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NERAL ACT.
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OF IMPROVEMENTS.
NOTICE.
Mineral Claim, situate in
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The Victoria Times.

TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION.

VOL. 38 VICTORIA, B. C. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1907. No. 34.

CAPTAIN REPLIES TO CHARGE OF COWARDICE

His Boat Was First in Water But He Remained By Larchmont Until Steamer Went Down.

(Associated Press.)

Providence, R. I., Feb. 14.—A new element was injected into the horror attending the loss of the steamer Larchmont in Block Island Sound on Monday night through a collision with the coal laden schooner Harry Knowlton, when Capt. McVey, of the steamer, early to-day admitted that his lifeboat was "one of the first, if not the first, to leave the sinking ship."

This statement was made in

Reply to Charges

by Fred Hiergsell, an 18-year-old lad of Brooklyn, one of the survivors. He stated that the passengers were left to shift for themselves, that the ship's crew crowded the boats without attempting to provide for the passengers, and that Capt. McVey was the first to desert the ship.

The statement of the young lad created a sensation in view of the fact that ten of the nineteen survivors were employees of the ship, or, in other words, that while approximately 20 per cent. of the vessel's crew were saved, only 8 per cent. of the passengers were saved.

Capt. McVey explained that when he [illegible] was because

He Had a Good Crew,

and despite the fact that he was among the first off the deck, he remained by his ship until she went down. He said that he had made no move to get into the boat until he had given orders to his men to lower all the boats and clear away the rafts. While his boat was in the water it was fastened to the ship by a rope in the running gear that had become caught, and only that it was cut by the boatswain, who saw that the

Ship Was Settling Rapidly,

the boat and its occupants would be caught in the whirlpool and sucked beneath the surface.

The captain's boat was on the windward side, and he said he called to the passengers to jump into his boat, which would hold about 22 people, but the electric lights had been extinguished in the collision, and in the darkness and confusion no one heeded his summons. Everybody was on the leeward side part of the ship, and he ordered his men to row round there, but the gale balked his plan and as the boat was driven from the steamer his men had to give up their task and crouch down in the bottom of the boat to escape the piercing wind.

At 8 o'clock this morning the number of known lost in

The Frightful Calamity

was 138. About 157 people were known to have been on the steamer, and there is every indication that this number will reach 200. Seventy-one bodies had been recovered up to 9 o'clock, and 49 of these now lie in the morgue here waiting identification.

The work of identification proceeded more rapidly than before when the crews, by their reports of loss on Block Island, from which place they were brought yesterday by the steamer Kentucky, and when the doors of the morgue closed the identified were 38.

Block Island to-day was given a chance to rest from the high tension of tragedy of the past two days. Passing ships may pick up bodies, and at other shore points along the Sound a few corpses may be cast up, but the life-savers here do not anticipate that the list of recovered bodies will be much lengthened.

SHORTAGE IN GRAIN SUPPLY

RUSSIA WILL NOT EXPORT ANY WHEAT

Canadian Northwest Will Be Called on to Make up Part of the Deficiency.

London, Feb. 13.—The famine in Russia will reach an acute stage from now on and the probability that Russia will cease to be an exporter of wheat during the present and next crop years, has directed renewed attention to the Canadian Northwest as a factor in supplying the Russian deficiency.

During the last famine, in 1891, wheat was some cents a bushel higher than at present. At that time American exports of wheat and corn doubled.

Crops in Russia in 1891 in the four leading grains, wheat, rye, oats and barley, were 258,000,000 bushels less than the preceding year. This year's crops in Russia show a decline of 462,000,000 bushels in these four grains. The decrease this year in Russia follows a relatively short crop last year. By comparison with the crop of 1904 the decrease in the four leading grains was 662,000,000 bushels.

The question is whether the United States and Canada can during the remainder of this year and the coming one supply this deficiency. Importers of Manitoba wheat state that there are large quantities purchased for January and February delivery that have not yet reached the seaboard owing to the congestion on the railroads.

The outlook for the Canadian Northwest farmers under these circumstances is the most promising for years.

BIG BLAZE.

Residences, Hotel and Church Destroyed—Loss Quarter of Million Dollars.

