The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

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STILL MORE WARLIKE.

United States Senate Resolution Asks Cuban Independence and Spanish Evacuation.

Madrid Ministers Declare That Spain Will Certainly Resist any Interference.

Military Preparations of Both Countries Being Pushed—Attitude of Europe.

Washington, April 13.—Following is the majority resolution reported by Senator Davis, immediately upon the convening of the senate at noon to-day:

"Whereas the abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the island of Cuba, so near our own borders, have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States; have been a disgrace to Christian civilization, culminating as they have, in the destruction of a United States battleship with two hundred and sixty-six of its officers and crew, while on a friendly visit to the harbor of Havana, and cannot longer be endured, as has been set forth by the President of the United States in his message to congress on April 11, 1898, upon which the action of congress is invited; therefore,

Resolved—First, that the people of the island of Cuba are and of right ought to be free and independent.

Second, that it is the duty of the United States to demand and it does hereby demand that the government of Spain at once relinquish authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

"Third, that the President of the United States be and he is hereby directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into active service the United States militia of the several states, to such an extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect."

London, April 13.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphing at 5 o'clock this evening says: Lieut.-Gen. Corres, minister of war, and Count Xiquena, minister of public works, both told me in a conversation this afternoon that the government was firmly resolved to repel every attack, direct or indirect, on the sovereignty of Spain in Cuba. They also said that they were sure this line of conduct on the part of Spain would certainly be supported by the European powers, more especially because the negotiations were based on an acknowledgment of Spanish sovereignty in Cuba. They told me that the conduct of Spain would be adjusted to that of the United States and that in face of the fact of the continuance of naval and military preparations in the United States Spain was fully justified in carrying on her preparation. Finally the minister said to me: "Our resolution at the cabinet council was taken unanimously and we shall maintain it with all the necessary energy."

SPAIN'S WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

Madrid, April 13.—El Liberal, hitherto so favorable to the present cabinet, criticises in the sharpest manner its surrender to the powers, and urges an energetic attitude towards the United States. It is clear that only recognition of the rights of Spain in Cuba and the cessation of assistance from America to the insurgents will redeem the conduct of the cabinet in the eyes of a nation that is morally sad and weary of successive humiliations.

The Imparcial boldly asserts that the honor of Spain can only be vindicated if the truce is short and the time devoted to complete naval and military preparations and the sending of a powerful fleet of battleships, cruisers, destroyers and torpedo vessels to Havana.

The ministerial Liberal papers and Conservatives like the Epoca do their best to allay public opinion and military displeasure by showing that the Spanish position has been strengthened for future developments in Cuba by having assented to the proposals of the Pope and powers. They try to make out now that all concessions must come from America, by withdrawing war vessels, ceasing to give insurgents assistance of any kind and respecting the rights of Spain and the new autonomous regime in Cuba.

New York, April 13.—A cable to the World from Madrid says: The press censor again stops all news of the government's naval and military preparations from being sent abroad, though Madrid papers publish the same daily. The ministers of war and marine have publicly stated that a suspension of hostilities will not stop the Spanish preparations, especially at the naval arsenals of Ferrol, Cadiz and Carthagena, where men are working night and day to prepare war stores and get ships ready.

The Cortes, directly it meets, will be asked for considerable credits for buying ships and completing others building for Spain abroad. Crews have been sent out to take out two fine, large steamers bought at Hamburg. The government is negotiating for the purchase of several vessels for Spain. The minister of war is pushing work actively on the defences of the Balearic and Canary islands, also the Spanish stations on the coast of Morocco. In military and naval circles it is believed that the truce will be unlikely to lead to anything, unless the Pope and the powers exercise again the same pressure upon Spain and President McKinley and force both to make concessions in the final settlement of the Cuban question, which it will be difficult to force the Spanish people to accept unless her rights are respected and her debt charged to Cuba.

Madrid, April 13.—Advices received from Carthagena confirm the report that the United States consul and the United States vice-consul at that port, both of whom are natives of Spain, have resigned.

The very worst impression prevails this evening. Again the bourse has declined. Ministers say that there is no news.

AMERICAN ACTIVITOY.

New York, April 13.—With the departure of the steamer City of Washington to-day, the postal service from the United States to Cuba will close for the present.

