The Colonist.

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THE OPPOSITION PLATFORM, AND THE "MINERAL ACT."

In attempting, the other evening, to define an Opposition platform, the speaker of that faction left out his most important plank,—that of deceit.

That deception is its principal weapon of warfare, has been demonstrated over and over again. A notable instance of this, occurs in last evening's organ, under the heading of "The Government's Impost upon Miners." The Opposition organ in this article, tries to be wise, after the event, and denounces the tax of $105 imposed by the Legislature, for the purpose of securing to the claim holder the title in fee simple to his claim. It omits, however, to state the fact, that not one word of remonstrance, or opposition was raised to this measure in the House of Assembly. Its assurance that it was pointed out at the time of the passage of the bill that the law was against the prospector is like most of its other statements, an absolute untruth, and a statement which the organ can ransack in vain, either in its own reports or that of any other journal in the province, to verify.

The tax of $105, as was explained at the time, was imposed, not with the view of any profit to this government, but simply and solely to meet the payment to the Dominion Government, as owners of the freehold for the surface rights. Although, according to law, it was a tax—yet its sole object was to protect the mine owner in the holding of his claim—it having been arranged between the Dominion and the Province that the latter should have the preferential right of acquiring all mineral land at $5 per acre.

After misquoting the sections of the act, so as to entirely destroy their sense, the organ, in an endeavor to mislead, makes the unqualified assertion that the Order-in-Council relieving from the obligation to pay the $105 impost is illegal, and that any record made, in absence of the payment, is, notwithstanding the Order-in-Council, void, and the claim liable to be jumped by any one who pays the $105.

No doubt the organ, for the sake of making a point, at election time, against the Government, wishes that such was the case—but, unfortunately for its desire, the law has been too closely followed, and is too explicit to admit of any question. Section 47 of the Revenue Act, providing that:

"The Lieutenant-Governor, whenever he deems it right, and conducive to the public good, may remit any tax, * * imposed or authorized to be imposed by any act of the Provincial Legislature * * and such remission may be made by any general regulation, or by any special order, in any particular case, and may be total or partial, unconditional, or conditional."

Thus it will be seen that in relieving of the obligation to pay the $105 impost, the Government acted strictly within its legal powers, but at the same time, by the beneficient provisions of the act, the claim holder who is able to pay for the surface of 20 acres or so of his claim, may acquire the freehold under the arrangements between the two governments.

It is difficult to see how any provision meeting, as it does, the cases both of the miner with money and the one without it, could have been arrived at.

QUICKLY REDRESSED.

The Kootenay Star, commenting on the News-Advertiser's article, denouncing the Government for the mistake that had been made not by the Government only, but by the whole Legislature, with respect to the mineral lands in the railway belt, says:

"Did the News-Advertiser raise any voice of warning against the bad consequences of this law before it was enacted? Did it not have an intelligent reporter at Victoria during the session? Neither did any other one of the metropolitan coast journals, nor the leader of the Opposition, nor any other member of that party, say one word against the measure. Neither did those gentlemen who spent the winter at Victoria, and one might think from their manifestoes as a Victoria-Kootenay committee, that they had the entire mining welfare of Kootenay district under their sole guardianship, discover the railway belt 'iniquity,' until brought to light by the miners of Revelstoke, and frankly admitted and promptly remedied by the Premier."

Nothing is more certain than that the Opposition is as much to blame as the Government for making the mistake in the first place. The section of the Mineral Act which in operation would bear so hard on the miners, passed through the Legislature without note or comment. The fact is everybody thought that everything was all right, and that the section was required to put in force the arrangement that had been made by the two Governments with respect to the administration of the minerals in the Railway Belt. We venture to say that the Leader of the Opposition was as much surprised as the Leader of the Government to find that the law was so very disadvantageous to the miner's prosperity on lands owned by the Dominion. What the Government could do to remedy the oversight was done at the earliest moment possible. As soon as the Premier returned to town he did what was necessary to remove the evil complained of. He did not wait for the mail to advise the Gold Commissioner that the tax had been removed. He immediately sent the following telegram to that official:

VICTORIA, B. C., May 17, 1890.

To G. C. TUNSTALL,
Gold Commissioner.

"Obnoxious mining record tax set aside. You will now record claims as formerly, under section 45 of old Mineral Act. Instructions by mail. JOHN ROBSON."

On the same day the following letter of instruction was sent to Revelstoke by mail:

"VICTORIA, 17th May, 1890.