Pine Bluff, Ark., Feb. 14.—Big blocks of residences, the Third avenue hotel, and the Riverside Methodist church were burned yesterday. The loss is $250,000.

FIGHT IN SKATING CIRCLES.

Amateur Athletic Union Disqualifies Men Who Took Part in Races at Newburg.

New York, Feb. 14.—The World today says: "Thirty-one skaters who competed in the national skating association championship at Newburg Tuesday were yesterday disqualified by the Amateur Athletic Union, thus continuing the fight between the Skating Association and the A. A. U. The charge against the men is that they took part in races with disqualified skaters at Newburg. No attempt has been made to have the ban on the men who took part in the Canadian events lifted, and it is now planned by the skaters to ignore the A. A. U. in making plans for the events. The metropolitan championships of the National Skating Association will be held Saturday afternoon in the Saratoga rink."

ACCUSED OF ASSAULT.

Sleeping Car Conductor Placed Under Arrest at Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Feb. 13.—Charged with the serious offence of assault on a girl, William A. McComb, conductor of a C. P. R. sleeping car, was taken off his car this morning on arrival and locked up. His arrest was the result of an information sworn out by Jorda Anderson, a Swedish girl who arrived in this city from the East a week ago. She claims that she was a passenger on the car of which McComb was in charge, and the offence is alleged to have taken place somewhere between Kenora and Winnipeg. Miss Anderson, who was coming to visit friends here, told her story to the people with whom she is staying. The police were notified and McComb was kept track of from here to the coast and back again, his arrival here being the signal for his arrest. He was arraigned at the police court this morning, but his case was remanded until to-morrow.

MISSIONARY'S DEATH.

Miss Long Passed Away at Toronto After Prolonged Illness.

Information has been received of the death in Toronto of Miss Long, formerly matron of the girls' mission school house at Kitimat, conducted under the auspices of the Methodist church. Miss Long was identified with that work for 10 years in her capacity as matron, and was widely known to all interested in missions on this Coast.

Five months ago she was forced as a result of sickness to ask to be relieved, and proceeded to Toronto where she has since been staying with friends on furlough.

On February 3rd death followed her prolonged period of sickness.

Former Governor Higgins, of New York, died at Olean at 8.40 on Tuesday morning.

ANOTHER DELAY.

Judge in Thaw Case Orders Recess to Permit Juror to Visit Sick Wife.

New York, Feb. 14.—All twelve of the jurors were on hand at the opening of court this morning. The wife of Juror Bolton, who is suffering from double pneumonia, continues in a critical condition, however, and her husband may be called away at any time.

When Thaw came into court he seemed to take special interest in Bolton.

As Justice Fitzgerald took his place, Mr. Delmas asked that Dr. Evans be called.

"You have stated, doctor," said Mr. Delmas, "that on the first three visits to Mr. Thaw you formed an opinion as to his mental condition. Was that formed in part on statements?" "Yes."

"Were the oral statements necessary to you as a scientific man to enable you to form this opinion?" "They were very essential."

Mr. Jerome said he would offer no objections to the conversations with Thaw during Dr. Evans' first three visits, as result of which the alienist had declared it to be his opinion the defendant was at that time of unsound mind.

Dr. Evans was about to relate the conversation attending his first visit in August, when information regarding the criti condition of Juror Bolton's wife was received and Justice Fitzgerald ordered a recess until 2 p. m. to allow Juror Bolton to visit his wife.

FRENCH PREMIER REMAINS IN OFFICE

HAS NO INTENTION OF RESIGNING AT PRESENT

Arrangements May Shortly Be Completed For Leasing of Churches in France.

Paris, Feb. 14.—Formal denials were issued to-day that Premier Clemenceau intends resigning his office.

Church Leases,

Paris, Feb. 14.—M. Briand, the minister of education, is silent relative to the negotiations between Mgr. Amiette, the coadjutor Bishop of Paris, and the prefect of the Seine on the subject of the modified contract for the lease of the churches, but it is known drafts of the contracts, practically identical in substance, have already been exchanged with only difference in words, separating the negotiators, and it is said that the parish priests of Paris and M. Deselves, may exchange signatures before the week end.

