CAPITAL NOTES.

February Trade Returns Show Improvement—Ministers' Absence Prevents Cabinet Meeting.

Victoria Promotions in Militia General Orders—High Price for Corporation Debentures.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 15.—Having obtained certificates of qualification at the school recently held at Victoria, Second Lieutenants R. Ross Monro, F. B. Gregory and J. P. Hibben are by Militia General Orders promoted to be Lieutenants in the British Columbia Garrison Artillery. Major P. Æ. Irving, who went out last year, is granted the rank of Captain on retirement. Captain A. W. Jones, district paymaster at Victoria, is granted the honorary rank of Major.

The city corporation to-day sold $300,000 worth of four per cent. twenty year debentures at 102, the best price, it is believed, ever obtained by any Canadian city.

The meeting of council called for this afternoon has been postponed till to-morrow, Hon. Messrs. Foster and Costigan not having returned from the Maritime Provinces and Sir C H. Tupper being laid up at home by a cold.

Prof. Saunders, of the experimental farm, has sent out circulars requesting farmers to forward their applications early for samples of seed grain.

Collectors of customs have been notified that hymn books are on the free list, but cautioned to see that no improper entries are made under this head.

The trade returns for February show an improvement, the imports having increased by $750,000, and the exports being up to the average.

OTTAWA, March 16.—The cabinet met at three this afternoon, all the ministers being present except Messrs. Ouimet, Smith and Ferguson. The cabinet rose sharp at six o'clock, but the Premier was in consultation with Messrs. Foster and Haggart for some time afterwards. Subsequently when Sir Mackenzie Bowell saw the corps of newspaper correspondents he stated that there was nothing official to be announced. From other sources, however, your correspondent learned that the Manitoba school question will be taken up again at 11 a.m. on Monday. The matter came before council to-day in the shape of a report from the Minister of Justice Sir Charles Tupper is well known to be in favor of following a constitutional course and granting such remedial legislation as may be found to be warranted by the facts. A sub-committee of the council have been examining his report, and the government will probably reach a conclusion on Monday.

Thomas Patterson is confirmed in his position as lighthouse keeper at Cape Beale, vice Cox, deceased.

It is reported that work will be commenced on the Hudson's Bay railway within the next three weeks.

CANADIAN NEWS.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

ST. JOHNS, Nfld., March 16.—Henry Cook, ex manager of the defunct Commercial bank, was arrested this evening and lodged in jail. He will be arraigned for examination before the magistrate to-morrow, when there will be made against him specific charges, probably of embezzlement. Bail was not allowed.

TORONTO, March 15.—In the legislature yesterday, Haycock, the Patron leader, moved that the maintenance of Government House at the expense of the province be discontinued after the appointment of a successor or other earlier termination of the term of the present Lieutenant-Governor. Sir Oliver Mowat moved in amendment for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the matter and this was carried by 44 to 37.

WINNIPEG, March 15.—The city council last night decided to again pave Main street with cedar blocks.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN, March 15—On Wednesday two young men named Smith, who came from Calgary last fall, were found dead in their shanty. It is supposed they were accidently poisoned.

TORONTO, March 15.—The grand association of the Patrons of Industry appointed a committee to formulate a scheme of life insurance in connection with the order, and also a fire insurance department.

MONTREAL, March 15.—There was a stormy meeting of the shareholders of the Consumers' cordage company in this city yesterday, and sensational stories are afloat in connection therewith. It is charged that one of the directors, who is also a paid official of the company, has made an overdraft on the company funds of $175,000 which has not been redeemed.

KINGSTON, March 15.—A cross-petition in the case of the election of Hon. Wm. Harty to the Ontario legislature has been filed. The petitioner is Mr. Donaldson of Portsmouth. A large number of charges are preferred against Dr. Smythe and his agents.

KINGSTON, March 15.—C. Loucks, aged 24, a farmer of Arden, is in jail here charged with attempting to shoot a neighbor, John Cox. The men quarrelled over the right to chop wood on a lot adjoining Cox's farm.

WATERLOO, March 15.—Bauer & Co.'s shoddy factory was burned yesterday, the engine-house alone being saved. The loss is $3,000. There was no insurance.

ST. MARTIN, March 15.—J. P. Brown was unanimously chosen as the Liberal candidate for Chateauguay here to-day.

