

President's Message

To Congress is Largely Devoted to a Review of the Situation in China.

Present Conditions Indicate That All Trouble Will be Completely Settled.

(Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 3.—President McKinley's annual message to Congress opens with a brief survey of the growing strength and increasing power for good of the Republic and American liberty at the outgoing of the old and the incoming of the new century.

The Chinese problem is made the dominant question in the foreign intercourse, and an elaborate review is made of details of military operations and diplomatic steps taken in the progress of settlement up to the present time, and which have been made known to the public by official announcements in the past. The circular way in the progress of July 3rd is cited and re-affirmed, and the opinion is expressed that, conditions give hope of a complete settlement of all questions involved. The securing of an adequate guarantee for liberty of faith is put forward as one of the essential factors of a durable adjustment.

"Since insecurity of those natives who only glance at the surface of a scarcely less effective assault upon the rights of foreign worship and teaching than would be the direct invasion thereof."

Touching on the possible inability of China to pay a sufficient money indemnity, the President says: "I am disposed to think that due compensation may be made in part by increased guarantees of security for foreign communities."

And most important of all, by the opening of China to equal commerce of all the world. These views have been and will be earnestly advocated by our representatives.

In the event of protracted divergence of views in the negotiations, the President favors inclining to Russia's suggestion that the matter of indemnity be referred to the court of arbitration at the Hague.

Uncertainty is expressed as to the prospect of our well-known extinguished German trade under the new burden of meat inspection law, and the confident hope is expressed that further regulations will be freed from past discriminations.

Goodwill prevails in our relations with the German Empire.

An amicable adjustment of long pending questions of administration of our life insurance companies to do business in Prussia has been reached. One of the principal companies has already been re-admitted, and the way is open for the others to share the privilege.

"The settlement of the Samoan problem to which I adverted in my last message has accomplished good results."

"Our friendly relations with Great Britain continue. The war in South Africa introduced important questions. A condition unusual in international wars was presented in that while one belligerent had control of seas, the other had no port, shipping or direct trade, but was only accessible through the territory of a neutral. Vexatious questions arose through Great Britain's action in respect to neutral cargoes, not contraband in respect to their nature, shipped to Portuguese South Africa, on the score of probable or suspected ultimate destination to the Boer states. Such consignments in British ships, by which alone direct trade is kept up between our ports and South Africa, were seized in application of a municipal law prohibiting British vessels from trading with the enemy without regard to any contraband character of goods, while cargoes shipped to Delagoa Bay in neutral bottoms were arrested on the ground of destination to the enemy's country. Appropriate representations on our part resulted in the British government agreeing to purchase outright all goods shown to be the actual property of American citizens, thus closing the incident to the satisfaction of immediately interested parties, although unfortunately without a broad settlement to the question of a neutral right to send goods not contraband 'per se' to a neutral adjacent to a belligerent area."

"The work of marking certain provisional boundary points for completion of administration, around the head of Lynn Canal, in accordance with the temporary arrangement of October, 1893, was completed by a joint survey in July last," continues the President. "The modus vivendi has so far worked without friction, and the Dominion government has provided rules and regulations for securing to our citizens the benefits of the reciprocal stipulation that the citizens or subjects of either power found by that arrangement within the temporary jurisdiction of the other shall suffer no diminution of rights and privileges they have hitherto enjoyed. But, however necessary such an expedient may have been to tide over the grave emergency of the situation, it is at best an unsatisfactory makeshift, which should not be suffered to delay the speedy and complete establishment of a frontier line to which we are entitled under the Russo-American treaty for the cession of Alaska."

"In this relation I may refer again to the need of definitely marking the Alaskan boundary where it follows the one hundred and forty-first meridian. A convention to that end has been before the Senate for some two years, but as no action has been taken, I contemplate referring a new convention for a joint termination of the meridian by telegraphic observations. There, it is believed, will give more accurate and unquestionable results than the sidereal methods heretofore independently followed, which, as I know, proved disappointing at several points on the line, although not varying at any place more than 700 feet."

"Taking the lynching of Italians at Tallinn as a text, the President reviews the recommendations that the Federal courts have jurisdiction in international cases where the ultimate responsibility of the Federal government may be involved."

Regarding the Nicaragua Canal, the information is given that the Nicaraguan government shows a disposition to take measures to promote the waterway, after having declared the so-called Erycraia option void. The report of the committee, it is recommended, may be awaited.

The convention with Great Britain to move any objections which might arise out of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty to the construction of the canal is commended to the early attention of the Senate.

Turkish relations are dismissed with the assertion that "We await the fulfillment of the promise of the Sultan to make reparation for the injuries suffered by American citizens in Armenia and elsewhere in the Turkish Empire. His Majesty's good disposition in this regard has been evinced by the issuance of an order for re-building the American college at Harpoot."

