The Colonist

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1894.

A TERRIFIC VISITATION.

The accounts of the terrible forest fires in Minnesota and elsewhere are sickening Those who have not seen a forest on fire car have no idea of its magnificence and its am-axing destructiveness. When it once gets headway at a time favorable to its spread, it defies all attempts to check its ravages. Those who are endangered by it can only flee from it or stand by in utter helpleseness to witness its terrible progress. It does not require a very strong imagination to look apon it as a living and malignant power intent upon destroying every living thing. animate and inanimate, that stands in its way. It rushes on with wonderful rapidity and with noises that are truly appalling.

The settlers in the Minnesots woods and the inhabitants of some Minnesots forest villages were surrounded by what ap-peared to them an impenetrable wall of fire. They saw fearful sights and heard terrific sounds. Death came upon the poor terrified souls in the most dreadful shape imaginable. Many were so situated that they could not fight the enemy that was bent upon their destruction, and any attempt to escape the fierce and greedy flames was question at last night's meeting. The May utterly hopeless. The wonder is, not that so and aldermen naturally reserved what the many perished in that burning forest, but

water supply. They clearly want inform the finer and nobler qualities of men and women are brought out. There were, no doubt, deeds of heroism and self-sacrifice done in those little villages and lonely settled the world will never hear of, but there are others that will be put on the record of mundance events to the house of themselves. They do not remain the sufficient supply of good water than they cord of mundance events to the house of themselves. cord of mundane events to the honor of themselves. They do not seem to be d human nature. We read of a rallway engineer who did his duty in a manner truly sum of money on the improvement and e heroic. He, in hope to reach a station, tension of the water works to a Council will drove his train through the burning forest will not consent to apply to the higher until he found that it would be madness to authorities for advice and direction. proceed. He then, though suffering greatly this they are nothing more than prude from the heat, backed the train through It would be utter folly for the Council the raging fire and did not leave his post un- engage in a work requiring scientific know til the border of a lake was reached. The edge for its proper performance with conductor and fireman also manfully per-formed their duties in that trying time. man of high reputation. Every sensib Had that engineer been overpowered by the heat, had heallowed the pain he wassuffering the best advice within his reach, and the to divert his attention from the work he course is even more necessary in the mana had to do, that train with its living freight ment of public matters of very much grea of fugitives from the flames, would have importance. been utterly destroyed. The name of this moble fellow is "Jim Root," and the names of the fireman and conductor who stood by

The inhabitants of the towns and villages in the neighborhood of the burnt district are doing everything in their power to succor and comfort the survivors. Nothing
that sympathy and humanity can do to
mitigate their distress will be wanting. We

The platform of the Democrats and made
them policyless. He professes to be as

prevent the unemployed in the city from suffering. It his upon a plan to find work for them and to furnish them regularly with an ample supply of food. The number of the unemployed in the city was between 4,000 and 5,000. Their object was to give the relief needed without the relief needed with the reli the relief needed without pauperizing the people relieved, and they succeeded.

We gather from the letter that the Club

the men that succeed in doing so good work are beyond doubt public benefactors.

A GOOD SIGN

Very little light was shed on the that any escaped.

It is catastrophes such as that which has pressions used by several of the speake evertaken the inhabitants of the villages of Hinckley and Sandstone, and other settle. with respect to the improvement of the cityments in the track of the great fire that the water supply. They clearly want inform

BUCHRED.

Mr. Estee, the Republican nominee for him so courageously are McGowan and Sul- Governor of California, has completely taken the wind out of the sails of his Democratic opponents. They, as we have already informed our readers, have taken opposition an appeal to the charitable, but this was, we think, scarcely necessary. So much and so keenly do the people of the county feel all they say, and goes one or two better. so keenly do the people of the county feel all they say, and goes one or two better; posed that the spontaneous contributions of those who feel impelled to do what they can to help the distressed will be more than sufficient to repair their losses and supply their wants.

A CHERRING EXAMPLE.