ST. JOHN, March 15.—E D. Wilmot, M.P., has been chosen as the Conservative candidate in Queen's and Sunbury.

DRESDEN, March 15.—Jas. Clancy was yesterday nominated for the Commons by the Conservatives of Bothwell.

WOODSTOCK, March 15.—D. R. Ross, of Embro, has declined the nomination of the Prohibitionists for the Commons for North Oxford.

ELMIRA, March 15.—The North Waterloo Liberals have nominated E. W. B. Snyder, ex-M.P.P., the present member, Mr. Bowman, retiring on account of ill-health.

MADOC, March 15.—The North Hastings Conservatives have nominated Mr. John Casey for the Commons.

HAMILTON, March 15.—The Wentworth county auditor to-day reported that the county treasurer, John T. Stock, is $9,000 short in his accounts. Stock conducted a general store in Watertown which had been a losing institution. He admits using the county's money to bolster up his business. His bondsmen will make the shortage good, and Stock will be allowed to retain the treasuryship for the present with curtailed powers.

TO HANG FOR MURDER.

ST. THOMAS, March 15—After eight days trial in the Elgin county assizes, of one of the most remarkable murder cases ever known in Canada, John D. Hendershott and Wm. D. Welter were to-night found guilty of the murder of Wm. Henry Hendershott on December 11 last. The murdered man was a nephew of the first-named prisoner and was engaged to marry his daughter. William Henry's life was insured for $11,000 shortly before the date of the crime, in the girl's favor, her father paying the policy premiums. Both Welter and Wm. Henry Hendershott were in John D. Hendershott's employment, and the defence tried to prove that the victim was accidentally killed while felling trees in Hendershott's bush. The defence made out a fairly good case and were confident of a verdict of acquittal. The Chief Justice sentenced both men to be hanged on June 8. The prisoners' counsel will apply for a new trial.

CABLE NEWS.

NICE, March 15.—Queen Victoria arrived here to-day and was received with a great display of ceremony by the mayor and the other municipal authorities of the town. She entered a carriage and with a military escort was driven to Cimdez. Her Majesty has borne the journey well. She showed no signs of fatigue.

LONDON, March 15.—Mr. Herbert Murray, formerly chairman of the customs department, has been appointed to proceed to Newfoundland for the purpose of distributing financial relief on behalf of the Imperial government.

LONDON, March 15.—Advices from Sydney, N S. W., state that Sir Robert William Duff, governor of that colony, who has been ill for several weeks, died to-day. In the house this afternoon Under Colonial Secretary Buxton condoled with the bereaved family and expressed his sense of the loss sustained.

LONDON, March 15.—The Globe states that the government has conveyed a hint to the opposition that Sir William Vernon Harcourt is disposed to accept the speakership when Sir Arthur Wellesley Peel resigns, providing his election is not opposed. The idea is said to have been well received by the opposition, and if it is adopted it is reported that Campbell Bannerman will succeed Harcourt as Liberal leader in the House of Commons.

MADRID, March 15.—In the chamber today Premier Sagasta said he had no information as to the rumored arrival of the Reina Regente at the Canaries. The government had not abandoned hope, however. Human bodies and wreckage had been found at various ports along the southern coast, but they did not belong to the cruiser. In the senate Admiral Beranger said: "The Reina Regente was one of the best ships in her class afloat. She was well appointed in every way. If she is lost, I believe she must have collided with another vessel or have gone ashore." In a subsequent interview Admiral Beranger said that the overweights of the cruiser's deck guns was rectified two years ago by his order while he was minister of marine.

BERLIN, March 15.—The Prussian upper house has agreed to send congratulations to Bismarck. Many Berlin families will decorate and illuminate their houses on April 1. A committee has been formed in Berlin to collect a Bismarck fund, the interest of which will be applied to the relief of Germans who through no fault of their own have got into pecuniary trouble. Some 250 students have submitted Bismarck birthday songs to the committee of award.

LONDON, March 15.—The Daily News correspondent in Berlin says: "The Russian Censor has sent particulars to the liberal newspapers declaring that the government does not intend the slightest alteration of Alexander III's domestic policy, and that newspapers continuing to hint at such a change will be punished. Some newspapers are so alarmed that they meditate voluntary appeals to the censor to scrutinize their leaders before the same go to press."

