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[From The Daily Colonist, Feb. 26.]

AN OPEN VERDICT.

Conclusion of the Coroner's Inquiry Into the Death of James McArthur.

Unsatisfactory Testimony Calls for Stinging Rebuke—Subsequent Proceedings Possible.

Yesterday saw the close of the coroner's inquiry into the death of Engineer James McArthur, sufficient evidence being adduced to show that he had been in an aggressive mood during the evening of his death, and had actually exchanged blows in the card room of the Clarence hotel with Frank Baines—who proved a most open and honest witness. He told his story frankly and without reserve, but even with it to guide them the jury could not definitely determine how McArthur received the blow on the neck, from the effects of which he died. An open verdict as to primary cause was therefore returned. The sensational feature of the second day—of the entire inquest in fact—was the strong language adopted by the coroner in regard to the testimony of one or two of the witnesses. Dr. Crompton did not hesitate to express his opinion that they had purposely made grave mis-statements of fact in order to conceal material evidence, and it was currently reported last evening that actions for perjury would be a sequel of the inquest. Nothing has been done by the police, however, and it is most probable that the end of the case has been seen. As to Frank Baines, his unfortunate part in the affair was forced upon him, and his honest explanation of his participation in the quarrel at the hotel so much impressed the coroner and jury as to call for special comment. He feels deeply his unfortunate position and has many friends to sympathize with him. There is in his case no suggestion of subsequent proceedings, as any injury McArthur might have received at his hand would have been purest accident.

At the resumed inquiry yesterday the first witness called was Frank Baines, who had much to inform the jury of which hardly concurred with the testimony previously produced. He testified that he had been in the card room of the Clarence hotel on Saturday night when McArthur wished to join in a game about to be started. McDonald was called in and took deceased out, but McArthur came back and grabbed hold of the cards—and witness then told him to get out. McArthur at this "got mad," came round to where witness was sitting and took hold of him round the neck with both hands. Baines jumped up and freed himself, and the two stood up together in sparring attitude. Fletcher caught hold of witness, and some other man took hold of deceased. They both broke away from their holders, however, and struck at one another again. Someone then came between them, pushing each back, and McCarthy fell onto a chair, and when McDonald came in deceased's feet were between the rungs. McArthur was again removed by McDonald, but once more came in in a few moments and put out his hand to witness as though to shake hands. Witness put out his hand for this purpose, whereupon McArthur "showed fight and wanted to scrap" with him. McDonald, who had followed him in, took him out immediately. None of the card players were the worse for liquor. McArthur was not stunned when he fell; he could not have struck a chair. Witness might have struck him in the "scrap"—no one else struck him. Witness would not or could not say who pushed McArthur. On being questioned by a juryman, he continued:

"I heard of McArthur's death about 11 o'clock that night. McDonald came into the room and said 'This must be kept quiet,' or words to that effect. I did not say anything to McDonald. Fletcher, McBrady, Rose and Richardson were present."

Questioned by the Coroner, witness acknowledged having talked over the matter with most of the witnesses, including Fletcher. McDonald was the one who first told him that McArthur did not die of heart disease.

W. R. McLean was the next witness. He corroborated the former witness to a great extent, but had not seen whether either of the participants in the "scrap" struck the other. They struck at one another but he could not tell whether the blows landed. Fletcher held Baines and Rose held the deceased. They got together again and Rose separated them. McArthur got his legs tangled in the chair and fell. He was right on the floor. Witness could not say whether the deceased struck his head on the chair or not. McDonald look him out. When deceased came in again, he proffered to shake hands with Baines, but immediately began wrenching that young man's hand and the proprietor who had followed him in took him out immediately.

P. Corcoran gave corroborative evidence as regarded the trouble in the card-room, but stated, to the best of his knowledge, that McArthur fell into a chair, and from there to the floor. When deceased was in the act of falling he swung his left arm around and struck witness on the face, the blow cutting his lip. This was involuntary.

D. McBrady also gave evidence as to the trouble between Baines and the deceased. A tall man got between the combatants and pushed them apart. McArthur in stepping back, sank, rather than fell, against McLean's chair. He did not fall right to the floor, but seemed to rest partly on his left side and elbow. It was quite possible that his head might have struck the chair. Witness did not remember McDonald coming into the room after deceased's body was found and saying that the matter must be kept quiet.