SIR:—I have the honor to inform you that by authority of an Order-in-Council approved on the 16th instant by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, the tax of $105 under section 1 of the Mineral Act Amendment Act, 1890, imposed on the claimant of any claim, located or applied for under section 75 of the "Mineral Act," where such claim is situated within that portion of the Province known as the Railway Belt, has been remitted, and you are authorized as a Gold Commissioner having jurisdiction within the railway belt, to accept and make records of mineral claims without the said tax being actually paid.

"This remission, however, does not in any way affect the stipulation contained in Sec. 45 of the "Mineral Act."

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN ROBSON,
Provincial Secretary and Minister of Mines.

G. C. TUNSTALL,
Gold Commissioner,
Revelstoke.

Section 45 alluded to in the above letter reads as follows:

"Every free miner, or company of free miners, may record his or their claim or set of claims in one record on payment of two dollars and fifty cents; and every 'leave of absence' may contain all the interests accepted from representation. Two dollars and fifty cents shall be charged for such 'leave of absence' and for any bill of sale or other document or matter recorded."

It was impossible to be more prompt than this. No one really believes that the Government or the Legislature intended to place the slightest unnecessary burden on the shoulders of the miner; and the Opposition papers which now desire to make the electors think that they, from the first, disapproved of the measure are simply dishonest. They are very wise indeed—after the fact. If they had been one-tenth as wise as they would like the people to believe that they are, when the bill was in its passage through the Legislature it would never have become law in its present shape. The Kootenay miners are too shrewd not to see this, and they will, no doubt, give the Opposition fault-finders all the credit they deserve.

THE FISHERIES QUESTIONS.

One of the best statements we have seen of the Fisheries disputes between Great Britain and France, and Great Britain and the United States, is an article on "North American Fisheries Disputes," by F. Heinr Geffcken, in the May number of the Fortnightly Review. As the writer belongs to a nation which is wholly inconnected with the dispute, he may fairly lay claim to be impartial. He is not only impartial, but he has a thorough acquaintance with the subject. We know of no one paper in which an enquirer can get so full and so accurate an account of the fisheries difficulties as he can in this article by Herr Geffcken. He gives his readers an admirable resume of the points of the Newfoundland case. He says all that is necessary to enable them to form an intelligent opinion on the merits of that dispute.

His history of the Canadian Fishery Question is remarkably clear and full. He condenses in a few pages, the contents of volumes of diplomatic correspondence and of parliamentary enquiries. He appears to have overlooked nothing. The decisions he comes to will, no doubt, be acquiesced in by British readers, for they are favorable to the contention of the British Government. It could not, in fact, be otherwise, for the right is so clearly on the British side, that even the Americans do not seriously contend that Great Britain's claims on the Eastern side of the continent cannot be substantiated by international law and by the treaties between the two nations.

The reviewer has mastered all the facts connected with the Behrings Sea dispute, and the conclusions at which he arrives agree with those to which all competent men have come, no matter what their nationality. After stating the case fully and clearly, he says:

"The whole course pursued by the Americans is incompatible with the clearest prescriptions of international law. The Public Prosecutor at the court at Sitka admitted that the ships were not seized in American territorial waters; adding, however, that it was done 'in the main waters of that part of Behring's Sea ceded by Russia to the United States,' thus claiming jurisdiction for the United States over that part of the Pacific in contradiction to their own protest of 1882."

The reviewer then goes on to give the boundaries of that part of the Pacific Ocean that goes by the name of Behring's Sea. He winds up his argument by saying—

"The assertion of that court (at Sitka) that the latter is a land-locked sea is, therefore, utterly unfounded, far more so as in 1821 Russia at least was in possession of both coasts of that part of the Pacific, whilst the United States only possess the eastern coast, and the western is formed by Kamtchatka. The American position, is therefore clearly untenable, and the grievance that the Victorian sealers pay no rent, and can therefore undersell the Alaskan company, is utterly irrevalent. What is only more astonishing than this preposterous pretension is the patience (not to say the supineness) with which the British government has allowed this grievance to remain unredressed over nearly three years; and it is very natural that such a shifty policy should be highly unacceptable to the colony which has suffered from it, and it is plain that this question ought to be decided at the same time with the fishery question."

THE RAILWAY AID BILL.

The organ again tries to deceive by making it appear that the "Attorney General pushed this bill to a second reading in spite of the protests of the Opposition."

There were only two bills during the entire session, where the Opposition requested time, and it was not given them. These were the "Redistribution Bill," and the "Quieting Titles Act."

As regards the first-mentioned measure, the opposition to it was freely ventilated, and as to the last-named bill, after discovering that it had no effect upon pending litigation, as they affected to believe it had, the Opposition allowed it to go through without a single objection.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

THE IMBECILE OPPOSITION.

