The Inspector Was in Error

Says Mr. Green in Paper Read to Natural History Society.

Corrects Statements Regarding Dates When Salmon Is Good Food.

At the meeting of the Natural History Society held last night in the room of the society in the government buildings, the following interesting paper on the question of when salmon are not fit for food (of which so much was said as a result of the fishery inspector's action in that regard) was read by Mr. Ashdown Green:

I have been requested by several persons to endeavor to correct a preposterous statement lately published in the newspapers by one of the Dominion Fisheries overseers to the effect that all salmon in British Columbia from November to February are spawning, diseased, and unnt for human food.

Now, most people who have the least interest in salmon, whether from an angling or gastronomic point of view, must know that the very opposite is the case.

Of our five salmon, the sockeye, cohoe and humpbacked have spawned and disappeared prior to the beginning of November. The dog salmon are still in the rivers during November and part of December, and even an occasional fish may be found later still, but they have been on the beds so long and are in such a foul condition that no one would be likely to buy, or would any fishmonger expose them for sale. When in company with Dr. Hasell, I once saw some in a fishmonger's stall, and I was very much disgusted to see them, but I cannot believe they were offered for sale, or that the fishmonger was fool enough to expect anyone to buy them; I believe they were placed there merely to induce people to stop and look in, though I must say it was a very questionable method of advertising.

The only salmon in the Victoria markets from November to February is the spring salmon, O chouicha, and it must therefore be those to which allusion is made.

Although this fish, in perfect condition, may be taken in the sea the year round, it is at its best during the four months named. A large run comes inshore about the first week in November, and continues on the Coast until the end of February, when most of them pass up the rivers or stay in the tidal waters awaiting the arrival of the oolachans. Now, I need not tell you that a salmon is at its best just when it enters the river, and that from that time it commences to deteriorate.

The spawning season of the spring salmon varies greatly; the bulk of them appear to enter the river in the spring, and while some spawn during April in the Cowichan river (and in all probability the other short rivers on the Coast) those that are heading for the upper waters of the Columbia and Fraser do not reach their destination until August or September. There are no spring salmon spawning during the four months named, and the fish exposed in the markets almost all are taken in the sea by trolling.

Small runs of spring salmon occur in the rivers throughout the summer, and there is a larger run again in August or September, in fact, in the larger rivers spring salmon are passing up all through the summer.

It is rather singular that no one appears to have observed spring salmon on the spawning beds in April; in no work on salmon is the fact mentioned. Any of you however who may wish to verify this statement that they do so, may easily see for himself by visiting the Cowichan river during that month and going about a mile above Duncan station. I think it very probable there is a second spawning season in the upper waters of the Cowichan in the autumn, but this I cannot say from personal observation.

Now, how did the mistake occur, for I suppose there were some grounds for the statement. The fishmongers tell me that at the time of the inspector's tour there were both spring salmon and steelheads on their slabs, and that he was under the impression that they were one and the same fish; that is, that the steelheads were foul spring salmon.

Gardiner's trout or (as he is commonly called) the steelhead, commences to run in Goldstream and the Cowichan river about the end of December. They spawn in the former fully a month earlier than in the latter. When taken in the sea, or for a day or two after entering the river, he is a beautiful fish, snowy white, with hardly a spot visible on him. He very soon loses his beauty however, and begins to assume his breeding dress, which is very much more gaudy but not so becoming. In the first stage the black spots become more distinct, then red streaks appear on his sides and he becomes more colored about the head, finally about the beginning of March, when the female spawns, he is as ugly a fish as you would wish to see, though he never becomes as hideous as the salmon.

You must not suppose, however, that he is diseased. The act of spawning is a natural function, not a disease.

The salmon that die in such large numbers in the autumn, the dog salmon and humpback, die principally of exhaustion, though many of them are also affected with a fungoid growth.