The foreman of the jury, Mr. Fawcett, asked that Fletcher and Rose, two of Tuesday's witnesses, might be recalled, so that they might have a chance of correcting their evidence. These witnesses he said had evidently made gross mistatements in an effort to hush the matter up. McDonald was, however, called first to explain some discrepancies in his evidence.

This witness on hearing his previous evidence read over, testified that he three times last Saturday night removed McArthur from the card room—first at the request of Fletcher, again when the witness Bishop drew his attention to a noise in the card room, when he found McArthur on the floor. He then lifted a chair off his leg, and deceased got up at once and followed him out. The third time was when the deceased entered by the back door; he then followed and took him out immediately by the way he came in.

This latter statement is contradicted by other witnesses, who aver that McDonald removed him by the barroom door. As regards the charges made by witnesses as to keeping the matter quiet, witness said that Mr. Lehey came into the Clarence about 11 o'clock on Saturday night and asked if there was a doctor present, as Mr. McArthur had fallen near the London block and might be hurt. Witness advised him to go for Dr. Fraser. Mr. Walker next came in, and he was told of it, and asked to bring McArthur back to the house.

He might have said it would be well not to say too much about it. He did not strike deceased, nor did he know that deceased had taken Baines by the throat when he heard Fletcher and Rose give evidence on Tuesday.

The Coroner, to witness—"I think you might have given your evidence in a more straightforward manner before. As it is, it seems you have been trying to conceal material facts. This has caused the court a great deal of trouble and reflects no credit upon yourself. Had you told the jury in the first case that there had been a fight in your house, and that you were sorry for it, they would have been able to come to a conclusion earlier and you would have suffered nothing by it. The only inference I can make is that you were trying to shield one of your customers."

James Fletcher, recalled, on being questioned by the chief of police and the coroner recollected that he had seen Baines and McArthur make "passes" at one another. He would swear that Rose did not come between Baines and the deceased and separate them. After the apology McArthur had tried to again attack Baines.

"I did hold Baines," he said, "but he got away from me and tried to get at McArthur."

The foreman here told witness that the only reason the jury had for asking for the recall of himself and Rose was that they might correct their evidence. According to witness' own statement his former evidence was at the least a plot to try to cover up the whole matter, if not absolute untruth and even perjury.

Rose was then re-called and after hearing his former evidence read over was questioned by the coroner and Chief Shepherd. He totally denied having seen anything partaking of the nature of a fight, and absolutely denied the statement made by previous witnesses that he had come between Baines and deceased to put an end to the struggle.

The coroner in speaking to this witness expressed entire lack of confidence in his testimony.

In addressing the jury, the Coroner said he could not see that they could bring in a satisfactory verdict as to how the death wound was caused, though the fact that the wound on the neck was the cause of death was beyond reasonable doubt. The witnesses, with the exception of Baines, upon whom, it might be said, the most suspicion would rest, and Mr. Corcoran—who both gave straightforward testimony—were most unsatisfactory, evidently trying to conceal what took place in the card room, in order to shield some comrade whom they might think was liable to get into trouble. Another point that a juror had dwelt upon was that of supplying liquor to intoxicated persons; he suggested that the jury might bring in a rider suggesting a movement to the legislature towards making such an action illegal and punishable by a fine for the first offense and subsequently by removal of license.

After an absence of about half an hour the jury brought in the following verdict:

"We the jury sworn to inquire into the death of the late James McArthur find that the deceased, a marine engineer, aged 52 years, who resided on John street, city of Victoria, came to his death on Saturday, the 20th day of February, at or about 10:45 p.m., on the south side of Johnson street in front of the London block, between Broad and Douglas streets, the cause of death being hemorrhage on the brain, brought about from the effect of a blow or fall, the wound being behind the left ear. From the evidence given we are unable to ascertain how or where the deceased received the fatal injury.

A GORDON RIVER FIND.

Julius West, who is just back from a prospecting trip on the West Coast, has brought home a number of samples from a big find on the Gordon river. One day a couple of weeks ago he, with J. Deacon and J. Currie, found, where a tree had fallen close to the water's edge, a ledge of mineral laid bare. They examined the spot and found that there was a ledge 30 feet wide of iron and copper, which they traced up the steep hill side for over 500 feet. A light grey surface quartz assayed $2 in gold, and when a few shots were put in it showed that there was a great body of ore somewhat similar in looks to the Black Prince, another claim in the district in which Mr. West is interested. The Black Prince was one of the first claims staked in the Gordon river country last July, samples assaying as high on the surface as $18 in gold. The new finds are practically extensions of the Black Prince, and Mr. West considers he has a wonderfully fine prospect which he expects to see turn out well. In another week or two he will return to Gordon river with a number of men and start work, thoroughly prospecting the property. The claim on the water's edge is called the Corbett and the Fitzsimmons is located adjoining it. Altogether there are over 40 claims staked out in the Gordon river district and Mr. West thinks that development will prove the mines very valuable.

