Domestic Science In Public Schools

Latest Addition to the Curriculum Is a Very Important One.

Includes Not Only Practical Cookery But Also the Science of Foods.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The domestic science class which has recently been added to the already large list of extras being taught in the public schools of the city was visited yesterday morning. Miss MacKeand, the teacher, was very courteous and gave some very interesting facts in connection with the course. The subject of the lecture yesterday was a grain of wheat and was illustrated. Miss MacKeand gave her class a full description of the component parts of a wheat grain, showing from the enlarged sectional chalk drawing the different layers, viz., the husk, the bran, the gluten, the starch and the germ, and then proceeds to explain the different grades of flour, whole wheat, graham, bread and pastry. A practical test by washing flour tied up in netting was then made to show the gluten and the starch was shown to exist in the bowl, washed out of the flour by dropping iodine into the mixture, which turned blue, thus showing the presence of the starch.

The classes are two and a half hours' duration and about twenty girls are taken at a time. During each week 240 girls receive a lesson and as there are 800 girls attending the schools of a suitable age for the classes, only those of the higher divisions and the girls in the High school are at present able to be taught.

The lesson yesterday morning was how to make graham muffins, and the following receipt was on the board: One-quarter cup of graham flour, one-quarter cup of flour, 1 tablespoon of sugar, one-quarter teaspoon salt, one-quarter cup of milk, one-half egg, one-quarter tablespoon melted butter, one teaspoon baking powder. The class of twenty was divided into five sections of four each. One of each section mixed the flour, one mixed the general ingredients, one beat the egg, and milk and the fourth greased the pans ready for baking.

Cleanliness, exactness and order are firmly inculcated the the minds of the girls and the theoretical part of food very carefully explained. On the board were tie figure of a beast, divided to show the various butcher's cuts, and each is carefully explained and the pupils told what it is good for, boiling, roasting, etc. On another board were chalk drawings of sugar cane, cocoa bean, cassava (tapioca), tea plant, coffee plant, rye, rice, wheat, corn and peanut. There is a chart hung in the room, showing the composition of the following foods and the percentage of proteid, fat, carbo-hydrates, mineral matter and water in each: Beef, mutton, codfish, mackerel, oysters, cow's milk, cheese, butter, wheat bread, flour, corn meal, oat meal, beans, rice, potatoes and sugar.

Altogether the course is most interesting and must necessarily result in the girl's having a far more comprehensive idea of the value of the various foods used in every day life. The interest displayed by the pupils was an evidence of the good the course is doing. Each pupil takes notes of the lessons, and when they have been through all they will have a very valuable collection of notes.

B. C. E. R.—Plans.—During 1904 many new cars will be built at the New Westminster shops for the B. C. Electric railway. The car-building programme for the present year has been arranged as follows: 10 convertible city cars (Detroit model), 20 feet in length; 1 double truck interurban car, 30 feet long; 3 interurban cars, 50 feet long, and one flat car. When these are all completed the rolling stock of the B. C. E. R. will be considerable augmented. Since the works were started in the early part of last year they have rendered a very good account of themselves. Twelve new cars have been built and eleven old ones made as good as new. During 1904 in addition to the new cars which will be put together, there will be six cars up from Victoria to be entirely rebuilt, and about ten Westminster and Vancouver city cars for the same purpose.

RESTLESS AND CROSS.

When infants or young children are restless and cross or peevish it is a very certain sign that they are not well. The mother may not know just what the trouble is, but she can depend upon it the trouble exists. Give the little one Baby's Own Tablets and see how promptly it will be changed into a happy, smiling, good natured child. The little one will sleep soundly and naturally and the mother will also obtain her much needed rest. Here is the proof given by Mrs. John E. Ramsay, Port Hill, P. E. I., who says: "My baby was cross, restless and did not sleep well, but after giving him Baby's Own Tablets he became better natured, sleeps well and is growing finely. The Tablets have been a great blessing to both baby and myself."

The Tablets are a prompt and certain cure for such troubles as indigestion, sour stomach, colic, constipation, diarhoea, simple fevers and other minor ailments. They always do good and cannot possibly harm the most delicate child. You can get the Tablets from any medicine dealer, or they will be sent by mail at 25 cents a box by writing to The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

TURBINES FOR U. S. SCOUT WARSHIPS

Poposal to Install Enormously Powerful Motors In New Vessels.

