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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY SECOND YEAR. THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1900 VOLUMF XLII—NO. 46

War Near Collapse.

Impression at Roberts' Headquarters Where Prospect Is for Long Halt.

Free Staters Accept Invitation to Surrender—Suggestion for Prisoners' Benefit

Boer Officials Seek Haven in Russia and Carry Incriminating Documents.

London, March 22.—The Capetown correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Tuesday, March 20, says:

"I have just arrived from Bloemfontein, where I learned that no further movement is probable for three weeks, as negotiations are proceeding. I failed to ascertain the nature of the negotiations, or whether Sir Alfred Milner's departure from Capetown is connected with them. But I should not be surprised if the war collapsed."

London, March 22.—(4:12 a. m.)—several telegrams have passed between President Kruger and the British government in addition to the Salisbury-Kruger correspondence already published. The foreign office received a despatch from Pretoria yesterday. The contents of these communications cannot yet be obtained. So far as the military situation is concerned there is practically no change.

THE NAVAL BRIGADE.

Bloemfontein, March 21.—Lord Roberts, while inspecting the Naval Brigade on the plain outside the town, in the presence of many of the townspeople, addressed the men, thanking them for the excellent work they had done in the course of the campaign. He wished good luck to those who were about to rejoin the ships, and expressed the hope that the others would be present at the entry into Pretoria.

ROBERTS' OFFER TAKEN.

Mazru, Basutoland, Wednesday, March 21.—Everybody in Basutoland rejoices in the restoration of telegraphic communication with Aliwal North.

The proclamation of Lord Roberts is apparently effective, as the Free Staters are surrendering to the Basutoland officials.

The occupation of Nehu and Rouxville by the British has produced an excellent impression, convincing the Basutos that the authority of the Queen is paramount.

REMOVING EVIDENCE.

London, March 22.—The Capetown correspondent of the Morning Post says: "On the best authority I learn that the real objective of the Fischer-Wolmarans deputation is Russia.

"I also hear that they have taken away all the secret incriminating documents from Pretoria, thus making it difficult to implicate Steyn and the Bondites."

PRISONERS' TREATMENT.

London, March 22.—Mr. Winston Churchill in a despatch from Pietermaritzburg says: "I think it may be counted a certitude that the Transvaal would immediately comply if Great Britain were to demand equally fair treatment to all prisoners, by a threat of reprisals on Transvaal prisoners."

RAIL TO LADYSMITH.

Princess Christian's Hospital Train First Over Restored Lines—Cavalry Watching the Passes.

Ladysmith, March 21.—It has been ascertained that the accidental removal of stones covering some Boer graves, after the fight at Pieter's Hill on February 28, revealed thousands of split and soft nosed bullets.

Princess Christian's hospital train arrived this morning. It was the first train over the new Colenso bridge. The railroad is now open to Elandslaagte, where a camp has been established.

Drakensburg and Biggarsberg are closely watched by the British cavalry.

BOERS' PLACE OF EXILE.

Feuds Between Transvaalers and Free Staters May Cause Division of the Prisoners.

London, March 21.—Col. Challice, of the Army Service Corps, will sail for the island of St. Helena to-morrow in order to make the necessary arrangements for the accommodation there of Gen. Cronje and other banished Boers. It is still doubtful whether all the prisoners will be sent there, owing to the feuds between the Transvaalers and Free Staters. If all the Boers are sent to St. Helena a considerable increase in the strength of the garrison is projected.

HONOR TO DUBLIN'S MAYOR.

Corporation Expresses Thanks for Courtesies on His Viscit to United States.

Washington, March 21.—The President has received a copy of a resolution recently adopted unanimously by the municipal council of the city of Dublin, Ireland, as follows:

"Resolved, That this council of the corporation of the city of Dublin place on record their high appreciation of the honor conferred on the Lord Mayor by the President of the United States on the occasion of his recent visit to Washington, and the warm reception extended to him, and also to the Governors of the States and Mayors who granted him the freedom of the several cities; to the governor of the naval yard at Brooklyn, and generally to the citizens of the United States for their generous hospitality."

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Victoria Affairs in House and Departments—Upper Ottawa Canal Not Favored.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, March 21.—The six months hoist of the redistribution bill was moved by Sir Mackenzie Bowell in the Senate to-day.