Colonel William Seward has issued orders to his regiment to prepare for war service. Similar orders will, it is said, be received by other regiments, and before many hours every National Guardsman in the city will know exactly what he will be expected to take with him on a campaign.

Washington, April 13.—The navy department has determined to buy the trans-Atlantic liners St. Paul and St. Louis.

Old Point Comfort, Va., April 13.—The flying squadron sailed at 2 o'clock under sealed orders for the south.

Portland, Me., April 13.—The United States cruisers Topeka (formerly the Diogenes) and the United States torpedo boat Sommers which put in here owing to the severity of the weather on Sunday last after leaving Wearmouth, sailed again to-day.

THE INFLUENCES FOR PEACE.

Madrid, April 13.—A report is current that Cardinal Rampolla, the papel secretary of state, telegraphed the Madrid government an assurance that peace between Spain and the United States would not be disturbed.

London, April 13.—A special dispatch from Rome announces, that the Pope has again telegraphed to Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria begging him to use his influence with the other sovereigns in behalf of peace between the United States and Spain.

The Spanish Premier in an interview this morning, according to a special special dispatch from Madrid, said he thought the powers could not do more than they have already done in the way of intervention.

Berne, Switzerland, April 13.—The national council has suggested that the bundesrath consider whether it could not offer to mediate between the United States and Spain. The question will be considered to-morrow, but the suggestion doubtless will be rejected.

AS SEEN IN LONDON.

London, April 13.—The Daily News says editorially this morning: "We do not desire to detract from the credit that justly belongs to the Pope, but neither the spiritual nor temporal machinery of Europe would have been put in motion to stop the horrors in Cuba, but for the United States. A Weyler would be invaluable in Armenia. There is nothing selfish in America's resolve that Cuba shall be free from her butchers and tormentors. If the Pope really desires peace he should exert the whole of his great influence with Spain, who cannot, in the long run, disobey him, while Spain would not suffer humiliation in submitting to the pontiff, who has no physical force behind him."

The Times says: "Optimist critics of President McKinley's message have lost sight of the fact, in both Washington and Madrid, that those whose chief preoccupation to say the least, is not the maintenance of peace, are playing with fire in a powder magazine. General Fitzhugh Lee's influence will tend to aggravate the bitterness felt for the loss of the Maine—a natural cause of suspicion and anger, but to blow these smoldering fires into flames at the present critical moment is a rash act, not easy to be condoned by the conscience of the civilized world."

In the afternoon papers in this city unanimously express the opinion that both the United States and Spain are heading straight for war, and there is also a disposition to blame President McKinley for his alleged indecision.

DEBATE IN CONGRESS.

Washington, April 13.—The report accompanying the resolution presented in the senate this afternoon was voluminous, and nearly fifty minutes were taken up in reading it. It was a terrible arraignment of Spanish atrocities. Following the presentation of the report and after Mr. Hoare, of Massachusetts, had insisted that consideration of the resolution go over until to-morrow on a point of order, came two of the most remarkable speeches yet delivered on the Cuban question. Mr. Foraker, of Ohio, and Mr. Lodge, of Massachusetts, both brilliant and impassioned orators, presenting different phases of the Cuban situation.

Mr. Foraker advocated the direct recognition of the independence of the Cuban republic and with an eloquence and vehemence seldom heard in the senate, splendidly maintained his position. A sharp colloquy between him and Mr. Elkins, of West Virginia, caused excitement.

Mr. Lodge followed with an appeal for action in preservation of the national

ROSSLAND MINES.

New Shippers Causing Trail Smelter to Reopen—War Eagle Waiting Lower Rates.

Rossland, April 9.—The Centre Star commenced shipment of ore to Trail yesterday, having about 100 tons available. The electric hoist will be installed soon. Other mines are arranging to ship to the Trail smelter, which will be blown in about June 15.

Ore shipments for the past week were 1,538 tons, as compared with 865 during the corresponding period of last year. From January 1, 20,447 tons have been shipped from Rossland mines, which, according to W. A. Carlyle's estimate of $30.48 per ton, represents a value of $623,224. Since January 1, 1897, the shipments from this camp have amounted to 33,367 tons, valued at $2,746,435.