As to the unfitness of Gardiner's trout for food when spawning, I cannot tell you much. Some anglers took over a hundred of these fish on the spawning beds in the Cowichan river last March. What they did with them I do not know; did they eat them, did they throw them away, or did they, believing them to be diseased and unfit for human food present them to their friends?

After spawning the steelhead retires to the deep pools, where he remains until he recover his health, when he drops down the river and returns to the sea.

And now for the doctors who certified that salmon from the spawning beds were unfit for human food. Had these gentlemen stated that they were not good to eat, that they were foul, and that their sale should be prohibited, I should have heartily agreed with them, but the term unfit for human food, to my mind, implies that they are deleterious to health. Now what were the kippers of olden times? Merely salmon in their breeding dress, some taken by angling, but more on the spawning beds by poachers with nets and spear.

And what was the principal winter food of the Indians before the advent of the whites? Salmon from the spawning beds; but I never heard of a Scotsman or an Indian making himself ill with kippers or dry salmon, though I have heard some old gentlemen after a public dinner say the salmon disagreed with them.

The reason foul fish were preferred for kippering or drying was that a fresh fish will not cure on account of its fat; it must be used at once or it will turn rancid; a poor fish, however, will keep for a long time and that is why they were stored for winter use.

In conclusion, I may say that there is no reason why you should not enjoy your salmon during the winter months; they are then in the best condition, will not spawn for another two months, and are absolutely free from disease.

Capt. Walbran exhibited photos and data regarding the "Silent City of Alaska."

BRITISH FIELD GUNS.

Armstrong's Defence of the Makers as Compared With Foreign Firms.

The following letter from the Armstrong-Whitworth Company appears in the London Times:

Sir,—Our attention has been called to the reply of the Secretary of State for War to a question asked by Sir Howard Vincent (the Times, December 15, 1900), in which Mr. Brodrick is reported to have said that orders for field guns were given by the English government to Germany because English makers could not take them, and comparisons most injurious to English manufacturers were made, while—no doubt inadvertently—in Mr. Brodrick's reply no reference is made to the totally different conditions under which the orders in question were given.

We are sorry that, owing to circumstances connected with the illness and death of Lord Armstrong, we have been unable at an earlier date to correct the erroneous inference which we feel sure will be drawn from Mr. Brodrick's answer, and which is that German manufacturers can make field artillery material quicker than their English rivals, and we regret that the answer should have been entirely misleading, and, however unwittingly made, entirely unjust.

It is essential in any fair comparison that the conditions under which competitors work should be the same, but in this case the conditions were utterly and entirely different.

The German makers were unfettered by being obliged to work to the English government designs. They were allowed to supply guns and carriages of their own stock pattern, and from the information at our disposal we know that these patterns are of designs far easier to make than are those which have been placed in our hands by the war office.

In the German carriage, for example, wood scarcely enters into the construction at all. The trails are constructed of steel tubes, and the wheels are made entirely of steel. In the Royal Arsenal design (an admirable one) the trail is difficult of construction, requiring most careful manufacture, while the wheels also are of an expensive pattern, requiring long seasoned cleft English oak spokes and ash felloes, the naves and pipe boxes being of a modified pattern.

We now turn to the question of the batteries to be supplied by the English makers.

In all work of this description made in England, absolute interchangeability of the component parts of the gun and carriage is rightly insisted on—that is, any part of one gun or carriage must be available for use on any other gun or carriage, whether such gun or carriage is made in the Royal Arsenal or by makers outside of the government.

We doubt if the interchangeability of parts, inter se, is in the German batteries carried to anything like the same extent as it is in the English; but at any rate the interchangeability with the guns of other makers has been necessarily dispensed with, the guns and carriages being of totally different patterns; and makers alone can appreciate the enormous increase in rapidity of delivery involved in the relaxation of being allowed to make solely and altogether to the makers' own designs.

