# The Colonist.

FRIDAY JANUARY 12 1892.

## THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The Public Accounts of the Dominion for the year ending June 30th, 1891, show that its finances are in a healthy condition. The revenue for the year was $38,579,310, and the expenditure on account of Consolidated Fund was $36,343,567. This leaves a surplus of $2,235,742. This is not a surplus over all expenditure of the year, because the sums paid on capital account are not taken into the calculation. The expenditure on capital account for the year was $4,449,640. If from this is taken the surplus, $2,235,742, and the sinking fund investments, $1,938,078, there will be left $275,818, which was the amount added to the public debt last year. It may then be said with a very near approach to exactitude, that receipts and expenditure almost balanced each other. This is an exceedingly hopeful state of affairs. The debt of the Dominion is quite large enough and we are glad to see that it is one of the great objects of the Finance Minister to add as little to it as possible. It amounted, on the 30th of last June, to $237,808,030. The rate of interest paid on the gross debt averaged for the year $3.35 per cent., against $3.37 for the previous year. The net rate paid on the debt fell from $2.99 to $2.93. This reduction caused a saving of about $142,685. The interest on the public debt was $9,594,136. Civil government cost the people $1,334,200. The expense of the Militia was $1,279,513, and there was paid for Public Works, out of revenue, $1,937,545. The expense of administering justice in the Dominion amounts to $726,592. There were paid out in subsidies to provinces $3,903,756, and the Indians of the Dominion were subsidized to the extent of nearly one million.

The principal sources of revenue are Customs and Excise. The revenue from Customs amounted to $23,399,300, and that from Excise was $6,914 85. The Post-office brought in $2,515,823, and the expenditure on that branch of the public service was $3,161,675—the deficit being considerably over half a million. The railways paid into the treasury $3,181,888, the canals $354,163, and they took out of it $4,505,516, besides the cost of collection, which was $196,580. From this we see that state railways in this Dominion do not pay. A good deal can be learned from the public accounts by those who are industrious and patient enough to study them. But they must be studied as a whole, and not glanced over for the purpose of serving a party.

## BAD IN PRINCIPLE.

We see that Mr. Brown, of New Westminster, has placed on the notice paper the following resolution:

"That it is advisable that under proper rules and restrictions the payment of the interest upon the loan bonds and debentures of the different municipalities of the province should be guaranteed by the Provincial Government."

We beg to suggest that the proper amendment to this resolution would be something like the following:

"That it is most inadvisable that under any rules and restrictions that can possibly be devised, the payment of the interest upon the loan bonds and debentures of the different municipalities should be guaranteed by the Provincial Government."

The proper title of an Act to be framed on the principle contained in Mr. Brown's resolution would be, "An Act to encourage extravagance and improvidence in municipalities," for that would be really its nature. Municipalities, like individuals, should be made to feel that the most valuable, as well as the most necessary, of all virtues, is self-reliance. A municipality which cannot get along independently has forfeited its right to existence. Besides, the habit of looking to Government continually, which a measure of this kind is intended to encourage and strengthen, is most enervating and demoralizing. Municipalities should exercise prudence and foresight, and should learn the very useful art of cutting the coat according to the cloth, but Mr. Brown's dry-nursing resolution, if it were allowed to assume the form of a law, would have the effect of producing the impression on municipal bodies that those virtues and that art are unnecessary or obsolete.

If we do not mistake the Province of Ontario undertook the task of bringing up municipalities by hand, in some such way as Mr. Brown proposes that the Legislature of this Province should do, and when the time for payment came many municipalities were unable to meet their obligations, and the Province was obliged to shoulder their debts. We are under the impression, too, that some municipalities were expected to pay in political support to the Government of the day, debts that ought to have been paid in hard cash.

Now, if the House of Assembly is wise, it will refuse to place a temptation and a stumbling-block in the way of both municipalities and governments, and let them each hoe their own row. It will require all their energy and all their discretion to do that well.

Mr. Brown must know from experience that this pernicious habit of depending upon governments to do for them what they ought to do for themselves grows upon people. Was it not Mr. Brown, of New Westminster, who, last year, introduced what was called an "Enabling Bill," to shield the corporation of that city from the consequences of mistakes which its members had made. The protection asked for was granted, and now we have Mr. Brown again applying to the Legislature for favors not only for New Westminster, but for all the municipalities in the province. He wants the province to take upon itself a share of the pecuniary obligations which they may hereafter see fit to incur. We do not think that the Legislature will insult the municipalities by providing crutches for them, as if they were so many cripples, unable to walk alone. We cannot but think that Mr. Brown underestimates the self-respect, as well as the self-reliance and the good sense of the municipalities of the province.

