Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 1887.

STANDARD TIME.

It is understood that the special committee of the city council have decided to recommend that "standard time be adopted by the city in place of mean time on and after December 1st, next." Ex-Mayor Redfern has consented to adopt the new time for his clock on that date, and Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir on the same day will begin to run his trains of the Island Railway on the same time. The provincial government and all the large manufacturers and the owners of the East coast navigation line have signified their willingness to bring their establishments under the new arrangement. The Puget Sound and C. P. N. steamers adopted the standard time many months ago and much inconvenience and loss has since been caused by the difference in the steamboat and town time. This will be remedied upon the universal adoption of standard time. The war ships and dockyard must adhere to mean time, but it is believed that at "C" Battery barracks the standard time will be adopted. The report of the committee was handed in on Wednesday, but owing to the kick-back of the mayor was not read. The difference between standard and mean time is thirteen minutes and thirty-one seconds, the former being that much faster than the latter

THE MUNICIPAL STOP-COCK.

The Mayor, like Barnaby Rudge's raven, will never say die! Only a few days have elapsed since His Worship signed the Bell cheque on the basis laid down by a majority of the council. Having consulted counsel, he found out the majority were omnipotent, and gave way at all points—with a very bad grace, to be sure—after having delayed the payment of a just claim for many weeks. His Worship's course on Wednesday night was in piece and parcel with his conduct in the Bell matter—only worse. He both defied and insulted the council, attributing corrupt motives to the majority. Coun. Braden was so irritated that he dressed His Worship down with scornful language until the Mayor fled from the chair and took the "corkscrew" route for home. Under the act of Parliament it became the duty of the Mayor to put the motion appealing from his decision that the board had not the power to authorize him to attach the seal to the contract. His worship would have put the appeal had it not been for the antics of Coun. Grant, who blew hot and cold the whole evening, and as usual talked in one direction and acted in another. This councillor declared that his worship had given no decision. Coun. Pearse's course was more creditable. He moved to refer the contract to the water committee, in whose hands it would have been unceremoniously strangled. This motion met with no seconder, and fell to the ground. The discussion arose upon the reading of a communication from Mr. E. Johnson, S. M., to whom the water commissioner on Tuesday referred the proposed contract with the Albion Company for amendment, alteration or approval, as Mr. Johnson might deem right. Instead of making changes Mr. Johnson sent in a written opinion that the contract was defective, pointing out wherein. Had Mr. Johnson made the changes that he deemed necessary the council would have adopted them with the contract. But an opinion instead of an amended contract meant another delay where there should have been expedition. The strangest part of the affair is that the contract to which Mr. Johnson filed his objection is in terms precisely similar to those under which every contract has been made by the city for several years past. *It was copied from the printed blank* and bonds in $5,000 were exacted. If the proposed contract with the Albion Co. is bad, then all the contracts given out by the city for several years were bad too. The water commissioner addressed the council, stating that he had asked Mr. Johnson's advice in preparing the contract and that that gentleman had declined to give it. There may have been good reason for the barrister's declination;—he may have been too busy, or may have felt that it scarcely came within the scope of his duty to advise an officer of the corporation unless instructed to do so by the council. But we feel serry that a gentleman and official in whom every one reposes the highest confidence should have sent an opinion instead of an amended contract to the council when the essence of the transaction was time. He surely could not have foreseen the storm that arose and the vexatious delay that has resulted. The majority of the council and the water commissioner have had a great deal to contend with. They have been obstructed at every step by those whose duty it was to have fallen in with the views of the majority and have assisted loyally in carrying them into effect. We know that Mr. Johnson would not wittingly aid by word or deed a policy that is both disgraceful and painful; but his opinion has certainly had that effect. The mayor on Wednesday night let the feline out of the sack by asserting that he would do nothing until after the election. That means at least a delay of three months and no increase in the supply of water for another year. The situation is becoming intolerable. Surely, surely, the majority of the council have rights which the minority are bound in law to respect!

THE BEHRING'S SEA QUESTION.