We may point out that in the case of the battery presented to Field Marshal Lord Roberts by Lady Meux, the battery was completed in about six weeks from the receipt of the material; and we may add that, had a larger number of batteries of the same pattern been ordered, we could have continued to deliver at the rate of a battery of six guns, carriages and limbers per week.

Again, all English work is subjected to a most rigorous and exacting inspection, not only on completion, but at all stages during manufacture, and it is summarily rejected if it fails to comply, even in minute details, with the specification. It is, we think, quite certain that no correspondingly rigid inspection has been exacted in the case of the German material.

The writer was informed verbally, late in January or early in February, that 18 batteries would be ordered from Elswick, and we took immediate steps to procure the necessary materials and to make, so soon as we had the information, the necessary tools and gauges. Some portion of the material was found, when the drawings were received, to be inapplicable to the designs, and fresh material had to be provided; but it is sufficient, in order to show the difficulties with which we had to contend, to mention that the model of the breech block, from which our tools and gauges had to be made (a work which would occupy five or six weeks), was only received by us on June 2, and that no less than 46 drawings of details, either original or alterations to previous designs, were received by us between July 1 and the middle of December, the date when we commenced to deliver.

We are quite aware that every effort was made to supply us with the required information with as little delay as possible; but, on the other hand, so soon as we had that information, everything in our power to expedite delivery was done.

Since the middle of September we have delivered 78 guns—that is, 13 batteries of guns—and 60 carriages and limbers—that is 10 batteries of carriages and limbers, or more than a battery every 10 days.

To one other point in the reply of the Secretary of State we venture to call attention, and that is to the continuity of supply referred to by him. Now, we have, for many weeks, completed the initial steps in the manufacture of all the batteries entrusted to us, and should more be wanted there will be a break of continuity in supply corresponding to the interval between the completion of the initial manufacture we have referred to and the receipt of a new order.

We apologize for the length of this letter; our excuse is that it is of importance, both to ourselves and to the country, that the causes of the slowness of supply to which the Secretary of State has alluded should be thoroughly understood; and we venture to add that the establishments of this firm at Elswick and at Openshaw have powers of production second to those of no other firm in the world.

We think also that it would be a national calamity were it to be supposed that the existing manufacturing resources of the country were unequal to the supply of any amount of warlike material that may be required.

The slowness of supply in the present case arises from the fact that during the last quarter of a century hardly any field batteries have been ordered from private makers. The main causes of delay in the supply of new and difficult patterns are alluded to above, and we submit that they cannot, on the whole, be attributed to the manufacturers, while we further distinctly assert that, had the foreign makers referred to been placed in the position in which the English makers were placed, they could not have manufactured these guns and carriages in so great numbers, or in so short a time, as has actually been accomplished by us.

For Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., (Limited).

A. NOBLE, Director.

Elswick Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Jan. 2.

FOR MINISTERS.

Railway Fares to Pacific Coast Points to Be Reduced.

Toronto, Feb. 11.—Railroad rates to clergy from points in Ontario to Pacific Coast points are to be reduced. The reduction from Toronto to Vancouver will be $5, and this is about the reduction from other Eastern points. The rates apply to bishops, clergymen, missionaries under proper ecclesiastical authority, and officers of the Salvation Army in uniform. The new tariff will go into effect February 15. A reduction in second-class rates is announced by the Grand trunk railway from points in the southeastern portion of the province, including Niagara peninsula, to Helena, Butte and Anaconda, in Montana; and Ogden and Salt Lake City, in Utah. The decrease is $2.50, and the same is made in first-class rates to Spokane and Seattle. Toronto and district are not affected by the change; but on the Canadian Pacific, points between London and the West may be affected. New rates are put in to meet rates of United States roads.

ENJOYABLE EXCURSION.

Washington University Students Spend Two Delightful Days in Victoria.