The organ is not so stupid as it seems. It knows very well that we did not devote one column, or one tenth part of a column, "to prove that the Leader of the Opposition is to blame for the passage of the royalty clause of the Railways Aid Act." What we did devote a little space to was to show that the Opposition were so apathetic, so careless, or so thick-headed, that they allowed a bill which they now declare to be bad to pass its second reading without a single objection or one word of criticism. An opposition that was worth its salt would not think of doing such a thing. To be half or wholly asleep when a very important Government bill is passing through its most important stage, then when spurred up no doubt by indignant supporters, some days afterwards, to offer a weak and most ineffective opposition, and afterwards, when the bill has become law, to claim credit for having opposed it, is certainly the crooked est, the shabbiest, and the most cowardly course that an Opposition ever pursued.

We blame the Opposition for not doing what its organ now proves that it was its duty to do. We judge it by its own standard. Perhaps the Times will tell the public how often the Opposition divided the House on this Railways Aid Bill.

Talk of the opposition to that bill! It was feebleness itself. If the Times wanted to show that the Opposition, in the late House, was imbecile, it could not prove its position more clearly than it did in last night's issue. One would think, to read the Times, that the Hon. Mr. Beaven was a baby in the hands of the Attorney-General, and that his five supporters had no choice than to do exactly as they were bidden by the Government.

THE ORGAN'S LAW.

The organ persists in setting itself up as a legal authority in opposition to the Attorney-General and the President of the Council. It did this once before, in the matter of the school contribution, and it found that the Chief Justice and a number of other judges decided in a way which it confidently declared was contrary to law. This should have taught our contemporary a little modesty in dealing with legal questions; but it is one of those who do not profit by experience, and in spite of its previous blunders, it continues to lay down the law with more confidence than a Lord Chancellor.

It denies with an ex-cathedra air that the $105 which has been remitted by the Order in Council is a tax, and quotes Webster's Dictionary in favor of its contention. Webster's is a very good dictionary, but when our contemporary pursues its study of the law a little further it will find that in the interpretation of the statutes some other and better authority is required. We may say in passing, that with its usual disingenuousness, it does not give the whole of Webster's definition, but selects one which it believes will not apply. As this is a legal enquiry, we will refer our contemporary to a legal authority. Cooley, who is an American jurist, thus defines the term "taxes":

"Taxes are charges imposed by the legislative power of a state upon person or property to raise money for public purposes."

Now the 47th section of the Revenue Act says:

"And whereas, it is expedient that the executive government should be empowered to relax the strictness of the law relative to the collection of the revenue, in cases where, without such relaxation, great public inconvenience, or great hardship and injustice to individuals could not be avoided."

The reader will observe that the object of the Statute is remedial, and it is a canon of construction that such laws are to receive the most liberal interpretation.

The section goes on to say:

"Therefore, the Lieutenant-Governor, whenever he deems it right and conducive to the public good, may remit any tax payable to Her Majesty, imposed, or authorized to be imposed, by any Act of the Provincial Legislature."

It is obvious that the word tax in the above quotation is used as defined by Cooley. If it were used in any narrower sense, what would be the use of the very liberal preamble to the section? So applicable is it that it would appear to be intended for the very case of the miners. It will be observed that the preamble applies not to the remission of assessed taxes only, but to the relaxation of the laws relating to the collection of REVENUE. Now revenue as defined by the second section of the same act "shall mean and include all Provincial revenue and public moneys from whatsoever source arising."

This covers the case of the $105 exactly.

The $105 is not, as the Times contends, the purchase money of the land. It is rather as the Times itself called it a few days ago, an impost. The section of the Mineral Act which imposes it expressly states that the payment of it by the miner "will not entitle the claim holder to such freehold unless he completes his title thereto whilst he is the lawful holder of the claim under the provisions of section 88 of the Act." It is very evident that this $105 is not purchase money, whatever else it may be, but it is REVENUE, as mentioned in the 47th section and defined in the 2nd section of the Revenue Act.

We trust that our contemporary, when it takes time to think, will see that it is doing both a wrong and a foolish thing in trying to make the miners believe that the Order-in-Council is not worth the paper it is written upon. The Government had the power to remit the payment of the $105, and in doing so it did what the interests of the men engaged in mining require. And the journal that wishes well to the miners should commend the Administration for its prompt action rather than by quibling and carping endeavor to unsettle their minds.