The recommendation is made that the Senate take action upon the commercial conventions submitted at the last session looking to the operation of a policy of reciprocity.

Opening Session.—Washington, Dec. 3.—The hall of representatives presented a brilliant spectacle to-day when Speaker Henderson (Iowa) presided over the opening of the fifty-fifth Congress to order at noon today.

When the Senate convened to-day, it was without the shadow of the death of two of its distinguished members. Leaders from the sadness caused by the passing away of dear friends, personal as well as official, the opening of the session was notably brilliant and in a measure joyous.

General Sir Michael Biddulph, the gentlemanly and well-known member of the House was elected a Speaker, the attendance of members was good, in spite of the absence of Irish members. The leaders were cordially welcomed by their supporters.

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The New Parliament

Formal Opening To-day, but Queen's Speech Will Not Be Read Until Thursday.

One Member, in Order to Obtain a Seat, Arrived at Midnight.

(Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 3.—The opening of the initial session of the fifteenth parliament of Queen Victoria occurred at 2 o'clock this afternoon. It was a formal affair and of little public interest.

There was the usual competition of zealous members of parliament to be first on the scene, and Mr. J. C. Macdonald, Conservative member for the Rotherhithe division of Southwark, easily secured the choice of seats, arriving in the House at midnight.

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THE CZAR.

Yalta, Dec. 1.—The condition of the Emperor this afternoon is satisfactory. The decline in his temperature since Sunday is expected as being the result of a diet of extract of beef and milk. His physicians are satisfied with the progress he has made, and if no complications supervene, the daily bulletin of his condition will be discontinued shortly. His Majesty is entering the period of convalescence.

nurse and his body physician are in constant attendance, but the Emperor has not ceased her watchful care, and is attending personally to the wants of her husband.

In spite of the strain, Her Majesty shows no signs of fatigue, and enjoys good health. She looks remarkably well. The Czarina has submitted to her all urgent state affairs, so that any communication for the Emperor passes through her hands. Nobody sees the Czar except the Empress and the physicians.

CANADIAN POET'S SUICIDE.

Ottawa, Dec. 1.—Arthur Weir, night editor of the Citizen, and son of W. A. Weir, ex-president of the district, committed suicide here this evening at 6 o'clock by shooting himself. Domestic and financial troubles are probably the cause.

Arthur Weir, one of the brightest of young Canadian poets, was born in Montreal in 1864. He received his education at the High School and McGill university, graduating with high honors as B. A. in 1886. After leaving college, he began journalism, and as a financial authority he gained a high reputation. He began writing poetry as a boy, for amusement of his schoolmates, and his first volume, "Fleur de Lys," published in 1887, gave him at once a position as a poet. He since published several volumes of poetry of great merit.

In 1897 was chosen to read the inaugural poem at the unveiling of the national monument to Sir John Macdonald at Ottawa.

Extension Of Time

Several Applications Will Be Made by Railway Companies to Dominion Parliament.

Proposed Steamboat Service in Connection With Columbia and Kootenay Line.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Dec. 1.—The Columbia and Western railway company will apply next session for an act assimilating its bonding powers west of Midway to powers already given to its lines constructed east of that point, extending the time to complete its railways, and authorizing it to construct such branches from any of its lines not exceeding in any one case thirty miles in length.

The Columbia and Kootenay Railway and Navigation Co. will apply next session for an act extending the time to construct its railways and works, also authorizing the company to open and operate steam and other vessels on any route connected with its railways, and appointing Montreal as the place for its head office.

The British Columbia Southern railway company will apply next session for an act extending the time to construct its railways and to construct such branches from any of its lines not exceeding in any one case thirty miles in length.

RESULT OF CONSPIRACY.

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 29.—A Morgan town, Va., special says: "State Mine Inspector James W. Paul, of West Virginia, says the recent mine disaster at Berryville, in which fourteen lives were lost, was the result of a conspiracy to kill the foreman of the mine. The conspirators, after lighting the fuse, stood at the entrance of the mine, but the force of the explosion was greater than they expected, and they were also killed."

SUICIDE IDENTIFIED.

Buffalo, Dec. 1.—The woman who committed suicide yesterday at the Brooks hotel, has been identified as the wife of H. H. Albright, who was recently engaged in the hotel business in San Diego, Cal.

COURT OF ARBITRATION.

Stockholm, Dec. 1.—Olive Craon, a Swede, formerly assessor of the High court, and Gram, a Norwegian, formerly minister of state, have been appointed members of the International court of arbitration at the Hague.

SUDDEN DEATHS ON THE IN-CRUISE.—People apparently well and happy to-day, to-morrow are stricken down, and in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred the heart is the cause. The king of heart remedies, Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart, is within reach of all. It relieves in 30 minutes, and cures most chronic cases. Sold by Dean & Hascoks and Hall & Co.—91.