New York, Feb. 26.—The annual report of the Commercial Cable Company for 1896 was issued to-day and mailed to the shareholders. The receipts from traffic earnings and interest on investment for the year amounted to $3,019,255.97, being an increase over the previous year of $9,517.83. The expenses amounted to $342,690.49, leaving a balance of $1,176,565.48, out of which the company paid $800,000 in dividends aid carried to the reserve account $376,565.48. There was an increase in expenditure over the previous year of $48,349.96, the major portion of which was due to cable repairs. The company's net earnings for the year was therefore a trifle over 11¾ per cent.

AGGRESSIVE POLICY.

The Grand Lodge of Templars Will Ask for Special Legislation.

Officers Elected and Nanaimo Chosen as Next Year's Meeting Place.

The third session of the Grand Lodge of Templars opened yesterday morning at 9 o'clock, when several proposed amendments were discussed, after which visitors were introduced. Mrs. Gordon Grant, representing the W.C.T.U. of Victoria, and Mr. W. C. Brown, of Vancouver, representing the Total Abstinence Union, were presented by Mayor Shiles, of New Westminster; Dr. Lewis Hall, past grand chief templar, and Mrs. Hall, grand vice templar of the I.O.G.T., by Mr. O. J. B. Lane. These were welcomed by the Grand Councillor in a cordial manner, the visitors making suitable replies.

The temperance legislation committee's report was then discussed, this report being as follows:

The time is ripe for arousing the friends of temperance in the province to an effort to secure from the legislative assembly important reforms in the liquor laws and in their administration. In many respects our restrictive legislation is far behind that of the other provinces, and we should lose no time in making an earnest appeal to our legislators for at least such amendments as will bring our statutes abreast of public sentiment, which we believe is quite as advanced as in several sister provinces. To this end it is recommended:

1. That a standing committee be appointed on legislative action, with power to add to its numbers, authorized to promote co-operation with other organizations and with friends of the cause in the assembly, to bring prompt and legitimate pressure upon the provincial government, by deputation, petition and correspondence.

2. That the legislation sought shall be in the direction of a general and uniform enactment for the whole province, that will increase the restrictions and prohibitions of the retail trade in intoxicating liquors, that will entirely prohibit the sale on Saturday night and Sunday, and in the late night and early morning hours of all other days of the week; that will prohibit all association of gaming, raffling, billiard and card playing, with or in proximity to bar rooms and saloons; that will prohibit the use of screens, frosting, blinds, etc., on windows of liquor selling premises during prohibited hours; that will make the opening, lighting or using of bar-rooms or saloons during prohibited hours prima facie evidence of violation of the law; that will prohibit the sale or distribution of liquor at clubs or other public or semi-public places, except on licensed premises; that will prohibit the conduct or management of any liquor selling place by any other person than the bona fide owner of the license; that will permit the electors of any polling division to effectively petition against the granting or renewal of a license; that will make a substantial reduction in the number of licenses issued; that will provide for adequate penalties and proper enforcement; that grocery stores shall not be granted a license to sell liquor.

3. That in view of the probability of a national vote on prohibition, a special standing committee be appointed, with power to add to its number, authorized to provide for and direct vigorous public agitation in public meetings and circulation of literature, and to promote co-operation with other societies and friends of temperance for the thorough organization of the electorate for the campaign.

4. That "The Templar" medal contest movement be pressed upon our councils, a most effective method of presenting the best thought and argument of the reform, and for preparing the public mind for prohibition.

5. That our councils and membership be appealed to for earnest work in the extension of the circulation of "The Templar" and the "Templar Quarterly" in their neighborhoods.

6. That it is the desire and aim of this Grand Council to work in good fellowship and fraternal courtesy with sister temperance organizations, to encourage the friendliest relations and the heartiest co-operation in the prosecution of temperance work, and to encourage a distinct movement for a complete union of all Canadian temperance societies in one national temperance and prohibition order.