Lieut. Ackroyd, Vancouver, will command the British Columbia half company for Halifax.

Col. Prior was informed to-day that no Indian agent has been appointed for Duncan's.

The voters' list for South Victoria has not been received.

A petition for the removal of the Mount Tolmie post office is under consideration.

Mr. Blair took up the entire evening sitting discussing the transportation question and intimated that the government are giving no assistance to the Ottawa-Georgian Bay canal.

Mr. Fisher told Col. Prior that the government are taking every precaution against the bubonic plague.

Mr. Gillmor, ex-M. P. for Charlotte, gets the vacant New Brunswick Senatorship.

Estates of Foreigners.

Treaty Between Great Britain and the States Before American Senate.

Defeat of Opposition to Application of Provisions to Canada.

Washington, March 21.—The senate yesterday in executive session considered the treaty between the United States and Great Britain regulating the disposal of the estates of deceased citizens of one country who may die in the other one. Senator Wolcott, of the committee on foreign relations, had charge of the treaty and explained it was the same in text as the one which had failed of ratification in the last session of congress on account of the limitation of the session. He explained the legal bearing of the agreement, saying that it covered practically the same ground as the treaty with other countries on the same subject. Senator Davis, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, also made a statement in support of the treaty.

Senator Bacon of the same committee criticised the treaty as conferring a power upon the federal government in the regulation of estates which was an infringement upon the rights of the states and territories. He pointed out that the pending treaty goes further than any agreement with any other power in the infringement of this right and he especially criticised the authority granted by treaty to the Queen of England or the President of the United States to extend the provisions of the treaty to dependencies.

The treaty was amended by striking out the time limit for ratification, which made it expire on the 2nd instant.

In executive session to-day, two efforts to amend the treaty were defeated by very decisive votes. One of the amendments offered was to strike out section five of the agreement extending the same privilege to each of the two nations, in the matter of acquiring or holding property that may be extended to any other nations. The motion to amend was lost by 17 to 30. The other proposed amendment related to the striking out of the provision authorizing the Queen of Great Britain or the President of the United States to extend the provisions of the treaty to the dependencies of the two countries. This also was lost on a vote of the same proportions as the other. The principal speeches in support of the amendments and in opposition to the spirit of the treaty were made by Senators Jones, of Arkansas; Turner, Pettigrew and Sullivan. They were replied to by the Republican members of the committee on foreign relations. The debate was entirely legal in its scope. The treaty will be taken up again to-morrow.

"GET RICH QUICK" FRAUD.

Fifteen Hundred Persons Swindled by a Short Lived Chicago Concern.

Chicago, March 21.—After considerable bitter opposition from creditors a trustee was to-day appointed for the bankrupt Combination Investment Company, an alleged "get-rich-quick-concern," which failed recently and which is said to have swindled people all over the country. The liabilities of the concern are in the neighborhood of $300,000 and the assets a little over $26,000. It is said the creditors of the company number more than fifteen hundred, although only five hundred have filed their claims.

LANGTRY DATES CANCELLED.

Wave of Moral Reform in Cleveland Prevents Presentation of "The Degenerates."

Cleveland, Ohio, March 21.—As a result of the movement recently inaugurated in this city against the presentation of certain plays, the engagement of Mrs. Langtry, who was billed to open at Euclid avenue opera house on April 2 in "The Degenerates," has been cancelled.

The police authorities several days ago announced that a censor would be present at the first performance of "The Degenerates," with full authority to order the curtain rung down should anything objectionable be said or done.

ASTHMA.

Mrs. George Budden, Putnamville, Ont., says: "I feel it my duty to recommend Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine, as I had the Asthma very bad; could get nothing to do me any good. A friend of mine persuaded me to try this remedy, as he had tried it, and it proved successful. I tried it and it cured me. I am thankful to-day to say I am a well woman through the use of this remedy. 25 cents a bottle. Family size 60 cents.

Clearing The Way.

Roberts Securing His Rear for General Descent Upon the Transvaal.

Boer Army From Colesberg in Danger of Capture in the Passes.

Kruger Still Promises Desperate Fighting—The Menace to Johannesburg Over.