An example of organized public spirit is given in one of the century Magazine. The letter is an edifying one as it shows what can be done by organized inquiry and united effort in the ward of the century of the present water of the century dependence of the century depe

See any other specified programs of the control of

Crops which have not been touched, and those which have been out and are not yet under cover have suffered more or less from the favor of its reforms; and when the electore were once determined that a work should be undertaken and carried out, they soon found means to bring the Corporation to their way of thinking.

This "Commercial Club" did not die out a few months after it was organized. It has become a permanent institution in Indianapolis, and has built as its home a fine eight atorey stone front building—"the handwork to do. To create and keep alive an active and intelligent public spirit on olvic affairs is what is urgently required in vary many cities on this side of the Atlantic, and the men that succeed in doing so good a work are beyond doubt public benefactors. those which have been out and are not yet

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WATER WORKS IMPROVEMENT. Mr. W. E. Losee has addressed the follow-

fire engine, which would be done away with
Steam fire engine
suet, light and oil 300 Repairs 100 Harness 100 Pumping station on Yates street 2,500
Total cost of maintaining a 60 ft.

Monthly Statistics.

yesterday, and the Council were called together to hear his views on the question of establishing a steel works in Vancouver. The Council passed the following resolution which Mr. Withrow accepted in lieu of a more favorable one to his interests: "That the Council will be prepared to give careful consideration to any reasonable proposition for financial aid submitted to it by the promotors of fron and steel works, or any responsible company or organization formed for that purpose, such works to be established in the city of Vancouver, and in the event of any mutually satisfactory arrangement being arrived at with such association or company, to submit same to the assent of the electors."

Mr. Harvey, of Victoria, has purchased

the electors."

Mr. Harvey, of Victoria, has purchased the stock and good will of G. I. Wilson in his dry goods business on Mt. Pleasant.

The firemen were called out twelve times in August, eight calls being to bush fires.

In August the police magistrate disposed

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

The Nanaimo Water Works Company Shareholders Willing to Sell Out to the City.

Meeting of Vancouver Island Presby

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER, Sept. 4.— (Special) — The by law to raise \$100,000 for the erection of an Electric Light plant by the city, passed its second reading. It will be put to the people about the middle of October.

The case of S. R. Robb, prosecuted for the alleged publication of a false report, was concluded before Police. Magistrate Jordan to-day. Decision was reserved until Monday.

to day. Decision was reserved until Monday.

The shackites have presented a long address to Judge Bole in county court praying for an injunction to restrain the authorities from destroying their shacks. Judge Bole referred them to the Dominion Government, he having no power to act.

W. F. Peterson, Col. Pierce's successor as U. S. Consul, is in the city.

VANOUVER, Sept. 4 — Mr. Withrow, of the steel works enterprise, was in the city yesterday, and the Council were called together to hear his views on the question of

62 cases. The customs returns for the month of

closed at 7:30 p.m. Instead of 10 p.m. as interestofore.

The coroner's jury in the case of Lennon, found dead at Hastings, returned a verdict of died from suffocation while intoxicated.

Mr. Geo. Turner starts for the site of the co-operative colony to-morrow. Mr. Turner continues to receive letters asking for information and a number have been received into the heatharhood.

lin. Mr. Hamiin is on a tour to a number of important ports in Canada and the States with the purpose of familiarizing himself with every detail of the customs department. Mr. Hamiin is also studying the question of goods in bond through Canada with a view of reporting to the U. S. government. The different warehouses in the oity were inspected by Mr. Hamiin, who before his departure asid some very pleasant things about British Columbia and her people. It is highly improbable that anything concerning his trip will be made public until his report is filed with the department. Mr. Hamiin had intended to visit the Sound again on a hunting and fishing

the Sound again on a hunting and fishing trip, but found it impossible. NEW WESTMINSTER, Sept. 4 -In the District Court to day three cases of throwing offal into the Fraser were heard. The first was dismissed. In the second a fine of \$20

New Westminster, Sept. 5 In the

New Westminster, Sept. 5—In the District Court today John Adams was charged with the attempted murder of Indian Charlie at Vedder Creek in August and remanded for eight days.