The report was adopted unanimously amidst great applause.

The report of the superintendent of the Cadet Templars was next taken and plans were made for the extension of this branch throughout the entire province.

The afternoon session was opened with the presentation of a banner to the New Westminster Council No. 1, which that branch had earned by enrolling the greatest number of members since the last Grand Council met in session.

The reception of further sessional reports, including those of the state and extension of the order, the finance and memorials committees followed, after which the following grand officers were elected:

Robert Buckland, grand councillor, New Westminster.

Mrs. M. M. Welch, grand vice-councillor, New Westminster.

O. J. B. Lane, grand chaplain, Victoria.

J. J. Johnston, grand secretary, New Westminster.

W. J. Hogg, grand treasurer, Vancouver.

A. B. Fraser, grand auditor, Victoria.

R. H. Rowe, grand herald, Nanaimo.

R. H. Langdale, grand deputy herald, Vancouver.

T. J. Beatty, grand guard, Vancouver.

J. C. Smith, grand sentinel, New Westminster.

Miss M. M. McGregor, grand superintendent of cadets, Victoria.

J. H. Yeo, grand superintendent of white cross, Victoria.

J. H. McGuire, grand trustee (three years), Vancouver.

W. A. Gleason, Dominion representative, Vancouver.

After election these officers were duly installed by General Manager W. W. Buchanan assisted by a guard of twenty-two cadets in full regalia. Votes of thanks were tendered to the retiring officers for their past services; to Mr. W. W. Buchanan for his presence at the session and to citizens of Victoria for the kind treatment the delegates have received at their hands.

After the meeting at St. Andrew's church last evening, a special meeting of the executive council was held at Sir William Wallace hall for the purpose of outlining the work for the ensuing year. During the afternoon session the Cadet Templars were put through an interesting drill for the edification of the Grand Council, after which an address was presented by the corps to the council.

Next year's Grand Lodge meeting will be held at Nanaimo.

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE

The Directors of the P. O. Home Will Erect a Memorial Tablet,

To the Memory of J. G. Taylor—That Recent City Grant.

At the city hall yesterday evening the twenty-fourth annual general meeting of the subscribers to the Protestant Orphans' Home was held, there being president the following ladies and gentlemen who have long been prominently identified with the working of that worthy institution: Bishop Cridge, Charles Hayward (president), A. C. Flumerfelt (treasurer), John Jessop (secretary), E. Crow Baker, Rev. W. Leslie Clay, Noah Shakespeare, Mr. Kitto, Mrs. G. A. Sargison, Mrs. J. W. Williams, Mrs. Charles Kent, and Mrs. Charles Hayward. After routine business the president delivered his annual report, which, covering fully all home affairs for the year, is given in its entirety below:

"Ladies and Gentlemen:—It is a subject for congratulation that the reports to be laid before you on this our twenty-fourth annual meeting will show that the home has received very liberal support during a year of marked depression, and that the beneficent work of the institution has thus been able to keep pace with the demands made upon it.

"While it was shown at our last annual meeting that the estimated cost for the maintenance of the 53 inmates then in the home was at least $3,700, there were some who were dismayed at the magnitude of the task. It will be seen, however, from the financial statement that the sum of $3,810.79 has been provided for us, and that we have thus been enabled to increase the number of inmates to 61. The managers are devoutly thankful for this generous response to their appeals.

"Among the donations is a special contribution of $250 from the city council, which has caused some comment. It should have been explained at the time that the $250 was more in the nature of payment for services rendered, than a free gift. During Mayor Teague's term in 1894 two children who had been deserted by both parents were left in a destitute condition at his office. At the mayor's request they were at once admitted and remained in the shelter and care of the home, with the understanding that when occasion arose the obligation would not be forgotten by the civic authorities.

"Included in the other welcome donations of the year is the handsome sum of $245 realized from a lacrosse match between the employes of the new parliament and post office buildings; $158.35 from an excursion by the steamship Joan, kindly placed at our disposal by the Messrs. Dunsmuir & Sons; $25 from United Service Lodge, A.F. & A.M.; and an entertainment by Mrs. Land and Mrs. Dudgeon which netted $17.25. The contributions of food, clothing, fuel, etc., during the year, which have been larger than ever, are acknowledged monthly by the matron, but are again thankfully alluded to here as they have been of great assistance to the ladies' committee, and have enabled them to show a less cost per capita than at any previous time.