A message received at Hamilton announces the death of Hon. Donald MacTavish, member of the Dominion Senate and formerly of the House of Commons. He was 70 years of age and one of Hamilton's leading citizens. He was a Conservative, and was called to the Senate in December, 1881.

The department of agriculture, Ottawa, has received a report from the agent of Liverpool, announcing the arrival of a consignment of poultry from the government fattening stations, in splendid condition.

The wheat crop of the Darling Downs district, Queensland, is expected to beat all record. In some instances it will yield 82 bushels to the acre.

The petition for the probate of the will of the late R. G. Dunn was filed yesterday. The estimated value of the estate is \$250,000.

A Missionary Priest

Rev. Father Brabant's Long Experience Among the Indians on West Coast.

Has Spent Over a Quarter of a Century in Christianizing the Natives.

Rev. Father Brabant, who, as stated in Saturday's Times, has just arrived home from an extended tour of Europe, during which he has seen most of Belgium and France, has had a most unique missionary experience in this province—his experience which dates back over a quarter of a century, and which has witnessed many wonderful changes in the Indians of the coast.

Father Brabant has been on the West Coast of this Island for 27 years. He can recall the time when a steamer was a curiosity on the coast, when the appearance of a white man was an epoch in local history, and when the Indians, whom he settled among to take up his good Samaritan cause of Christianizing, had not as they do now, in the landmarks of civilization, but after the manner of the forest native, unclothed, save for a blanket, which might perhaps be thrown carelessly about him. Father Brabant established his mission at Hesquiot, and soon adapted himself to the crude environments of his new position. Solitude, which at first hung like a pall over everything, soon had its charms, and to-day Father Brabant would prefer the loneliness of the little Indian village on the sea shore with its quaint Indian huts and its almost grave yard stillness, to the hum drum bustle and active life of New York or Paris. In the one place he is happy, he says, while in the other he no longer takes interest.

At Hesquiot he is now comfortably situated, and the mission of which he has charge has been most prosperous. A well attended mission school, with Rev. Father Maurus in charge, has been established, and it is to the pupils of this institution that Rev. Father Brabant is taking the band instruments, which he has brought from France. Rev. Father Maurus, he says, is a trained musician, and will teach the Indian boys how to play.

Some years after Rev. Father Brabant located at Hesquiot he took a notion to go into the cattle raising business. He took several young head down the coast from Victoria and turned them loose at Hesquiot. But when he wanted attention and domesticating the animals soon turned wild, and took to the woods. They multiplied very rapidly, and though many have since been shot by the Indians, they are believed to still number from one hundred to five hundred. Of late they have been staying far back from the coast, and the only knowledge which the venerable priest has now of their existence are the reports which the natives bring to Hesquiot now and again of their tracks having been discovered in the mountains some miles inland.

Rev. Father Brabant has been away several months, and while in France, visited, of course, the World's Fair. His impressions of the fair were naturally many, and varied, but one impression in his mind was the character of cheapness given the whole affair by the ruff-raff element from all parts of the world allowed to do business on the grounds, and he is a constant source of torment to the visitor. The buildings of the exposition were marvels of grandeur and architecture, and he says it is a regrettable thing to have them torn down, as is proposed. In Belgium, he found the people about the same as when he saw them many years ago—a contented, happy populace, who have never any desire or any reason to emigrate.

Father Brabant will leave for his West Coast home on the next trip of the steamer Queen City.

Provincial News

CHERMAIN.

The dinner and bazaar given by the Women's Auxiliary on Saturday was a great success, and netted the very satisfactory sum of \$475.

NELSON.

Two weddings were celebrated in the city on Thursday night. The first was solemnized by Rev. Robert Frew, pastor of St. Paul's Presbyterian church, at his residence, the contracting parties being Albert Benson and Miss Mary Syversrud, both of Nelson. The second happy event was the marriage of Hall Elham of Sandon to Elizabeth Courroy. The bride arrived in Nelson yesterday from Janesville, Wis. Father Cate celebrated the nuptials at the parsonage last night.

ROSEMUND.

At 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Miss Margaret Shanahan and Edward Lockwood were united in marriage. The bride, who was very prettily attired in a grey travelling gown, with velvet to match, was attended by Mrs. M. Reardon, while Mr. Lockwood was supported by Mr. W. J. Cusack. Rev. Father Welch officiated, and after the marriage service was over he celebrated a nuptial mass with the full ceremonial rites of the Catholic church.

VANCOUVER.

A Japanese prisoner, held in connection with the Port Essington registered mail robbery made his escape from Provincial Officer Cox on Friday while the latter was conveying him from this city to New Westminster. The Jap had been very docile and the officer had not even taken the precaution of handcuffing him, but while the officer was buying tickets for the journey to New Westminster, the Jap quietly and quickly slipped away and has not since been seen.