Washington, Jan. 30.—The naval engineers invited a competition between two great American manufacturing concerns for the supply of turbine engines to drive the 4,000 ton scout ships, for which estimates have been submitted to congress. While both these companies manufacture turbines, one is an English pattern, and much interest attaches to the competition. The naval engineers contemplate the largest installation of turbine power ever placed on any ship. It is a question of weights to be determined by the manufacturers, whether these vessels shall be given 16,000 horse power turbines, affording a speed of 24 knots an hour, or whether it will be possible to place in their hulls 20,000 horse power motors, which will drive the vessels at a rate of 26 knots an hour. Rear-Admiral Melville (retired) formerly engineer-in-chief of the navy has sailed for Germany and Great Britain to study turbine machinery.

A GREAT LITTLE WORKER.

play of its valves and the rhythm of its just such assistance as the best supplied by builder and nerve restorative.

lacking in nourishing qualities and requires throb. If the arm of the heart gets weak, irregular and fluttering, the blood is Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, the great blood pain. Five times stronger than any other. Good for internal and external use. Large bottles 25c.

A RELIC OF BY-GONE DAYS.

INTERIOR OF FORT VICTORIA, IN 1858, Looking East, Showing the Fort Street Gate

Government street ran along the outside of the stockade, and at the corner of that street and what is now Bastion street stood the historical bastion. The building behind the bell tower was the mess house, Governor Blanchard occupying the room at the northern corner. The windows in the centre of the building were those of the mess room, next to which was the office of the lands and works department, presided over by the late J. D. Pemberton. The entrance at the southern end of the building was that to the private apartments of Governor Douglas. The building on the south of the gate was known as "Bachelors' Hall." The first window from the gateway being that of the late J. W. McKaye, the next being that of Hon. J. S. Helmcken, M. D. The chaplain, Rev. Mr. Stairs, also had his residence in this building, while the board school, over which he presided, was conducted in the second storey.

Sudden Death Of W. C. Whitney

Ex-Secretary of United States Navy Succumbs to An Operation.

End Entirely Unexpected and a Severe Shock to His Friends.

New York, Feb. 2.—W. C. Whitney is dead. He was taken ill at the performance of "Parsifal" last Tuesday afternoon and was compelled to return to his home. As his indisposition continued, physicians were called in, and, after diagnosis, it was said that Mr. Whitney was suffering from appendicitis. An operation was decided upon, and it was performed Saturday night.

It was first thought that Mr. Whitney had every chance of surviving the operation and bulletins which were not unfavorable were issued as late as this afternoon. In view of the bulletins issued today, the announcement of Mr. Whitney's death was a surprise. Arrangements had been made to issue a bulletin each day, but it was said at his residence at noon today that his condition was not sufficiently grave to warrant further bulletins.

A statement was made at Mr. Whitney's house that death was due to peritonitis and blood-poisoning, after an operation for appendicitis. The end was entirely unexpected, and the patient seemed to be rallying from the operation.

A short time after the death was announced Doctors Hull and Poole left the house. They declared they had no statement to make at that time. Asked if the patient was under the second operation at the time of death, they refused to answer.

Among those in the house at the time were Harry Payne Whitney and Miss Dorothy Whitney.

The late Hon. Wm. Collins Whitney was born at Conway, Mass., July 5th, 1841. He graduated bachelor of arts from Yale college in 1863. He studied law at the Harvard Law school and began his practice in 1865 in New York City. From 1875 to 1882 he was corporation counsel of New York, and from 1885 to 1889 was in the cabinet of President Cleveland as secretary of the navy.

IMPOSTER SENTENCED.

Toronto, Feb. 2.—E. Stuart, alias Prince Ashbald, the divorced husband of Countess Russell, who passed himself off at the leading hotels here as Lord Stuart, was sentenced this morning by Police Magistrate Dennison to six months' imprisonment at hard labor at the Central prison, for theft and fraud.

ENFORCING TRADE REGULATIONS

Bonded Goods In Transit Through U. S. to Be Delivered By British Ships.