## SECOND THOUGHTS.

We are glad to observe that the members who were the other day clamoring for an immediate redistribution of the representation of the province have apparently been convinced that they were a little too hasty. When they came to think the matter over they must have seen the folly of blaming the Government for not promising a redistribution bill before the details of the census were even published, and when the figures that had been placed before the people were evidently very far from being accurate. If the Government had the data in their possession for five or six months it would not be wise to hurry them; but to scold them and to accuse them of having violated their pledges when they could not have possibly come to a rational conclusion in the matter, showed that the fault-finders were not disposed to do either themselves or the Government justice.

The Report of the Committee of the Executive Council on Census Bulletin No. 1, very probably set some of the gentlemen thinking, and showed them that a redistribution based upon such figures as that bulletin contained, must be unjust to the rural population of the province. The analysis of the figures of the census shows that there has been since 1881 an actual decrease in the white population of the rural districts. Every one knows that this has not been the case. While the city population of the province has increased from 9,070 in 1881 to 41,762 in 1891, the white population, including Chinese, has decreased from 14,728 to 13,587. Every inhabitant of the province knows that this must be a mistake. There has been a large increase of the city population, but there has also been a corresponding increase of the population of the country districts. It will be seen that if a redistribution were now made on this basis of population it would be the country and not the towns that would suffer. This is not the result that the greater number of those who are urgent for an immediate redistribution wish or expect. The Vancouver World makes some very sensible remarks on this phase of the redistribution question. It says:

Now, we all know that the census recently taken, so far as has been announced, has proved exceedingly disappointing in this respect, and does not show such a preponderance of population in this section of the province as would justify redistribution and dissolution of the House. It is with deep regret that we say it, but it is nevertheless true, that the figures of the lower Fraser valley especially are most disappointing, and do not bring the population nearly as high as was anticipated, or as many of us believe it still to be. The local Government, so it is said on what seems to be good authority, has felt the unfairness of the results attained, particularly as regards the lower Fraser, and that it has made strong representations to the Dominion Government on the subject. We really cannot understand how, under such circumstances, the members for the District can square their action yesterday with the rights and wishes of their constituents by demanding a redistribution at a time when it would inflict positive injury upon this portion of British Columbia. Their course—if they had any sense of their obligations to those who sent them to the Assembly—should be to await a reply from the Federal authorities ere bringing pressure upon the Ministry here to decide upon a redistribution that would only prove harmful in the extreme."

The representatives of the district of Westminster would do well to give heed to the admonitions of the World and to study closely the paper, relative to the population of British Columbia, which the Government has placed in their hands.

The News-Advertiser discusses the subject of redistribution in a confused and ambiguous way. It produces no figures and gives no reason for its precipitency. All that we can gather from its oracular utterances is that it expects that when a redistribution is made the present Government will be in a minority. It must not make too sure of this. It would not surprise us at all, if, in the Legislative Assembly which will be convened after the redistribution is effected, no matter on what basis, there will be no place for the gentleman who now occupies the position of senior member for Vancouver. This is a world of vicissitudes, and greater changes than this are constantly occurring.

### Women Voters.

A strange commentary on the anxiety of women to possess the franchise is furnished (says the *Times*) by the city of Boston, the most cultured centre in the United States. The advocates of women's rights in that city are finding it difficult to explain the apathy which exists among the Boston women to make use of their right to vote for school commissioners. In the year 1888, 20,252 women registered as voters, and 19,490 voted at the election. In 1889, only 10,051 voted; in 1890 the number had fallen to 7,434; while in 1891 fewer than 6,000 exercised the franchise. It seems that the women of Massachusetts labored hard for years to secure the right to go to the polls, and yet, in the course of three years, the number who availed themselves of the new liberty fell from nearly 20,000 to 6,000.

The French steamer St. Andre reports that off Decamp she collided with and sunk the Danish brig Thor. All the crew of the Thor were drowned with the exception of a boy.

Collector Wasson, of Port Townsend, received information, on Wednesday, from Deputy Collector Berry, of Tacoma, that a British ship towed to that port by the tug Tyee was found, upon investigation, to have come from San Francisco without having cleared from that port.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, Feb 5.