Forty-two students of the University of Washington, in charge of Professor Landes, spent Saturday and Sunday in the city. A majority carried kodaks, and bore away with them many presentiments of Victoria's natural and architectural beauties. Saturday morning was rapturously devoted to Beacon Hill park and the parliament buildings; in the afternoon the party visited Esquimalt, where they were impressed with the warships, and in the evening they attended the band concert in the Drill Hall. They were delighted with the performance, especially the bayonet exercises by a squad from "A" company, R. O. R. After the concert the students were escorted through Chinatown, and evinced much interest in the joss houses, the Chinese theatre and other show places of the Celestial quarter.

Sunday morning, those of the party who did not attend church, took a trip by boat up the Gorge, and were delighted with its beauties. In the afternoon the "Young Canada" was requisitioned, and the party enjoyed the pleasure of a drive around the water front, by way of Dallas and Oak Bay roads. They departed for home by the steamer Sehome, one and all declaring that they had never more thoroughly enjoyed an outing, and expressing a determination to return and spend their vacation in Victoria, which they all agreed is the most beautiful spot on the Pacific coast.

THE FARMERS.

Cowichan Show Will Be Held Early in September—Live Stock Sale.

The Cowichan Agricultural Association assembled on Saturday last in the Agricultural hall at Duncans, to decide what should be done with regard to the annual shows of stock and produce. There was a strong feeling that nothing should be done in this way, which could at all militate against the success of the Victoria show. After a little friendly discussion, a unanimous decision was arrived at, that the annual fall show should be held as usual, but that the date should be changed from the end to the beginning of September. As at present arranged, the first Friday and Saturday in September will be the dates of this popular attraction. The committee was also instructed to take up the question of better accommodation for the stock, and suggestions were thrown out that an auction sale of cattle, etc., on the grounds would be a good move.

On March 12 the Dairymen's Association will hold a provincial live stock sale at Westminster, when pure-bred cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry will be offered for sale. The annual meeting of the association has been fixed for March 13, at Westminster, so as to coincide with the sale and also allow the attendance of Mr. F. W. Hodson, Dominion live stock inspector, to be present. He will address the association, and another speaker is Mr. H. L. Blanchard, who is about the most prominent dairyman and poultry man in the state of Washington. Catalogues for the sale will be issued next week.

JOHN T. BULMER DEAD.

He Was a Leading Figure Among Maritime Province Prohibitionists.

Halifax, Feb. 9.—John T. Bulmer, barrister, a well known prohibitionist, died this morning after a lingering illness; aged 55. He opposed Sir Charles Tupper twice in Cumberland.

New Strike On Dominion

Rich Paying Gravel Found on Right Hillside of Lower Dominion.

Joker Sends Dawsonites on Stampede—They Staked Four Hundred Claims.

Steamer Amur, which returned from Skagway after a fast trip, brought a budget of advices from Dawson. News is given of a strike which has been made on the right limit hillside, opposite six above, on lower Dominion. The pay is in a gravel bed from six to eight feet deep, and pans have been taken out ranging in value from 10 to 38 cents. Good prospects have also been reported on the hillsides on the same limit. Until recently, it seems, prospectors have avoided the right limit, as it was so great a depth to bed rock. Many shafts have now been sunk to bed rock, but little drifting was done until this winter.

Advices were brought, too, of a strike which never was. It was on February 2, and on that day a tired, disgusted crowd of stampeders returned to Dawson, after a wild-goose chase to Last Chance creek. On January 31 news was brought down the creeks of a fabulously rich strike on abandoned ground, and by night the travel up the Klondike and Hunker had undergone a wonderful increase. On February 1, the stampeders going up met the vanguard returning. A practical joker, who had got out of the country before the stampeders found him, was responsible for the rush. Over four hundred claims were staked before the hoax was discovered.

Dawson is now nothing if not up-to-date. An automobile service from Dawson to Grand Forks of Bonanza and the creeks has been placed under way. Some remarkably quick trips have been made by the autos, which have shown off admirably.