T. C. Blackstock, of the War Eagle mining company, arrived here to-day. He says that the mine will commence shipping extensively as soon as satisfactory arrangements can be made with the smelters. He would much prefer to see the ore go to local reduction works, but says shipping to United States smelters must be done unless the C.P.R. can be induced to quote lower rates. He thinks the C.P.R. should lose no time in carrying out the promise to smelt at cost.

NEWS OF CHILLIWACK.

Interest Centres in Dyking Operations—Politicians Active—Local Improvements.

Chilliwack, April 11.—A. S. Vedder, M.P.P., has returned from Victoria to spend the Easter holidays. At the same time he is doing his level best to impress on the minds of the electors that he has done all that has been done to secure to the people here the dyke which will be under construction in a few days. As to his action in the house on the Corbin Kettle river railway he is silent.

His friends here think that Mr. Vedder's time could be better employed than in trying to belittle Mr. Tyther, the engineer in charge, who is doing all in his power to further the interests of this municipality by pushing the dyke to a completion.

Mr. Kingcombe, the engineer in charge of the dyke, has opened up public offices in the Driscol block for the convenience of those interested.

Dr. Roper, V.S., left here last week on an official visit to Ladner's Landing and returned a few days later to finish his tour of inspection.

A very large and influential meeting of the supporters of the provincial administration was held last Saturday and some good and wholesome work was accomplished.

In the matter of Cent v. Stevenson judgment was given for defendant.

Mr. Harry Stadey, of East Chilliwack has just completed his new residence which is a credit to any farming community. Mr. Jas. Gibson was the contractor.

TARTE AGAINST CORBIN

The Minister Opposes Kettle River Charter as Against Canadian Interests.

Northport Smelter a Living Object Lesson of What the Proposal Means.

An All-Canadian Service Simply Natural Protection—The Bill in Jeopardy.

Ottawa, April 13.—One hour was devoted to-night to consideration of the Kettle Valley railway bill, but no decision was reached as Mr. Oliver, fearing defeat of the measure talked it out. The debate was characterized by a noteworthy speech from Mr. Tarte, who strongly opposed the measure. He held it was always the policy of parliament to refuse to charter two railways over the same ground.

"Oh! Oh!" said Wood, Liberal member for Hamilton (who is an ardent advocate of the bill).

"Order," cried several Liberals;

"Don't interrupt the minister," called delighted Conservatives; and Mr. Tarte went on.

"We must have Canada for Canadians," said he. "We have," he went on, "the pledge of the C.P.R. to build to Boundary Creek. That line will be all together on Canadian territory. Would it not be better to depend on that line?"

The Northport smelter was a living answer to his hon. friend's interruption. There it is a few steps across on American territory doing business that should be done in Canada. "Monopoly" was a word that had been greatly abused. (Hear, hear). "If I merely insist upon being my own boss in my own house, can it be called monopoly?" asked Mr. Tarte.

"They say you're boss in this house," interrupted Mr. McLean. "If," continued the minister, "this policy will give Canada control of the trade in Canadian territory can it be called monopoly?" "No," declared Mr. Tarte. "It will be simply natural protection. That we are here for," (opposition cheers), "and I feel that in this I am only standing by the policy of the Liberal party, of both parties." "We have," he continued, "control of railway rates in that district through an arrangement with the C.P.R.

"It has been said that the Grand Trunk was anxious to have the bill passed, but he could not see how the Grand Trunk could be so very much interested in it. The Grand Trunk had no better friend than himself and so far as its interests were identical with those of Canada he would work for it, but no longer."

Had the division been taken to-night it is believed the measure would have been defeated.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Salmon Fishery to be Reserved for British Subjects—Yukon Tramway Companies Amalgamate.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, April 13.—The Lewis River and Canon tramways companies have amalgamated their interests. They are to build around the rapids on the right bank of the Yukon, while a Victoria syndicate constituting the Miles Canon and White Horse Company will build on the left bank. Both bills passed committee to-day. The tramways must be constructed within two years.

The Canadian Pacific was refused a charter to build branch lines in British Columbia without specifying their location. Mr. Morrison held that the giving of such power would enable the company to squeeze an independent line like the Kaslo & Slocan. The Nakusp & Slocan extension bill was considered briefly, but eventually postponed.