In another column, says the Toronto *Mail*, will be found the full text of the judgment delivered by Judge Dawson at Sitka in the cases of the vessels seized by the United Straits in the Behring's Sea. It will be remembered that on the 30th of August last Mr. Drake, Q. C., of British Columbia, acting on behalf of the British owners, filed a demurrer questioning the jurisdiction of the Alaska court over the defendants on the ground that the alleged offences were committed beyond the limits of Alaskan territory, and disputing the constitutionality of the Act of Congress upon which the information was based. Judge Dawson's judgment overrules this demurrer and orders the forfeiture of the vessels, their tackle, apparel, furniture and cargoes, saving to the masters and mates their private property only. It will be seen from a perusal of the judgment that the judge relies wholly upon the title conveyed by Russia to the United States, holding that the right of exclusive dominion over the Behring's Sea thus passed and that Great Britain is estopped from disputing the exercise of that right by the United States, by reason of her acquiescence in Russia's claim to it. The soundness of Judge Dawson's interpretation of international law is open to question, but it is sufficient for the present to point out that this whole argument is based upon an assumption which he altogether fails to justify. He assumes the validity of Russia's claim to exclusive jurisdiction over the Behring's Sea by right of discovery, and seeks to fortify himself by authorities which are no more applicable to the case than they would be to a claim by Spain of dominion over the western part of the Atlantic Ocean by reason of its discovery by Christopher Columbus. He totally ignores Mr. Drake's argument that the Behring's Sea is an open sea and a highway to the Arctic Ocean. His quotation from Chancellor Kent as to the extent of a sovereign's dominion is sufficiently answered by the fact that the United States recognizes the limit of one sea league as the extent of its jurisdiction in waters which are not so land-locked as to be unquestionably within that jurisdiction. He ignores the fact that the Behring's Sea is not land-locked by the lands of the United States, and that the three-mile rule must therefore apply to it. He fails altogether to meet the argument that the United States is claiming more than Russia ever possessed. Moreover, in dealing with the treaty between Great Britain and Russia, he virtually affirms the truth of the contention, most strenuously denied by Mr. Delaney on behalf of the United States, that the terms "Great Ocean," "Pacific Ocean," and "South Sea" include the Behring's Sea. It was argued by Mr. Delaney that the latter was not so included in the words of the treaty, and that Russia's dominion over it was, therefore, conceded. Judge Dawson, on the other hand, deals with the treaty as if it did refer to the Behring's Sea, and seeks to arrive at Mr. Delaney's conclusion by applying the doctrine of estoppel. It is quite clear, however, that the treaty was simply an arrangement made between the two powers for the purpose of avoiding a conflict of their fishing interests, and that it cannot be interpreted as an acquiescence by Great Britain in any claim by Russia to dominion over that portion of Alaskan waters beyond the three-mile limit. As a matter of fact it was the remonstrance of Great Britain and the United States against Russian pretensions which led to the treaties. We have shown, we think, that Judge Dawson has failed completely to meet the main arguments of Mr. Drake upon the first issue raised in the demurrer. The second he dismisses with the remark that it scarcely deserves notice, inasmuch as the constitutionality of the act has been sustained in previous decisions. The case is preeminently one for appeal.

PHRASES MISAPPLIED.

Gen. Francis A. Walker, in the November *Scribner*, objects to making class distinctions among the American people by designating certain members of society as "belonging to the working classes," and adds that it has been suggested to him that correction of speech in this regard would nearly, if not quite, remove all labor troubles and restore industrial peace. Upon this the Philadelphia *Ledger* sensibly remarks that while it may be strongly doubted whether the elimination of a mere phrase would have any such important result, it cannot be questioned that the term "working people" should be general, and not specific, in its application to citizens. The *Oregonian*, in speaking of the matter, makes the following pertinent observations: "Our people are, in fact, with but rare exceptions, working people, or with still rarer exceptions, or none at all, the descendants of working people. In all professions and callings we all work for our livings; and though fortunes are inherited among us, none of them can be traced back to the gifts of kings or kingdoms; they can be retraced only to some shrewd ancestor with thrift and industry. They represent no royal favor, as so many do abroad, but rather the results of the labors of working men. Gen. Walker is quite right in supposing that the phrase "working people," which has grown so common in its exclusive application to one sort of workers, is not only invidious to them, but unjust to other classes of men and women who work with equal diligence. The suggestion of the Yankee poet to the effect that—'Your family thread you'd best not ascend, lest you find it waxed at the farther end'—is excellent, and should be without offense to all Americans who are familiar with the world they live in, and especially with the histories of those about them who, because of their industry, enterprise, thrift and probity, are really the props and pillars not only of society, but of the state." The "workingman" is not necessarily the one whose occupation compels manual labor; in the United States and Canada we are all workingmen, the one who labors with his brain as much as the one who works in the forge or in the carpenter's shop. The term is, however, frequently misapplied by would-be politicians who mask under the guise of "horny handed sons of toil." They are usually the ones who do the least hard work.

THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

THE COLONIST was the only newspaper in British Columbia, so far as we have yet heard, which had the enterprise to publish for the benefit of its readers the full text of the resolutions passed at the recent inter-provincial conference, held in the historic city of Quebec. The five premiers, four of whom are dyed-in-the-wool Liberals, and the fifth at present a nondescript, hoped to embarrass the Federal government and serve up a Grit platform which might be used when a favorable occasion arose and thrown aside when they had fulfilled their object. The subjects dealt with have been anticipated. It seems to be the prevalent idea that to extort more money by the provincial governments out of the Federal treasury is the highest order of statesmanship. This aim is only exceeded by that breathing through the resolutions of making such amendments to the constitution as will extend the power of the legislatures at the cost of that of the Dominion and make the latter largely subordinate to the former. Two resolutions especially are aimed at crippling the parliament of Canada by the continued supremacy of which alone can a national spirit be fostered, sectional lines be obliterated, and homogeneity and harmony made to prevail; we refer to those relating to the constitution of the senate and the control of the franchise. One half the members of the senate it is proposed to have nominated by the provincial governments, while nominees of the Federal Government are to hold the position only for a limited term of years, a hybrid arrangement too farcical to be seriously entertained, and propounded as the best scheme occurring to the conference for turning the senate into a preserve for Liberal politicians. As for the suggestion that the Dominion franchise should be controlled by the legislatures the matter has already been fully considered by Parliament and rejected by the people, as utterly opposed to the independence of the Commons and as creating a limitation wholly at variance with the spirit of the constitution and inconsistent with the distinctive functions and legislative powers of the Parliament of Canada and the Local Assemblies. It would seem that a a Commercial Union resolution was entirely out of place in the conclusions of a conference, ostensibly called to consider the relations of the Dominion to the provinces, and suffices to expose the purely partizan character of the body of gentlemen brought together by M. Mercier. It would be quite as proper for the conference to have expressed its opinion upon the trade policy of Great Britain or upon any other subject wholly without its jurisdiction as upon the fiscal policy and tariff arrangement of the Parliament of Canada. There are, however, some subjects within the legitimate scope of a provincial conference to deal with, such as the abolition of legislative councils, the assimilation of provincial laws, the confirmation of powers exercised by the Legislatures since Confederation, and as to which some doubt has arisen. These are all matters of the greatest importance, upon which the Legislatures, at the instigation of the conference, may fitly pronounce, and in respect of which legislation beneficial to the people may be had. The salient resolutions, however, only serve to unmask the real object of the politicians who met in secret conclave at Quebec, and show it to be the elevation of the Provinces over the Parliament of Canada, the wiping out of a strong central government, the gradual relapse of the Dominion to the condition of independent provinces, and the destruction of the work of twenty years which has brought Canada to the proud and prosperous position it to-day occupies. The resolutions will come to naught—the mountain was in labor and brought forth a mouse—and British Columbia showed a wise discretion in failing to send a delegation to a meeting which was first, last and all the time—Grit.

The city of Amsterdam, in Holland, has been described as the "diamond capital of the world," with Antwerp second in importance. The wages paid to Amsterdam diamond workers amount to about £600,000 a year, and it is calculated that the industry gives employment to between 7,000 and 8,000 persons. The United States consul estimates that 30,000 carats of rough diamonds reached Amsterdam manufacturers every week. Some of the stones, of course, command very high prices, but ordinary prices vary from 16s. to £11 per carat.

A recent press dispatch from the City of Mexico states that the Mexican Congress has approved a plan for a new exchange which will deal in federal, state and municipal securities in which Mexico has an interest; in all sorts of commercial paper, and in precious metals, whether coined or as bullion, and will effect insurance on land and sea. The privilege is granted for fifteen years. A daily bulletin will be published by the exchange, giving telegraphic news from commercial centres. The government reserves the right to appoint an agent to supervise the books of the exchange. It is said that an effort will be made to effect transactions in Central, National and Vera Cruz railway securities, as well as government bonds, etc.

THE Buffalo Bill excitement is a little on the wane in England and people are now interested in what they call long distance pianoforte performances. An individual named Napoleon Bud has been playing for over thirty-six hours at a stretch, and wound up his performance by singing Rule Britannia, to his own accompaniment. This Napoleon of the piano has it all his own way at present, but experience has shown how true is the adage that, "one fool makes many;" so that we may shortly hear of rivals, and possibly of some Wellington of the craze who will defeat Napoleon in point of time. If the craze is confined to Great Britain we need not much care, but the danger is that without a stringent quarantine, it will break out on this side, and there is no law to deport these people to an uninhabited prairie. A steady thirty-six hours of the piano next door is not a thing to be thought of with unmixed gladness.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP should always be used when children are cutting teeth. It relieves the little sufferer at once; it produces natural, quiet sleep by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes as "bright as a button." It is very pleasant to taste. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for diarrhœa, whether arising from the teething or other causes. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, and take no other. d&w

CARIBOO QUARTZ.

A Practical Man's Suggestion for the Development of the Quartz Ledges of Cariboo.