"There are at present in the Home 30 boys and 31 girls, all of whom (with one exception) are in excellent health. The number of inmates at last report was 53; the number admitted during the year, 16; making a total of 69. Four were placed at service; none died; 6 were taken out by friends; and there are now 61 in the home. Our last three annual reports have shown the cost per capita of each inmate as follows: In 1893, $77 per annum; in 1894, $71.50; in 1895, $69.92. A careful scrutiny of the accounts for 1896 shows that the cost per capita has been reduced to $64.80. This gratifying result is due mainly to careful supervision of the ladies' committee, assisted by the efforts of our excellent matron, and by liberal donations of food and clothing, which do not figure on the financial statement.

"The hearty thanks of the committee are extended to Dr. G. L. Milne and Dr. Fraser for kindly rendered professional services, and to Dr. Lewis Hall for attention to the children's teeth. A legacy of $250 was received during the year from the estate of the late A. J. Langley, who had been for many years a liberal supporter and good friend of the home.

"The task of the incoming managers to provide say $3,900 during 1897 may be looked upon with comparative complacency. The generous responses of last year may be again relied upon, besides which there is the well-founded hope that some of the rich treasures of mother earth now being discovered in the province will be devoted to this noblest of charities."

The hon. treasurer's financial report and balance sheet for the year ending January 31, showed a total of receipts of $3,810.79 and of expenditures amounting to $3,413.84, leaving a balance in hand of $396.95. The principal items under the head of receipts were balance in hand at date of last report, $750.94; subscriptions, $1,304.15; donations, $952.10; legacy, $232.50; entertainments, etc., $421 and rents, $150.10. The detailed expenditure showed that supplies cost $1,321.62; salaries, $735.50; fuel and light, $239.30; interest, $675.82; insurance, $170; taxes, $163.60; printing and advertising, $56.50 and telephone, $48. Attached to the treasurer's statement was the auditor's certificate. The report was received and odered to be entered on the minutes.

The Secretary reported verbally, but on motion of Rev. W. L. Clay was requested to prepare a written report, in order that it might be embodied in the annual printed statement of the proceedings. The matron's report—which gave the names and ages of all the children in the home—like each of the others, was received and placed on the minutes. Before adjourning, the Chairman referred with regret to the sickness of an inmate of the home, a boy named Horne, who has been removed to the Jubilee hospital through a severe attack of pneumonia. Resolving into a committee meeting, the election of officers was proceeded with, and resulted in Mr. Charles Hayward being again chosen as president; Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt, as honorary treasurer; and Mr. John Jessop, as honorary secretary.

Each was highly complimented upon his faithful work, and their appeals for successors would not be listened to. The managers for the new year were chosen as below: For Episcopalian churches—Rt. Rev. Bishop Cridge, E. Crow Baker, A. C. Flumerfelt and Charles Hayward.

For the Presbyterian churches—Rev. W. Leslie Clay, James Hutcheson, Thorton Fell and Rev. Dr. Campbell.

For the Methodist churches—Rev. J. F. Betts, Noah Shakespeare, John Jessop, and A. J. McLellan.

The ladies' committees appointed were as follows: Episcopalian churches—Mrs. Charlee Kent, Mrs. Charles Hayward, Mrs. J. D. Pemberton and Miss Carr. Methodist churches—Mrs. G. A. Sargison, Mrs. J. W. Williams, Mrs. Thomas Earle and Mrs. W. F. McCulloch. Presbyterian churches—Mrs. J. Hutcheson. Mrs. G. L. Milne, Mrs. S. Clarke and Mrs. Wm. Denny.

Mr. Shakespeare introduced the matter of placing a memorial stone in front of the Home in memory of the late John J. Taylor, whose liberal bequest the institution was erected. Mr. E. Crow Baker suggested that a memorial tablet might better answer the purpose, and this could be secured at a moderate cost. Accordingly, after paying a tribute to the departed, Bishop Cridge moved that the executive be directed to place on the outside of the building, as soon as funds may be available, a suitable memorial tablet.

This resolution was carried unanimously.

The chairman directed attention to the present bad condition of the roof of the Home, and said that a city contractor had volunteered to make the necessary repairs gratis if he was furnished with the necessary material. He found a metal apron for the apex of the roof was now necessary, and this would cost in the neighborhood of $60, which expenditure the meeting recommended.