London, March 22.—Lord Roberts is quietly making preparations for the next move. As necessary to a beginning, Generals Gatacre and Brabant are swiftly moving from point to point in the southern districts of the Free State, dispersing or accepting the surrender of any remaining Boers, thus ensuring the safety of Lord Roberts' communications before starting towards Pretoria.

London, March 21.—A despatch to the Standard from Bloemfontein, dated Thursday, March 21, says: "Four thousand Transvaalers from Colesberg trekked on Saturday and Sunday to northeast, going by way of the Basutoland border. They will probably be caught in one of the passes.

"A striking feature of the advance on Bloemfontein was the abandonment of our communications at Poplar Grove.

"Lord Roberts, confident in the ability of the transport to meet all the immediate needs of the army, deliberately left the enemy at Abraham's Kraal to do what they liked. The result fully justified him. The enemy to the south were paralyzed by the boldness and rapidity of the stroke, and Generals Clements and Gatacre were enabled to cross the Orange river without opposition."

London, March 22.—Mr. Spencer Wilkinson in the Morning Post offers the following suggestion: "It may be a part of the plan of Lord Roberts to make a raid with the mobile force Lord Kitchener is collecting at Prieska, through the country beyond the Vaal river, where many Boer parties are scattered, and to recover Kuruman from the Boers. Such a raid might be an effective means of helping Col. Baden-Powell at Mafeking."

A correspondent of the Daily News at Springfontein describing the movements says: "Gen. Gatacre is sweeping through the country like a cyclone with flying columns in all directions. His swiftness and strategy have proved of inestimable value to Lord Roberts.

"The rebuilding of the railway bridge at Norval's Pont will occupy two months. The temporary bridge will be completed in about ten days. Meanwhile supplies are transported by an aerial tramway across the gap. These works necessarily delay the providing of supplies for the advance.

Lord Methuen's movements north of Kimberley are believed to be a prelude to the gathering of a column of 20,000 men with Kimberley as a base to strike eastward from Fourteen Streams into the Transvaal.

The long and anxiously awaited news of the relief of Mafeking has not yet been received.

Mr. Schreiner, the Cape Premier, has granted the request of the mayor of Capetown that a public holiday be proclaimed throughout the colony on the relief of Mafeking.

A despatch to the Daily Mail from Pretoria dated Monday March 19, says: "President Kruger returned from Kroonstadt yesterday. He says the fight in the Free State will be desperate. I am informed that the Transvaal government has taken no resolution to destroy mines or property as a last resort."

CHINESE DESPERADOES.

Six Supposed Murderers in Highbinders' Service Under Arrest in San Francisco.

San Francisco, March 21.—A police raid on the Highbinders last night resulted in the arrest of six of the most notorious members of the Suey Sing Tong. Each of the men in custody is accused of at least one murder, and several are suspected of having assassinated two or more members of the rival Tongs. The supposed leader of the gang is Sue Ho Mun. He is charged by the police with four murders. Sue Ho Mun attempted to draw his revolver when the officers arrested him, but was disarmed.

Other arrests will follow, but the police admit that convicting evidence will be hard to secure in all cases.

BRITISH COLUMBIA MISSIONS.

Presbyterian Committee for Canada Make Several Appointments and Substantial Appropriations.

Toronto, March 21.—The home mission committee of the Presbyterian Church of Canada continued its annual meeting in Knox church to-day, and claims for the past half year were passed to the amount of $30,400. The requests of presbyteries for the year beginning April 1st were passed as follows: British Columbia, $23,500; Klondike, $6,000.

The following missionaries were appointed to British Columbia: H. McKay, T. P. Heney, W. D. Turner, A. C. Macrae, J. A. Sutherland, W. J. Booth, R. P. Murray, N. Macrae, W. Rennie, J. A. McLeod, J. A. Wilson, H. P. Luttrel, T. W. Goodwill, R. Pow, K. C. MacLeod, T. O. Miller, W. C. McIntyre, A. A. Bailey and J. D. McKinnon.

Fourteen additional men were wanted for British Columbia. Their appointment is left in the hands of the executive.

Backache is almost immediately relieved by wearing one of Carter's Smart-Weed and Belladonna Plasters. Try one and be free from pain. Price 25 cents.