Boston, Feb. 2.—Unless some agreement is entered into between the United States and Canada, the long-time practice of carrying Canadian goods in bond to ports in the provinces without regard to the carrying vessel, must come to an end and a lucrative business of American railways and American steamships running from Boston will be shut off. This has been established by the recent enforcement by the collector of St. John, N. B., of the Canadian regulation that goods passing to Canada from the United States shall be transported in British registered vessels. The case at hand was that of a consignment of stoves from London, Ont., to St. John by way of Boston, the water transportation being by the Eastern Steamship Company, whose steamers carry the American flag. Secretary of the United States Treasury Shaw has been asked to make some agreement with Canada, whereby the non-enforcement of the regulations may be brought about.

Caretaker Dead.—John Sigurdson, the caretaker of the Ross Bay cemetery, died rather suddenly early yesterday morning at the Jubilee hospital. He had been suffering from a throat affection and an operation was successfully performed, but the patient was subsequently stricken with hemorrhage, and it resulted fatally. Deceased was 39 years of age and a native of Iceland. He leaves a widow and family to mourn his loss, a daughter and three sons, the youngest being an infant in arms. He came to the city thirteen years ago, and was appointed caretaker of the cemetery a year and a half ago, in which capacity he gave satisfaction.

By an ingenious arrangement, Ch. Fabry has diminished the sun's light by passage through a slit and then through an ammoniacal solution of copper sulphate, and has composed it with a light of known candle-power. He concludes that, with the sun at zenith, the solar light at sea level is more than 100,000 times that of a standard candle at a distance of one metre. The intensity of light at the sun's surface is about ten times as great for the same area as that in the electric arc.

WILLIAM C. WHITNEY

TRAGIC CLIMAX TO A WEDDING

Brave Infantry Man and Bride Take Poison Rather Than Face the World.

Sagninaw, Mich, Feb. 2.—The wedding here last week of Corporal Chas. A. Valois, Company H, Twenty-fifth United States Infantry, home on furlough, and Miss Mabel Steiner, had a tragic climax last night, when the young couple took poison in a room at a rooming house on Franklin street. Mrs. Valois is dead and her husband is in a critical condition. The match met with the disapproval of the parents of each of them.

They left a letter saying that their parents had turned them out and they had no place to go, and had decided to die together. Mrs. Valois died from a dose of carbolic acid and laudanum.

WHISPERS FROM THE FRIGID EAST

Eastern Canada In Grasp of Frost King—Blizzards In Dakota.

Montreal, Feb. 2.—Intense cold weather prevails in Eastern Canada today. Labelle, in the Laurentian mountains, reports the mercury falling to forty below zero.

Other places in the province of Quebec report temperatures ranging from 20 to 31 below.

In eastern Ontario temperatures range from 20 to 30 below.

St. Paul, Feb. 2.—Blizzards are raging in various parts of North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin today. Wires are down in some places, and North Dakota trains are greatly delayed by snowdrifts.

COAL SHIPMENTS.

Exports From Wellington Mines During Month of January.

The following is a list of the exports of coal from the Wellington mines during the month of January:

SS. Cascade	156
SS. Sea Lion	22
SS. Amur	445
SS. Tellus	3,542
SS. Wellington	2,352
SS. Dirigo	305
Bge. Richard III	1,656
SS. Bertha	457
SS. Telina	3,474
SS. Cascade	154
SS. Valencia	287
SS. Wellington	2,484
SS. R. P. Elmore	22
SS. Montana	2,033
Bge. J. C. Potter	1,794
Total	20,085

The figures for the month of December were 21,514 tons.

The following sentiment has been variously attributed to Stephen Grellet, Sir Rowland Hill, and to Edward Courtenay and the Earl of Devon, and is said to have been inscribed upon the tombstone of the latter: "I expect to pass through this world but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show or any good thing I can do to any fellow-being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Aged Indians Cruelly Murdered

Canoe Found Perforated With Buckshot and Traces of Blood and Brains.

Boat Identified as Belonging to Harry Wilson and His Wife.

White en route to Thetis island on Monday last an Indian couple, Harry Wilson, and his wife, Lucy, were brutally murdered, and their bodies horribly mutilated. The victims had been visiting their son in Chemainus. On Monday evening, shortly before 6 o'clock, they entered their canoe and left for Thetis island. About 6:30 several shots were heard, out towards Bare Point, but nothing was thought of it at the time. The following morning Robert Roberts, of Kuper island, noticed a canoe stranded on a reef opposite his place. On examination he found it bespattered with blood, pieces of skull bone and brains, and perforated with several bullet holes.