SHANGHAI, March 16—Li Hung Chang, China's peace envoy, sailed for Japan this afternoon, with his suite of forty persons.

LONDON, March 15.—The Morning Post learns from Buenos Ayres that the British vice-consul will start at once for Salta with a government order to the local officials to surrender Jabez Spencer Balfour, the Liberator wrecker, to his custody. Other reports tend to confirm the Post's dispatches.

LONDON, March 15.—Italy has offered her good offices to Venezuela to settle the difficulty with the French and Belgian governments. Count Maglino has gone to Caracas to attempt an amicable settlement. Italy was not concerned in the conflict that culminated with the return of the French and Belgian ministers' passports. Venezuela had meditated dealing with these two ministers long before the offensive joint note was sent out from the Caracas legations. The note was in no way confidential, but was communicated openly to Italy.

LONDON, March 15.—Word has been received that at the annual meeting of the Victorian rifle association at Melbourne, Captain Marshall read a letter from Colonel M'Kinnon, secretary of the National Rifle Association of England, stating that members of the permanent force in Australia would be qualified to fire for the Kolapore cups, and that all members of the team would be eligible for open individual matches at Bisley. It was agreed, however, that a team could not possibly be sent to Bisley this season, but every effort will be made to carry out the idea in 1896.

Whidby Rancher Missing.

SEATTLE, March 15.—John G. Phinney, a well known rancher, has been missing from his home for two weeks past, and much uneasiness has been created among his friends. Mr. Phinney is well known by a great many people in this city, and he was quite a frequenter of the Butler hotel, where he usually stayed while in the city. He is a brother-in-law of Captain Frank J. Burns, the well known insurance man, and was a cousin of the late Guy C. Phinney, of this city. Mr. Phinney was seen to leave his home on February 28, the day on which his residence was consumed by fire. He was in company with a strange man and went off in a small rowboat. The missing man is about 50 years of age, tall, rather stooped in figure, was wont to wear a black slouch hat, and possessed a well-kept black moustache. A party of friends have gone to the island to search for him or any traces of him.

A COLUMN BY CABLE.

The Speakership Question Said to Be Dividing the Cabinet—Bannerman the Favorite.

Gladstone on Sunday Observance—A Demand for Protection—The Currency Problem.

LONDON, March 16.—The great interest aroused in the matter of the election of a successor to the Right. Hon. Arthur Wellesley Peel in the speakership of the Commons has been heightened since it has become known that the retirement of Speaker Peel and the selection of his successor is likely to involve a change in the personnel of the cabinet. If Sir William Vernon Harcourt should succeed in persuading his colleagues to accept his nominee for the speakership, Mr. Leonard H. Courtney, who occupied the position of deputy speaker from 1886 to 1892, the situation would be made less complicated. Mr. Courtney, it is believed, would be able to secure the chair in a struggle against the conceded nominee of the Conservatives, Sir Matthew White Ridley. Among the Radicals there is a feeling against Mr. Courtney, but although this feeling is strong it is not sufficiently bitter to afford any material assistance to the opposition in electing a Conservative to the chair. Sir William Harcourt is so greatly interested in the candidacy of Mr. Courtney that he has personally canvassed the Radical section of the House of Commons in his behalf against Mr. Campbell Bannerman, whose election is really desired by a majority of the ministerial party. However, since a majority of the members of the cabinet have selected Mr. Campbell Bannerman as their candidate for Speaker, and he has accepted the nomination, it appears to be settled that he will be the next incumbent of the office.

Mr. Gladstone has intimated that he will make his reappearance in parliament on the occasion of Mr. Peel's retirement, as a tribute to the departing Speaker.

The Chronicle in an article on the probabilities of the succession to the speakership, forecasts the re-arrangement of the cabinet in the event of Mr. Campbell-Bannerman's election, which it regards as almost certain. The assignments, according to this article, are as follows: "Mr. Henry H. Fowler, at present secretary for India, to be secretary of state for war; Mr. John Morley, chief secretary for Ireland, to be secretary of State for India; Mr. Herbert Gladstone, first commissioner of works, to be chief secretary for Ireland." It is pretty certain that if this programme is carried out, the Irish Nationalists will oppose the substitution of young Mr Gladstone for Mr. Morley. The suggestion of the retirement of Mr. Morley for the Irish secretaryship and the withdrawal of Mr. Campbell Bannerman from the war office at this juncture, may threaten to so disturb the ministry that a change will be caused in the selection of a speakership candidate. Mr. Peel's resignation will not be submitted until the return of the Queen from the Continent.