The draft drawn up by Mgr. Amiette requires a priest who places another priest at the head of the parish to present to the mayor of the district, or prefect, a modification, bearing his bishop's seal, whereupon the mayor will accept the new priest's signature as a legal successor to the old contract.

NEW WHARF BEING BUILT.

Will Be Finished in Two Months to Accommodate Iroquois When She Arrives.

Carl Stollenberg, purchasing agent of the Alaska Steamship Company, who is at present in Victoria, has been engaged in looking over the preliminaries of the construction of the new wharf which was comenced yesterday at James Bay. The wharf will be completed in two months' time.

Yesterday sounding operations were in progress, and the rocky bed upon which the piles will rest has been ascertained. The bottom is 20 feet beneath the surface of the water, and is covered with 8 feet of mud. Yesterday morning the pile driver belonging to the B. C. General Contract Company arrived at James Bay, and is now engaged at work.

The new wharf will be ready to accommodate the steamer Iroquois as soon as she reaches Victoria. According to advices received by E. E. Blackwood, the local ticket agent of the Alaska Steamship Company, the Iroquios will reach Seattle on the 25th of March. There she will be converted into an oil burner and receive a general overhauling after her long voyage. These operations will occupy a month, and the vessel is expected to reach Victoria for the first time on the 1st of May.

While operating on the Great Lakes the Iroquois could take a full complement of 1,750 passengers. When she enters into the Puget Sound trade it is not expected that she will be allowed to carry more than 1,200.

BANK OF ENGLAND RATE.

London, Feb. 14.—The rate of discount of the Bank of England remained unchanged to-day at five per cent.

A second earthquake shock lasting seven seconds was felt at Alhama, province of Murea, Spain, on Tuesday.

THE GOVERNMENT AND IRELAND

MR. BIRRELL'S SPEECH PLEASED NATIONALISTS

Confessed That the Devolution Bill Will Be Stepping Stone to Home Rule.

London, Feb. 14.—The first business day of the present session of parliament has given evidence of important legislative matters in hand, and promise of vigorous political fighting.

Augustine Birrell's maiden speech as chief secretary for Ireland, highly pleased the Nationalists and supplies the text for strong attacks by opposition newspapers this morning. Mr. Birrell has frankly avowed himself a home ruler, and confessed that the government's devolution bill would be a stepping stone to home rule.

The Telegraph, in an editorial article this morning, says that "Truth like murder will out, and Mr. Birrell, with childlike simplicity, has disclosed the real Irish politics of the government. His magic wand has awakened home rule from its slumbers, the surrender is complete and Mr. Redmond has to ask for nothing more."

In the lobby of the House of commons last night Mr. Birrell's speech was the subject of much gossip, and there was curiosity as to what attitude Lord Rosebery and other prominent anti-home rule Liberals would take on it.

Old Age Pensions.

Another matter of importance is the statement made by Herbert H. Asquith, chancellor of the exchequer, concerning old age pensions. This is regarded as meaning that the government intends to propose some scheme, and that Mr. Asquith meditates "earmarking" a portion of the expected large surplus in the next budget as a nucleus for a pension fund.

THE DEBT IS TO BE WIPED OFF CHURCH

Calvary Baptist Congregation Has Made Provision for Cancelling Mortgage.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Last evening's meeting in Calvary Baptist church will long be remembered as an eventful one by all who were present. The occasion was the annual congregational social of the members and their friends, and the schoolroom of the church was well filled. During the evening a collection was taken looking to the total extinction of the church indebtedness, at present covered by a mortgage amounting to $1,000. For some few weeks past an energetic committee has been canvassing the membership for special contributions to this purpose, and last evening these offerings and pledges were received.

The meeting was presided over by the pastor of the church, Rev. F. T. Tapscott, M. A. After the ushers had taken up the offering the following programme was listened to and thoroughly enjoyed:

Instrumental Duet—Violin and Piano.
.....Miss and Master Alexander
Vocal Solo—The Homeland .....
..... Miss Margaret Freeman
Anthem—Praise Ye the Father .... Choir
Quartette—Thy Will Be Done .....
Mesdames Tapscott and McIntyre,
Messrs. G. W. Andrews and Jas. Dinsmore.