He immediately came over to Chemainus and notified the police, and Constable Halhed, who was at Duncans at the time, rode post haste to Chemainus and went over in a steam launch to where the canoe was stranded, and brought it back to Chemainus.

The canoe is identified as the one the old couple left Chemainus in, the old woman's shawl still being in it.

There are several bullet holes in the canoe, and one bullet imbedded in the stem, apparently was fired from a 30.30 rifle. Near the bow is a gaping hole in the side of the canoe, the inside of which is spattered in a circle with blood and brains, as if the victims were crouching down in the canoe and the shot had been fired at close range and from above. In the canoe are also several pieces of skull bone, as if the victims had been beaten to pieces, after being shot, with some heavy instrument, such as a butt of a gun or the back of an axe. The whole inside of the canoe was covered with blood and small pieces of flesh.

The bodies had been taken out of the canoe and thrown overboard, and whoever committed the crime, no doubt weighted the bodies so that they would sink, and it is very improbable that they will ever be found.

So far, no motive for the crime can be discovered, and as the crime was committed out on the water, under cover of partial darkness, it is a very hard matter to find any clues as to the identity of the murderer.

A certain amount of suspicion attaches to an Indian known by the name of Jackson, who left in a canoe shortly after the departure of the murdered couple, and has not been heard from since. Moreover this Jackson does not bear any too good a reputation and the police are on the lookout for him.

The murdered man was a medicine man in his tribe, and perhaps that may be the cause of the murder, as some of the Indians had a great dread of him, and hated him accordingly. Not long ago one of his fellow tribesmen accused

"All at Sixes And Sevens"

(Continued From Page One.)

amend the law dealing with company cases, such as those of Whitaker Wright. He declared that after careful consideration of the evidence, it seemed to him that Wrights misstatements were really made with the view of benefiting rather than injuring the shareholders. The government will pay for Wright's prosecution.

SPEECH FROM THRONE.

In the speech from the Throne King Edward in touching on the Alaskan decision said that on some points the verdict was favorable to the British and on others it had been adverse. Much as this last circumstance was to be deplored, it must nevertheless be a matter for congratulation that the misunderstanding, in which the ancient boundary treaty made, in ignorance of the geographical facts is so fertile, have in this case been finally removed from the field of controversy.

The crisis in the Far East is touched upon briefly in the King's speech as follows: "I have watched with concern the course of the negotiations between the governments of Japan and Russia in regard to their respective interests in China and Korea, and a disturbance of the peace in those regions could not but have deplorable consequences. Any assistance which my government can usefully render towards the promotion of a pacific solution will be gladly accorded."

Another point of interest in the King's speech was a reference to cotton as follows: "The insufficiency of the supply of raw material upon which the great cotton industry of this country depends has inspired me with deep concern. I trust the efforts being made in various parts of my Empire to increase the area of cultivation may be attended with a larger measure of success."

The speech makes the usual reference to the satisfactory character of foreign relations, touches upon the conclusion of the Anglo-French arbitration agreement as being "a happy illustration of the friendly feelings of the two countries," and refers to the Somaliland expedition and to the Macedonian reforms, expressing the hope that the practical measures for the amelioration, so sorely needed of these unhappy regions will be carried out during the present respite in the disturbances."

After mentioning the "political mission which, with the concurrence of the Chinese government, has entered Thibet territory in order to secure due observance of conventions," the speech said that Chinese officials had been despatched from Pekin to meet this mission and expressing a trust that an arrangement would be reached to peacefully remove the constant source of friction, the speech concluded with the warning that although the estimates have been framed with the utmost desire for economy, the burden imposed by the necessities of naval and military defence is "undoubtedly serious" and mentions some of the promised domestic legislation, as already forecasted in these despatches. No suggestion of legislation concerning Ireland was contained in the King's speech.

IN THE LORDS.

In the House of Lords, Lord Lansdowne said: "In regard to the United States, the government had endeavored to translate into practice what it affirmed rather as a matter of principle in the French and Italian treaties."

Commenting on the Alaska position, Lord Lansdowne said that although the tribunal was not, strictly speaking, arbitral, its efforts illustrated the possibility of settling by other than diplomatic means long-standing, dangerous international differences. The condition of Alaska might have brought Great Britain into a serious and acute controversy with the United States. The finding of the tribunal doubtless was not entirely satisfactory to Great Britain, but no one expected it to be an entirely favorable verdict.