Mr. Gladstone has issued a second article on the observance of Sunday, in which he argues that, with a true Christian, it is not "how much of the Lord's day shall be given to His service, but rather how little shall we withhold." Mr. Gladstone, who is personally a strict observer of Sunday, recently attributed his long life to the fact that he invariably kept Sunday apart from his ordinary life, and especially from his political life.

Mr. H. Rider Haggard, the author, has been selected as the Conservative candidate for parliament for the constituency of East Norfolk.

THE EMPEROR AS A CHAIRMAN.

BERLIN, March 16.—Members of the council of state agree in describing the Emperor as an unusually able chairman. He can control the speakers and lead their excursive addresses to a practical conclusion, they say, with more diplomacy and success than any other presiding officer in their experience. The only criticism is that he often has drawn the rein too lightly. The Emperor's prestige has become, in fact, somewhat embarrassing. The continual appeals made to his judgment as chairman and sovereign have grown to be such an annoyance that, according to to-day's report, he felt obliged yesterday to rebuke several speakers rather sharply. If his person were drawn constantly into the debates within the council, as well as the discussion outside it, he said, he must cease presiding at the meetings. This reference to outside discussion bore on the published statement that Count Kanaitz at the Emperor's special request would not bring his grain monopoly motion to a vote in the reichstag until the council's decision should be known.

As far as is known, the council of state has done little for the agrarians beyond recommending steps to increase the sugar export bounty and to promote the exports of the small distilleries. The Reichsanzeiger publishes this afternoon the council's resolution endorsing Chancellor Hohenlohe's promise to consider with other powers the silver problem. The resolution expresses the opinion that the council should await the result of the government's steps and not seek to initiate measures of its own.

DEMANDS FOR PROTECTION.

To-day the council discussed again the best means of promoting the sale and export of farm produce. The persistent demands of the wheat growers for more protection has aroused the wine growers of the empire to beg for similar favors. The growers of the Moselle valley have petitioned the council to recommend a state wine monopoly, under which the government shall purchase and sell all foreign and artificial wines, establishing minimum prices which will be high enough to save the national German wines from keen competition.

THE MONEY PROBLEM.

Despite the protests from the committee of Berlin merchants, the chambers of commerce and influential trades throughout the empire, the certainty grows that the government will summon an international money conference. Prince Hohenlohe must obtain the acquiescence of the federal government first. With this in hand he will prepare a programme of the conference with the aid of specialists at home and abroad.

NEW ORLEANS, March 15.—The negro screw men were not molested to-day. The general opinion is that there will be no outbreak of lawlessness so long as the militia is kept on guard, but it is also generally agreed that the grievances of the white screw men are deep seated and that the determined spirit of their sympathizers already displayed will show itself again as soon as the state troops are relieved of duty.

Purify your blood, tone up the system, and regulate the digestive organs by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla. Sold by all druggists.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Electric Railway Agreement at Vancouver—The Salmon Run—Farmer Held Up.

Curious Complication at Revelstoke—Free Trade Not Wanted—Politics in the Interior.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, March 16.—The council have reached an agreement with the tram company in reference to construction work. Hastings street will be tracked by the company and leased from the city for five years; the track then to be purchased by the city or re-leased to the tram company.

The tram company will double track a portion of Hastings street, the city paying the interest on the cost of construction. On Granville street a double track will be laid by the tram company under protest, the right of the city to require the company to lay the track being left to be decided afterwards; until such time the company will lease the track from city. If the decision is against the city, then the city will pay for the track. The company will be allowed to track Robson street, leasing it from the city for ten years; and at the expiration of ten years they will pay as a rental a percentage of the earnings. If the gross earnings are $5,000 per mile, this rental will be one per cent., and so forth. The above are the general lines of the agreement.

No. 2 fire hall boys claim to have beaten the record "hitching up," in practice, four and a half seconds being occupied from the time the alarm sounded to the time the horses were ready to bolt.

A log grab to prevent chains from slipping on the logs has been patented in Canada and the States by J. M. Stewart, Vancouver.