On February 4 the period of mourning for the dead Queen ended at Dawson with the tolling of the bells of the city during the hour set for the funeral in London. A despatch to the Skagway News says that Governor Ogilvie has ordered that all decorations be now removed from the buildings.

The Dawson Daily Nugget on February 2 received a personal letter from W. J. Bryan, acknowledging the Klondike souvenir recently presented to him at Chicago.

Dewson despatches of February 4 say: The newly organized Masonic lodge is proving to be the most popular society in Dawson. Already there are 150 applications for membership, mostly from influential people. The cost of initiation amounts to $150.

Rev. Mr. Nayor, rector of the Church of England, has resigned his charge and will leave for the outside in the near future. Ill health is assigned as the reason of his withdrawal.

The Hockey League, which has furnished the chief out-door diversion this winter, has been dissolved, owing to an unreconcilable dissention.

The Dawson Erie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, gave an entertainment at the Savoy theatre on February 3. The attendance was unusually large

A. B. McEachen, one of the proprietors of the White Horse Star, in an interview at Skagway said: "The people are now waiting the result of the test to be applied to the coal recently discovered within ten miles of White Horse. It is said, and generally believed, if it proves good coking coal, that the smelter will be the result. The copper mines are expected to be developed this summer, and better feeling is prvailing there among the business men than for some weeks past. They are beginning to feel the impulse of the season's travel. If the smelter and reduction works shall be built there may be other papers in the North to put in a linotype—the Star, for instance."

NUMEROUS INQUIRIES.

Provincial Immigration Agent Deluged With Letters Asking Information.

Mr. John Jessop, provincial immigration agent, reports the receipt of many letters from the Eastern provinces, Great Britain and the United States, asking for information about British Columbia and its possibilities. He is kept busy answering these inquiries, and is sending out a large quantity of descriptive matter, pamphlets, maps, etc. Mr. Jessop anticipates a considerable immigration during the coming spring and summer, chiefly of agriculturists. He regards the Finnish immigration scheme, recently described in the Colonist, as an important one, and has suggested the north end of Vancouver Island, or the islands lying between it and the Mainland, as a good location for these desirable settlers.

Blissful Ignorance.

(From Toronto Star.)

Three years ago coming from San Francisco the train changed engines at Reno, Nevada. I got out and walked over to a neighboring hotel, for the alkali water was a miserable mixture.

"Going far?" asked the fellow, with one hand on the dime and the other on the bottle.

"To Toronto," I replied with the air of a man heading for God's country.

"Where to?"

"Toronto," I repeated, drawing myself up as much as I dared, and spelling the letters slowly, T-O-R-O-N-T-O. But it never fizzed on him. He was as cold as an iceberg.

"Toronto," he asked, "where is that?"

I told him, and asked him if he had never heard the name before.

He said he never had.

When I told him that it was a city of 200,000 I saw he thought I was lying, and left quickly.

I told the story about the ignorance of the Reno man at the dinner table at Lincoln, Neb., to a man who looked like a lawyer, and he laughed so heartily that he upset his glass and nearly choked over a piece of bread.

"Pretty hard one on your education out around here," I ventured.

"Yes," he answered, "pretty hard when a fellow doesn't know of Toronto, the capital of Canada.

"Poor fool," I communed inwardly, "you are worse than the bartender, and should be killed, or imprisoned for life. Please choke and die."

And yet we wonder at our friends the Britishers thinking that the bears play hide and seek down our main streets, and throw kisses at us from the telegraph poles.

And now the London, England, Canadian Gazette comes along and informs the world that lacrosse is Canada's national winter game.

REVENGE.

In this same Nevada hotel, not long after my visit, a masked highwayman had sprung into the bar-room, and, pointing a big revolver, commanded "Hands up!" and although there were several well-known gun-fighters around the faro lay-out in the bar, the masked man swept the pile of gold from the gaming table into a valise strapped about him, and backing out of the room, escaped.

A suspect was arrested for this robbery, and a large 48-calibre revolver and several hundreds of dollars in gold coin were found in his valise.