Lord Lansdowne was inclined to find some consolation in the fact that his military and naval advisors were confident that the two islands in Portland channel, which had gone to the United States were not of any strategical value whatever.

Concerning the Russo-Japanese dispute, Lord Lansdowne said it was an axiom in diplomacy not to offer good offices until they were asked for. Neither disputants had said that mediation was not desirable at the present time, but should the opportunity offer His Majesty's government would gladly avail itself then.

According to the fiscal question Lord Lansdowne said the policy recommended by Mr. Chamberlain was not the policy of the government, and Mr. Balfour had clearly defined the government's policy. He, the speaker, did not conceal his sympathy with Mr. Chamberlain's aspiration to draw the Empire more closely together, and to put the affairs of the nation on a more business-like footing. If the reward of success of such a policy was great, the punishment of failure was irreparable, and the government was only prudent in declining to be rushed into such proposals.

Talks on Fertilizers

PEATY SOILS

By B. Maynard, Victoria, B. C.

Soils of peaty formation often prove very troublesome as many a farmer has found to his sorrow. Peaty soils occur on low bottoms at one time covered by water, and consist chiefly of accumulation of dead and rotting vegetation of an aqueous nature, which, owing to an over-saturated condition preventing an access of oxygen, have but partially decayed, resulting in the black or brown formations so characteristic of these soils. Many such soils, owing to deposits of sand and silt being left by overflowing water, when properly drained, are exceedingly rich and durable. Others again, not so favored, even with the best care and cultivation, often prove most unproductive and in many instances have after years of toil and expense so impoverished their owners, that they have been compelled to abandon their farms, yet with a little knowledge on the farmer's part, and a little cost these soils might have been brought to the highest state of fertility.

Two common methods of treating these soils are claying and burning, both cumbersome, expensive and not lasting in their effect. When claying, it is customary to haul out and spread upon the surface from thirty to one hundred loads of clay—any ordinary good clay soil is effective, the effect on the first crop is excellent, a gradual decrease, however, is generally noticed, necessitating in a few years time a repetition of the operation, the cost is obvious.

In burning it is endeavored to burn over the entire surface, not allowing the fire to extend deeper than a few inches, but frequently it gets beyond control, resulting, perhaps, in great holes; any one who has had experience with these soils knows how hard a deeply seated fire is to extinguish. The first crop following a burning usually is all that could be desired, but deterioration is likely to be very rapid, and if the permanent water table is near the surface, as in these soils is often the case, it will be readily seen that by a few burnings, all the arable soil will be destroyed. This is a predicament in which more than one peat farmer has found himself; to continue burning means his soil will be ruined; if he stops burning his land soon ceases to produce paying crops. Now, it is shown by chemical analysis, that these soils are exceedingly rich in nitrogen, but sadly deficient in potash and phosphoric acid, especially in potash; in fact, so much so that often the chemist can not find even weighable amounts.

By burning, the small amount of potash contained in the soil consumed is freed; consequently the farmer obtains a most excellent crop.

The laborious and expensive methods just described can be entirely dispensed with, at the same time, saving greatly in labor and expense by the use of chemical fertilizers. The writer has observed many experiments with them on unproductive peat soils, the results from the use of potash being most remarkable, in instances, simply marvelous. Soils untreated, when sown to grain, the seed would start, make a feeble attempt at growth, then die back, yet with the addition of potash the most magnificent crops would be obtained.

Perhaps nowhere be more strongly illustrated the fact that the crop is controlled by the one of the three essentials—potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen—of which the soil contains the least amounts. These soils are vastly rich in nitrogen, yet almost barren because this most valuable element is useless, until potash and phosphoric acid are added so as to make complete plant food.

One remarkable experiment that came under the writer's notice is particularly worthy of mention. A farmer, near Duncan's, B. C., having unproductive peat land, manured two acres with dung at the rate of 25 to 30 two-horse loads per acre, the adjoining two acres received fifty pounds per acre of potash per acre, broadcasted and harrowed in with the seed, the crop being oats. The result was that the potash treated plot produced twice as much grain of much better quality than the manured plot; the crop on the untreated soils, was not worth harvesting. The actual cost of the potash used was about $1.50 per acre, yet gave double the result obtained from the manure, or in other words, the manure in comparison was worth only three cents per ton, considering cost and labor of hauling and spreading as nothing.