TO THE EDITOR:—Now that so much energy is being displayed by some few residents of the country and the attention of capital is being drawn to the known but comparatively undeveloped richness of the gold-bearing quartz ledges which so numerously permeate the Cariboo district, I think it but right your attention should be drawn to the necessity of the government fostering by every means in its power an interest, on which the progress and prosperity of the country exists. Too much labor cannot be bestowed in the promotion of so great an industry. I trust, therefore, you will use every endeavor to awaken the government to the necessity of assisting in its speedy development. What I would suggest to be done at once to insure the successful opening of the quartz mines in this district, which are beyond doubt among the richest in America, is to appropriate sufficient money to erect a custom smelter and chlorination works. There are veins of known richness developed to keep three or more mills of ten or twenty stamps each continually employed on ore that will pay handsomely. The Island Mountain Company, I understand, offer, in the event of the government erecting these works, to crush for actual cost ten or more tons of ore for any one who has a sufficiently developed mine to prove it a permanent ledge. This being done, the free gold saved, and parties could take their concentrations to the government works. I venture to say there is not an intelligent miner or business man who has seen the Cariboo lodes that will hesitate in saying our mines will pay well. I have mined in quartz in many States and Territories where quartz has been successfully worked, and can therefore scarcely realize the fact that lodes of such richness (of which from personal examination I am cognizant of), can be had by simply recording. I have examined four different lodes in Cariboo this season and seen sufficient developments to say without fear of contradiction from any person who has seen or will take the trouble to see them, their paying handsome dividends if properly worked. The mills can be obtained partially on credit where can be shown paying ore in sufficient quantities. The great and only drawback is the want of appliances for treating the sulphurets that carry the greater part of the gold. Let the government, therefore, erect in some central part of Cariboo the works spoken of and I venture to assert you will see the district the most flourishing mining camp on the continent. S. H. SEVOY.

STANLEY, Nov. 11, 1887.

A CONTRADICTION.

TO THE EDITOR:—Kindly insert in your paper for my benefit a contradiction to the statement that I was *arrested for desertion*. The Sergeant of the Barracks made me a prisoner for being absent from tattoo at 10 p. m. G. W. HYNDMAN.

Barracks "C" Battery.

LAKE DISTRICT.

TO THE EDITOR:—You will be glad to hear that owing to the unprecedented fine weather we have been able to put in our fall crops without the usual drawbacks. The earth is like a hot-bed from the long drought and since the few showers the wheat has shot up in a surprising manner and looks strong and healthy. I would augur from observations of the seasons during my long residence that we shall not have a severe winter.

Every farmer is looking forward to a day or two's respite from his long toil of harvest and fall ploughing, which generally consists in cleaning up the family fowling piece and, with a neighbor or two, to sally forth for a little hunt, but, alas! now, you may travel for miles without meeting with a bird, for the idle pot-hunters, who do not work, have been before them and killed everything for the market. These young men refuse to be hired out, saying they can make more in a week's shooting than in a month's work. Thus, we are to keep the game, and sided by idiotic laws, to be cheated out of the privilege of having what has been raised on our own farms. The pheasants, which are the farmer's friends in destroying the wire worm in our grain fields, have already disappeared, for one of these young men acknowledged to having killed sixty three for the San Francisco market, being deprived by the law of the privilege of selling them in Victoria. The present law allows them to be killed in September when it is impossible to tell the hens from the cocks, for they are not full grown or feathered; of course, this arises from our legislators not being sportsmen or naturalists and too tall to be instructed in what they know nothing about and that our local members dare not offend the loafers for fear of losing their votes, but if this subject is not at once dealt with I know thoroughly well that our members as supporters of the government will not receive the support of the farmers in the next election.

We grieve over the extermination of this most desirable acquisition, for we cannot expect Mr. Thompson to restock the country, nor will anyone else do so after what has proved the delusive promises of protective legislation. The members of the legislature ought to do it from their own private purses. What we require is a gun license, farmers being free to shoot on their own farms, with a heavy penalty for trespass.

We do not care for Mr. Beavan's idea of bringing up our sons to the noble sport of hunting and *acquiring* game at other people's expense. Look to this, Mr. Editor, for the sake of the stability of the present government. AGRICOLA.

THE SEATTLE CONTRACTS—CARD FROM MR. W. TEIRNEY.

TO THE EDITOR:—An item appeared in your paper of the 17th instant taken from the *Post-Intelligencer* accusing me of levanting from Seattle with $6,000 and leaving my bondsmen in the lurch. Now, Mr. Editor, I most emphatically deny this damaging statement, as all the money I drew on Madison street in city script was $6,010, and of this amount I had to lose 2 per cent. ($120.20), to get cash; the balance, $5,889.80, was paid out for labor and running expenses. My contract price for grading Madison street was $11,550, 25 per cent. being held back by the corporation until the completion of the work. Now you can see there still remains $5,540 to complete the work, and I do not hesitate to say that could the work have been done in good weather there would have been a fair profit realized from it. I took the contract in good faith and on the word of the city surveyor that there were 24,000 cubic yards of earth-cutting in the street and the cuts would make the fills. When I began work I found that work was almost all hard-pan, after having the assurance of the city surveyor (so called) that there was none of that material on the street. Even with this drawback I would have been able to complete the work had it been let earlier and the weather been favorable, but after working some time I found that the cuts would not make the fills, so when the surveyor saw his blunder instead of assisting me and allowing me extra, he lowered the grade and obliged me to handle a great deal more dirt and in some instances to handle dirt twice. Instead of granting me $6,000 I left with merely enough to pay my passage, although I invested $1,000 of my own money in the work. When I found I could not complete Madison street and would be compelled to give it up I made Mill street over to my partner, Mr. George Landsburg, and gave him what assistance I could in money in the hope that we could make some money on that street to pay the debts on Madison street. If Mr. Landsburg gets fair play and a chance to complete his work he will make some money on it, as Mill street is a good job. As for any money that I may be owing in Seattle, I intend, as soon as I am able, to pay every cent, as I have always endeavored to do, and maintain my good name.