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The Japanese poll tax case, of the Revenue Tax Collector vs. Frank Burnett, president of the United Canneries of B. C. Limited, came up before H. A. Anderson, S.M., on Friday. The case is for the recovery from the defendant company of \$1,854 poll tax payable by it, under the Revenue Tax Act, in respect of 592 Japanese and 24 other employees engaged in the Scottish-Canadian and Gulf of Georgia canneries. J. Martin, Q.C., appeared for F. Burnett, and W. J. Bower for the collector. The magistrate reserved his decision.

The police court statistics for the past month are noticeable for only one thing, and that is the number of Mongolians who figured on the docket. There were no less than 25 Mongolians before the court during the period, and a good proportion of these were for offences of a more or less serious nature.

NANAIMO.

The quarantine on the Killis family was raised on Saturday.

At the regular meeting of the council on Monday night, Ald. Cooke, introduced a petition signed by 40 property owners, representing \$160,000 worth of assessed property, praying for the passage of a by-law to take over from the waterworks company the existing works and operate them under municipal control. A by-law with this object in view was accordingly introduced and read a first time.

The city council have at length decided to accept the offer of Samuel M. Robbins, superintendent of the New Vancouver Coal Company, to give twenty acres of land and \$2,500 in cash for the erection of an isolation hospital, provided the city raise a like amount. This sum, it was stipulated, was to be a grant from the corporation and not to be raised by subscription amongst the people. The council decided at their last regular meeting to close with this munificent offer, and on Tuesday forenoon the first stroke of work toward erecting the new hospital was done. As showing the value of the offer made by Mr. Robbins to the city it may be mentioned that some land recently sold in the neighborhood of the proposed isolation hospital brought \$150 an acre; this means that Mr. Robbins's offer of the twenty acres amounts to something like \$3,000.

Mining News

The Boundary.

At the Humming Bird's steady improvement is noticeable and the shipments of ore are coming down as regular as clockwork, two four-horse teams being busy. The grade of the ore continues high, and the rapid manner in which the lead is strengthening gives great encouragement to the operators.

Word comes from Greenwood that the best ore body yet found in the Mother Lode mine has just been opened up, and that the grade is if anything better than that of the famous B. C. mine in Summit camp. If this proves correct, the strike is a most important one, as the ore bodies of the Mother Lode are among the largest in the district, and high grade ore means that the property is a bonanza.

The Snowshoe entered the list of the steady shippers from Phoenix camp. On Tuesday the railway gang completed the C. P. R. sidetrack to the ore dumps, and it was at once utilized by the management for sending out ore.

The Atholstan, in Wellington camp, which has been shipping to the Trail smelter under contract to send in 1,000 tons of ore, has completed the contract and has stopped shipping for the present, it being thought advisable by the management to get a considerable quantity of ore blocked out on the lower levels of the property before continuing shipments after completing its contract.

From present appearances the Marguerite mine in Deadwood camp will make one of the big mines of the Boundary district. Both the east and west crosscuts from the 100-foot level are in ore. The development work has conclusively proven the existence of two parallel leads about fifty feet apart at a depth of 100 feet, and rapidly converging. The size of the ore body is not yet known, the one in the east having been encountered, and the one on the west pierced for a distance of 25 feet and no wall discovered. The ore is an iron ore and chalcoprites, and carries fair values.

The Slocan.

The crosscut tunnel, run at the face of the main tunnel on the Storm claim, has proved that the ledge is over 20 feet wide. Three tons of high grade ore a day are being taken out at the Slocan. The showing at the property was never better.

The Fairy Bird property on Ten Mile creek is to be opened up and worked this winter, says the Silvertonian. J. M. M. Beckett and C. H. Abernethy, of Silverton, have secured a lease and bond upon the property.

A stringer carrying a nice streak of ore has been opened up on the Domesley group by the contractors who are running the crosscut. The tunnel is in 135 feet, and is expected to reach the ledge with another 150 feet. A drift will be run on the stringer.

Maurice Glutzhager has 12 men at work on contract at the Monitor mine, says the Flycatcher, running a crosscut tunnel to tap the ledge at a considerable distance below the present workings. The tunnel is already in 150 feet. The bunkhouses have been repaired and everything made comfortable for the winter.

A strike of considerable importance was made on the Rambler-Cariboo last week. In a drift which was recently started from the 100-foot level a large ore body was encountered. The ore is said to be high grade copper. The full extent of the strike is not yet known, but is thought to be one of the most important yet made.

The crosscut tunnel now being driven at the Vancouver group has reached a depth of over 250 feet and should encounter the vein. From the point where the tunnel will strike the vein a tunnel will be driven on the ledge some 300 feet to reach a point directly below the old workings. This will give a depth on the rich ore chute of over 500 feet and open up a large block of stopping ground.

Mrs. Robt. Croft arrived from Seattle on Saturday.