The writer again examined these plots a year later. If there was any after-result from the manure, it was scarcely appreciable. It must not be understood from this that the writer does not appreciate the value of manure; this is simply an instance of its ill-advised use, the manure adding nitrogen to a soil already containing an excess, but supplying little available potash. This farmer now hauls manure on to that part of his farm on which nitrogen is needed and applies potash to his peat soil.

In another article the writer hopes to further treat on the fertilizing of peaty soils, of somewhat varying natures. One point in this perhaps worth considering is, that barnyard manure is not, as some agricultural teachers state, the best manure that was ever made; the best manure is the one best adapted to certain conditions, whether in the form of chemical fertilizers or the natural product of the barnyard, or a combination of both.

FIFTY AGAINST TWO.

It is not reasonable to expect two weeks of outing to overcome the effects of fifty weeks of confinement.

Take a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla along with you. Three doses daily of this great tonic will do more than anything else to refresh your blood, overcome your tired feeling, improve your appetite and make you sleep easy and restful.

Customs Statistics. — The smallest Chinese business done at the Victoria customs house for many years is the record of the month of January, only $22 being collected in Chinese revenue. It was the first month that the $500 head tax applied on Chinese immigrants and indicates in no uncertain manner the efficacy of the new law in the purpose for which it was designed. The imports for the month were as follows: Free, $60,284; dutiable, $176,285 and duty $56,119.33. With Chinese and other revenues added the total is brought up to $35,353.08. The exports for January totaled $100,206. Of this $34,645 represents domestic and $15,561 foreign exports.

Marmalade's Time

We have just received a fine shipment of Fancy Navel Oranges in prime condition for Marmalade. Oranges and Grape Fruit will make the finest Marmalade. Try this combination.

FANCY NAVEL ORANGES ..... 15c. Dozen
GRAPE FRUIT ..... 50c. Dozen

Dixi H. Ross & Co., CASH GROCERS
The Only Independent Grocers.

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We have a full stock on hand from 1 to 6 feet wide.

The Hickman Tye Hardware Co.,
LIMITED.
32 and 34 Yates Street, Victoria, B. C.

Government Creamery Butter ..... 25c per lb
Alberta Dairy Butter ..... 20c per lb
Roll Bacon ..... 15c per lb.
Pic Nic Hams ..... 12½c per lb
Oranges ..... 2 Dozen for 25c

MOWAT & WALLACE,
Popular Grocers. Cor. Yates and Douglas Sts.

TEMPT THE APPETITE

And satisfy it as well. You can do that when you buy from these stores. We are prepared for this season with as choice a collection of groceries as was ever shown in this city.

WHITE CASTILE SOAP, 3 lb. Bars ..... 25c.
CALIFORNIA SEEDLESS ORANGES, 2 Doz. for ..... 25c.
SEVILLE ORANGES for Marmalade, per Box $1.00

The Saunders Grocery Co. Ltd.
'PHONE 28. 39 AND 41 JOHNSON STREET.

The "West End" Grocery Co. Lt.
'PHONE 88. 42 GOVERNMENT STREET.

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CHARLES DAY & CO., London,
ARE THE SOLE EXPORT BOTTLING AGENTS FOR
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And on each LABEL must be found the following Notice and Signature: "In order that Consumers may feel assured of genuineness, we would request attention to this our Special Export Label, and to our Trade Mark and Name on Corks, Capsules and Cases, also to age mark.

John Jameson & Son" Ltd.

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VOL. XLVI., NO. 18

News Of The Army And Navy

Probable That Pacific Squadron Will Again Be Admiral's Command.

Rear Admiral Bickford Will Probably Retire In July Next.

London, Jan. 22.—The rumor that the Pacific squadron will be eventually restored to its status of a rear-admiral's command has gained some color by the announcement that in the next two years the rear-admirals' list will be increased by some dozen officers of that rank.

Lieut. Salmond, R. N., on promotion, goes from the flagship Grafton to the cruiser Thorn to fill a vacancy.