The work of turning out the young salmon from the Fraser river hatchery has commenced. The fry are in splendid condition and as lively as young trout. The percentage of loss has been small, and close on 7,000,000 fry, all sockeyes, will be the result of the season's hatching. Last week 950,000 were let loose in Pitt lake and 800,000 in Stave river. On Wednesday 950,000 more were deposited in Silver creek, one and a half miles from its mouth. The work is being carried on under the supervision of Mr. McNish.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 16.—A young lady in Westminster was almost persuaded to run for school trustee in the coming contest. She has promised to become a candidate next year.

An Aldergrove farmer named Russell was held up and robbed on Lulu Island bridge on Tuesday night. The work was done by three men and a woman. Russell came to the city to get $100 which was due him by a party here, but only got $40 of the amount. This sum he wisely placed in his boot, and when the robbers held him up they only got 75 cents. They took Russell's watch from his pocket, but gave it back to him after looking at it.

The spring salmon run is improving somewhat and rather better catches are reported, though nothing very large as yet. There is a better demand in the east for B. C. fresh salmon, and exports are increasing.

At the meeting of the artillery company this evening at the city hall, the service roll was further increased. Several members declared their intention of attending the school at Vancouver.

KAMLOOPS.

(From the Inland Sentinel.)

Some people have labored industriously to deduce from Mr. Marpole's remarks at a meeting of Mr. J. A. Mara's supporters, an inference that he, and necessarily the party he has allied himself with, disparages those born in the Old Country, and quite a long letter appears in the Vancouver World bringing this improvised idea into prominence. The editor of that journal, as the occasion seems to demand, is duly astonished at Mr. Marpole. Mr. Marpole's statement that a man of Mr. Mara's abilities, who has grown up with the country, might be expected to know more of its requirements than a new comer of 18 months' standing, must have hurt someone.

The Inland Game Protection Association are endeavoring to procure pheasants, quail and other game, and intend trying to raise them in the vicinity of Kamloops. The efforts of this society to obtain more satisfactory game laws have been crowned with success, owing greatly to the exertions of G. B. Martin and Hon. D. M. Eberts. The society are taking steps to have the new law widely distributed.

A requisition is being largely signed asking Mr. J. A. Mara to represent the electors in the Dominion House another term. The people of Mission Valley do not want free trade.

REVELSTOKE.

(Correspondence Kamloops Sentinel.)

The Kootenay Mail-Northey trouble is an absorbing topic of conversation. As stated last week Mr. Northey appeared before the beak of the law charged with trespass, and the case was adjourned for eight days. Instead of quitting the printing company's premises Mr. Northey remained in possession until Saturday morning and published an edition of the paper setting forth his grievances, as also those of Mr. B. H Lee and Miss E. Swift, who each contributed letters. Quite a number of copies were put in circulation, but about 300 were retained in the office for future use. Mr. Northey went for a few seconds into his residence, adjoining the office, and upon returning found the door locked and the directors in possession. They, thereupon, undertook, with Mr. Vall as editor, the task of getting out the regular edition of the paper, which appeared late in the evening, and contained an apology for the unauthorized copy of the morning. The late editor is backed up by a considerable number of persons in town, and it is understood has the support financially of several parties who feel aggrieved at some judicial proceeding in times past.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

USE
MEXICAN MUSTANG LINIMENT for Man and Beast!
It quickly cures
Cuts, Burns, Corns, Bruises, Chilblains, Bunions, Cracks between the Toes, Scalds, Piles, Swellings, Ulcers, Stiff Joints, Old Sores, Inflammation of all kinds, Lame Back, Pimples, Rheumatism, Pustules, Caked Breasts, Eruptions, Diseased Tendons, Contracted Muscles, And all Lameness and Soreness.
Langley & Co., Wholesale Agents for British Columbia.

ARMENIAN HORRORS.

LONDON, March 15.—The Daily Telegraph has a dispatch from Moosh, date not given, and forwarded from Kars yesterday. It says: "The commissioners have learned that the Armenian priest Batchadoor and his son were ordered by General Darmes to sign a document ascribing the massacre to the Kurds and clearing the Turks of all blame. The Batchadoors refused to do so General Darmes then placed heated triangles around their necks. The commission desire to examine the two victims, but the latter are too ill.