Mr. Sifton informed Mr. Maclean that 10,852 miners' certificates had been issued in Canada up to 31st March and 23 in Great Britain.

The question of sending a geological survey party to Yukon has not been decided. Neither has the rate of compensation to the Bank of Commerce for Yukon business.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that Peterson & Tate have succeeded in forming a strong syndicate for the fast Atlantic line and he believed that by July 1st the vessels would be under construction.

The fishery department is considering new regulations affecting the salmon fishery of the Fraser. One clause proposes to make stricter regulations confining the fishing to British subjects. American boat pullers will not be allowed.

PAKSHAN BRINGS GOLD.

One Montana Man Has Forty Thousand Dollars Worth—Stikine Reported Open.

Nanaimo, April 13.—(Special.)—The Pakshan arrived at Union to-night with a big crowd of passengers with many thousands of dollars' worth of dust. Ellis, of Montana, has $40,000. The report from Union says the rivers are open for navigation. This must refer to the Stikine, which was reported in bad condition a few days ago and the ice breaking.

The latest reports of the snowslides is that 54 bodies have been recovered and travel has been suspended for a week or so.

THE ROUTES TO YUKON.

Chief Government Organ Believes a Traffic Arrangement May be Made with United States.

Toronto, April 13.—The Globe's Ottawa correspondent discussing the negotiations started between Washington and Ottawa for the settlement of various questions between the two countries says the moment is regarded by diplomats alike at Washington and Ottawa as most favorable for the drawing together of the Anglo-Saxon people. When the Cuban affair is off the President's hands it is expected he will send a message to congress suggesting the appointment of a commission representing the United States and Canada through Great Britain to settle those very difficulties which his government was not prepared to consider in bulk last year.

Referring to difficulties over the routes to the Yukon, the correspondent says: "The solution of this extremely difficult problem may be found when the commission above mentioned meets in Ottawa. If it were found possible by treaty to establish at the head of Lynn Canal a free port open on the usual terms to ships of both nations connecting with a railway managed by international commissioners, on which bonding privileges should be granted to the goods of each country when passing through the territory of the other, while soldiers of each country should be given passage through the territory of the other, much of the need for an all-Canadian route would be removed. We would then be on equal terms with United States merchants in getting our goods in by Lynn Canal, and not as a matter of grace to be withdrawn at any moment or whim, but as a matter of right as we now have the navigation of the Stikine.

"This is, however, but a possibility, and we may be sure that Seattle and San Francisco, which have hailed with joy the action of the senate in preventing the construction of an all-Canadian route this season, would go far to prevent Canadian merchants from getting better means of access from the head of Lynn Canal."

ANOTHER WHALER ARRIVES.

Walked From the Arctic to Edmonton With Assistance from Hudson's Bay Posts.

Winnipeg, April 12.—(Special.)—A despatch to the Free Press from Edmonton reports the arrival there of Charles Walker from one of the shipwrecked United States whalers in the Arctic sea. Walker says he walked from Point Barrow, Alaska, to Herschel island at the mouth of Mackenzie river and thence up the Mackenzie and others rivers, a distance of 3,000 miles to Edmonton. Four whalers, the Orca, Newport, Jeanie B., and Freeman were nipped in the ice and were wrecked. The men took shelter in the Belvidere and another ship and Walker started out alone to carry news of the disaster. The men, nearly 300 in number, have food supplies sufficient if relief reaches them early in the summer. Walker secured food for his trip down from the various Hudson Bay posts.

MANUFACTURERS' REQUESTS.

A Fixed and Definite Policy of Protection and no Tariff Concession Without Like Favor.

Toronto, April 13.—Special.)—At the annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, D. W. Carne, president, delivered the annual address. Resolutions were passed declaring that the interests of the country imperatively demand a fixed and definite policy of protection; that the preferential tariff should not be extended to any colony unless the same discrimination is made in such colony in our favor; that the minimum preferential tariff should not fall below the safety protective point; and that the government should endeavor to procure from Great Britain concessions of a characted similar to those granted in the preferential tariff.

RESISTING THE RUSSIANS.