The Times states that a tax can only be imposed by a message from the Lieutenant-Governor, and then proceeds to argue that as the Mineral Bill was not brought down by message that the $105 impost is not a tax.

The organ's knowledge of parliamentary practice is on par with its knowledge of the construction of statutes.

The practice of parliament is well-known. May, the great parliamentary authority, in speaking of the proceedings for levying a tax, says:

"It is the practice, without any exception, for all bills that directly impose a state charge upon the people, to originate in the committee of the whole."

The practice laid down by May was pursued in this case. A reference to the Journals of the House will show that on the 15th April the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the expediency of passing a resolution to the effect that the "Mineral Act" be amended by the imposition of this very tax. The Journals also show, it may be observed, that the resolution passed unchallenged by the Opposition.

NOT A LEGAL LIGHT.

The Times in its zeal to make mischief undertakes to decide a legal point against the Attorney-General and the Executive Council. It declares that the $105 to be paid by the miner, when recording his claim, is not a "tax." Our contemporary is, we submit, wholly unfit to decide a question of this kind. What is a tax and what is not a tax has puzzled wiser men than can be found in the Times office. We think that the public will take the opinion of the Attorney-General and the other gentlemen who form the Council, on a question of that kind, before they accept that of the editor of the Times or any or all of his inspirers. And the public is right. Our contemporary must quote some authority for the decision it promulgates with so much confidence before it can do any mischief. We have the authority of the Attorney-General and the President of the Council for holding that the $105 is a tax. Now, what authority can the Times show to convince its readers that it is not a tax. The "ipse dixit" of our contemporary on a question of that kind is simply worthless. It incurs no responsibility when it declares that the Order-in-Council is not worth the paper it is written upon. And we know that it is not very scrupulous when it thinks it can make a point against the Government.

THE OPPOSITION COLLAPSE IN VICTORIA DISTRICT.

The retirement of Mr. McIlmoyl, who was chosen to lead the Opposition forces in Victoria district, is a terrible blow to the faction that put him forward. Not alone will its effect be disastrous in the adjacent district—its influence will be felt throughout the length and breadth of the province. All the constituencies will be more or less affected by the spectacle of a captain abandoning the field and seeking the shadow of a shabby excuse for his cowardice before the battle was opened. The Times tries to place the responsibility of Mr. McIlmoyl's flight on Mr. Carey's shoulders. It more than intimates that Mr. McIlmoyl did not like his associate on the ticket. It seems to think that Mr. McIlmoyl was too good for Mr. Carey's company. But this explanation is too shallow to be entertained. Mr. Carey may not be an angel; but he is no worse morally than Mr. McIlmoyl. The true cause of Mr. McIlmoyl's retirement lies in the fact that he found, after a brief canvass, that he had not the slightest chance of election. Defeat stared him in the face when he learned that not one, two, or three, but a score of his old political friends had decided to vote for Anderson and Eberts. In retiring he acted wisely, if pusillanimously; but he might have been allowed to run away without the Times seeking to cover his retreat with a falsehood. Mr. McIlmoyl's example is worthy of emulation. Mr. Carey will not save his two hundred dollars. We doubt if any of the Opposition candidates in the city will save theirs. Let them be warned in time and accept the situation by a speedy retirement.

GEO. FRANCIS TRAIN'S TRIP.

He Completes the Circle of the Globe in 67 Days, 13 Hours, 2 Minutes and 55 Seconds.

Precisely at seven o'clock on Saturday night, George Francis Train reached Tacoma and toed the brass plate in front of the Ledger office, the point from which he started on March 18th, completing his journey round the world in 67 days, 13 hours, 2 minutes and 55 seconds. Train was accompanied by his secretary, S. W. Wall, and when the train bearing the travelers entered the Tacoma station, the crowd was so dense that it was with difficulty the travelers could make their way to the waiting carriages. The rear car in which Train could be seen from the window was at once surrounded by the multitude, all eager for a closer glimpse.

Train was clad entirely in white. Hat, shirt, shoes, trousers and shoes were of snowy whiteness, the only colored article of wearing apparel being his black stockings, which showed above the tops of his shoes, and a brilliant red sash knotted about his waist. A gorgeous bouquet protruded from the upper left-hand pocket of his coat, and a top of a red Turkish fez with a long tassel peeped from one of the lower pockets. The hat was a wonderfully and fearfully constructed affair which the Citizen purchased in China. It was two stories high with a small cupola on top and with the inscription, "George Francis Train around the world in sixty days," printed in black letters on the forward end of the lower deck. The appearance of the brain cover was such that a small boy near the platform, couldn't resist the temptation to sing out, "Where did you get that hat?"