After the appointment of a standing committee on finance—consisting of E. Crow Baker, James Hutcheson, Noah Shakespeare and the officers (ex-officio)—and the adoption of a vote of thanks to the officers, the meeting adjourned.

THE CITY.

This week's Gazette contains notice of the incorporation under the Benevolent Societies Act of 1891 of Loyal Dauntless lodge No. 177, C.O.O.F.

The sixth A and B class monthly medal competitions of the Victoria Golf Club will be played at the links at Oak Bay to-morrow, and to-day the ladies of the club play their sixth monthly medal competition.

The congregation of the First Baptist church of Vancouver have presented Rev. R. W. Trotter of this city—who has been assisting Rev. Mr. Stockhouse in his pastoral duties—with a handsome "Heaver" cane and a most complimentary address.

Ah Tong, a Chinaman, attempted to end his life at 32 Store street about midday yesterday. Upon the arrival of the city health officer it was found that the windpipe was severed but that the arteries were intact. Ah Tong was then removed to the Jubilee hospital, where the wound was stitched up. It is thought that the patient will soon recover.

On Tuesday evening the annual meeting of the Victoria Missionary Society will be held in the Centennial Methodist church, when addresses will be given by Rev. T. W. Hall, of Nanaimo; Rev. McEwen, of Emanuel Baptist, Spring Ridge; Rev. J. C. Spencer and Rev. J. F. Betts. A special musical programme by the choir of the Centennial church will be rendered in connection with the event.

The commissioner recently appointed to inquire into the affair of the Dominion Crown timber agency in British Columbia, Mr. Archer Martin, has returned from New Westminster, where he arranged to open the commission on the 19th March. The Dominion Crown timber agent, Mr. T. S. Higginson, has been suspended pending the investigation. New Westminster will, in all probability, be not the only place visited in the province by the commission.

Rev. William Stone is over from the West Coast to apply for an investigation into the several charges made against him by some of the residents of Nitinat and district. The charges are that he has been inciting the Indian police to use violence and holding court among the Indians, imposing fines and misappropriating the same. These charges are absolutely denied by Mr. Stone. When the Indians have had petty troubles amongst themselves, he says, he has acted as arbitrator for them, but has never imposed a fine, nor benefitted in a pecuniary sense from any of these cases. The petition for his removal circulated among the Indians some weeks ago, was written in English, and the Indians who subscribed to it did so in many cases in utter ignorance of its contents. The circulators of the petition told several different stories, but the chief argument used to induce the Indians to sign was, that Mr. Stone was opposed to the "potlatch." The charges laid against Mr. D. Logan, justice of the peace for the same district, were proved conclusively to be false.

The lecture delivered in the A.O.U.W. hall last evening by Mr. J. W. Laing, M.A., in aid of the Indian famine fund, attracted an audience that was only limited by the capacity of the hall. The subject was "India, its peoples, palaces and tombs," and was handled by the lecturer in a style that was remarkably clear, forcible and attractive. The stereopticon views were distinct and very successfully put on. No brief review can do justice to the very thorough manner in which the talented lecturer dealt with his interesting theme. Several members of the Arion club rendered vocal selections with the excellence which marks all the work of that organization. Yesterday's additions to the fund amounts to $165.30, of which sum the Canada Paint Co., and their employees contributed $50; the other donations being: To the Bank of B.N.A.—W. Allan, $5; W. G. McKenzie, $5; A. W. More, $5; to the Bank of B.C.—per Nelson branch, $15; Presbyterian Sunday school, Kamloops, $18; J. W. Laing, $5; Homer street Methodist church, Vancouver, $51.30; Miss Palmer, Kamloops, $1; and D. Spencer, $10.

SECOND THOUGHTS WERE BEST.

Not until they were again confronted with the irons aboard ship did the crew of the British bark Lyderhorn, convicted and sentenced a few days ago to one week's imprisonment for refusing duty, consent to work when returned to the vessel under custody yesterday. Capt. Weston asked each separately if he would return to work, and received four emphatic refusals before getting one promise. Then all compromised and the whole trouble was at an end. One of the eleven, however, will not leave on the vessel. He has trouble of another sort to worry him, being now in the hospital suffering from a frozen hand, from which some of the fingers may have to be amputated.

STILL HARD AND FAST.

