

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U.S. Gov't Report



THE "COLOMBO" HERE.

Prince Luigi's Birthday Modestly Celebrated on Board the Italian Cruiser at Esquimaut.

The Visitor to Remain Until Saturday—Captain Bertolini's Distinguished Service Record.

The Italian cruiser Christoforo Colombo now lying at anchor in Esquimaut harbor was Wednesday the scene of unusual festivities, occasioned by the fact that it was the birthday of her distinguished lieutenant, Prince Luigi. Just twenty-three years ago this young nobleman, who is a nephew of King Humbert of Italy under whose flag he serves, was born in the royal palace at Madrid, his father, Prince Amedeo then being the ruling monarch of Spain. Great honor and attention were his birthright, for there was then no thought of the King, his father, abdicating his throne, and that throne was therefore looked upon as the inheritance of the infant, the young Duke of Abruzzi, who is now Victoria's guest, he being by right of birth according to Spanish law entitled to succession to the throne. Soon, however, came changes, and with the kaleidoscopic shifting of affairs his twenty-third birthday finds Prince Luigi a most popular and capable officer on board an Italian cruiser.

Yesterday a dinner was given on the ship in honor of the Prince's lieutenant, and hearty congratulations were showered upon him. It is doubtful indeed if there is a more esteemed officer in the Italian navy, according to the report of his associates on the Colombo, his affability, his freedom from ostentation and his kindness of disposition having endeared him to all on board. While afloat, much of Prince Luigi's time is occupied in study, his intention being to thoroughly master the art of navigation, for he aims at being a practical officer and a capable seaman.

Though her coming was long delayed, the arrival of the Colombo was none the less welcome when she did make her appearance in Esquimaut yesterday and left her anchors to the accompaniment of the regulation salute from the British ships at headquarters. She proves to be a trim and well-equipped cruiser of the fifth class of the Italian subsidiary navy. Her experiences in Vancouver had all been of a most pleasurable character, and Captain Bertolini and his officers are unanimous in their expressions of regret that they cannot make a long enough stay here to become thoroughly acquainted with the Victorians. According to present arrangements the ship will remain at Esquimaut until Saturday afternoon, proceeding then to San Francisco, San Diego and other California ports, and then to the United States. It is stated that the Colombo will be visited and a fortnight's stay at Valparaiso will enable the residents of that city to see more of the Italian officers than Victorians possibly can. Buenos Ayres is also on the list of calling places and then Montevideo, where the Colombo is to await further orders.

Captain Bertolini, who commands the sailing warship, is an officer with a distinguished record. He has been entrusted with many important diplomatic as well as naval commissions. During the Chino-Japanese war he served in the disturbed waters of the Orient as commander of the Umbra, one of the largest and best vessels in the Italian navy. On the termination of hostilities he was detached from the Umbra at Shanghai and by order of the Minister of the Navy took command of the Colombo. Of the other officers of the ship Captain Presbitero is next in authority, ranking as captain corvette, and Chevalier Cogni is first navigating officer and first aide de camp to the Prince. The Colombo also carries six lieutenants, six sub-lieutenants and a crew of 225 men.

THE SHOOTING MAY BE FATAL.

Ever since the arrest of Albert Menzenmeyer for the shooting of John R. Perkins at Lorin, Cal., on Christmas eve, the Victoria police have been considerably mystified by the apparent lack of interest taken in the matter of securing possession of the prisoner by the Alameda county authorities. It now seems plain, thanks to a flood of light thrown on the matter by last Sunday's Chronicle, that there is method in the delay that has so exasperated the Victoria officers.

Perkins is sinking fast, and the only hope of saving his life is in the opinion of the doctors, an operation, to locate the bullet. This is regarded as a forlorn hope, but as there is at present frequent gushing of blood from the mouth and nostrils the patient's doom is sealed otherwise.