Just before the train pulled out, Train made a dive at a little child and, pulling a coral necklace from his pocket, he tied it about the little one's neck.

"There, baby," he said, "is a present for you all the way from Arabia. Keep it in remembrance of your friend."

The run from Chehalis to Tacoma was one continuous ovation to the traveller, who divided the honors with his New York guests. He was somewhat disappointed over his failure to secure a special over the Northern Pacific, but was much pleased at the reception on the train and at the depot.

Train says he is going around the world again in October, starting again at Tacoma. This time he proposes to make the trip in 42½ days. He lays out his programme this way:

	Days
Tacoma to Yokohama	10½
Yokohama to Hong Kong	3½
Hong Kong to Singapore	3½
Singapore to Colombo	2
Colombo to Aden	4½
Aden to Suez	4½
Suez to Port Said	1
Port Said to Brindisi	2
Brindisi to Southampton	2
Southampton to New York	6
New York to Tacoma	3
Total	42½

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, MAY 21.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Sold to Sigmund Schoom.

The entire stock of teas, etc., carried by the late John Boyd was disposed of yesterday to Sigmund Schoom, grocer, for $4,685. He has not yet announced whether or not he will continue the business at the old stand.

The Provincial Museum.

Something like one hundred signatures were placed on the visitors' book at the museum on the 24th. This was not, by any means, the number that visited the institution which was largely patronized during the celebration. The visitors were mostly strangers from the other side and the east.

Trying Again.

The steamer Rainbow, which returned yesterday, carried to Comox a large quantity of diamond prospecting machinery, including a big steam drill, for the new Vancouver Coal company. Explorations for a new mine will be started as soon as the plant can be put together, and will be prosecuted as rapidly as possible.

Name Changed.

The name of the company which owns the famous Treadwell mine has been changed from the Alaska Mill & Mining Company to the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company. The general public did not know to what company the first name applied, while the other makes it clear to all.

Under Two Hats.

On Sunday evening the police arrested a stranger, who was attempting to carry two heavy satchels and wear two hats at one and the same time, on suspicion of his being a thief. He satisfactorily explained how he became possessed of the various portions of his travelling outfit, offered to prove an alibi at any time, and was released.

Grasshopper Depredations.

The grasshoppers have commenced depredations in the district between Kamloops and Shuswap, and fears are entertained that they will do serious damage to the hay and grain crops. Should the present dry weather continue for a lengthened period, many fields will not yield any crop at all, as the smaller grains are almost dry, and there is no water available for irrigating purposes.—Inland Sentinel.

A Further Adjournment.

At the adjourned meeting of the Court of Assize yesterday, a further adjournment was made to June 17th of the cases against R. Parker and L. Goodacre. Three of the the jurymen were not present when the names were called, John Parker, R. Cruickshank and Oliver Jackson, and the learned judge imposed upon them a nominal fine of twenty-five cents. John Parker, however, put in an appearance afterwards, and explained to the court the cause of his absence. The imposition of a fine was in consequence withdrawn.

The Lost Heron Lead.

An enterprising mining company have at last struck the continuation of the celebrated lost Heron lead, on the lower end of Grouse Creek. It will be remembered that the Heron company (Mr. James Laidlaw, foreman) worked a very excellent piece of ground during the winter of 1889-7, which yielded to the owners (eight) some $20,000 each. Large sums of money and labor were expended to find its continuation down stream covering years, but without success. It is reported that the present fortunate miners have found the run of gold on a higher level than it ever before had been looked for.—Inland Sentinel.

Kamloops Spring Assizes.

The spring assizes open at Kamloops on Monday week, the 2nd prox., and although the docket is not a very heavy one there are cases coming up of more than ordinary magnitude. The one in which the most interest will probably centre is Regina v. Spencer; the charge being murder. The civil docket will comprise one or more cases of a peculiarly interesting character, being of a local nature, and some rich developments are anticipated. The grand jury have been chosen mostly from the outlying districts, very few being taken from among the residents in Kamloops.—Inland Sentinel.

Government Surveys.

A few days since there was noted in THE COLONIST the departure of a party to carry on the work of survey in the "unknown" section of this province, as announced during the session by Hon. Mr. Robson. On Friday a second expedition left, under Mr. Tuck, for the Nitinat district, the object being to survey and lay out the land suitable for sale and settlement. In a few days another party will leave to commence operations in the San Juan Valley. The results of the labors of these expeditions will be awaited with considerable interest, as it is to be questionable that the knowledge which there is of immense sections of our territory is of the most limited character.