Pekin, April 13.—Details of the conflict between the Russians and the Chinese at Kinchou tend to show that it was due to an attempt by the Russian commander to take possession of the town. He tried to persuade the Chinese general that Kinchou belonged to Russia by virtue of the recent agreement arrived at between China and Russia regarding the cession of Port Arthur and Talienwan. The Russian commander demanded the evacuation of the place within twenty-four hours, but the Chinese refused to leave, and the matter was eventually referred to Pekin and St. Petersburg.

How to Keep Well.

Without regular action of the bowels good health is impossible. Laxa-Liver Pills regulate the bowels, cure constipation, dyspepsia, biliousness, sick headache, and all affections of the organs and digestion. Price 25c. All druggists.

DIED IN THE SERVICE

The Veteran Member of the Police Force Succumbs to Old Age.

"Hoodlum," who has been connected with the police force ever since he was a pup sixteen years ago, turned up his paws last night and passed out of the service. In answer to an urgent call Dr. Fraser went rushing down to the station but arrived too late to accomplish anything. For some time past "Hoodlum" had been incapacitated from general duty and spent his time growing older on the mat in the main office. It was only a matter of time till his earthly troubles and responsibilities would be over and this was consummated at 6:15 yesterday. The announcement of the death of the dog that saw every member of the present staff enrolled can have but little interest to the outside public who knew him not, but to the members of the force from the chief down, the news has a sad interest about it, and this in spite of the fact that during the last year of his life "Hoodlum" presented a most unsociable attitude towards everyone. In the absence of Jailer Mitten, who is laid up with an attack of la grippe no burial arrangements have as yet been made.

Not so Easy.

It is not so easy to cure an obstinate cough; it won't cure itself. Norway Pine Syrup is the remedy indicated, because its record shows that it always cures coughs colds and all lung troubles.

The annual ball of the Knights of Pythias, held in the A. O. U. W. hall on Tuesday evening, was an event that will be long remembered. Nothing in the management of the dance was omitted that could in any way add to the pleasure of the guests of the evening and for this the committee in charge consisting of Messrs. Jos. Randolph (chairman), Frank Le Roy (secretary), Greenwood, Nathan, P. Phillips, J. Penketh, W. P. Smith and T. Gold, had the warm appreciation of every one in attendance. The Fifth regiment orchestra of five pieces furnished the music while efficient caterers presided over the supper given at midnight. The hall was very attractively decorated for the occasion.

NEWS OF VANCOUVER.

Canadian Pacific Plans Cause Disappointment — Several Officers Transferred to Winnipeg.

A Popular Prospective Candidate —Outfitting not so Bush— Teachers' Institute.

Vancouver, April 13.—(Special.)—There is much dissatisfaction felt in Vancouver in regard to the fact that the C.P.R. is getting its supply of dressed rock for the new terminal buildings from far away Calgary, instead of from quaries on the coast of British Columbia, of which there are several, containing ample supplies of suitable building stone within cheap and easy reach of Vancouver by water. The obtaining and preparing of the stone at Calgary means the substraction from British Columbia quarrymen and stone workers of work, on getting which they have naturally reckoned very confidently. It probably also means that many Vancouver stonemasons will find themselves unemployed at a comparatively early date in the usual building season.

A still more disquieting report, into the truth of which the city council is officially investigating, credits the C.P.R. executive with the intention of early removing from Vancouver to Winnipeg the general offices of the Pacific division of the line. Your correspondent has ascertained that the action of the C.P.R. executive gives much ground for a belief that such is the intention of the company, as divisional departments, till recently located in Vancouver are, one by one, being removed. Local officials of the company are reticent and decline to discuss the matter. One thing is certain, that any such action as the C.P.R. now seems to be taking, in regard to its relations with Vancouver and its people, means, if continued by the company, a decisive popular veto of all proposals for tax exemption or other municipal concessions to the railroad.

As regards two of the changes already known to have been made by the C.P.R., namely the transfer to Winnipeg of the stationery and pay departments, it may be said that the result in the first case has been an appreciable loss to certain Vancouver traders, who in anticipation of the usual requirements of the company, laid in advance stock of suitable material, which they are now carrying largely as dead stock. In the second instance the Vancouver banks have been notified that C.P.R. pay cheques will in future be sent from and bear the signature of Winnipeg officials, and it is feared, that one result of the change will be delay in making the usual monthly payments to local employees of the company. The opinion is expressed that this delay will average a period of 15 days each month.