WM. TIERNEY.

VICTORIA, Nov. 19, 1887.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, November 20.

THANKSGIVING CONCERT.

A Highly Successful Entertainment Given in the Methodist Church.

The Thanksgiving concert given in the Pandora street Methodist church on Thursday evening was a highly successful affair, the church being overcrowded and many being forced to leave for lack of sitting or standing room. The pulpit platform had been extended out a number of feet, and a cabinet organ and piano were placed on either side, seats for the children, orchestra and choir being ranged to the rear. The platform was flanked on either side by an arch composed of varieties of grain, flowers and fruit and the front of the platform was similarly decorated. In various portions of the church hung sheafs of grain, fruits, flowers, etc., and the general effect was pretty and pleasing. The first piece on the programme was a marching song by a couple of hundred children, dressed in their best and each carrying a small sheaf of grain. They marched up the side aisles and down the centre, headed by Mrs. Starr and Mrs. Gall all singing "Bringing in the Sheaves," and each depositing the one they carried as they ascended the platform. Mrs. Gall was musical directress, and great credit is due her for the admirable training of the children in the chorus songs, the singing being in good time and very pleasing. Special features of the programme were an excellent recitation by Miss. Jeffree, a brilliant piano duet by the Misses Frank, two juvenile pupils of Prof. Sharpe, a quintette sung by five of Mr. D. Spencer's children accompanied on the piano by Miss Spencer, a quartette recitation by little girls representing the four seasons, the cornet and trombone duet by Messrs. Arnold and Blower, the organ solo by Prof. Sharpe, which was a magnificent effort, and a couple of selections by the orchestra, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Gall. In the choruses Mrs. Gall directed and Miss Andrews and Prof. Sharpe played the piano and organ accompaniments. As an intermission the collection was taken up, Rev. Mr. Starr advancing some amusing arguments why it should be a liberal one. He said that when a collection was announced, the great majority hunted in their purses and pockets through the dollar, fifty and two-bit pieces for the purpose of discovering a ten cent piece to put in the plate. He trusted that as the collection that night was for the purpose of paying for a piano for the Sunday school, they would abandon their natural inclinations and surprise themselves by dropping a two-bit or four-bit piece on the plate. A number of skirmishers were then sent out and a fairly good amount was secured, the silver being in ten cent pieces very scattered among those of larger medium.

Before closing, it was decided to repeat the concert last evening, in order that the hundreds who were turned away might have an opportunity of hearing it.

The national anthem was sung, and the audience dispersed about ten o'clock.

PERSONAL.

Lady Tupper is visiting Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs Walter are at Roccabella.

C. D. Rand arrived from Vancouver last night.

T. C. Sorby went over to the mainland this morning.

M. Germaine and wife (Miss Maude Granger) are at the Driard.

Hon. Jno. Robson, provincial secretary, is expected to arrive from Ottawa to-morrow.

A. Ewen, of Westminster, arrived yesterday on the Yosemite and is at the Driard.

R. P. Rithet and J. Davies returned from a visit to Moodyville and Vancouver last night.

Hon. Mr. Mercier was no better on Thursday, and his malady is declared to be painful and exhausting.

C. W. Havemeyer, of the New York Havemeyer Sugar Manufactory, is a guest at the Clarence.

Capt. Ferguson, late commander of the steamer Premier, is at the Driard and will go to San Francisco to-day.

Ex-Governor Squires, of Washington Territory, went east on Thursday morning over the C. P. R. to Chicago and New York.

A. Stewart, of Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co., Yokohama, arrived on the Abyssinia yesterday and registered at the Driard.

Chas. Lord and wife, Miss Gussie Rice, Miss Ida Van Sicles, Chas. Chappelle, W. F. Freeman and Lou Wood, of the Maude Granger Company are at the Clarence.

We regret to learn that Mr. Alex. McLean's health is not as good as might be expected, and that he is confined to his house from time to time, the result of a severe cold which he contracted some time ago.

John McKenzie, who is chief clerk in the Dominion lands office, Westminster, passed the examination and was gazetted as a Dominion lands surveyor in March last. Yesterday he qualified before Mr. Justice Walkem and executed bonds for proper discharge of duty. Mr. McKenzie is now a full-fledged D. L. S.