The charge against John Boultbee, Vancouver, of misappropriation of the funds of the Richmond Municipality, has been adjourned till Friday.

A mild attack of gold fever has struck the young men of this city. Several parties have already gone up the river. Gold is reported to be plentiful on the Fraser, owing to the recent freshet. Hundreds of Chinamen are washing on the bars between Chilliwack and Katz Landing.

President Jim Hill, of the Great Northern, is expected this week.

Rain has completely quenched the forest fires and the air is clear from smoke.

G. W. Grant, architect, for long a resident here, has removed to Vancouver.

The Indians have all returned to their homes from the fishing.

of 62 cases.

The customs returns for the month of August show imports, free, \$12,576; imports, dutlable, \$73,608; total, \$86,183.

Exports, \$38,749; duty collected, \$23,011.

67; other revenue, \$244 14; total, \$23.

255 81. In the corresponding month last year the collections were \$24,111.09, the formal revenue returns for the month of August weremade up of spirits, \$4,387.56; mait, \$89.49; tobacop, \$2,866 01; cigars, \$465 30; petroleum inspection, \$87; methyliated spirits, \$67,15; total, \$8,767 80 During the corresponding month in 1893, the collections were \$8,375 53, the increase, therefore, being \$392 89.

The elements made Labor Day very dismal, and if thad not been for the high spirits and determination of the committee who had the celebration in charge the day would have been a failure. As it was the games were proceeded with in the rain at North Vancouver and the programme faithfully carried out. The ladies were out in considerable numbers and the sir is clear from smoke. G. W. Grant, architect, for long a resident here, has removed to Vancouver. The Indians have all returned to their homes from the flahing.

NANAIMO, Sept. 3.—This evening Mrs. Dempsey, wife of the proprieter of the Windsor House, was assaulted by Mrs. Halten, wife of the lesses of the Windsor House, was assaulted by Mrs. Halten into the dining room, and without any provocation the latter dealt the former a murderous blow with a piece of steel rod about two feet nine inches in length. Mrs. Dempsey was hit across the back of the neck, and narrowly missed being tilled. She dropped to the ground and corresponding the variable, were well at tended, and on the whole the day was a nuccess.

The postoffice deors in Vancouver will be closed at 7,30 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. as learning in the police court to-morrow.

police court to-morrow. NANAIMO, Sept. 4. - At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Nanaimo water works a proposition to sell out to the corporation was favorably received. It was unanimously agreed that in the event of land, William James Farrer, aged 74 years.

(From the Advance.) There was a tobacco famine in Boundary Creek last week. No doctor evidently wants the appropria-

tion of \$300 for a resident physician in the lower country. The present prohibitive tariff on mining

was dismissed. In the second a fine of \$20
and costs was imposed, and the third case
was adjourned.
A teameter named Bell was held up at
Chilliwack on Saturday night by four men,
who asked for Alex. Ferguson, purser of the
steamer Transfer. The robbers were disappointed of their expected haul and disappeared in the darkmass.
The body of McTavish, who was drowned
over three months ago in Hetzlo slough,
oame up suddenly on Studay at the identical spots where he sank. The corpec was
shookingly decomposed and was buried im
mediately.
The Salvation Army held their annual
thanksgiving service and sale of goods last
night. Over 300 persons were present, and
the sale realized \$10.

New Westminster, Sept. 5—In the

TARIFF MATTERS.

WASHINGTON CITY, Sept. 4.- At the State Department it is announced that nothing has been undertaken by the department relative to further treaty negotiations with Spain. It is pospossible that the Spanish government may have indicated to the minister at Madrid that it was desirous to enter into new treaty relations, since the new tariff abrogated the treaties made under the McKinley law, but it is said no initiative steps have been taken by this government.

During experiments to-day with a military baloon at Aldershot the baloon was struck by lightning and three men were injured. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught were present, and the Duke in the rush for aid was injured.