Short addresses were then made by the following officials and visitors: Messrs. G. Bagshaw, T. Reason, E. Middleton, C. Johns, S. Gray, R. Coleman and J. Sluggett, sr., of Saanich.

At the conclusion of the programme Dr. W. Russell, on behalf of the committee having the matter in charge, reported that the sum of $1,068.10 had been pledged at the meeting towards payment of the mortgage, as mentioned above. Of this amount $125.35 was paid in cash.

Ninety-three separate pledges were handed in during the evening, with several members and friends yet to hear from.

This generous response to the committee's appeal makes possible the cancellation of the mortgage, and it is expected to accomplish this on April 15th, when the next payment of interest becomes due.

The ladies of the church dispensed refreshments of coffee and cake, after which the meeting concluded, all present departing with feelings of gratitude to God for the hearty manner in which He had enabled them to respond with their gifts.

MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY.

A Pleasant Evening Spent at the Methodist Mission.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

There was a grand rally of those interested in missions at the Chinese Methodist mission last evening, when a missionary anniversary was held appropriately in conjunction with the Chinese new year. The gathering was presided over by the president of the British Columbia conference, Rev. S. J. Thompson, of the Centennial church.

In addition to the regular programme given by the children of the mission several church workers were present and gave interesting addresses. Among them were included Rev. James Turner, of Vancouver, superintendent of Chinese mission work; Mr. Hillis, of Ohio, representing the International Sunday School Union, and Mr. Gibson, of Winnipeg.

The programme given by the native Chinese children was very much enjoyed. It was made up as follows: Chorus, by the Chinese boys; recitation, Master Yaki So; solo, Master David Chue; recitation, Yeong Chong and Samuel Chue; song, by the Chinese children; address, Mr. So; chorus, by the Chinese children; recitation, Master Joseph Wong; solo (Chinese), Mr. So; duet, Yaki So and Yong Chong; recitation, Master David Chue; chorus (Chinese), by the Chinese boys; recitation, Master Yong Chong; solo, Master Yaki So; chorus, by the Chinese boys.

Refreshments were served during the evening, and a very pleasant time was spent.

NATIVES DESTROY TWO TOWNS

UPRISING AMONG THE PULAJANES

Six Members of the Constabulary Killed---Two American Teachers Reported Missing.

Manila, Feb. 14.—Puljanes attacked and burned two towns in the province of Occidental Negros yesterday and killed six members of the constabulary.

Two American teachers were reported missing.

No cause is known for the uprising.

Raids were made within areas of ten miles and schools were attacked and burned in both instances.

The province of Occidental Negros has been free from disturbances for four years.

It is believed that the raiders were mountaineers avenging their hereditary enmity against coast towns.

FOR WEST COAST HEROINE.

Medal From Masters, Mates and Pilots Will Be Presented to Mrs. Paterson.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

This afternoon D. G. S. Quadra leaves port to resume her patrol work on the West Coast. Captain Hackett is carrying with him a massive gold souvenir medal to be presented to Mrs. Minnie Paterson, of Cape Beale lighthouse. This comes from Puget Sound Harbor No. 16, and is an appreciation for the Coloma heroine from the American Association of Masters, Mates and Pilots.

The souvenir medal is of a truly beautiful character. On one side standing out in bas relief is the figure of a woman running with streaming hair. Around this is the Latin inscription, "Properat ut alios servet," which being interpreted means, "She hastened that she might save others." On the obverse side the following words are etched: "Presented by Puget Sound Harbor, No. 16, to Mrs. Minnie Paterson for her heroic efforts in rendering assistance to the barque Coloma, December 7th, 1906, whereby the lives of 10 men were saved by D. G. S. Quadra."

Beneath the figure of the woman are 10 golden stars to represent the number of lives saved.

Captain Hackett will make the presentation to the "Grace Darling" of the West Coast on behalf of Captain Gaudin, agent of marine and fisheries.

HINDU MISSIONS.

The Possibilities of Christian Work Among These People Will Be Investigated.