## THE CITY.

### The Finlayson Estate.

The will of the late Mr. Roderick Finlayson was filed for probate, yesterday morning.

### The County Court.

His Lordship, the Chief Justice, got through the greater portion of the County Court list, yesterday, without the ordinary break for lunch. The cases disposed of were of the usual order, the largest being summonses for payment by contractors.

### Moving to the City.

Loyal Dauntless Lodge of the Canadian Order of Oddfellows, M U., which has, since its institution, met regularly in Esquimalt, will, in future, hold its gatherings in Victoria City, the majority of the members being found to be residents of the city.

### Did Herself No Harm.

The cause of the attempt to commit suicide at Victoria West a few days ago is said to have been family troubles. The hand of the lady attempting to take her own life was stayed by her daughter before she had taken sufficient poison to seriously injure herself.

### A Sealer in Distress.

A two-masted sealing schooner, name unknown, was reported yesterday to have entered Dodge's cove, Barclay Sound, with her head gear carried away, and other damage done to her rigging. The Indians who made the report think the schooner is the Annie E. Paint, of this city.

### A Telephone in the North.

Mr. C. W. D. Clifford of the Hudson's Bay Co., who returned home last evening by the Danube, took with him the materials for a short line telephone service, which is to connect Port Simpson with Georgetown, Mr. Williscroft's headquarters, seven miles away. The line has been rendered absolutely necessary by the requirements of business.

### Nearing Completion.

Work on the new Gorge Road Methodist Church is advancing rapidly, every fine day seeing considerable progress made. It is hoped and expected that the Church will be ready for the formal opening on Sunday, March 13th, and Tuesday, March 15th. The new temple gives promise of being creditable alike to the architect, contractor, pastor and congregation.

### A Good Game Looked For.

The game of Rugby football to be played at Beacon Hill to-morrow—Victoria vs. Vancouver—is expected to be without exception the best of the season. Vancouver will send over a team that has been working for a month past to get in good condition, and which will give the Capital boys a hard tussel. Names of both teams will appear to-morrow.

### Rough Weather For Sealers.

A letter received, yesterday, from Capt. Cox, of the sealing schooner E. B. Marvin, dated "At Sea, January 28th," says the day of waiting was the first on which the boats could be lowered, a continuation of south-east gales having prevailed since the time of leaving port. A number of other schooners in company with the Marvin had shared her ill-luck.

### A Fast Launch Needed.

Since the departure of Supt. Roycraft, and the subsequent sale under the hammer of his yacht, the Ada, the provincial police have had no suitable craft for the frequent trips to the islands and along the coast which they are required to make. The police hope that they will be provided with a fast naptha launch in the near future; it's just, they say, what is needed.

### Lunch for the Legislators.

M. Louis Young, who, for several years, has catered most acceptably to the members of the House, will, to-day, open the refreshment room for the session. This year the lunch will be better than ever, a well appointed kitchen being provided in connection with the dining room. Pressmen and Parliamentarians will alike be pleased to again see Louis' smiling face, and hear the familiar call, "soup?"

### The Council Must Speak Quickly.

Amongst the communications considered at Wednesday evening's session of the City Council, was one from a former member of the city clerk's staff, who, hearing that the new Council contemplated a number of changes, applied for the position of assistant C.M.C. The concluding paragraph of the letter is what caused the Council to stop and think over it. It is: "Owing to the fact that there are numerous applications for my services in other quarters, this offer is open only for a limited time."

### Did Not Go.

Frank Stevens, vagrant and morphine fiend, did not appear in yesterday's Police Court, and a sentence of three month's imprisonment at hard labor was recorded in his absence. He was thought to have left town, but during the day Officer Smith received information that he had been seen in a Yates street barber shop. The information proved correct; Stevens had been there and begged two bits to buy morphine with. As a warrant has been issued, he will probably be forced to serve out his term.

### Dredging the Harbor.

The work of dredging the harbor and removing the obstacles which lie in the way of thoroughly safe navigation is proceeding with the best results. The Ingersoll rock drill is still at work on Pinnacle Rock, and once or twice a week blasting is done, after which the clamp dredger is set in motion, and the stuff removed. The drills sink about one inch per minute, and as soon as a sufficient depth is attained, the dynamite cartridge is applied. For the past couple of months the plant has been engaged on this particular rock, which lies opposite the C. P. N. wharf. When operations are completed there will be a uniform depth of 2½ fathoms in the channel. The Spar Bay obstruction and Beaver Rock will be next attacked, and when these are cleared the harbor of Victoria will be second to none on the coast.