MARINE.

Steamer Mexico will go south at 1 o'clock p. m. to-day.

Tug Woodside towed the bark Bella Vista to sea last night.

Collier Wellington has been undergoing an overhauling at San Francisco.

Steamer Daisy towed the bark Constitution yesterday from Chemainus to sea.

Ship America was towed to Departure Bay from Esquimalt yesterday by the Alexander.

Bark Malay arrived at Chemainus yesterday from Departure Bay. She will load lightered coal.

Collier Antonio passed down for San Francisco on Thursday night with 2,300 tons of Wellington coal.

Ship Berlin, with a cargo of 2,800 tons of coal, will be towed to sea to-day by the Alexander from Nanaimo.

British bark Craigwhinnie leaves on Tuesday to load lumber at Moodyville for Coronell, on the west coast of South America.

Bark Vikar has not entered the dry dock yet, and there are rumors to the effect that she will be condemned and sold at auction.

Steamer Sardonyx came down from Chemainus on Thursday night for supplies, before proceeding to Juneau. She left again at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Tug Pilot went to Port Townsend on Thursday night to tow the bark Bundaleer to East Wellington. From there the tug will go to Vancouver to tow the Robert Kerr to Departure Bay for coal for the Abyssinia.

The last of the steamer Alesia's Italian immigrants were landed at New York yesterday.

FROM CHINA AND JAPAN.

The Steamship Abyssinia Arrives from the Orient.

And Runs Into Esquimalt—A Rough Passage Experienced—Capt. Lee Her New Commander.

Yesterday morning about 11:45 o'clock it was reported that the steamship Abyssinia was just rounding Race Rocks, and as it was known she was going into Esquimalt, hacks were procured and quite a number of those interested in her proceeded to that point, where boats were secured. Among those who went out to the vessel were Dr. Jackson, health officer, Capt. Webber, Pilot Urquhart, Mr. J. D. Hughes, Ticket and Passenger Agent for the C. P. railroad, Capt. Hunter, Deputy Postmaster Cairns, Mr. Bunting and members of the press.

About 1:15 the steamer was seen to enter the harbor, and when opposite the dockyard wharf she came to an anchorage. The health officer immediately boarded her and was followed by the others. Capt. Webber was not long in making arrangements for the transfer of the passengers destined for this port, Portland and San Francisco, while the mails were assorted by Mr. Cairns in a very short time. After the passengers were transferred to a tender the anchors were weighed when the Abyssinia was taken around a short distance to the outer wharf, where Capt. Webber, who in the meantime had gone to the custom-house to enter and clear the vessel, was taken on board. She left for Vancouver with Capt. Urquhart in charge, about 4 o'clock.

From the purser, Mr. Frye, whose kindness and and affability will not soon be forgotten, the following report of the trip was obtained:

Left Yokohama on the 3rd Nov.; fresh N. E. winds and fine weather up to the night of the 7th, when the weather became squally. On the afternoon of the 8th, blowing a strong gale from E. to N.E. with squalls and the sea getting up. On the 9th blowing a strong gale, varying from east to northeast, very heavy squalls, which split reefed fore and main trysails, at the same time a high sea running, ship taking heavy seas on board, compelling to alter ship's course to bow the sea.

Gale moderated from the 10th to the 11th when wind backed to northwest blowing a strong breeze with heavy squalls continuing till the 16th, from which time to port encountered fresh and moderate southerly winds.

The present is the first trip of Captain G. A. Lee, and from a passenger who has evidently had some experience in handling a ship, the highest words of praise and commendation came. Several other passengers were also profuse in their words of praise of the ship's management.

In all the steamship carried about thirty-six passengers, a list of whom appears below. The freight is not as large as on former voyages, but is nevertheless a good winter freight.

PASSENGER LIST.

VICTORIA.

Cabin.....Mr. J. J. Gray
Second-class...Mr. and Mrs. Chin Hong
" Fook.
Steerage.....Seven Chinese

VANCOUVER.

Cabin.....Mr. J. Musgrave

PORTLAND.

Steerage.....2 Chinese

SAN FRANCISCO.

Second-class.....Mrs. Goldstein.
" Mr. and Mrs. Goldstein and two children.
Steerage.....5 Chinese and 2 Japanese

NEW YORK.

Cabin.....Mr. N. Martin
" .....Mr. T. King
" .....Mr. R. C. Herman

LIVERPOOL.

Cabin.....Mr. J. H. B. Allen
" .....Mr. Stewart
" .....Mr. S. Akaba and servant
" .....Mr. A. S. Goold
" .....T. Evans
" .....J. B. Scott

From Pilot Thompson it was learned that when he boarded the Abyssinia the captain told him that he had received orders at Japan to call off Victoria. By the new arrangement several advantages have been gained. The mails and passengers destined for the south will be able to leave to-day, thus saving a delay of over a week.