MANITOBA AND NORTHWEST.

Prominent Farmer Killed in Runaway—Forty Accepted for Halifax—Seven Years for Shooting.

Winnipeg, March 21.—(Special)—About 40 men for the Halifax garrison left yesterday for Ottawa. Over 100 applications were received in all, but owing to the strict medical examination only about 40 were successful in passing.

The Mikado mine at Rat Portage produced $14,000 in gold during the first two weeks of this month, breaking all previous records.

At the Winnipeg assizes Edward Cameron was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for shooting at George Pulliphat with intent to kill.

At Emerson yesterday Gavin Ross, a prominent farmer and politician, was instantly killed, his team running away and throwing him to the ground. He was an unsuccessful candidate at two elections for the Manitoba legislature.

A Montreal despatch says: "The marriage of Miss Allie Ham, second daughter of George H. Ham, of the C. P. R. advertising department, and Mr. Burley, of Portage la Prairie, took place to-day at the Church of the Advent, Westmount, Rev. Mr. Kittson officiating. The young couple's bridal tour will be to their Western home."

He Endorses Premier Martin

Donald Fraser Out in Esquimalt as a Government Supporter.

But He Dubs as Bad Martin Legislation of Last Year.

The first out and out supporter of Premier Martin, on Vancouver Island at least, Mr. Donald Fraser, of Victoria West, to announce himself as a candidate for legislative honors, held a meeting at the school house, Esquimalt, last evening, he being ambitious to represent that district. There were but seventeen present, including Mr. Fraser, Mr. D. W. Higgins and a representative of the Colonist. Mr. John Jardine of Victoria West, occupied the chair and in a most flattering address introduced the candidate, recommending him to those who had not "the honor of knowing him." He promised the audience an "intellectual treat."

Mr. Fraser gave a resume of the political situation from the time of the dismissal of the Turner government, incidentally referring to the stands taken by Mr. Higgins one of the members for Esquimalt. While endorsing Mr. Martin he, unconsciously no doubt, scored a point against the Premier, stating that the last session of the legislature had been wasted in an endeavor to undo the "bad legislation of the previous session," which "bad legislation" followers of the political events will remember Premier Martin claims credit for. There was no other alternative but for the Governor to call on Mr. Martin, as he had previously dismissed Mr. Turner, the leader of the opposition and would be stultifying himself to recall him.

An elector reminded the speaker that Mr. Martin had also been dismissed from the government and asked if the same rule would not apply to him.

Mr. Fraser could not see it in that light. He went over the Premier's platform, clause by clause, endorsing each and particularly emphasizing those referring to the government ownership of railways and the establishment of a school for deaf and dumb mutes. The cry of the politicians, he said, was to "crucify Martin," a cry with which he did not agree. Even a practical politician, he said, could learn that a good name means something.

Mr. D. W. Higgins announced that he would again be a candidate to represent Esquimalt district, not as a Conservative, not as a Liberal, but as a British Columbian. He had first been elected as a supporter of Premier Smythe and had supported the succeeding governments until he fell out with Mr. Turner. But he had since learned that while the Turner government might do wrong, their successors were still worse. He had found the greatest insincerity in that government, and continuing gave his reasons for deserting Mr. Semlin, viz. the proposed million dollar bonus for the Pacific cable without legislative authority and the action of the government in passing over supporters and asking an oppositionist to enter the cabinet. The Semlin-Cotton party had cried out against Mr. Pooley, solicitor for the Dunsmuirs' having a seat in the cabinet and as soon as they got in power appointed a representative of a rival coal company to the same position. There were a few good planks in Mr. Martin's platform, but the majority were bad. However, he would deal with this at a future meeting.

Mr. Fraser suggested that some resolution should be passed, but as remarked by an elector the meeting was hardly a representative one, and it was adjourned with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE PLAGUE IN AUSTRALIA.

Sydney and Adelaide Now Formally Declared Infected Ports.

Melbourne, March 21.—Sydney, capital of New South Wales, and Adelaide capital of South Australia, have been declared infected with the bubonic plague.

Sydney, N. S. W., March 21.—Two deaths, from the bubonic plague occurred here to-day and one new case was officially reported.

