequently, spoiled. For this reason, he thought, that the regulation of the fishing at this spot, in the stringent way outlined, could not but have a most beneficial effect.

But with his mind the regulations were not sufficiently drastic. Since he had come to British Columbia his investigations had led to the conclusion that there was conclusive evidence of periodicity in the annual salmon runs. By that he meant that the run each year, whether large or small, preceded the run in the year following. When he spoke of the "size" of a run he did not intend to convey only the understanding of a large nubmer of salmon, but, more particularly, that the run of every year depended upon the number of salmon which successfully reached the spawning beds four years previously. This worked out so conclusively that no argument could be advanced to refute it.

Basing his conclusions on this fact, and on the figures of each year's pack, there could be no gainsaying the fact that the amount of salmon caught annually was falling off to a serious extent and the salmon industry of British Columbia was threatened. He had pointed that out in cold clear type in his report. "But," he added, "I'm called a pessimist. People won't believe that there is any truth in what I say. And yet statements which I have made have been shown to have been well founded."

Mr. Babcock went on to refer to the effect of traps established on Vancouver island. The statement had been made by residents of the lower mainland that there was no decline in the number of salmon but that the reason for the shortage on the Fraser was that, as a result of the recommendations of the fisheries commissioner, traps had been permitted on the west coast of the island. To disprove that argument, Mr. Babcock said, it was only necessary to point out that the traps were not paying, that the only year the owners derived any profit was on the occasion of the big run. The reason he had advised the construction of the traps was for the purpose of forestalling the Americans of Puget Sound, who had been taking full benefit of the fish which were being allowed to pass from local waters into their hands.

Mr. Babcock is convinced that there should be a stronger effort to preserve the industry than at present. But he looks forward to the ensuing run expectantly hoping that the altered regulations will permit more salmon to reach the hatcheries than heretofore.

CHIEF LANGLEY HAS INTERESTING WEAPON

It Is of the Style Used by Russian Terrorists in Work of Assassination

A vicious looking steely-blue, gun metal weapon, about four inches long with a curious square handle and oblong ended barrel, hangs in Chief Langley's office in company with a huge Colt's pattern automatic, and the more common Colt's forty-five. It is a link with far off Russia, however, a link moreover with the terrorists, the revolutionary patriots, for the gun is the same make as those provided by the central revolutionary committee to its various agents. It is the same pattern as the gun that killed General Min last Ooctober, as was carried by the assassin of the Archduke Cyrill in Moscow, and which has been the vehicle of a score of acts of vengeance all over that distracted empire.

The weapon in question is a recent gift to the chief of the local police force. It is a "Browning" of the Liege pattern, made in Belgium in the city of the same name. It is automatic and fires eight times, and will shoot with accuracy and kill at a quarter of a mile. All the weight is in the handle, which contributes greatly to exactness of aim.

When, on the assassination of General Min, it was stated that the young girl terrorist when captured carried a bomb in a handbag, and had a Browning in her pocket, there were many who took it as another testimony to the culture of the Russian revolutionist. The "Browning" was, however, not a book, but a revolver.

NEW UNION STEAMERS.

Coasting Vessels Being Built in British Yards For New Zealand Company.

Capt. Gibb, of the steamer Moana, will arrive here by the steamer Miowera on July 4th on his way to Dumbarton to take over the new liner Marama. Two other masters in the Union Company's service are also going to England, one to take the new steamer Maori and the other to get the Waihora. The Marama is intended for the Canadian-Australian service, and the Maori for the Wellington-Lyttleton route, while the Waihora is intended for the inter-island trade of the South Pacific. The Marama has triple-expansion engines with twin screw and the Maori is a turbine steamer. The Union Steamship Company is now building turbine vessels only for the local runs. The Maori, which was built by Denny Bros. at Dumbarton, is 350 feet long, 47 feet beam and 26 feet deep.

AGNES G. DONOHOE'S CATCH.

Sealing Schooner Owned by Capt. Balcom Takes 2,160 Sealskins.