The Turkish government tried every means to compel the survivors of the massacre to return to their respective villages and rebuild. They promised money, seed corn, exemption from taxation and the restitution of property. Nearly all refused and consequently were terribly treated. Some returned and are starving. Many who were wealthy and respected are now in abject poverty." The correspondent quotes instances of villagers who are almost naked and subsisting on millet seed. The stock of this seed, he says, must have given out a fortnight ago. These people had no hope of help and probably are dying or dead.

"If assistance be sent through the delegates in Moush or the American missionaries in Bitlis," continues the correspondent, "some lives may be saved." He writes of six girls of fourteen, daughters of victims of the massacre, who returned to Semal half naked and died without food or fire in a hut at night during a snowstorm. He names six villages where the few survivors of the massacre are starving.

A CURE FOR LOCKJAW.

NEW YORK, March 15. — Before the Medico legal society a paper was read last night by Dr. Paul Gibler, director of the New York Pasteur institute, in which he presented the interesting facts of a discovery in which he claimed that anti-toxine of tetanus is a positive preventative, if not an absolute remedy for lockjaw. He entered at length into the details of the preparation of anti-toxine, and cited numerous cases where the introduction of that wonderful fluid into the system both prevented lockjaw and effected cures. Through a large microscope, which Dr. Gibler had previously set up on the platform, his hearers were enabled to peep at the bacilli of tetanus with which he had charged the glass. The observers, many of whom thus took their first object lesson in the study of bacteriology, saw through the glass a myriad of globe-like objects, apparently as big as peas, but in reality invisible to the naked eye. These are the globes which produce the terrible tetanus. Said Dr. Gibler:

"The bacilli of tentanus cover all sections of the earth inhabited by man or beast. The germs are indigenous, I might say, to the soil where man or animals live. Particularly in the stable myriads and myriads of these germs of disease have their being The horse, more than any other animal, is susceptible to tetanus, and this may be accounted for from the fact that the filth of the stable is more conducive to the development of the tetanus bacilli than any other condition."

The disease is not contracted by inhalation. It is the result of germs being introduced into a wound or opening of the skin. Once in the wound, the germs of tetanus thrive wonderfully, and in a few days produce that awful condition which results in the stiffening of the muscles of the jaw, terrible convulsions and rigidity of the face, and ends in death.

THE "ALLIANCIA" AFFAIR.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The department of state is moving with deliberation in making up its case against the Spanish government based on the firing by a Spanish cruiser at the American steamer Allianca, believing that in matters of such moment it is absolutely essential that our government should be in possession of the exact facts so as to avoid the humiliation of retraction through making a demand that cannot be sustained by evidence.

One of the precedents which has been unearthed and brought to the attention of the acting secretary as having a direct bearing on the Allianca incident was found in the proceedings of the Alabama claims commission. In one of the decisions announced by Judge Fitch, the court held there was no authority for the stoppage or detention of a mail steamer which is pursuing her usual route, even if that route lay at places within the three-mile shore limit, and so within the marine jurisdiction of the power seeking to stop the ship. If this is held to be sound doctrine, then, of course, the Spanish government will make reparation for the action of its cruiser, even should it appear that the Allianca was within three miles of Cape Mayal, as the Spanish minister here believes.

On the other hand, if this decision is not in effect, then what is known as the "head land theory" of jurisdiction will probably play an important part in the adjustment of the matter. According to the contention of Great Britain in the Fortune Bay fisheries case, in which the United States has acquiesced, the line of marine jurisdiction is drawn three miles from a line running across from headland to headland, in the case of a bay or a depression in the general coast line. The Spanish authorities evidently take the position at this time, in the absence of exact advices, that the Allianca was within such a line and so within their jurisdiction, although the ship may have been actually more than three miles from the nearest shore. Probably based on the Alabama decision above referred to, a rumor was in circulation to-day to the effect that the state department has sent a sinister warning to the Spanish government to the effect that a declaration of war would follow a repetition of the Allianca affair.

Senor Muraga, the Spanish minister, has not as yet received word from Cuba as to the gunboat which fired on the Allianca, nor does he know the name of the warship. The delay is due to the fact that the gunboat is cruising off the eastern coast of Cuba, 400 miles from Havana.

THE PILOT BAY SMELTER.