The Alameda county grand jury have found an indictment against Menzenmeyer for assault with intent to murder and have fixed the bail at \$15,000. Menzenmeyer will be extradited at the earliest opportunity, but here the complication arises. If the formalities are disposed of as the case now stands, no more serious charge than assault with intent to murder can be preferred, even should Perkins die—as it is all but certain he will. No secondary or more serious charge could be laid, for this is especially guarded against by the extradition law. Should Perkins die the hour after extradition is secured upon the present status of the case, his slayer could only be tried on the indictment already found.

Mrs. Menzenmeyer is reported to be a frequent caller at the home of the wounded man, and a welcome visitor. She denies, however, as do all of Perkins' relatives, that there has been

ABSENTEES' EXCUSES.

The Supply Committee of the School Board to Inquire Into a Delicate Matter.

Consideration of Proposed Reductions—Amendments to the School Act Suggested.

Since the appointment of Mr. M. T. Drake as school attendance officer, the board of trustees have found themselves confronted by an excuse for non-attendance which they little anticipated. In not one but half a dozen cases where children of school age are reported among the absentees, the explanation is forthcoming that the circumstances of the parents prevent the purchase of the necessary books. A fresh case of this kind was reported in a letter from Miss M. A. Richardson, one of the staff of the South Park school, in which the board of trustees gave consideration to their meeting in Secretary Williams' office yesterday. The teacher in this communication told of how two children in her class, which her parents could not provide, and how upon calling to investigate she found the family absolutely destitute.

The members of the board were quite agreed that it was a hardship for parents to be debarred from receiving the advantages of education through the poverty of parents, and a motion was made to refer Miss Richardson's communication, with the cases previously reported by Mr. Drake, to the supply committee for action. The books required by the two pupils in Miss Richardson's division would cost, it was explained, about \$7, though very possibly second-hand books could be obtained for less, that would answer just as well—if indeed they could not be secured as a donation.

The Chairman thought it would be an excellent plan to have the secretary authorized to buy, at say five cents each, discarded school books which would come in very useful in cases such as those under consideration. Trustees McKinnon and Mrs. Grant, while willing to have these cases referred to the supply committee, foresaw a possibility of youngsters realizing cash upon their school books before they were through with them—and possibly spending the proceeds in other ways. Mrs. Grant hoped that the committee would take no action without very careful investigation. It was a dangerous precedent, she held, for the board to buy books for pupils. The Committee, unfortunately they were circumstances, Public funds were not intended to be applied, and again it was very often only an excuse that books could not be obtained. She knew of a case in point where the pupil who so commanded the sympathy of the teachers and trustees, was at the same time taking music lessons and paying for them.

The committee promised to make careful inquiry before taking action. His Worship Mayor Beaven by letter addressed the board as follows, in connection with the recently published estimates of revenue and expenditure for the current year. "In the estimate of expenditure for 1896, published in the COLONIST of the 28th inst., I observe that the charge for interest and sinking fund on the educational loan is \$4,402, and is not included. I also observe in the estimate of receipts that the amount to be collected by the city under the head of revenue tax is all appropriated as being applicable solely to education. These two items, I think, create an erroneous impression; I admit that the statements published by the city have equally an erroneous tendency. The revenue tax is simply a per capita tax levied upon the city, and authorized the city to collect and apply to its revenue. It is true this was done at the time that the government cast a large portion of the cost of education upon the city, but it is 1896, and the city is now supposed to see its way out of this. If it were a school tax it would be so named, and kept as a distinct fund for the city. The cost of erecting it charged to the cost of education. "As a special tax of two mills is now levied on land for educational purposes, if it were a school tax property owners could then truly say they were paying dual tax in support of schools. I do not think anything should be done to create an erroneous impression of that kind, nor do I think that the cost of education should be understated by omitting this sum from the estimate. In addition to the special school rate the city contributes largely out of its general revenue to the support of the schools, and I think the fact should be known and appreciated."

TRUSTEE YATES contended that the revenue tax could be considered an item of school revenue just as well as could the per capita grant from the government. There was of course the point to consider that the trustees having nothing to do with providing the required revenue, had gone out of their way in preparing an estimate of revenue and in trimming the expenditure to meet the funds available, no more could be done. The statute there was no obligation upon the trustees to prepare an estimate of receipts, and the latter part of His Worship's communication might be met by simply publishing no estimate of income next year.