### The Old Folks' Home.

Ex-Mayor John Grant, who originated, and has fostered, the Old Folks' Home project, says that it has not fallen through by any means. He will, in the course of a few days, go out with a subscription list, attached to the plans for the proposed building designed and drawn by Mr. John Teague, and he hopes and expects to receive sufficient assistance from charitable Victorians to go ahead with the work during the coming spring. The first thing to be looked for, the site, has been generously presented by Mr. R. P. Rithet, his only condition being that the "home" shall cost not less than $10,000; Mr. John Teague has given of his time and skill, preparing the plans and agreeing to superintend the construction of the building; and a number of handsome cash subscriptions have been volunteered. Mr. Grant thinks there will be no difficulty in paying for the Home out of private subscriptions, and the City Council will then undertake its maintenance.

### McFarland-McFarland.

Mr. Justice Drake, sitting in Chambers yesterday, granted the application of the defendant, from whom a divorce is sought by his wife, Ella, to name Mr. S. Perry Mills his solicitor in place of Mr. E. M. Yarwood.

### Somewhat Exaggerated.

The Indian Department pronounce the report of the fatality following the epidemic of measles among the Fountain tribe considerably exaggerated. The medical man who was sent to the assistance of the Indians, prescribed for 37 or 38 cases, very few of which terminated fatally.

### Greer vs. Regina.

This *cause celebre* will be before court, to-day, when argument will be heard as to writ of error, upon which grounds Greer was released from prison at New Westminster. The circumstances of the case are well known to the public, and the result of to-day's proceedings is looked to with considerable interest.

### Salvation Army.

Active preparations are being made by the local corps for the reception of Commissioner Rees. The commissioner is expected to arrive, this evening, and, to-night, will be met by the soldiers and officers at the barracks. To-morrow evening the interesting ceremony of presenting colors will take place, and, on Sunday, special services will be held.

### Probably a Fake.

Information was given one of the city police officers yesterday that a man had been "held up" on the Esquimalt road Wednesday night, badly cut in a struggle with the robber, and relieved of a considerable sum of cash. The informant asked to be, and was directed to Sergeant Langley, but never reached that officer to give his report.

### The Union Pacific Active.

A prominent capitalist of Port Townsend, who is at present in Victoria, says that the Port Townsend Railway and Water Works bonds have been placed to good advantage with Jay Gould and others representing the Union Pacific Railway Co. The railway will at once be continued to Port Angeles, the Union Pacific Railway Co., seemingly, being determined to secure a direct line to the Sound.

### A Mark for Local Chess Players.

It may be interesting to the lovers of the "pastime of kings," in this city, to know that a gentleman, who has lately arrived here, has the reputation of being one of the finest chess players in America. He has played in three competitions for the championship of the United States, and twice been pitted against the world's champions. His name is, by request, kept from publication, but any players interested can obtain it by calling at this office. He is anxious for a handicap match.

### Business Change.

Mr. O. H. Goodwin, piano manufacturer, has disposed of his business to Mr. Geo. W. Fuggle, who has been with him for the past three years, and who will continue to do tuning and repairing at his establishment, on Princess Avenue. The manufacture of pianos has had to be abandoned, as workmen could not be induced to come from the East. Mr. Goodwin, whose health has been failing for some time, will go to Southern California, and then, in all probability, to the South Sea Islands.

### Chinese Firecrackers.

The Chinese New Year festivities, just concluded, have been mainly remarkable for the enormous quantity of firecrackers that have been blazed away continuously for the past week. Taking a very low average, it is estimated that over sixty-five thousand packets have gone up in smoke during that time. This means an expense of over $3,200, and, reckoning that but three-quarters of every packet exploded, the number of single squibs destroyed in the seven days has been just about six millions.

### The Victoria School of Arms.

Prof. Foster's School of Arms now numbers eighty members, and lately fine gymnastic appliances have been added to the stock of the institution. The boxing and fencing gallery now contains almost every article that can be obtained, necessary for the promotion of physical strength, and several of the machines are new inventions, and great improvements on the old styles. The fine dressing rooms connected with the establishment are fitted up with every comfort, and the professor has collected several hundreds of fine photos of sporting men of all nations, which adorn the walls of every room in the building.