KLONDIKE OUTFITTING.

The Coquitlam sailed for Skagway, Dyea and Wrangel yesterday with a full passenger list and a heavy cargo. The Centennial also sailed last night for the Klondike ports, but this very much larger vessel had only a moderate passenger list and a comparatively light cago. The city traders have been much encouraged during the present week by the purchases made by the Australian Klondikers, but there is still what is regarded as a "between seasons" lull in the Northern outfitting demand, pending the opening of river navigation in Cassiar and the Klondike.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The session of the B. C. Teachers' Institute to-day proved very interesting, including amongst other features attractive discussions of music and art in the schools, the teaching of English literature and suggestions for the study of natural history and also a practical lesson in clay modeling. The visiting teachers were given a very pleasant reception in the evening by the Vancouver local staff.

PROVINCIAL CANDIDATES.

On dit, that Mayor Garden may be in vited to become a candidate for the representation of Vancouver in the provincial legislature as a supporter in the main of the government policy, whilst reserving considerable freedom of action on many points of provincial politics. If the Mayor should accede to the request, he would doubtless prove an exceptionally strong candidate, his chance of success together with those of any colleagues of his being moreover enhanced by the well known fact, that the opposition party in Vancouver is the very reverse of harmonious, in regard to the general policy to be adopted and concerning the choice of its standard bearers. Mr. F. C. Cotton, M.P.P., in particular seems to have almost as many foes as friends in the ranks of the Vancouver opposition and the party it at present by no means solid for either Mr. Macpherson or Mr. Williams.

MOUNT PLEASANT DRAINAGE

A tentative suggestion lately made in the city council that the large and increasingly populous district of Mount Pleasant should be temporarily drained and its sewage matter discharged into the shallows of False Creek, will if attempted to be carried into effect, cause one of the angriest local controversies which the city has ever known. It is contended by the people of the east end of the city, by the residents of Fairview and also by many inhabitants of the Stanley Park neighborhood, that such a scheme of even temporary disposal of sewage would create a nuisance dangerous to health and also ruin the bathing and camping grounds on pleasant English Bay. If the effort should be pressed the provincial board of health will certainly be asked to intervene, in prevention and there is also talk, if necessary, of an appeal to the courts. The plea advanced in favor of a proposal that is already so widely scouted, is one of purely temporary economy, for which little can be said, as the cost of providing by loan for a proper system to carry the sewage of the south district of Vancouver safely into deep water, would, when distributed over thousands of houses and lots, thus permanently benefitted add very little indeed to the annual taxation of each.

FLOURISHING PARISHES.

That better times have come to Vancouver has just been evidenced—amongst many other indications—by the annual reports of the various Anglican churches, the financial and general condition of each of the four city parishes having vastly improved since Easter last year. So markedly has this been the case of the Christ church finances, that the vestry decided to increase to very comfortable proportions the salaries of both rector and organist. Speaking generally, the same improvement is noticeable in the case of the other religious communities of Vancouver, wherever a church has the advantage of a settled ministry. There are, however, several cases of vacant pastorates by which, of course, the churches immediately concerned suffer appreciably.

MINOR MATTERS.

Messrs. O. L. Spencer and J. J. Banfield have been elected to represent the Vancouver bicycle club on the Brickton Point association board.

The Vancouver cricket club is holding what will be a very fashionable subscription dance on Tuesday evening next at the residence of Mr. Campbell Sweeney, manager of the Bank of Montreal.

The Brockton Point association annual report shows a fair balance in hand and a generally satisfactory financial status. The various athletic clubs connected with the association have resumed wholly friendly relations with the generaly executive, on which they are now better represented, and as a result a very satisfactory summer season of all round athletic sport for Vancouver is confidently expected.

Marie Jansen in "Nancy Hanks was witnessed by a large and very appreciative audience last evening in Vancouver.

There are this morning no less than seven steamships in the harbor of Vancouver with an average of over 2,500 tons each, and also of course many sailing and other smaller vessels. The steamers included the Empress of Japan, Tartar, Athenian, Umatilla, Ningchow, Centennial and Cape Otway.