THE WHEEL. PREPARING FOR REORGANIZATION. At a special general meeting of the Victoria Wheelmen's Club yesterday evening a committee comprising Messrs. Thomas W. Edwards, S. P. Moody, Thomas A. Johnson and Charles Bush, was appointed to take in hand the work of closing up the affairs of 1895, so that the club of 1896 may enter upon existence with clean hands and a clean heart. Notice was also given last evening of a resolution to set aside the standing rules of the club, so that the annual meeting may be held within three weeks, instead of in March.

The proposal was also put forward that the management of the club's affairs during 1896 be vested in a board of directors, to be composed of the officers, and this important suggestion will also bear fruit at the approaching general annual meeting. The crop of fast riders this season promises to be an unusually large one, and already the buttons of the several mounts are much in evidence, showing that all the leading lines will be well represented both on track and path. The track is now being put in condition for fast work, and a season's schedule of race meets will be arranged at an early date.

change of name. The resolution carried, C. W. Murray, secretary of the Vancouver Board of School Trustees, enclosed the following copy of resolutions passed by that body with reference to desirable amendments to the school act, and requested to be informed of the date of the proposed joint meeting of city school boards to be held in Victoria prior to interviewing the Minister of Education in this connection. The resolutions of the Mainland board were the outcome of the action taken by the Victoria trustees a few weeks ago, and were in brief as follows: "1. That this board endorses clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 as contained and stated in your letter. "2. That city school boards be empowered to regulate teaching hours or classes in the tablet and first primer divisions. "3. That the city school boards have the power of extending the mid-summer holidays when they consider the same necessary, to the first Monday in September. "4. That German and Spanish be included in the subjects which may be taught in the high schools, and that candidates for examination be allowed to substitute any three languages out of Latin, Greek, French, German or Spanish. "5. That the Ontario rules governing the engagement of teachers be forwarded to the city boards in British Columbia. "6. That section 29 of the school act be amended by adding after the word 'secretary', in the first line, the words 'or one of the trustees of the board', that section 39 be amended by adding to the same section the words 'except as provided in section 29.' "

IN CONNECTION WITH this letter Chairman Hayward explained that the communication of the Victoria board on December 2 last and recommended five things—(1) that examinations should take place on the last days of each term, finishing on the next day; (2) that the exhibitions held heretofore at the close of the term be abolished; (3) that the results of examinations be made up by the teacher immediately after the end of the term, the results to be forwarded to the secretary of the school board as soon as possible; (4) that the first day of the term after routine be devoted to the reading of promotion lists, presentation of certificates, and (5) that the results of the examinations in high schools be extended 30 minutes. From the letter of the Vancouver board he noted that that body endorsed all but the last suggestion.

AFTER DISCUSSION it was decided to refer the communication with the proposals of the Victoria and Vancouver boards, to the special committee on legislation for an early report, Secretary Williams being at the same time requested to inform the Vancouver trustees by the Consul to Lieutenant Governor Dewdney. The latter will return the call to-day, and the B. C. Board of Trade will also pay their official visit as decided upon at Wednesday's meeting of council.

YESTERDAY forenoon the body of a man was found floating near the wharf at the outer harbor. It was pulled ashore and taken to Storey's undertaking rooms. So long had the body been in the water that it was much decomposed and the features were quite unrecognizable. It was the corpse of a man apparently about five feet eleven inches in height and roughly dressed. The trousers were grey with black stripes, and on the feet were dilapidated elastic side shoes. A dark brown vest, a white shirt and striped cotton undershirt and dark blue jersey were on the corpse, and round the neck was a dark silk necktie. A thick dark blue peajacket formed the outer garment. The clothes were old and rather rough looking, something like those which a sailor or longshoreman might wear while working. The corpse had dark brown hair and the face was shaved. Dr. Crompton will hold an inquest this morning at half-past nine.