FOR ESQUIMALT.

Winnipeg, March 21.—A naval special with 126 officers and men for the Pacific squadron passed through the city at nine this evening.

Sides Sore from a Hacking Cough.—Take Pyny-Pectoral, it will cure you quickly, no matter how bad the cold. Endorsed by thousands of Canadians. Sold throughout the land. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.

Dr. PRICE'S CREAM Baking Powder

Dr. Price's Baking Powder is the true friend of all the people, rich and poor alike. It supplies a pure, wholesome leavening agent, which makes the biscuit and cake of highest healthfulness at medium cost and protects the food from alum, which is the greatest dietary danger of the day.

The foremost baking powder in all the world.

PRICE BAKING POWDER CO., CHICAGO.

NOTE.—Alum baking powders are low priced, as alum costs but two cents a pound; but alum is a corrosive poison and it renders the baking powder dangerous to use in food.

Trail Mystery Clearing.

Police After Diligent Search Discover Bodies of Long Missing Travellers.

Evidence Described as Sufficent to Hang the Prisoner O'Brien.

The tangled skein of mystery interwoven with the supposed murder and absolute disappearance of the three outbound travellers, Olson, Clayson and Reife, who were lost from the Yukon waterway in November last, appears to be slowly but surely unwinding through the vigilant and intelligent efforts of the police, so that when the just-arrived Amur left Skagway the officers were said to be on the eve of completing a chain of evidence sufficient to hang the prisoner O'Brien as one of the principals in a ghastly crime.

Clayson and his companions, who were outbound from Dawson, had several thousand dollars in their possession, and it was concluded that they had been waylaid on the trail and murder added to robbery, the bodies being effectually disposed of by the perpetrators of the crime. Some short time after, a tough character of the border giving the name of O'Brien was arrested on suspicion of being implicated in the supposed hideous crime, and although the evidence against him was not sufficient to hold him for the grave offence charged against him, the police succeeded by bringing forward one after another less important misdemeanors of which he was plainly guilty, in holding him in custody, while with the assistance of a Pinkerton man engaged by Clayson's relatives, they industriously pursued all avenues of investigation.

Circumstantial evidence was bit by bit secured coupling O'Brien with the tragedy of the trail, until only a few weeks ago, while he was being taken to Selkirk in connection with a charge of robbing scows, two $100 bank notes were discovered sewn in the feet of his mushing socks, which by their numbers were clearly proved the property of the missing Clayson.

Now by the Amur comes the news of a yet more astounding discovery, nothing more or less than the finding of the bodies of the murdered trio, which will, of course, go very far toward the complete solution of the tragic mystery, while establishing what has necessarily been a supposition only heretofore—the fact of the missing miners having been done to death. It is of this latest and most important development in the case that the Daily Alaskan prints the following:

"The startling news was received last night that the bodies of the Clayson party had been definitely located and the whole mystery cleared up. It was startling for two reasons; one that it came so suddenly upon the heels of the sensational denouement in the disappearance of the Hortons; and another that the long and protracted search for the Clayson party since the beginning of the year had proven so fruitless in offering even any clue to a solution of the mystery that public interest in it was wearied. The news that the mystery was solved at last came, therefore, with a suddenness of shock equal to that which confirmed the mysterious disappearance of the three men. Six days ago the Pinkerton detective McGuire and Captain Scarth were sending messengers from Minto to Fort Selkirk in hot haste for ice saws. They had located the hole in the ice through which the bodies of the three murdered men, Clayson, Reife and Olson had been thrust, and they felt entirely confident that they had at least one of the murderers in the jail at Selkirk.

"This is the man who gave the name of O'Brien, who was so long in custody at Tagish and a few weeks ago was removed to Fort Selkirk to be tried on a charge of stealing from scows. Not having enough direct evidence to connect him with the Clayson tragedy the officers might have released him. That they held him on a minor charge pending a more rigid investigation into the circumstances of the mysterious disappearance of the three men, now shows their good judgment; and that the evidence they had already collected against him, while not strong enough to convict, was sufficiently circumstantial to warrant their grave suspicions.