Capt. Sprott Balcom, of the Pacific Whaling Company, received a cablegram yesterday from Rio de Janiero, announcing the arrival of the sealing schooner Agnes G. Donahoe with 2,160 sealskins taken off the South Atlantic sealing grounds. The Agnes G. Donahoe is the schooner which was seized and taken to Montevideo, where her crew was imprisoned. A claim for damages arising out of this seizure is still pending. On May 26th Capt. Balcom received a cablegram from London announcing that his other vessel, the Edith R. Balcom, has shipped 1,100 sealskins to the British metropolis, making a catch of 2,000 skins for the season. Both the Agnes G. Donahoe and Edith R. Balcom have returned to the sealing grounds. Both vessels are in command of Victorians. Capt. H. Balcom being in charge of the Agnes G. Donahoe and Capt. Baker of the Edith R. Balcom.

Meeting Is Postponed

On account of an entertainment being held in St. Mark's schoolroom, the Cloverdale Municipal association has postponed its meeting until Thursday, June 13.

Oak Bay Council.

A special meeting of the Oak Bay Council was held yesterday morning when matters in connection with the building and opening of new streets and the improvement of present ones were discussed.

Tenders for Motor.

Tenders have been called for a 10 h.p., 500 volt motor which is required to run the cement mixer recently purchased by the city. When it is received the cement mixing plant will be complete.

Was Wrongly Quoted

In an interview with the Mayor recently His Worship was wrongly quoted as stating that tar for use in road making and dust-laying might shortly be obtained from Mexico. Of course, tar is not a Mexican product, as coal and its products is an import, not an export of that country.

EXPRESS THEIR FAITH IN VICTORIA'S FUTURE

New Comers See Great Possibilities in City and in the Island

The firm of Robertson & Griffith has opened a real estate office in the Adelphia building, 106 Government street, and will carry on a general brokerage and insurance business. Mr. Robertson is from Edmonton and has lived in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories for twenty-seven years. During this period he spent six years in Winnipeg, where he graduated as a B. A. After graduating he was principal of the O'Sullivan Business college for two years. He then entered the civic service in Regina. This position he resigned, having decided to come to Victoria. After staying with his brother for a few weeks he became, as many do, attracted with Victoria and Vancouver Island, which he has covered thoroughly and is now quite satisfied cannot be excelled for climatic and natural beauty in tre Dominion. After carefully considering the various conditions Mr. Robertson is prepared to make Victoria his home. "I am positive," said he, "that the city must make progress, and I look for a very large increase in population during the next two years; in fact I feel safe in saying that Victoria is on the eve of great prosperity."

Mr. Griffith is an American by birth, but he has lived in Canada since 1896. The first five years were spent in Sandon, B. C., with the firm of William Hunter & Co. and D. R. Atherton, both general merchandise business. Severing his connection with these firms he moved to Trout Lake, where he commenced business under the name of Masterson, Griffith & Co., which was successfully carried on until a year ago. Mr. Griffith came to the coast seeking a more genial climate. Victoria appealed to him as a place of residence and he has been settled here for some months. Like his partner he sees great possibilities, and few old timers can give a more accurate description of the natural resources of the island than he can. He has made a careful study of fruit growing and small farming and says that in his opinion the conditions prevailing on Vancouver Island far excel those of the Kootenays and equal that of the Okanagan. In this line he anticipates great progress.

A reporter for the Colonist asked Mr. Griffith his opinion of Victoria as a commercial and manufacturing centre. His answer was: "You must first pull together and go out with determination if you expect to succeed. Victoria cannot drag any longer. Your natural surroundings are bound to bring new settlers from all parts and if your citizens show the same active spirit in the line of manufacture and commerce as they have done to bring in the tourist the city should double in propulation and commerce in ten years."

JAPANESE PREPARED TO GREET PRINCE FUSHIMI

It Has Been Decided to Erect An Arch on Route of Procession

Victoria Japanese are preparing a reception for Prince Fushimi and party when they arrive here. It has been decided to build an arch, and a meeting will be held on Sunday with a noted Japanese gardener to arrange for the designs, etc. It has also been arranged to present a large bouquet of flowers to the prince and Miss Togo, the little daughter of Japan who is living at the rescue home on Cormorant Street has been chosen to make the presentation.