Byers—At 97 Toronto street, on the 21st inst, the wife of W. D. Byers, of a daughter, WORSFOLD MAYO On Sept. 3rd, at Victoria, the wife of H. H. Worsfold Mayo, of Mc-Pherson's, of a son.

St. Saviour's church, Victoria West, B C., by Rev. W. D. Barber, M. A., rector, John Bannantyne Jackson, son of the late Edwin Jackson C. E., Dublin, Ireland, to Mary A. J. Gerrie Beid, only daughter of the late Robert Montgomery Reid, of Ayrshire, Sections.

AMERON-DEWDNEY—At Gleichen, N.W.T., on 28th August, by Rev. Father Doucet, W.F. Cameron to Clara Dewdney, both of Ver-non, B.C. FIRRHOUT-HUMBER—On the 4th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, Topaz ave., by Rev. S. Cleaver, assisted by Rev A. B. Osterhout, Rev. S. S. Osterhout, of Naas River, to Amy, only daughter of M. Humber, Esq., of this city.

OTH—At his residence, 71 Quadra street, on the 2nd instant, of paralysis, Andrew Sam-uel Booth, only child of Samuel and Julia Booth, a native of Victoria, B.C., aged 33 years and 8 months.

years and a months.

GRAY—At his residence, Esquimalt, on the 30th
instant, of cancer, Joseph Gray, a native of
Dorsetshire, England, aged 66 years.



TTTERLY INDESCRIBABLE.

Fires-Towns Wiped Out-450 Bodies Found.

Harrowing Scenes-Ghouls Rob the Dead-Narrow Escapes and Startling Experiences

CHICAGO, Sept. 4 -From revised returns innesota and Mionigan it seems that the ollowing Minnesota towns were totally destroyed: Hinckley, Pokegama, Sandfollowing Minnesota towns were totally destroyed: Hinckley, Pokegama, Sandridge, Cromwell, Curtie, Cushing, Mission Creek. Partially destroyed : Finlayson, Manafield, Rutledge, Milace, Minnesota The following counties were completely and ruined : Pine, Knabec, Carlton, Benton, Aitken, Millelach and Morrison, In Wisconsin the towns of Comstock, Benoit, Baronett, Poplar, Marengo and Granite Lake were completely destroyed, and Spencer, Highbridge, Ashland Junction, Frield,

Highbridge, Ashland Junction, Fifield, Cartwright, Grantsburg, Turtle Lake, Rice Lake, Mascoda, Bashawa, Shell Lake and South Renge were partially destroyed.

The following Wisconsin counties were partly burned: Barron, Washburn, Florence, Ashland, Taylor, Chippewa, Burnett, Marinette, Price, Grant, Douglas, Marathon and Bayfield. In Michigan the cowns partly burned were: Trout Creek, Ewen, Sidnaw, Michigan; and the counties partly burned were: Houghton, Ontanagon (a). rned were: Houghton, Ontavagon (al-at total except in the towns), Huron and PINE Carr, Minn., Sept. 4 -The general

executive committee in charge of the relief has made a report that the bodies recovered thus far are as follows: Hinckley, 271; Sandstone, 77; Miller (often called Sandstone & anction), 15; between Skunk lake and Miller, 12; Pokegama, 15; in the lumber camps, 50; total, 450. The total loss here may reach about \$3,000. Everything at Sandstone was burned, the only thing here may reach about \$3,000. Everything at Sandatene was burned, the only thing left standing being the school house walls and big hark safe. The only living thing to be seen there on Sunday night when the relief party arrived was a horse and pig. Sixty-two bodies have been found thus far in town, not counting the numbers which have been found in the outlying country and buried where found. Ghouls are at work in the vicinity. A party from Duluth came down. vicinity. A party from Duluth came down to help bury the dead and while searching to help bury the dead and while searching at noon came upon a gang who had broken open and rifled some safes, and when they were met they had just found a cistern from which they had hauled 15 dead bodies and had robbed them of jewelry, rings, trinkets, etc., and were throwing the bodies back into the well. They escaped. A frame powder magszine at Sandstone, a portion of which was left standing and which was empty, was torn down for material for coffice.