### An Unlucky Business.

The Seattle restaurant on Yates street is a place of refreshment that was, but is not. It seems to be under a "hoo-doo." When it was opened several months ago it paid fairly well, but not well enough to satisfy the proprietor, who left for the Sound, taking with him all the receipts, but very few receipted accounts. Then it was reopened, about three weeks ago, by two enterprising Seattleites, who followed in the footsteps of No. 1, shaking the dust of Victoria from their feet on Wednesday. Yesterday the creditors were engaged in clearing the place of everything it contained, the last on deck taking the stove.

## RAILWAY EXTENSION.

### The C.P.R. Determined to Improve Their Interior Connections.

The necessity of opening up the rich interior of British Columbia is not being overlooked by the C.P.R. company. General Superintendent H. Abbott, now in the city, says that many extensions and new short lines are under consideration, and during the next week or so surveys from Revelstoke to the head of Arrow lake will be undertaken. The distance to be traversed is about 28 miles, and it is not expected that any serious engineering difficulties will be met with in the construction of this piece of road, which will open a more convenient connection with the lower Columbia, and allow travellers to come and go much later in the season than they can now.

As soon as the development of the Slocan country, Kootenay district, justifies the step, railway communication will be established with this section. Sooner or later the C.P.R. is bound to build to the lower end of Arrow lake, and ultimately to connect with the Kootenay and Columbia railway.

The city of Philadelphia has fined the government of the United States $5 for not shoveling the snow off the sidewalk before the postoffice.

## THE BACHELORS' BALL.

### A Gay Company Throng the Assembly Hall at a Magnificent At Home.

### Perfect Arrangements Result in all Having a Thoroughly Enjoyable Time.

Like bright flowers in the gardens in spring time were the multi-colored and beautiful dresses of the scores of ladies who last night attended the At Home given by the "Bachelors of Victoria" in the Assembly Rooms. Nine hundred invitations had been issued, and not a great many regrets were sent in. There must have been present last evening in the neighborhood of 600 people, all of whom went in for good, solid and rare enjoyment with a zest and spirit that gave dash and vigor to the outing. As a general rule the decorations of Assembly Hall for the various dances that have been given there, have been exceptionally good; but on this occasion the Bachelor Committee seem to have fairly outdone themselves in the anxiety to present a ball-room more magnificent than any yet seen. And the magnificence was of that kind which, without being gorgeous, might almost be said to be lavish. The northern end of the hall, where the supper room is, was cut off for a space of about 20 feet in alcoves and cosy corners, separated from the ball-room proper by a mass of evergreens arranged as a high hedge and lighted up between places with gay flags. These alcoves were well patronized throughout the entire evening, for, though there were many who made it a rule not to miss any more dances than was possible, a good many more found time to spare, at intervals, for a little quiet chat or *tete-a-tete*. The ball-room proper was just as pretty as any one could wish, being profusely decorated with flags of all nations and flags of all descriptions, the Union Jack, however, predominating. Here and there around the walls were arranged a number of such articles as are presumed to be the essentials of a perfect bachelor's quarters, tennis racquets, cricket bats and balls, base ball clubs, footballs, lacrosse-sticks, single sticks and foils, and other emblems of the manly and athletic youth. These relieved the monotony of the drapings and made the effect very unique. There were plenty of seats, too, provided at both ends and along both sides of the room, so that, in all, considering the perfect floor and the excellent music by Pfordner's orchestra, there was really nothing more to be desired. The committee in *charge de affaire* consisted of Sir Matthew B. Begbie, and Messrs E. C. Carpenter, Joshua Davies, E. Hasell, H. Hayes, A. W. Vowell and Capt. A. W. Jones, with Mr. L. Napier Armit as honorary secretary. Their efforts to make their guests enjoy themselves to the fullest extent were very much appreciated and eminently successful. The supper which was provided by the caterer for "C" battery mess was one of the most elaborate collations ever prepared for an event of this kind in Victoria. Guests from Nanaimo, Westminster and Vancouver graced the affair with their presence. Some guests were expected from Fort Vancouver, Wash., and Port Townsend, but at the last moment they were unable to come. Dancing was kept up until a late hour this morning, and when the happy company said *au revoir* to the hall, one and all voted that the Bachelor's ball of Feb. 4, 1892, was one of the best on record, and would remain a bright spots in memory. Following is the programme of dances enjoyed:

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| Lancers | Regatta |
| Waltz | Flora |
| Polka | Little Rogue |
| Waltz | Reverie |
| Highland Schottische | Weel may the Keel Row |
| Waltz | Life in the Tropics |
| Lancers | Mother Goose |
| Polka | Clover Leaf |
| Ripple | Angelina |
| Waltz | Hearts and Hands |
| Waltz | Fleur D' Alsace |
| Gallop | Post Horn |
| Lancers | Artists |
| Waltz | New Home |
| Polka | Coquette |
| Waltz | Idalia |
| Ripple | Lillian |
| Waltz | Irene |
| Waltz | Daughter of Love |
| Military Schottische | Dancing in the Barn |
| Waltz | Magnolia |
| Polka | Daisy |
| Waltz | Love Songs |

## ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE,

### Who Left Home With Another Woman's Husband and Her Own Husband's Cash.

Another man's wife was in town, yesterday, with another woman's husband. The parties came from the Sound, and were traced to a popular hotel at Wellington. The lady in question is said to have been married for the past ten years, and, during the absence of her husband, a commercial traveller, she is charged with having made love to a dashing fellow who cannot boast of fortune, profession, trade or any other inducement but a good physique. When the lady left her home on the Sound, her husband was down South, and on his return he found the house empty. There are no children, and even the maid-of-all work had left. On examining private accounts he, however, ascertained a shortage in cash, and a number of bills, which he did not anticipate. He at once set to work to ascertain the whereabouts of his missing partner. That she had come to Vancouver Island he managed to glean from enquiries, and thither he proceeded. When he got here he examined the hotel registers, but the gentleman's name (he knew him) did not appear on any of them. One autograph, however, struck him as suspicious, and he enquired as to its proprietor, and that individual's personal appearance. The description given satisfied him that he was on the correct scent. Mr. and Mrs. ——— had gone up country, and would probably be found at Wellington. To Wellington the irate husband went, and on the register of the hotel called after the town site was found a different name but like penmanship to that displayed on the Victoria register. The lady and gentleman had disappeared and had returned to the capital. The husband retraced his steps, but there is not even a suspicion that any city hotel register has been signed by the same party. Yet they are supposed to be in town, and will likely be traced to-day. The matter is in the hands of a local detective.

The immigrants into the United States in 1891 numbered 590,666, an increase of 20 per cent. over 1890. The probabilities are that the influx of population will be still greater this year.

The Archduke Joseph, of Austria, is trying to domesticate the gypsies, who are very numerous in Central Europe. He has built a village and installed a tribe in it, with all the appointments necessary to enable them to make a comfortable living without great exertion.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, Feb. 6.

## THE CITY.

### Gray vs. McCallum.

The case of Gray vs. McCallum, which was to have come up again in the Supreme Court, yesterday, was adjourned until the 12th inst.

### Its Grip on the Force.

The Provincial jail staff is wrestling with grip. Officers Thomas and Maldoon have been thrown, and Officer Hunter is acting as relief man.

### The End Is Not Yet.

No action has as yet been taken by Mr. Mills concerning the attack made on him on Thursday night. He will bring the matter before the courts as soon as possible.

### Contract Let.

Messrs. Thomas & Glover were, yesterday, awarded the contract for a two-story brick building, at the corner of Fort and Quadra streets, to be used as a cigar factory and residence by Mr. M. Bantly.

### Directors Elected.

The directors of the British Columbia Fire Insurance Company have elected the following officers for the current year: President, N. Shakespeare; vice-president, W. Wilson; manager, Wm. Dalby; secretary-treasurer, F. J. Claxton.

### A Tidy Little Sum.

The police have received a complaint from May Davis, who resides at No. 10 Broad street, which they are at present investigating. The complainant alleges that she was robbed of the tidy little sum of $415 sometime before yesterday morning.

### A Wise Decision.

It is likely that the Victoria West Amateurs will repeat "Breach of Promise" at an early date, for charity. The last performance was so thoroughly successful that the decision of the amateurs will be hailed with unqualified satisfaction.

### A Natural Sequence.

During the hearing of the Greer case yesterday, Mr. Mills, counsel for Greer, took occasion to remark that he had attended sittings of the court in the Province where that honorable body had got through its work in an up-country saloon. A barrister in court observed that the unlucky individual in the dock on that occasion might well be styled "the prisoner at the bar."