KASLO, March 16—The first shipment of bullion from the Pilot Bay smelter was made to-day. The shipment consists of two carloads and goes to the refinery at Aurora.

The establishment of this smelter is widely recognized as an event of great importance to the province, the latest comment being the following from the Inland Sentinel of Kamloops:—

"The commencement of operations at the Pilot Bay smelter on Monday is an event on which the whole province is to be congratulated, and we hope it is but the pioneer of many other such works to follow. One hundred tons of ore a day will be required, and to produce this ore, convey it to the smelter, burn the charcoal required and abstract the mineral, will require a small army of men. It is stated that the wet and the dry ores are both to be had within easy distance. There seems every prospect of the enterprise being successful.

"Heretofore all the ores produced in West Kootenay, and that quantity has been large during the past year, have gone to keep American smelters going, and necessarily a goodly share of the profits from the mines has enriched foreigners. There is sufficient ore in the immediate vicinity to keep the Pilot Bay smelter in operation for years to come, so that the shipments of Canadian ore will continue almost unabated, especially from the mines in the Slocan. Cheap fuel and the facilities of communication, by rail, telegraph and mail, are frequently greater factors in determining the site of smelter than proximity to the mines, the lower cost of conveying the ores, not compensating for the greater advantages which certain situations on main lines of railways offer. In the United States few smelters are situated near the mines. Calgary has noted this fact, and efforts are being made there to raise the necessary capital to erect smelting works to treat Slocan ore, and with some prospect of success. This city seems just as favorable a smelter site as any, and much superior to some, and as trade between Kamloops and the Slocan mines increases the erection of a smelter is among the probabilities to follow. During the past season Salmon Arm and Shuswap settlers have supplied fruit, vegetables, hay, feed and provisions in large quantities, and the Kootenay promises to become a market for the produce of the interior more to be desired than that of the coast cities. When the Canadian Pacific railway can be induced to give the same freight rate to Kamloops as it does to terminal points development of the silver mines will carry with it a proportionate increase to the business of Kamloops."

A FATAL INVENTION.

DULUTH, March 16.—There was a shocking tragedy at the Spalding house this evening, resulting in the instant killing of George Marcott, aged 13, and the fatal injuring of Fred. Marcott, aged 25, his cousin, who were illustrating the working of a patent fire escape just invented by the latter. Just as the legislators who have been visiting the iron mines arrived at the hotel Marcott gave an exhibition of his patent, which consists of a rope and a sliding belt. He made one trip from the sixth story to the ground in safety and then started to repeat it with his young cousin. When they were at the third story the rope parted just above their heads and the two shot towards the ground. Their feet struck on the ledge of a second story window and they turned head downward. George struck the stone pavement squarely on his head, which was crushed to a shapeless mass. Fred Marcott fell partially on his back and side. His side was terribly crushed and several bones were broken. He was taken to the hospital, where the doctors said he could not live until morning. An examination of the rope showed that the pulley on the belt which Fred Marcott wore had worn the strands so that when the weakened portions came in contact with the stone window ledge they parted.

MEAN STATEMENTS CORRECTED.

TO THE EDITOR:—Will you please allow me space to correct a statement in the Times of the 14th inst. I never said that I did not know that British Columbia was not a part of this Dominion. What I did say was, is not British Columbia a part of the Dominion and why did it not get the same protection?

I would like the Times to explain what it means when it says that it pays better to farm for the Conservative party during election times than to till the soil for a living. I hear that in the Times of the 15th inst., I am described as Mr. Tracey from Sleepy Hollow. Now if the gentleman who wrote that will meet me at the public market any day, and if he likes to come with me through the province or in Victoria, I will soon let him see whether or not I know what I state, and how silly is the insinuation that I don't know that this is a part of the Dominion or that I ever looked for public office.

JOSEPH TRACEY.

WASHINGTON, March 16. — President Cleveland came back to Washington this afternoon after his eleven days of recreation on the water. As he stepped down the gang plank from the Violet to the wharf he looked hale and hearty, and smiled broadly when somebody in the crowd shouted: "Bring out the ducks." There was a glow of health upon his cheeks which was not there when he left Washington on March 5, the day after congress adjourned.

PANAMA, March 16—The Star and Herald learns from Buenaventura to-day that the government troops under General Martens have defeated the rebel forces, 3,000 strong, near Sosta.