The owners of the steamships themselves will now see, perhaps more clearly than they ever did before, the necessity for calling here. Many of the passengers, who otherwise would have gone on to Vancouver, will remain here several days and will carry away with them pleasant recollections of their first sight of British Columbia.

WHAT SOME PEOPLE SAY.

That Clara Louise Kellogg and her manager, Carl Strakosch, were married at Elhart, Ind., on the 9th inst., at the close of an entertainment given by the company. Every possible effort was made to keep the matter quiet for at least two weeks, the records of the marriage being hidden and the officials and officiating clergyman pledged to secrecy. Notwithstanding these precautions the news to-day became public property.

That a report says that Miss Mattie Mitchell, daughter of the senator from Oregon, and who is said to be the handsomest girl in Washington, had an opportunity last summer to allay herself with a representative of one of the oldest and most distinguished names in France, the Duc de la Rochfoucauld, but the young lady, like a true daughter of the west, gave preference to her own country and people, and declined the title and orders that were laid at her feet.

EXCELLENT FARMING LAND.

The Northern End of Vancouver Island Explored and Found to be Easy of Access.

After an absence of six weeks, spent in exploring the northern end of Vancouver Island, Mr. J. H. Gray, C. E., and a provincial exploring party are ready, now that their labors are over, to report on their work. Between Campbell Lake and Salmon River, a distance of about fifteen miles, there is a good deal of excellent farming land on ridges, swamps and beaver ridges. There is also some excellent farming land in the Salmon River valley, but it is subject to being flooded by the overflowing of freshets. Mr. Gray states that the country offers no material obstruction to the construction of a line of railway. Mr. Gray will make a detailed report to the provincial government, and further particulars will then be made known.

A TROUBLESOME CREW.

Seven of the Crew of the Bark Hermine Steal a Boat and Make Good their Escape to the American Shore.

On Thursday night while Capt. Jones was ashore, seven men of the crew of the bark Hermine tied the doors of the companion way thus imprisoning the mate, and lowering a boat into the water deserted from the ship, and before they were discovered had made good their escape to the American side. A strong effort will be made to secure the men as well as the boat. This unforeseen occurrence will delay the sailing of the bark for some time.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Mining Accident.

While working in shaft No. 4 of the Wellington collieries, Thos. Renfew, a miner, was injured by a fall of coal, on Sunday. He was taken to the Nanaimo hospital.

A Severe Accident.

Mrs. Zachariah Guest, of Nanaimo, fell down in her house last Friday evening, and broke her arm in two places and also fractured the collar bone. The fact of Mrs. Guest being nearly 80 years of age makes the accident a very severe one.

V. I. Building Society.

At the eighteenth drawing of the Vancouver Building Society, held at Harmony hall on Thursday night, H. A. Munn and R. D. Randell drew the lucky number 151, which entitles them to $1,000 each. Mr. Munn is now in California, but will no doubt be pleased to learn of his good fortune.

City Council Correction.

In Thursday's paper a motion to refer the contract with the Albion foundry to the water committee was attributed to Coun. Braden, when the mover was Coun. Pearse. Again, Coun. Braden is made to say that *he* was opposed to the 16-inch main. He referred to Coun. Pearse and not to himself.

Soldier Versus Sailor.

A row occurred Thursday night in a saloon between a member of "C" Battery and a blue-jacket, the latter having taunted the other with being an unwelcome arrival in Victoria. The artilleryman is said to have knocked the sailor around in a lively manner and not altogether to the enhancement of his personal appearance.

Military.

Rear-Admiral Heneage visited "C" Battery yesterday afternoon at 2:30 and was received by Lieut.-Col. Holmes, the officers, and a guard of honor under Lieut. Ogilvie. Admiral Heneage was accompanied by Capt. Rose and Flag-Lieutenant Thynne. He expressed himself as greatly pleased with the appearance of the men on parade. On his departure the customary salute of thirteen guns was fired.

An Absurd Proposal.

The Toronto *Globe's* London cable says: Much excitement was occasioned here by a cable from the *Pall Mall Gazette's* commissioner stating that the New York Chamber of Commerce was considering a proposal from Edward Atkinson, of Boston, that the States purchase Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, on the basis of their proportion of the Canadian national debt or $50,000,000 as a settlement of the fishery ques. It is considered here that it is utterly impossible that the proposition will meet the views of Canada.

The Queen City Band.

This popular band, which is almost entirely composed of Victorians, has, for months past, been engaged to play for the management of the Club Theatre under the leadership of Mr. Thompson. On Thursday night after the performance the band serenaded Mr. L. Roller, the manager of the theatre, the occasion not only being the night of Thanksgiving Day, but the birthday of Mr. Roller. Corks subsequently popped and there was a flow of wit, wine and wisdom which make such episodes enjoyable in the lives of musicians and theatrical people.

Military Practice.