The men from the Nevada hotel tried to identify him as the masked highwayman. When it came to the cross-examination of witnesses and they were called to account for their non-resistance, each testified that:

The hold-up was watching him all the time and had him covered with his gun.

Then the counsel for the prisoner ridiculed the case out of court, claiming that no one man could cover a dozen persons at the same time, and the prisoner was dismissed. But there was a cowboy artist in court named Ludcke, a most versatile chap, who could shoot and gamble with the wicked, preach over the dead, and pray with the dying, and he bet the judge then and there that he could paint a picture of a man covering any number of people with his gun.

The bet was made, and the judge lost and whacked up, and to-day there is a copy from the cowboy's picture hanging in Inspector Stark's office in the city hall, sent to the inspector by the Pinkerton's of Chicago, with whom he is on intimate terms.

No matter in what position you face the picture, whether from front, above, below, or at either side, you are constantly under the eyes and gun, for the man's figure appears to move with you.

I took off my hat to that picture, for the fellow who was the cause of its creation had sent that bartender with that hump of abnormal, colossal, unprecedented, unparalleled ignorance of Canada, the fellow who never heard of Toronto, down below the bar, hiding behind a whisky barrel.

I had been avenged.

—CHARLIE CHURNER.

AS TO SURNAMES.

From Sunday Magazine.

It seems strange that although the Romans conquered and held sway for a time over a large part of Western Europe, including the British Islands, their system of name-making was not followed. The Germans and Celts maintained the single-name system. By the introduction of Christianity, the plan was adopted of giving a child a name at its baptism, by which the child, on growing up, came to be generally known; but this still created no family name, and it remained the practice, for distinction's sake, to say Andrew the son of John, or William the son of Thomas. But so inconvenient was this that nicknames were employed to distinguish certain individuals. Of this practice we have examples in Frederick Barbarossa (Frederick of the red beard), Malcolm Canmore (Malcolm with the large head). Among the poorer people nicknames were exceedingly common, and we have Walter the Smith, Thomas the Copper.

Things continued in this primitive condition till about the eleventh century, in some places till even a later period. Then the confusion became so great that, as a remedy, the plan was adopted of having a family name, which should descend from father to son, every one having a baptismal name besides.

It is impossible to speak decidedly as to the date of the introduction of surnames. Like the abolition of serfdom and many other social changes, it took place silently and gradually, without being noted at the time. The system would seem to be working in France at the beginning of the eleventh century; at all events, before the invasion of England in 1066, many of the Norman chiefs had taken family names from their castles in Normandy. These names (De Warren, De Bracy) the adventurers brought with them into England, and with the establishment of the feudal system, the practice of taking a territorial designation there became general. The Anglo-Norman knights whom David I. (died 1153) and his successors gathered round them, established the same system in Scotland in the twelfth century. It spread about the same time into Germany and other parts of Europe.

While this was going on among the lords of the soil, the commonalty continued for two or three generations to be distinguished by names like William at Bishops Gate, Peter atte Bell, John the Taillour. After a while, however, the example set by the aristocracy, and the obvious convenience of the thing itself, produced its effect, and the second names of the middle and working classes began to descend from father to son. But it took centuries to establish it as a regular practice; indeed, hereditary surnames do not seem to have been permanently established till the Reformation. Probably the introduction of parish registers was more instrumental than anything else in settling them; for if a person were entered under one surname at baptism, it is not likely that he would be married under another and buried under a third.

The varieties and peculiarities of some of the surnames are worth noting. We have seen that before there were surnames one John or William was distinguished from another by saying whose son he was. The position of his house or his trade were also brought into requisition, and we find John over the water, William atte (at the) wood, by field, underwood. These descriptions of residence became stereotyped and descended from father to son, generally shortened into one word—Water, Wood or Attwood, Underwood, Byfield. Before a vowel, "atte" took the form of "atten" as atten ash; in shortening the "n" adhered to the following word, giving the familiar Nash.