Success has not yet attended the work done towards floating the tug Vancouver off the rocks at Oak Bay. Meanwhile the tug lies high on her perch, but resting more easily than when she first struck, on account of the support given by two scows lashed to her stern. A more pretentious effort to get her clear of the rocks will be made early this morning, when the tide is at a higher stage than during any other part of the day. The work is being conducted by contractor T. P. West, whose large pile-driver will be employed in this morning's attempt.

NO DISCORD AT ALL.

Alex. McDermitt, one of the stevedoring firm which loaded the ship Speke, discharging cargo at the outer wharf, feels incensed over a paragraph appearing the Vancouver World on Tuesday. The fault of the ship listing is not yet determined, he says, nor will it be until the second survey is held on her. The item, which he thinks is inspired by malice, is further corrected by Captain Wainwright, who says he has been perfectly satisfied with his relationships with the stevedores, and therefore had no cause for interference with the latter's work, as reported.

SEALERS ON THE WEST COAST.

Tug Lorne, Capt. Langley, from sea yesterday, reported having spoken the sealing schooners E. B. Marvin and Triumph off Scout 20 or 40 miles off the Cape, with their boats out. The schoomers had had bad luck, not having taken over 50 skins together, of which the Marvin obtained 20. They had met with no accident, however, and all hands aboard were in good health. The Lorne to-day takes the Lyderhorn to sea.

EVERYTHING O.K.

The cannery steamer Edith, which the Albion Iron works have just completed for Findlay, Durham & Brodie, made a trial trip yesterday afternoon, and with the exception of a pump her machinery worked beautifully. The steamer developed good speed and indicated satisfactory seagoing qualities when in bumpy water. She will make another trip on Monday by which time the defect in the pump will be remedied.

FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

The Farmers' Alliance delegation interviewed the ministers of the provincial government yesterday afternoon, and presented the following resolutions:

"That this convention of representative farmers from the several districts of the province resolves that it is necessary in the interest of the province at large that this question of financial interest should be taken up by the government and legislature at the earliest possible date, either in the form of a loan to the farmers direct, advanced upon the security of their holdings, or, if it can be done by the province issuing legal tender, provincial paper money, or else by passing legislation whereby our farmers may be enabled to organize themselves into co-operative settlers' unions or associations and issue terminable mortgage certificates or debentures upon the united security of the union or association, and of the land held by them, under government supervision, and upon which mortgage securities or debentures the government may be authorized to guarantee the interest to the extent of 4 per cent.; thus enabling the farmers to help themselves in the matter.

"That the government be urged to grant no charter to a private person or persons for the purpose of constructing a railroad, and that all railroads be under government supervision and run for the public welfare."

Several amendments to the Farmer's Institute were also asked for, the chief of them being the matter contained in the first resolution.

The removal of the mortgage tax was also mooted, and free transmission for agricultural literature through the post. The ministers present were Hon. J. H. Turner, Hon. G. B. Martin, Hon. D. M. Eberts, Q.C., and Hon. James Baker, and the following members of the legislature—Major Mutter, Messrs. J. B. Kennedy and Thomas Forster, who promised to give the matters presented due consideration. The delegates were: H. T. Thrift, of Hazlemere, Surrey; W. H. Hayward, metchosin; R. McBride, Richmond; A. S. Vedder, Chilliwack; Capt. Thompson, Mission; D. Rowan, Richmond; and J. Ridley, Langley.

A TRAY OF DIAMONDS.

A telegram to Mr. W. L. Challoner yesterday from Mr. Mitchell—who is now at Rossland where the firm have a large branch store—conveyed to him the unpleasant news that his firm had been the victims of a daring burglar to the amount of about $5,000. No particulars were wired other than that the stolen property was chiefly in diamonds, which it would be exceedingly difficult to trace.

Later in the day the information came to hand that the burglar or burglars made their haul in the early evening on Wednesday, while Mr. Mitchell was at supper, and before the store was regularly closed for the night.

"The police," says a Rossland special to the Colonist, "have made a round-up of the tinhorn element, gamblers and all suspicious characters, but have obtained no clue to Challoner, Mitchell & Co.'s missing property. The booty comprised diamonds, watches and solid jewelry."

Some of the papers are making a fuss over the fact that the women's colleges are adopting cries. Well, what of it? Every woman likes to have a good cry once in a while.—New York Advertiser.

Maybelle—And why were you present at the marriage? Were you directly interested in the event?

Jack—No, not directly. I was merely the bridegroom.—Philadelphia Bulletin.