### Mrs. Marvin Honored.

The young ladies who took part in the military drill on Tuesday last, yesterday afternoon presented their leader, Mrs. W. Marvin, with a handsome traveling case and silver card holder, appropriately engraved with her name, in recognition and appreciation of Mrs. Marvin's untiring efforts in bringing the drill to a degree of excellence closely bordering on perfection.

### A Chess Club to be Formed.

The item in yesterday's COLONIST intimating to all chess players in the city that a gentleman recently arrived here was open for a game, has attracted considerable attention, and no less than eighteen gentlemen have called at this office after the name of the "dark horse." One of these gentlemen was Mr. A. J. Rowbotham, who has quite a little repute as a player, and who is willing, at any rate, to endeavor to sustain the honor of Victoria. There is a movement, too, on foot for the formation of a chess club in the city, and Mr. Adler, one of the most prominent of local players, will endeavor to assist the scheme to completion. All interested are invited to interested; and leave their names on the subscription list, which is now open at the Brunswick Hotel.

### The Outer Harbor.

The Mudlark has been able to accomplish more work in the last week than during the previous month or so, the weather having been favorable. Should it continue so, the whole basin at the Rithet wharves will have been dredged to a uniform depth of thirty feet at dead low spring tides by another three or four weeks. This accomplished, the work of further improving the approach, under the Dominion Government contract, will be proceeded with. So soon as the filling in from the stone wall and under the wharves is finished, planking will be completed and warehouses erected. It has been owing to the fact that it was not possible yet to handle conveniently the C. P. R. steamers, that they have not tied up at the dock. The filling in under the wharves, and the building of the pontoons has prevented the necessary conveniences being furnished.

### The First Survey.

The Nicola Valley Railway Company, who propose to build from Spence's bridge, on the C.P.R., to Nicola lake, 40 miles, more or less, have had surveying parties out for the past three months. These parties have just returned, the work of making the preliminary survey being completed. The projected railway, which follows the valley of the Nicola, is expected to open up many acres of rich agricultural land, as well as considerable mineral wealth, the section of country near the junction of the Coldwater and the Nicola being especially valuable. The principal minerals encountered are coal, iron and silver, the latter being still but little prospected. The coal is known to be valuable, both in quantity and quality, and the iron deposits are held to be practically inexhaustible. The necessary plans are now being drawn, and application will be made to the Dominion Government for a subsidy.

### Still a Secret.

The special Council meetings, held for the purpose of considering the offices held by the present officials and the desirability of reducing their cost, were concluded, last night, at 11 o'clock. When the aldermen were first called together for this purpose, it was resolved that the subject should be discussed with closed doors. This rule has been observed throughout, and even now the result of their deliberations are kept private. Spoken to on the subject, last night, by a COLONIST reporter, Mayor Beaven said that he did not feel at liberty to authorize the City Clerk to give any information concerning the actions of the aldermen, sitting in special council, until the resolution adopted at the first meeting be rescinded. No report, he said, was likely to be submitted at the next ordinary meeting of the Board, and it was probable that the result of their deliberations would not be made public until the estimates for the year were being adopted. In these provision would be made for certain offices, but who is to occupy them could not now be stated. It is, however, understood that the changes proposed will effect a saving of about $5,000 per annum. The offices of the City Engineer, Surveyor, and Water-works Commissioner are to be amalgamated, with a salary attached of $2,000. Several changes are to be made in the electric light ing department, whereby a considerable reduction in present expenses will be gained. The library salaries will be kept within the sum prescribed in the by-law, $1,200. In the police department some minor changes are made, but the salary total will not be materially altered. This is all the information on the subject which can be gleaned.

### The Finlayson Estate.

It has been stated that the will of the late Mr. Roderick Finlayson leaves his valuable estate exclusively to the family, consisting of five sons and three daughters. The realty is roughly estimated at $250,000, and the personal property at about $280,000.

### The People's Savings.

The Victoria branch of the Dominion Savings Bank during 1891 received deposits to the amount of $280,000, or a little more than $10 to each unit of people. A recent order of the department has made the maximum annual deposit $1,000, instead of $300, and the limit of an individual account $3,000 instead of $1,000.

### The Liquor License Appeal.

The case of Sauer vs. Walker, which was an appeal from the decision of Mr. Belyea in the police court concerning the Sunday closing act, was listed for hearing, yesterday, but owing to the fact that none of the judges were at liberty to take it, it was adjourned to a day to be named.