THE CONCERT and social at South Saanich on Tuesday was a decided success; M. G. Siggel occupied the chair, and the following programme was rendered: Instrumental duets, Messrs. DeLoume and Brooks; recitations, the Misses Banfield, Miss S. MacFarlane, Mrs. Cogswell, Mr. S. Cutler and Rev. W. C. Phillips; songs, Mrs. Lunnan, Miss Cutler, Miss Slugget, and the Messrs. Macdonald; piano solos, Mrs. Cutler and Mrs. Butler. A novel feature of the entertainment was "Professor Gilbey's Mechanical Figure" by Messrs. Jenner and Stewart, which was very well received. A one-act farce entitled "Wedding Bells" concluded the programme, the characters in which were sustained by Messrs. H. Tanner, G. Parsons, F. Tanner, Al. Gale, J. Brooks, Mrs. Parsons and Miss MacFarlane. The piece was heartily applauded, and the really clever acting of Miss MacFarlane as H. H. Tanner and Mr. G. Parsons deserves special mention. The ladies of the temperance society served refreshments during the evening which, like the other good things on the programme, were thoroughly enjoyed.

SCHOONER "NOOTKA" WRECKED. Damage wrought by recent storms and unusually high tides was the principal reason why the schooner Nootka, owned by the Maude, which was last seen at port at midnight after ten days' absence, was estimated, been destroyed along the coast during the past week, and in consequence some express the opinion that sealing schooners may be obliged to sail short of their usual complement of humbers.

ON SATURDAY last the little Swish schooner Nootka, which is well known here, was smashed to pieces on the rocks at Friendly Cove. Her anchors would not hold in the heavy sea rolling, and on Friday night she kept a line attached to the Maude, which was also in distress. The line, however, was detached next morning and soon afterwards the little craft drove ashore.

Among other schooners which the Maude met on the Coast were the sealers Kate, Venture and Penelope at Kyquot, and the Minnie at Enculet. The Maude's passengers to Victoria were Mr. Mamie, Captains Jacobson, Balcorn, Hecker, Robbins, Ferry, Buckholtz, Hackett and Dillon, A. Eller, Mrs. G. G. Jacobson, Miss Thorsen, W. T. Dawley, W. T. Feker, E. Scott, Mrs. Nelthery, H. Wilson and A. Emery. They are en route to Gold River for the past few months' prospecting and has brought down with him some excellent samples of gold. The captains who returned on the steamer have all been down on sealing business.

THE CITY.

CHIEF SHERIFF has communicated with the authorities at Steveston to learn if, as reported, James Ibbotson, who is now serving a short term for drunkenness at the city station, is wanted there for jail-breaking. As yet no reply has come to hand.

YESTERDAY afternoon the funeral of the late Eli Hallett took place, Acme lodge, I.O.O.F., attending to the arrangements. The services were conducted by Rev. R. W. Trotter, and the pallbearers were Messrs. W. F. McKenzie, James Jackson, D. Henry, James Woods, C. Chislett and J. McEachern.

WILSON Brothers yesterday shipped a carload of groceries to Rossland via the Northern Pacific and Spokane. Since the railroads gave Victoria equal freight rates with Vancouver, Seattle and Tacoma, to Kootenay points, Victoria merchants have done a good business at all Kootenay points, and all report that business is constantly increasing in that direction.

Two new mining companies have this week secured incorporation, both with their head offices at Vancouver. The one, the Nip and Tuck Gold Mining Co., is formed with a capital stock of \$100,000, to develop the Nip and Tuck claim on Wilford creek, Kootenay, and has as its first trustees A. McC. Creery, J. M. Buxton and W. H. Carnes. The other is known as the Golden Gate Mining Co., of Granite Creek, and is capitalizing \$60,000. Henry D. Penner, D. G. Macdonell and M. P. Thomson are the trustees.

LAST evening's social, concert and dancing at the Daughters of England hall on View street, the arrangements for which were in the hands of a number of the Daughters, furnished three or four delightful hours for the merry company attending. The entertainment program was provided entirely by the members of the popular Wolf family, and was as follows: Violin solo, Miss May Wolff; songs, Misses Amy and Dora Wolff and Mrs. Harbottle; and club singing, Ernest A. Wolff. Afterwards there was dancing, for which the Bruce orchestra supplied the music.