From Rock Creek.

A private letter, received yesterday from Rock Creek contains the pleasing intelligence that the Laura Hydraulic Mining Co.'s claim is showing up splendidly, and promises to turn out a large amount of money this year. Mr. Douglas, the representative of the Standard Oil Co., which has an important claim in this district, is expected shortly, when further developments may be looked for on their property. A four-foot seam of excellent coal has been struck at about half a mile from the mouth of Rock Creek, and efforts will be made to mine it as soon as possible. It is announced that a Spokane company contemplates the erection of a mill at Rock Creek during the present summer season.

Courteous Officials.

When the newspaper men who were anxious to accompany the Royal train east from Vancouver, applied to Mr. Harry Abbott, the general superintendent, for permission, he very kindly did all in his power to assist them. He said that the orders from headquarters were that no one but the train crew were to be allowed on board without a permit from Sir John McNeill, but that if they would obtain that permit he would place his private car at their disposal and give them any further accommodation he could. General McNeill's permission could not be obtained by the representatives of the press, who have their own opinion of his action; but Mr. Abbott is entitled to their hearty thanks and good wishes. Like all the officials of his division, he is courteous, accommodating, and a gentleman to all.

Methodist Conference.

The following are the delegates chosen by the British Columbia conference to represent the Methodists of British Columbia at the General Conference to be held in Montreal in September next:—Rev. C. Bryant, president of the conference (ex officio); Rev. Joseph Hall and Rev. E. Robson; Rev. T. Crosby (reserve delegate). Lay delegates: Messrs. Spencer, James Little and A. C. Wells.

The report of the Educational Committee showed receipts $250.

The Committee on Temperance strongly urged the necessity of training the young in temperance principles, enjoining the practice of total abstinence as a Christian duty, and advising members of the Conference to do all that is possible to secure the election of such men as will legislate in the interest of temperance and morality.

Rev. J. E. Starr bade an affectionate farewell to the brethren of the British Columbia Conference with whom he had laboured so pleasantly for the last three years.

A notice was given by Rev. Joseph Hall of a resolution to admit women as members of the Official Board.

British underwriters are now offering a premium of £90 on the cargo of the German bark J. H. Hustede. She is now 216 days out from Victoria.

Steamer Pilot towed the bark India to Moodyville on Tuesday and returned to this port last evening.

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, MAY 23.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

A Million Shingles.

The tug Vancouver yesterday towed down, from Howe Sound, a scow laden with one million shingles for this city.

Another State Quarry.

Mr. Jos. Thain, who has been spending the holidays in Victoria, brought with him a sample of fine hard slate, a large deposit of which has been discovered west of Donald. It is of a rich color, and of excellent quality.

An Enrolling Benefice.

A strange marriage was, it is alleged, celebrated in this city on the 24th of May, when a young man was induced, while in a semi-intoxicated condition, to enter the marriage estate. On recovering his sober senses he strongly objected, and will take steps to have the tie legally dissolved.

Hospital Notes.

The first pay patient was received into the Royal Jubilee hospital yesterday.

The act of incorporation of the Royal Jubilee hospital goes into force on Saturday, and a meeting will be held about the 6th June to put everything in working order.

The old Royal hospital was definitely vacated by its late holders yesterday, and by them handed over to the purchasers.

Surrey Council.

The Council of the Municipality of Surrey met on Monday, Reeve Punch presiding. Very little business was transacted other than the opening of tenders for the completion of Surrey dyke. Tenders were read from Bradshaw & Co., for $8,600; from McDonald & Armstrong, for $9,000; and from D. McGillivray, for $9,500. These tenders were referred to the dyke committee, which will meet in New Westminster and investigate the matter.

The "Victorian."

Some time ago Capt. Anderson suggested to the Union Pacific people that the steamer now building for this new route, be called in compliment to the people of Victoria, the "Victorian." Capt. Troup has given out that the handsome steamer will be so called. She will be similar to the Olympian in many ways, and 21 miles per hour is guaranteed. This will make her the fastest craft in these waters. It is expected that she will be completed and on the route early in September next.

A Novel Logging Camp.

Mr. Grant, the well-known logger of Valdez Island, has hit upon the novel plan of having a floating logging camp. Keeping this end in view, he has given Messrs. Clarke & Watson a contract for two large scows, one of about 100 tons and the other about 50 tons burden. Their construction will be commenced at once. This is a new departure in the logging business, and will greatly facilitate the work of moving from one site to another. The large scow will be used as a stable and place of storage, while the small one will furnish living and sleeping accommodation for the men. The two scows will be worth about $2,000.