Other details have necessarily been left until the government and civic plans have been announced. No decision can be made as to the site of the arch until the committee is in possession of the plan of the route to be followed by the Japanese party on arrival here.

The British cruiser Monmouth is to each Esquimalt from Yokohama on June 18, according to advices received by the naval authorities. This will allow thirteen days for the run across the Pacific.

Arrangements have been made to coal the vessel at Esquimalt instead of Comox, and scows will be bought from the mining port to the naval station. The cruiser will remain at Esquimalt seven days and will sail for Yokohama with the Japanese prince and his party on June 25.

PARTY ARE EXAMINING E. & N. RAILWAY LANDS

Their Report Will Decide Where Proposed Clearing Operations Will Be Commenced

The E. & N. land department have a party at present out between Alberni and Comox which will shortly report on the condition of the land and it is expected that the company will guide itself by the finding in its policy with regard to the land clearing proposals.

The party is distinct from the survey parties which have been sent out by the engineering department It is headed by one of the company's timber cruisers and is looking into the nature of the soil and its potentialities.

Nothing is as yet given out with regard to the company's land clearing scheme and the report of the party will in all likelihood have some influence upon the negotiations which are at present under way.

Board of Trade Meeting.

The monthly general meeting of the Board of Trade will be held in the board room next Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Members having matters which they desire to discuss at this meeting are requested to notify Secretary Elworthy at once.

Fair Grounds Entrance

The erection of the new entrance gate to the fair grounds was begun yesterday and will be rushed to completion. It will be ready in time for the race meeting, it is expected, though the decorations will not all be completed by then. The fencing of the driving park's is being hurried along and will be finished in about ten days.

Who Will Mow the Hay?

Who will mow the hay is the question just at present. Tenders will be received by the city purchasing agent up until 4 p. m., Monday, June 17, for the purchasing, cutting and removing of the grass from Beacon Hill park, to the satisfaction of the chairman of the park committee. The successful tenderer is required to deposit a certified check for $50 with the civic authorities. Tenders may also be submitted for cutting and removing the grass from Ross Bay cemetery.

Chinaman is Fined.

Chang Quang Duck, a celestial charged with attempting to evade the payment of the poll tax of $500 as provided by the Immigration act, was found guilty in the police court yesterday morning and given a fine of $100 with the option of three months' imprisonment. He paid the fine and has also paid the head tax. He took the stand himself but his evidence did not help his case any. Laine Poo and Law Wai Poo, who were charged with aiding and abetting Chang, pleaded guilty after Chang's case had been disposed of and they were each fined the same amount. Both produced the money and went free.

FREIGHT RATES QUESTION.

Vancouver Board of Trade Asks Prompt Answer From C. P. R.

Vancouver, June 6.—Many, many long calendar months ago the merchants of the coast cities entered into a tilting tourney with the Canadian Pacific railway, the prize to be for the merchants a share to the trade of Winnipeg in the Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge districts, and for the railway company, if it won, a continuation of the haul of freight from Winnipeg to those districts. The board of railway commissioners of Canada were appointed judges; both parties metaphorically rolled up their sleeves and dug into a maze of facts and figures, each endeavoring to prove the other wrong.

Months went by, and finally the commission, when pressed for a decision, declared that the report of its expert was not at hand. More months went by, and the report was received by the commission—a copy of it having even reached the Vancouver board. Many more months passed into history, and the commission gave no sign, and so far as any person in Vancouver is now aware, the commissioners may have forgotten all about the dispute.

Last night President McMillan called the attention of the board to this state of affairs and declared that he thought the board should write to the secretary of the commission requesting an explanation as to the cause of this extraordinary delay. He said the matter was one of vital importance to the commercial interests of British Columbia and should be settled.

It was accordingly moved, seconded and carried that Secretary Skeene should communicate with the commission and seek to ascertain when a decision would be forthcoming.

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