Rear-Admiral A. K. Bickford, C. M. G., arrived home last week on giving up command of the Pacific squadron. It is pretty certain that the gallant admiral will not be long unemployed. If not promoted to higher rank, Admiral Bickford will be compulsorily retired on the 16th July next.

The cruiser Brilliant, which at one time was named for service in Pacific waters, will be put in commission the 15th prox. for service with the home fleet.

It is now understood that four battalions of the Royal Garrison Regiment will go to the Cape, which confirms the rumor that they will be ultimately used for colonizing purposes.

When the first-class battleship Cornwallis, about to be put into commission for service with the Mediterranean fleet, joins the flag of Sir Compton E. Domvile, K. C. B., the whole six 19-knot battleships, Duncan, Exmouth, Russell, Albermarle, Montagu and Cornwallis, constructed under the supplementary estimates of 1898, will be serving there. The other five joined the flag within the past nine months. In themselves they constitute a fast, formidable and homogeneous squadron, manned by 4,500 officers and men.

The 10th Battery, R. F. A., at Aldershot, has received the new 18½-pounder field gun, one of the results of the late war.

It need hardly be said that Brevet Lieut.-Col. John E. Gough, V. C., rifle brigade, the latest recipient of the cross, "For Valour" (whose noble act was mentioned in the Colonist lately), commanding the flying column in Somaliland, is an Irishman, the son of Sir C. J. S. Gough, K. C. B., and a relative of Lord Gough. It is not given to many to earn two brevet steps and the V. C. in one campaign. Lieut.-Colonel Gough, who is regimentally a captain in the rifles, obtained the cross for the signal valor he displayed in the action at Dusalem in April last, when he assisted Captains Walker and Rolland in carrying Captain Bruce, who was mortally wounded to a place of safety. As the senior officer present, he made a report of the affair, and, with much modesty, omitted all mention of himself. On his report the other officers received the V. C., and it was only recently that his conduct had been brought under notice.

EXPEL ALLEGED SWINDLERS.

Nice, Feb. 6.—The prefectoral authorities today obtained the expulsion from France of Messrs. Hurt and Ireland, two Americans arrested several days ago on suspicion of being international swindlers. This action was taken by the wives of the prisoners through United States Consul Vanburn. Both Messrs. Hurt and Ireland are ill, and it was considered expedient to ask for their expulsion at once, rather than that they should be compelled to remain in prison during an investigation. The men will leave for Italy tomorrow evening.

THE GERMAN ARMY.

Proposed Increase in Strength Will Not Take Place This Year.

Berlin, Feb. 6.—The Reichstag today passed the bill prolonging for one year the maintenance of the army at present peace strength. It was generally predicted before the last election that the government would attempt to carry a bill this winter increasing the number of troops under arms, but the unsatisfactory financial status of the empire prevented. It is now believed the government merely postponed the execution of the plan until the next session of the Reichstag.

VENEZUELA SHAKEN.

Sharp Earthquake in Orinoco Valley the First of the Month.

Caracas, Feb. 1.—A strong earthquake shock was felt in Venezuela at 1 o'clock yesterday morning. It was especially severe in the Gulf of Paria and in the Orinoco district, and it was accompanied by a loud noise resembling thunder. The shock was also felt at Maturin, Carupano, Rio Caribe, Ciudad, Bolivar and San Felix. It is reported that at the mouth of the Orinoco river the waters suddenly rose three feet.

JAPS ARE BUYING B. C. SALMON

Large Order Received By United Canneries For Shipment to Far East.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Toronto, Feb. 5.—H. C. Cannon, president of the United Canneries Company, said tonight that one of the companies in British Columbia has received an order for about 400,000 low grade salmon from the Japanese government

The C. P. R. flyer, west bound, crashed into a freight train at London about noon today, smashing several refrigerator cars. Fireman George Hunter jumped, but struck the freight car and was thrown under the wheels of his engine and ground to pieces. Driver John Abernathy stuck to the engine and was so shaken up by the shock that it has driven him insane.

AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION.

U. S. Representative Entertains the Elite of St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 5.—The Leuchtenburg Palace, the home of the American embassy, was the scene tonight of the first large reception of the season, given by United States Ambassador McCormack and Mrs. McCormack. Several hundred persons were present including many of the Russian nobility, all the prominent diplomatists including the ambassadors of Great Britain and Germany and the ministers of Belgium, Japan and China.