Political Notes.

Mr. Joseph Hunter, C. E., has issued a card to the electors of Comox, asking their support of his candidature for the representation of that district. He left for Comox yesterday morning.

Advices from Kootenay and Cariboo are that the Government is solid in these constituencies, as well as Lillooet. Tickets are not yet fully formed, but the popular feeling is so strong that the administration nominees are sure to carry.

Mr. W. H. Ladner has completed his canvass of the district for the House of Commons. He avers most positively that he is going in at the head of the poll.

Methodist Conference.

The ordination sermon was preached in the Homer Street Methodist Church, Vancouver, on Sunday, by Rev. Joseph Hall, his subject being "The Old Paths." Rev. J. E. Starr preached in the evening. At the Monday meeting a strong report of the committee on Sabbath observance was adopted, and a committee was appointed to urge upon the railway and steamboat companies a better observance of the day of rest. A resolution of sympathy with Rev. W. Pollard in his declining years was unanimously adopted, and a motion was passed requesting the general conference to amend the ritual for the Lord's Supper, so as to provide that the position of communicants shall be sitting instead of kneeling.

Miners' Association.

A Miners' Association has been formed at Revelstoke, the object of which is the union of miners and all those interested in mining operations, for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the mining interests in British Columbia, and to advise with the governing powers regarding the legislation affecting the same. Any miner, or person directly interested in mining, shall be eligible to membership. The following officers have been elected: D. Campbell, president; W. A. Jowett, vice-president; T. L. Haig, secretary; James W. Vall, treasurer. Executive Committee—James M. Kellie, William McKenzie, W. M. Brown, F. Roeser, E. Goodwin, W. Taylor, and J. F. Hume.

The O. R. & N. Co.'s Fleet.

The Oregon Railway & Navigation Company is preparing to increase its service on the Sound. An agent is now in San Francisco figuring with the owners of several boats for the purpose of securing some of them for service. An attempt was recently made to obtain control of the Al-Ki, belonging to the Pacific Coast Steamship Company. The latter company, however, wanted $5,000 a month for the use of the vessel. This was considered too high and negotiations fell through. It is not generally known that the Geo. W. Elder, which the Pacific Coast Steamship Company runs in the Alaskan trade, is the property of the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company, which rented the steamer to the Pacific Coast Company for $7,000 per month.

Sealing News.

From a private letter received in San Francisco from one of the hunters on board the sealing schooner J. Hamilton Lewis, which left port on January 11th on a sealing cruise, it was learned it was not until the last day of the month the crew were able to do any hunting. On that day the vessel got to Cardell and captured 94 seals. On March 3rd, Jefferson McReynolds while at the wheel was knocked overboard by the jibing of the main boom and was drowned. His body was not recovered. The parents of deceased reside at Portland, Oregon. On March 21st, a crew of hunters was discovered in a small boat off the mouth of the Columbia. Parties in the boat had been lost from the sealing schooner Sophie Sutherland. The hunters were taken aboard, and two days later placed on a British iron ship bound for Astoria. Up to the time of letter being written the schooner had captured 370 skins and was about leaving for the north.

MINING MATTERS.

A Budget of General News from the Lower Kootenay—Better Communication Required.

A deal of interesting matter is there in Mr. Joshua Davies' trip to the Lower Kootenay. He left here about the 13th inst., and has only just returned. He reports stocks of goods at Nelson very limited, owing chiefly to the lack of transportation facilities. Most of the goods are received from Spokane Falls. Seven-eighths of the mines in that portion of the country are estimated as owned by Americans. At Spokane Falls there is, if extended, fully half a mile of buildings from three to seven storeys high, built of granite, pressed brick and sandstone, while the area laid out is considerable. In the water power there is much wealth if that power was but utilized. At present there are three railways having their terminus here, the U. P., the N. P., and the Spokane Falls & Northern. The regularity of the circuits is very noticeable, the telephone and other poles being in straight lines and nicely painted. A great many people here are interested in the mines at Kootenay. Speaking of Nelson City, Mr. Davies said that all it lacks is communication with the outer world; the townsite is a remarkably pretty as well as useful location. Work on the Nelson and Sproat's Landing railroad is being pushed rapidly. This road, although it will be of great help to the country, will only be open about six months in the year. Nelson City requires goods and supplies, and unless the capitalists of Victoria get in and make a bid for the trade, and try and do something towards getting better roads, it will be diverted to other channels; as it is now, it is only the duty that saves the trade for this side at all. The United States customs have lately had considerable trouble, but an officer, Mr. Dolan, has now been placed at Kootenay, Idaho. A sawmill ordered by Mr. Davies, came over the N.P.R. and was taken on to Tacoma, the shippers having billed it to Nelson City via Tacoma. It required the personal intervention of Secretary Windom to enable this freight to clear for Nelson City, it having originally come from eastern Canada.