Vancouver, April 12.—Colin Beaton, while attempting to board a Canadian Pacific freight train passing through the city, was thrown under the wheels and has died from the injuries. He was employed as a mechanic on one of the steamers being built at at B.C. Iron Works. He had been in the city for a few months, coming from Owen Sound, where he left a wife and four children. Before he died he arranged his affairs. The coroner's jury has returned a verdict of accidental death.

The surplices for the Christ church choir have arrived. The lady and gentlemen members will be surpliced alike. The congregation are much pleased with the effect of this innovation in church circles in Vancouver.

The remains of G. B. Wright, who died in Nelson on Friday, have been brought to New Westminster. Mr. Wright was one of the earliest pioneers of the Royal City, and his career has been closely identified with its fortunes. In 1858-59, Mr. Wright was partner in the firm of Messrs. Wright, Scott and Nelson, general traders, who operated a line of vessels between New Westminster and San Francisco. The firm conducted one of the largest trading enterprises in British Columbia. Development work in connection with opening up the Interior was largely assisted by the deceased. The wagon road from Lillooet to Cariboo was built by him under government contract. He owner and put the first steamer on the route between Soda Creek and the mouth of the Quesnelle, on the Upper Fraser. Subsequently, he was a partner of Mr. Leamy, and had several contracts on Canadian Pacific railway construction and on wagon roads in the Kootenay country. Of late years he has been operating in mines and townsites, also in the Kootenay. By his thrift and progressiveness Mr. Wright managed to accumulate a fortune. One of the first canneries to be operated in Westminster was owned by him. He leaves a wife and two sons, the oldest of whom is at Teslin lake.

COMETS AND CALAMITY.

Astronomer Tells of Coincidences and Laughs at Superstition.

Columbia, Mo., April 7.—Dr. Milton Updegraff, professor of astronomy in Missouri University, who recently contributed to the press a scientific discussion of Perrin's comet, was questioned to-day regarding the superstitious side of the subject. There is a cherished tradition, as old as history, that a comet indicates pending war or some other dire calamity. If the present trouble with Spain results in war the comet which is now on hand will assume large importance in the eyes of the superstitious.

"Let me say emphatically," says Dr. Updegraff, "that I do not wish to be quoted as saying that I have the slightest faith in the absurd superstition that a comet is a certain harbinger of war or other vast evil. No astronomer can afford to discuss the subject seriously, but there are a number of amusing traditions about comets, and it is interesting to note a few rather remarkable examples which apparently justify the belief that a comet indicates pending war or calamity. The comet of 1858 preceded the Italian war of 1859; the comet of 1870 came during the Franco-Prussian war; the comet of 1811 came just before the war of 1812. Two comets in 1861 accompanied the outbreak of the civil war. One of these was very bright, and the earth passed through its tail. The great comet of 1881 appeared just before President Garfield was assassinated. There was a comet at the time of the birth of Napoleon and another at the time of his greatest success. During the dark and bloody reign of Nero it is said a monster comet was blazing in the sky.

"There are many classical allusions to the prevailing fear of comets. Cicero says comets are harbingers of misery, and expressed the opinion that they foretell great events. Pliny wrote: 'A fearful star this comet is, and not easily expatiated.' Seneca says: 'Some comets are very cruel and threaten us with the worst of mischief. They bring with them and leave behind them the seeds of blood and slaughter.' Socrates writing of the city now called Constantinople, says: 'So great was the danger that hung over the city that it was foretold by a huge blazing comet that reached from heaven to earth.' Shakespeare writes comets as 'importing change of state.'

Byron wrote as follows:

A pathless comet and a curse, the menace
of the universe,
Still rolling with innate force, without a
sphere, without a course,
A bright deformity on high, the monster
of the upper sky.

"There are, however, many contradictions of the popular superstition, and comets are not always followed by great events. I distinctly recollect when seven comets were visible at one time, direcalamity was predicted, the lower classes of the world were convulsed with terror. Many, from brooding on the subject, became maniacs. The world waited for a calamity, but nothing unusual occurred. Events went on in the same old way, and the comets gradually receded from view, leaving a popular superstition considerably crippled, but still in existence. The present comet is visible at 4 o'clock a.m."