The Methodist church is going to investigate the chances of doing work among the Hindus who have come to this province. Rev. S. J. Thompson, of this city, the president of the British Columbia conference, says that he has learned through the official organ of the church, the Christian Guardian, that Alex. Nugent, M. D., of the Presbyterian church, who has been engaged in mission work in India, but is now on furlough, will make an investigation into the possibility of doing something along the line indicated. Dr. Nugent has been engaged by the Methodist church to make an investigation. He will be given six months in which to make the inquiry into what work can be done among these people.

Dr. Nugent may, therefore, be expected to arrive in British Columbia shortly.

SUB-CLASS IN HIGH SCHOOL

MADE SUBJECT OF LIVELY DISCUSSION

Trustee Huggett Pressed at Meeting of School Board for Investigation By Conference.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Considerable business was transacted at last night's meeting of the school board. Trustee Lewis was in his place for the first time this year, and had some criticisms to offer as to the way things were done. He had without his knowledge or consent been appointed chaiman of the finance committee. He said he begged to resign.

Chairman Jay pressed him to reconsider his decision, but he refused.

Trustee Huggett was appointed to act, and consented to do so until Mrs. Jenkins returned.

The request of the Nelson convention that a proxy be appointed to attend their convention, was, at the suggestion of Trustee Huggett acted upon. It was, however, understood that this did not bind the board to follow any particular line of action decided on by the convention.

The city council's letter, opposing the extraordinary expenditure of the board was received and filed. It will be dealt with later. The consensus of opinion was that it was necessary and must be obtained.

The James Bay residents had a petition before the board asking them to acquire the lot next the James Bay school for use as a play ground. At the instance of Trustee Huggett, Chairman Jay and Supt. Eaton were appointed to wait on the city council and ask the amount required to be advanced.

The principals of the Victoria public schools wanted an increase of salary dating from January 1st, 1907, but as they had already been granted an increase to take effect August 1st of this year, they were all refused with the exception of Miss Williams, principal of the Girls' Central. Her salary will be made commensurate with her duties, and equal to the other principals. The rise takes effect from January 1st, 1907. Her salary will hereafter be $1,260 per year.

The services of Miss MacDonald, assistant secretary of the board, were at the suggestion of Trustee Riddall recognized in a substantial manner. Her salary was raised to $50 per month.

Accounts totalling $2,372 were ordered paid. A bill for $911 received from the plumbers for the repairing of the pipes in the schools damaged by the late cold snap, gave rise to considerable discussion. After a thorough investigation of the charges made, however, it was decided that they were not exorbitant, and the account was ordered paid.

Satisfactory reports were received from Superintendent Eaton as to the work of the newly-appointed art and sewing instructors for the schools.

The really important business of the meeting now came before the board when Trustee Riddell, moved that singing become a regular subject on the P. S. curriculum. A very full discussion took place as to the best method to be used. The Tonic Sol Fa and various other systems passed under review, but it was finally agreed to leave this to a committee consisting of Trustees Riddell, Bishop and Huggett, who will report on the matter. Special classes for the teachers will be formed, and it will after the first few months or as early as possible be their duty to deal with the pupils direct. The music master will act as supervisor and director, to sucure uniformity and maintain a high standard of instruction.

The work of the sewing mistress, as well as that of the instructress in drawing came up before the board at the suggestion of Trustee Lewis. "What are they doing?" he asked. Chairman Jay, gently explained, that the former gave her time direct to the pupils. The latter supervised the students' books, taught classes and gave special instruction to the teachers after hours. To date all but one of the staff had fallen in line.

The next item of business was Trustee Huggett's motion regarding the sub High school class. The resolution reads as follows:

That whereas it is necessary that the question of continuing the Sub-High school class upon its present basis, shall be fully considered by those competent to form an opinion as to whether it is detrimental or not to the best interests of the High school proper, and

Whereas many are of the opinion that the overcrowding of the students has a harmful effect upon their mental and physical resources; be it therefore

Resolved, that a conference be called for the purpose of frankly discussing the question of Sub-High school work, and that the city superintendent, Principal Paul and the staff of the High school, Victoria College, Sub-High school class, and principals of the public schools be invited to meet the members of the school board in such conference, and further, that the minister of education, together with Supt. Robinson, of the education department, be respectfully invited to attend in order that the conference may have the benefit of their experience and advice.