### The Asphalt Company's Case.

The case of the Pacific Asphalt Co. vs. McGregor & Jeeves, was concluded, yesterday morning, before Mr. Justice Drake. The learned judge summed up on the evidence that had been given on the previous day, and the jury, after a short consultation, gave a verdict for the plaintiffs for $6,112 and costs of the action.

### A New Steamer.

The Capilano, the second of the new steel steamers built by the Union Steamship Co., of Vancouver, arrived at the outer wharf at midnight last night. She is a fine, trim little craft, and no doubt will become a favorite with passengers and freight despatchers on her new route. Her captain is Mr. McPhaiden, and her chief engineer H. Darling.

### Clever Specialists.

The company now being organized, and which is to reopen the Imperial Theatre, is composed of a number of clever specialists who will present a programme of novelties. The names of all the artists are not yet announced, but it is understood that Howard and Ward, the aerial performers, and the Durandis, pantomimists, are among the number. The company reopening will hold the boards for about two weeks.

### Got Away with the Cargo.

An opium trader named Hunter, who runs between here and the Sound, was surprised, on Wednesday evening, to find that some of the cargo he was intending to take away was missing. After making a trip across the Sound, to see if he could locate the parties who got away with his "dope," Hunter came back here, and was scouring around town, yesterday, after his man. The missing stock is said to be worth in the neighborhood of $1,200.

### They Are Dangerous.

A gentleman who returned, last evening, from Saanich reports that the old telephone wires on the west Saanich road are down, about eight miles from Victoria. The wires are in several places down across the road, and looped, and in this condition are very liable to trip up horses being driven along the road. It will be advisable for people driving, more especially after dark, out along the road, to guard against an accident. It is probable that within the next day or two the repairs necessary to put the wires in shape will be made.

### A Novel Entertainment.

To-night H. A. Sheldon, of Eugene City, Oregon, or, as he is known more generally, "Bridle Bill," will give a novel entertainment at the Imperial Theatre. He will illustrate his means of breaking in and training horses, lasso, hammer, tomahawk and knife throwing, Indian ball playing, etc., etc. Since his arrival in the city Mr. Sheldon has had more work in the way of training horses in private stables than he has been properly able to handle, and no doubt the knowledge that he is a genuine "artist" in what he professes to do will have the effect of drawing a good audience to-night.

### The Town of Barclay.

The Barclay Sound Land and Improvement Company, Ltd., is the title of a company which met, last night, for incorporation purposes. The capital stock is placed at $100,000, $70,000 of which is fully paid up. The objects of the company are comprised in the building up of the new town of Barclay, situated on Uchucklerit Inlet, at the head of Barclay Sound, and at the mouth of Alberni Canal. The harbor is three miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide, perfectly land-locked, and a natural harbor. The townsite is admirably situated on a gentle slope from the water. The company will encourage industries to establish there, and agree to devote 50 per cent. of all receipts from the sales of two-thirds of the townsite to improvement purposes. A railway from Barclay to the east coast of the Island, at Comox, will be promoted, a preliminary survey having been made of the route. It is claimed that this route would cause all the coal to be shipped from Barclay, towage being avoided, and it being 110 miles nearer San Francisco. The development of the natural resources of the district, which are many, will be encouraged, and will be a leading factor in building up the new town.

### Of Interest to Legal Men.

Yesterday, during the progress of the Greer case, Mr. Justice Walkem took occasion to make some remarks about the practice prevalent in British courts of justice of a judge going into a jury room when the jury had retired to consider their verdict, and making remarks to them concerning the case. He said that for two hundred years, during which time several thousands of such instances had occurred, writs of error had been based on them, and in every case unsuccessfully, thus proving beyond a doubt, on the authority of the brightest jurists in the world, that it was not illegal. Even as late as December last, a like case happened in London. It was in the suit of Lord Russell v. Lady Russell, for a judicial separation, an important case that engaged the attention of the whole world. After the jury had retired, the foreman returned into the courtroom, and, without saying a word, handed up to him a closed paper. Lord Hannan, the judge, read it, wrote an answer, folded it and handed it to the foreman, who then retired to the jury room. And there was absolutely not a single voice raised in protest, although the judge might have, in the communication, advised the jury on a legal point in a totally erroneous manner. It was not known what he wrote and it never would be known. "However, I think," continued Mr. Justice Walkem, "for what my opinion is worth, and with great deference, that, however it is recognized, it is a bad practice for a judge to enter a jury room or to communicate, except in open court, with a jury after a case is closed. But that is only my personal opinion."