The fire was escapely the Sandstone of the safe Port

The fire was seen by the Sandstone people four houre before it struck the town, ly on and everything was packed in readiness to remove to Kettle river. At E sat Village before anyone was aware of the danger the fire came upon the town from the morth, east and west, and fired the whole town inside of five minutes. Many people were unable to reach the river, and died in the street. A blacksmith was burned to a crisp in his shop where he was sheeing a horse, so sudden was the fire. Not a thing was saved, and in thirty is the minutes the whole town was the site of the company to the street of the street of the company to the street of the stree

Not a thing was saved, and in thirty minutes the whole town was swept off the earth. Those who reached the river remained most of the night. The survivors are entirely destitute, and have not even clothing to their backs, except such as is provided by the relief committees. Whole families are wiped out. President Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, came up from Hinckley this morning and took train over the St. Paul and Duluth how road to within nine miles of Sandstone and walked over. The big Eastern Minnesota bridge over the Kettle river has a steel arch in the middle, 180 feet long, and is still inmiddle, 180 feet long, and is still intact, though the wooden approaches are brisk

brisk considered.

"The scene of death and ruin along the road is a terrible one," said Mr. Hill, "not a sign of life is anywhere to be seen; all is a blackened and charred mass of ruins. Dead animals and human beings are everywhere, and shey have been burned wherever found. In one old well we found fifteen snakes and forty or fifty field mice, all in together alive. There were many peculiar features of the fire. In one place where all else was burned and blackened, we found a wagon with the hay in the box intact, while the horses were dead. There is yet to be closed up on the Eastern Minnesota a gap of twelve miles between Hinckley and Duluth, eight miles of which are between Hinckley and Duluth, eight miles of which are between Hinckley and Duluth, eight miles of which are between Hinckley and Duluth, eight miles of which are between Hinckley and the finet thirty feet away was another car untouched. We fed a little fellow not twelve years old. The rest of the family were burned."

Judge Nethaway, of Stillwater, has been one of the most active in relief work, and has been all over the surrounding country. He found the family of Jack Robinson, man, wife, and average billiance.

touched. We fed a little fellow not twelve years old. The rest of the family were burned."

Judge Nethaway, of Stillwater, has been one of the most active in relief work, and has been all over the surrounding country. He found thefamily of Jack Robinson, man, wife and seven children, all dead and hardly recognizable; he also found J. G Rowley, passenger agent of the Duluth and Winnipeg. Seven miles northwest of Hinokley to day, he came to a spot where a farm house had stood. In frontwas a well and over to the left could be seen human bodies and the bodies of several animals. Judge Nethaway went at once to the well to see if anyone was there, and found down in the well a little 12, year, old was well calamity is just beginning to be to the awful calamity is just beginning to be selt. The work of rescuing the dead bodies of pix apper turning and are living in tents. To-day a large number of bodies were recovered. Coruner Cowan sent out seventy-five to be buried in the graveyard, and more were being brought in all the time. At moon a body with the head burned beyond all recognition, was found across the river in a gravel pit. Another body, identified from a photo, was also found, and it is thought that many more will be found later on. In a gravel pit there are dozens of dead horses and cowe, burned wagons, and the smel which goes up from Hinokley is a terrible one.

Monday's big pile of bodies has been put under ground. Some piled promiscuously fell ye

Monday's big pile of bodies has been put under ground. Some piled promiscuously in a trench six feet wide and forty feet long, while others are put two, five or seven in a big pine box and buried. On the ground where the two hundred bodies were piled is a small mass of burned ciothing; here and there a charred hand or foot. Words cament be found to describe the scene about the town this afternoon. Where the depot stood was burned, charred hand; farther down the track lay a woman's leg, while out in the arcounding country are human trunks, medal