OWING to her very limited stay in port no formal reception will be given to the ship which is visiting at the cruiser Christoforo Colombo, and for the same reason several elaborate social functions contemplated in connection with the visit of Captain Bertolini and his officers have been abandoned. Yesterday morning Admiral Stephenson and Hon. J. H. Turner, Premier of British Columbia and Consul for Italy, paid their respects to Captain Bertolini on board, and the captain was also introduced to the Consul by Lieutenant Governor Dewdney. The latter will return the call to-day, and the B. C. Board of Trade will also pay their official visit as decided upon at Wednesday's meeting of council.

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JUDGMENTS DELIVERED.

Decisions Given by the Full and Divisional Courts in Several Appeal Cases.

Argument Heard in Kane v. the City of Kaslo—Clark v. Ward.

Judgment was given by the Full court yesterday in Edison Electric Co. v. Bank of British Columbia and Westminster Tramway Co. The action was brought by plaintiffs to set aside a judgment obtained in 1894 by the bank on a confession of judgment by the tramway company. Plaintiffs brought suit to have the judgment set aside as a fraudulent preference. Mr. Justice Walkem gave judgment for defendants, hence the appeal, which the Full court yesterday dismissed with costs. Mr. Justice McCreight dissenting, he being in favor of granting a new trial. Mr. L. G. McPhillips, Q.C., and Mr. E. V. Bodwell appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. E. P. Davis, Q.C., and H. D. Helmecken, Q.C., for defendants.

In Garesche v. Garesche, the Divisional court, consisting of the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice McCreight, gave judgment yesterday. This was an appeal from Mr. Justice Drake, to strike out certain allegations in plaintiff's statement of claim as being improper and embarrassing. The appeal was allowed, costs to plaintiff in any event. Mr. R. Cassidy for plaintiff; Mr. A. P. Luxton for defendants.

The appeal of Kane v. the City of Kaslo was heard yesterday in the Full court before Chief Justice Davie and Justices McCreight and Drake. This was an appeal from a judgment of Mr. Justice Walkem dismissing the application of George F. Kane to quash, by-law 31 of Kaslo providing for the deflection of the Kaslo river into a new channel, so as to avoid flooding the town in the future, and for the expropriation of certain lands within the city limits for that purpose. The corporation raised a preliminary objection that the application was too late, not having been made within one month from the passing of the by-law, as provided by section 129 of the municipal act, 1892, though it was made within one month from the date of its publication. This objection Mr. Justice Walkem held was well founded, and dismissed the motion without hearing argument on the merits.

For the appellants yesterday Mr. Cassidy contended that the word "passing" meant the doing of everything required to bring the by-law into effect, and included publication, and particularly as section 129 of the municipal act provided for a notice to the public that a motion to quash could be made within one month from publication. Mr. E. V. Bodwell and Mr. G. H. Barnard contra. The Court intimated that their decision would be delivered on Monday.

Re Thunder Hill Mining Co., the Full court yesterday intimated that they desired to hear further arguments, which was accordingly fixed for Monday. Mr. Justice Drake yesterday delivered judgment for plaintiff in Clark v. Ward and Pemberton. The judgment in effect states that plaintiff's contract with the schooner Enterprise, which is to be conveyed to John Clark jr., upon payment of the amount found due (if any) upon taking the accounts as between mortgagee and mortgagor. The question of costs is reserved till after the taking account. Mr. A. L. Byles for plaintiff; Hon. A. N. Richards, Q. C., and Mr. Gordon Hunter for defendants.

MRS. WOK DEAD.