Batteries Nos. 3 and 4, Capt's. Nicholles and Smallfield, held their annual competition on Thursday last. Owing to a dense fog in the morning the detachment from No. 4 was unable to commence firing at the appointed time and as several hours were thus lost the men of No. 2 were obliged to postpone theirs until to-morrow. Some remarkably good shooting was made by the detachment from No. 3 battery, the total score being 214 points. The firing of No. 4, with but one or two exceptions, was extremely poor. The score made this afternoon by No. 2 will decide to whom the Prior challenge cup will belong this year. The detachment will parade at 1 o'clock to-day at Finlayson Point.

Comox Election.

It is now pretty generally understood that the contest at Comox will be between Mr. Dingwell and Mr. Humphreys. The former gentleman has been for many years a resident of Comox and identified with her interests. He should therefore make an excellent member, being well versed in the needs and requirements of the district. In regard to Mr. Humphreys, we doubt if he had more than heard of Comox until the disciple of an "afflicted hierarchy" whispered to him that he was about to resign. Then Mr. H. leaves in haste for Comox, commences a red-hot canvass and stepped into the breach as a forlorn hope. Mr. Humphrey's chequered political career is already well known, from one end of this province to the other. The issue is in the hands of the Comox electors, and we believe that the ballots will show that they prefer resident worth rather than the many times rejected of other constituencies.—*Nanaimo Free Press.*

The Trans-Pacific Line.

Mr. A. Stewart, of the Yokohama firm of Adamson, Bell & Co., says that the weather and climate in Victoria are something superb. During the voyage to Victoria the Abyssinia ran as far north as the fiftieth parallel, but no cold weather was experienced. It is something surprising to have such mild weather in the middle of November. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company is making itself the popular route, and next summer the passenger traffic will be immense. Looking at the railway as a means of forwarding goods consigned to Japan and China, Mr. Stewart says that the freight charges are too high to be able to compete with ocean freight charges. American piece goods, however, from both the United States and from Canada are sent along the C. P. R. At the present time it takes about fifteen days from Victoria to China, but when the new steamers are put on thirteen days will be sufficient time in which to cover the distance. On Sunday morning Mr. Stewart, who is at the Driard, will leave on the Princess Louise for Vancouver *en route* for England.

The Port Victor's Passage.

The Canadian-Pacific steamship Port Victor, which arrived this afternoon from Vancouver, experienced very heavy weather in her voyage to this port. Leaving Vancouver on the 6th inst. and Esquimalt on the 9th, she had light winds with cloudy and foggy weather and high westerly swell till the 11th, when a fresh westerly gale was encountered with very high sea and misty weather. This continued till the 16th, the ship pitching heavily and shipping a great deal of water. After the 16th the wind moderated and the weather was clearer, though on the 20th some passing squalls were experienced. On the 26th it commenced to blow hard from the north and on the following day a furious gale and terrific squalls were encountered. The vessel was hove to on the afternoon of the 27th till the morning of the 28th, when the weather moderated and the Port Victor proceeded on her course. During the time the vessel was hove to the cargo shifted, which has given her a list to port. —*Japan Gazette, Oct. 28.*

The Sardonyx Seized.

For an infraction of the custom laws the steamship Sardonyx, Capt. Meyer, has been seized at Nanaimo by Mr. Thomas Bradley, preventive officer, acting under the orders of Mr. B. H. Smith, collector of customs. The Sardonyx, it seems, went to Nanaimo from Victoria, took on coal both for cargo and fuel, and left without entering or clearing at the Nanaimo custom house. The captain depositing $400 the steamship was released and the matter submitted to the Minister of Customs for his decision.

Death of a Young Man.

The exposure incident to a surveyor's life has been the cause of another death. N. H. Martin, jr., died at his father's residence, in Seattle, last Sunday morning, at the age of 23 years and 11 months. The deceased was born at Sidney, Cape Breton, N. S., and went to Seattle in 1887. He joined one of the Northern Pacific Railroad company's surveying parties and remained in their employ till 1883, when he went into business for himself. In March, 1887, he married Miss Lizzie Williams, of Newcastle, who survives him.

Alberni Settlement.

Mr. F. McQuillon, of the Barclay Sound Fishing company, says that the road between Alberni and Nanaimo is badly blocked with fallen trees about eight miles from Alberni and near Cameron lake. It was impossible to get along on horseback. The Barclay Sound Fishing company has put up a large number of barrels of salmon, which will soon be brought to Victoria. Mr. McQuillon makes particular mention of the substantial manner in which Mr. Pinkerton, the government contractor, has constructed two new bridges across Rogers and Kulsucksus creeks.

Rich Discovery.

The steam-schooner Leo arrived at Port Townsend on the 15th of this month from Juneau after a voyage of seventeen days. Among the passengers from the north was Captain Harry Lott, of this city, who went north last spring with the little steam launch Octavo. After a month's sojourn in Ala