"Where the bodies have been definitely located is about three miles this side of Minto, in the river and not close to the trail, so that the theory that three men following each other in the daylight, one man pushing or riding a bicycle, having all accidentally fallen into the same hole is altogether untenable. But this is not all. On the edges of the hole that was, but which, of course, has long been frozen over, a lower strata of the snow is much discolored with what has been proven on chemical analysis to be human blood.

"There is other evidence. Near the spot of the burial was found a broken sleeve link, and a pocket knife, both of which are particularly identified as having belonged to members of the missing party. In O'Brien's possession, too, has been found certain articles which it is known beyond a doubt belonged to young Reife. A closer examination of the cabin near Minto at the time of the tragedy occupied by O'Brien, has also led to other discoveries. He had evidently burned a lot of wearing apparel, and in the cinder have been found buttons that will probably be identified.

"There are doubtless many other details that demonstrate the dogged perseverance and the high intelligence of the police who have been working on the case, but the officers all the way through have been reticent and, even in the hour that crowns with victory their persistent endeavors, have told but little of the links of evidence obtained one by one in the course of the long search.

"'We have located the bodies,' said one of them, 'and we have enough evidence right now to hang O'Brien."

PLAGUE AT TOWNSEND.

Senator Macdonald Brings the Matter to the Attention of the Department.

Senator Macdonald recently directed the attention of Dr. Montizambert, director-general of public health, to the reported presence of bubonic plague on a steamer at Port Townsend, and received the following reply:

"Dear Sir,—I beg leave to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your note of this day's date, enclosing clipping from a Victoria paper about the recent arrival of a vessal with bubonic plague at the Port Townsend quarantine.

"The facts in connection with this vessel have been officially known to this department, and in consequence thereof telegraphic warnings were at once despatched to the quarantine officers at William Head quarantine and at Vancouver, and very special and stringent regulations have also been issued to them. Warnings and regulations on similar lines have also been sent to the quarantine officers on the Atlantic Coast at intervals, as seemed to be required by the increasing threatening and closing in towards us from various directions of the bubonic plague. Yours truly,

"F. MONTIZAMBERT, M. D.,
"Director-General of Public Health.

Commissions For Colonies.

One Hundred and Fourteen in British Army Offered to Australians.

Graceful Recognition of Splendid Service to the Cause of Empire.

London, March 21.—The Melbourne correspondent of the Times says: "The Governor of South Australia, has received from Mr. Chamberlain a telegram to the effect that the British war office will offer one hundred and fourteen commissions to Australians in the infantry and royal artillery."

The Times commenting on the Melbourne despatch says: "This important and wise decision to give commissions in the army to Australians will naturally be extended to other colonies which have no nobly and generously helped us in the war. It cannot be doubted that the government's action will be highly appreciated.

"It is a graceful recognition of splendid service freely done to the common cause under the common flag. The offer of commissions is only a step, and not a very great one, to a consummation which all loyal British subjects ardently desire, but it is a significant step which may be pregnant with consequences of the utmost moment to us."

THE CANADIAN SICK.

Private Honored by Queen Returns to Duty—Officer's Progress in Hospital.

London, March 21.—Private Cole, the Canadian whom the Queen visited at Netley hospital, returned to South Africa today fully recovered from his wounds.

Kingston, March 21.—Lieut. Caldwell, of Lanark, who was wounded in battle with the other members of the first Canadian contingent, is reported as recovering at Winburg hospital.

VANCOUVER AFFAIRS.

Hand Cut Off by Circular Saw—Liquor Kills a Klootchman—Atlin Customs Service.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, March 21.—W. Anderson's hand was cut off this morning by a circular saw started in motion prematurely by a Chinaman letting a block of wood fall on the lever.

The coroner's jury decided to-day that the Indian woman Mary Williams, who was supposed to have been murdered by the Indian Charlie Seymour in a drunken row, died from the effects of liquor. A white man named Jones has been arrested for supplying the liquor.

Peter Donohue, aged 78, died at the city hospital to-day. He was a native of Sligo, Ireland, and has no relatives in these parts.

D. Menzies, deputy collector of customs at Atlin, left for Ottawa to-day in connection with proposed changes in the service there.

The moving picture exhibition of the Jeffries-Sharkey fight drew another large crowd at the opera house last night. It is equal to a high-class pantomime.