After a long and useful life Mrs. Work passed away yesterday at the good old age of 87. Connected with a number of the best known families of Victoria, and a resident here for many years, she had been one of the best known persons in this part of the province. She was born in Colville, Washington, and married the late Hon. John Work, who was chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Co., and from 1853 to 1861 sat as a member of the Council of Vancouver Island. Mrs. Work was of a most kindly and helpful nature, and many times gave a helping hand to the indigent settlers. She married Mr. Work in the early forties, and made many trips with him far into Alaska and south to California. She did a great deal towards the improvement of the people of the post at Fort Simpson, and when her husband was placed in charge of the post at Fort Simpson helped very materially to put a stop to the barbarous system of slavery formerly practised by the tribes. Mrs. Work also devoted a great deal of time towards teaching the Indian women useful things, such as sewing and cooking. Her husband died in 1861, and ever since Mrs. Work has lived a life of widowhood. Her residence, Hillside house, was destroyed by the cause of her death. Of her ten children John David, Mrs. Tolmie and Mrs. Wallace, mother of Mrs. E. E. Blackwood, are dead, the survivors being Mrs. C. S. Jones, who lives in England; Mrs. Jackson, Hillside avenue; Mrs. R. Emlayson, Mrs. J. A. Grahame, Mrs. E. Huggins of Tacoma, and Mrs. E. G. Prior. The funeral takes place from the residence to-morrow at 2 p. m., and from St. John's church half an hour later.

These ladies who arranged the charming entertainment at the Reformed Episcopal schoolroom yesterday afternoon and evening succeeded admirably in carrying out their plans and pleasing the many who attended. In the afternoon there was a sale of work and afternoon tea, each lady being presented with a very pretty doily as a souvenir. In the evening the attractions were a concert and tableaux vivants, the programme being: Deut, Miss Green and Dr. Brown; song, Miss Devereux; song, Miss Langley; song, Mr. H. Kent; song, Mr. W. R. Higgins; tableaux—"Nydia," "Butterfly," "Miss What are the Wild Waves Saying," and "You Dirty Boy." Those who took part in the musical part of the programme gave great pleasure, several of the songs being encored. The tableaux, too, were deserving of high praise, for they were remarkably artistic, the posing and setting of the pictures being very well carried out. The audience showed their appreciation by applauding liberally.

PROVINCIAL.

Second Session of the FIFTH THURSDAY

Mr. Booth again this p.m., on motion of seconded by Mr. Sen. Mr. Rogers presented to the constructive from Kamloops to B. Mr. Sword presented of the committee of mending that the qu seven.

Mr. Kitchen introducing co-operative assistance first time.

Mr. Williams asked any, has been taken to ensure the appointment court judge resident. Also, does the government take any action with the court judge to be appointed vacancy caused by Sir H. P. Pellet Creag to reside at the city of Mr. Ebberts. The took effect on the 1st of will be considered in MISCHIEVOUS ANIMALS.

On motion to go into mischiefous animals, Mr. SMELLEN asked brought in because of the statutes, because of the statutes as by bill supporting the resolution.

HON. MR. EBBERTS' motion as revised as here one by one, shall be taken pro form proposed in connection respect to matter intruded into the province.

The house then went on the bill named, chair. A long and ensued as to the ruling committee rose and INCORPORATION.

The house went into bill respecting the benevolent and friendly Maephoron in the effect of the proposition, not to give to certain not to hold property name of trustees, the in their own name.

Mr. Hunter and Mr. Turner argued against any such the powers of religious suggested.

MR. EBBERTS contending that this is the fancy that the committee upon himself thus the legislation of the could not think that it held to apply to churches that nature, but simply already incorporated a land in their own name.

MR. CORTON pointed out a number of instances of the extent of the lands which may hold, and he rather this bill if enacted would limitations. Section 6 of the establishment of a trust.

MR. HUNTER stated that this bill might effect cities to act as real estate under any limits, and he proposed a resolution to amend the present statute.

MR. TURNER, after having supported the committee progress, to give time to examine the more largely to the report, to ascertain provisions are new and which they have been.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS. HON. COL. BAKER in reading of the bill on the school act (in the report yesterday's issue). The in reducing the expense borne by the province.

MR. SMELLEN opposed Mr. Hunter's contention that this bill might effect cities to act as real estate under any limits, and he proposed a resolution to amend the present statute. MR. TURNER, after having supported the committee progress, to give time to examine the more largely to the report, to ascertain provisions are new and which they have been.