In supporting his resolution Trustee Huggett said he was anxious that the public should be fully informed about the sub-High school and form a fair and unbiased opinion.

If the conference decided that it was a good thing, he would abide the decision; if the decision was adverse it should be discontinued. Since his return from the old country he had carefully investigated the subject, and did not think it should be continued after the summer holidays. He was sure those named in the conference would be willing to act. It was too much of an innovation to be undertaken at the suggestion of any one man, even so able a man as Supt. Eaton.

Mr. Bishop, mildly deprecated any interference with the class as at present constituted. They should wait until mid-summer to hold the conference.

Trustee Huggett: "I have not proposed to interfere with the work of the class. Let it continue till midsummer. But the question should be settled by conference before that date."

Chairman Jay suggested that the matter be left till the end of the year. They would then be in a position to judge of the class on its merits. Principal Paul approved of the class.

Trustee Huggett opposed any such action. He desired to see the question threshed out as early as possible. In moving the resolution he was not actuated by personal motives; nor did he wish to cast any reflection on Supt. Eaton. He sought only the best interests of education in the city. The conference he suggested, was composed of men competent to judge, and he would, as he had previously said abide by their decision.

Trustee McKeown, now took a hand. "The board hasn't received any complaints as to the class," said he. "Principal Paul says it is all right, and moreover I personally have entire faith in the discretion of our superintendent on such matters. I should like to see the sub-High school class stand for one year. At the end of that time, if, in the opinion of competent judges it is deemed unsatisfactory, it can be abolished."

Trustee Hugget was on his feet in an instant with a passionate declaration that he would oppose any such proceeding.

"At the present time," said he, "I am simply asking for a conference. If this board refuses to pass my resolution, I shall be forced to tell what I know about this class. I don't want to do that. I don't want to say anything about these matters to-night, but I shall be forced to unless the board votes for the conference. Every member of this board ought to be satisfied with such a conference. If Trustee McKeown cares.

"But no, I don't want to say anything," said Trustee Huggett. "I simply want the board to pass the resolution."

Chairman Jay proposed allowing Supt. Eaton to take a hand in the affair, but Trustee Huggett opposed this. Supt. Eaton maintained silence.

Trustee Riddell now rose to his feet suggesting that this raising of the question was somewhat premature. "Wait awhile and see the results," he said.

"Results," said Trustee Huggett. "All you want is mechanical results—statistics." (Coughs, etc.) "Figures can be made to tell anything. It is because we do not know the wisdom or unwisdom of the thing, that he moved as he did."

Trustee Bishop then moved that the resolution be laid over for another month.

Trustee Riddell seconded, and Mr. Huggett readily assented. He said he did not wish "to rush" the board, but he did not propose to see his resolution thrown down.

The resolution was accordingly laid over.

Trustee Huggett's resolution asking for a separate report to the board of Supt. Eaton's visits to the schools, provoked another heated discussion.

Trustee Jay pointed out that Mr. Eaton was already turning in reports of the attendance at the schools at every monthly meeting of the board, and had been doing so for the past three years.

Trustee Lewis complained that if such reports were being made he had never seen them, and on his motion the original resolution was amended to read so as to merely instruct the superintendent to have tissue copies of his report made and forwarded to every member of the board.

The meeting then adjourned.

ENGINE BOILER EXPLODES.

Fireman and Unknown Man Killed—Engineer Fatally Injured.

Middletown, N. Y., Feb. 13.—The boiler of an engine pulling an Ontario & Western railroad train, which left here at 3 o'clock this afternoon, exploded near Lust, Ontario county. The train was running at the rate of forty miles an hour.

The fireman and an unknown man who was riding in the cab of the engine were killed, the engineer was fatally hurt, and several other persons were seriously injured.

The explosion is believed to have been due to the pipes on the tank and engine freezing, which prevented the water feeding into the boiler properly.

POISONED BY OYSTERS.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 14.—Bradford H. Cox, a Sunday school worker and evangelist, well known in Boston and other cities, died yesterday from poisoning after eating oysters. His wife is also ill. He refused medical attendance on grounds of belief.