Much indignation is felt at the suit now pending in the Toad Mountain mines vs. Holland Bros., as the miners are of opinion that something like $50,000 have been spent on this mine, in which they had invested every dollar they could raise. They speak in the highest terms of Hall Bros.

Mr. Farwell was canvassing the district in the government interest, and appears to have a good chance of polling the highest number of votes.

As to the general feeling of the community, Mr. Davies did not meet one discontented person, all had the feeling that the district is going to be a rich mining property.

THE WELLINGTON MINES.

The Owners Decline to Accede to the Demands of the Miners, and the Mines are Shut Down.

(Nanaimo Free Press).

In accordance with previous arrangements, a conference was held at Wellington, Monday afternoon, between the Wellington Mine owners and a committee of the Wellington miners.

The owners were represented by Mr. James Dunsmuir, Mr. Alex. Dunsmuir, and Mr. John Bryden (manager).

The miners' committee consisted of six Wellington employes—one representing each nationality at work in the several pits of the Wellington Collieries.

The owners declined to accede to the demand of the men, claiming eight hours a day—the time to count from leaving the surface to reaching the surface again, or in mining parlance from bank to bank.

The company contended that the hours should count from commencing work in the stalls and leaving the work there, in other words they decline to pay the men wages from the time they are going from the pit mouth to work and returning.

The owners stated that they would work the mines to suit themselves and allow no dictation. Neither would they recognize any pit committee; but if a committee from a body of the men, the same as the committee of to-day, Mr. Bryden said he would meet them. They would not recognize a district committee, or any one from the association.

They also said that if men made deficient wages by having bad places they could go to the boss and he would equalize matters.

The owners said the men could go back to work the same as before and would not recognize the eight hour system. If the men would not go back to work on these terms they would close the mines down for twelve months.

It is now stated that the Wellington mines will be closed down for an indefinite period.

A general meeting of the miners of Wellington will be held at the Somerset House, on Wednesday, at 3 o'clock p.m., when the situation will be considered.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

CRICKET.

The following scores were made in the recent cricket matches—Victoria v. Westminster and Victoria v. Cowichan:

VICTORIA V. WESTMINSTER.

Victoria.

R. E. Irving, c Gifford, b Newington	0
C. E. Pooley, c and b Newington	1
F. St. L. Maguire, b Malins	13
J. W. Sinclair, b Malins	16
A. Scrogge, c Raymon, b Malins	2
W. Shaw, b Coulthard	26
H. A. Cheal, run out	8
B. H. T. Drake, b Wyld	2
H. H. Lee, run out	2
C. W. Rhodes, not out	3
Rev J. W. Green, b Coulthard	0
Byes	5
Leg byes	5
Wides	7
No balls	2
Total	121

New Westminster.

H. F. Clinton, c Sinclair, b Shaw	3
A. Malins, b Shaw	6
F. J. Coulthard, c Cheal, b Drake	56
W. B. Ransom, b Pooley	20
G. Newington, c Rhodes, b Pooley	0
E. H. Wild, l b w, b Pooley	30
T. O. Townley, b Drake	7
G. E. Raymond, c Lee, b Sinclair	2
E. M. Woods, b Scrogge	18
T. Gifford, not out	5
H. Read, b Scrogge	0
Byes	5
Leg byes	3
Wides	2
Total	171

VICTORIA VS. COWICHAN.

Victoria (1st Innings.)

Dr. Fitzgerald, b Shaw	16
R. H. Irving, b Shaw	0
B. H. Lee, c Maitland, b Shaw	1
J. W. Sinclair, run out	8
F. S. L. Maguire, b Shaw	15
A. Scrogge, b Shaw	0
C. Phillips-Wolley, b Shaw	3
H. A. Martin, b Shaw	13
C. W. Rhodes, not out	2
Rev. J. Wahlie Green, b Shaw	2
N. Graves, run out	0
Extras	24
Total	91

Second innings, six runs were made for the fall of one wicket.

Cowichan (1st Innings.)

J. C. Maitland, b Phillips-Wolley	0
T. H. Maitland-Dougall, b Sinclair	0
H. O. Welburo, b Sinclair	0
E. W. Shaw, b Phillips-Wolley	14
C. Barna