Before the invention of numbering houses, artisans' shops and inns were distinguished by signs, and the tradesman or innkeeper was known as Will at the Bush, Tom at the Tankard, and afterwards these names, omitting the word 'at," became hereditary. There is no doubt that a great many of our natural history names had this origin as Wildgoose, Herring, Nutt, Broome.....

To play on the meaning, real or fancied, of names has always been a favorite exercise of wit. Among the best is the epitaph on the witty divine Dr. Fuller:

Here lies Fuller's earth.

There was once a contest of wit between Dr. Fuller and a gentleman, with the odd name of Mr. Sparrow Hawk. Fuller could not resist the temptation to level a sarcasm on meeting him. "What is the difference," he asked, "between an owl and a sparrow-hawk?" Swiftly came the crushing answer. "An owl is full in the head, fuller in the face, and fuller all over."

Imitated Carrie Nation.—Not because she is opposed to the liquor traffic, but rather because she could not have her appetite for drink satisfied, a woman of respectable parentage, but who has herself sadly degenerated, on Saturday night gave an intimation of what a woman with a grudge against a saloon may do in a very short time. She was not quite as successful as Carrie Nation, who has been terrorizing the saloon men of Kansas, but nevertheless did considerable damage, and when accused of it in the police court, considered it quite a joke. She admitted putting her foot through a window at the Bee Hive saloon and doing other damage, for which she was taxed $9.50 by the magistrate, or in default, 15 days in jail. Three drunks contributed $15 towards the civic revenue, one being fined $5 because the offence was committed on Sunday, and an Indian woman $7.50 just because she had the misfortune to be born an Indian, the law providing a heavier fine for Indians than for whites. The other $2.50 was paid by a first offender.

Many Charges To Answer

Man With Aliases Who Victimized Victorians Placed Under Arrest.

Got Money on Bogus Checks and By Stealing to Carouse With.

Ernest H. Cooper, alias Gordon, alias Cummings, who, as mentioned in the Colonist last week, victimized several Victorians by passing bogus checks on them, is safely behind the bars, and will have to answer to at least three charges of stealing and obtaining money under false pretences. He led the officers a merry chase before he was finally located, devoting his attention during the last few days of last week to the outskirts of the city in the daytime, and sneaking in at night. He was finally located by Detective Palmer and Constable McDonald and placed under arrest after a good piece of work, the description furnished them not being of the best. They learned where he was in the habit of spending a couple of hours each evening, and there they patiently awaited his coming. When arrested he had on a coat which he had stolen from the janitor of Christ Church cathedral but a short time before. He first showed great indignation, but afterwards practically admitted his guilt. On the way to the station he reached for his hip pocket, and when the officers searched him they found a revolver, which he said he had purchased with which to blow out his brains if approached by an officer. The arresting officers being in plain clothes, he did not know them.

The three charges already laid against Cooper, and which were read to him in the police court yesterday morning, are stealing an overcoat from Phil Smith, of the Osborne House; stealing a pilot coat and gloves from F. L. Cockerall, janitor of the cathedral; and obtaining $10 from L. G. Burns, proprietor of the Bee Hive saloon, under false pretences. How he passed two checks on Mr. Burns, which were refused payment at the banks, has already been told in the Colonist. To steal the coat from the Osborne House he adopted a sharp plan. Going up to the house, he asked the Chinaman employed there to tell Mr. Smith that a man wanted to see him. During the Chinaman's absence he appropriated the coat. Mr. Cockerall's coat he took while that gentleman was busy cleaning out the church.

Cooper, by which name he is better known, also passed a check on Mrs. Carmichael, who keeps a lodging house on Johnson street; and borrowed $5 from Mrs. Gillespie, of Fort street, his nice appearance and smooth talk giving them implicit confidence in him. He was not particular as to the bank on which he drew the checks, some of them being on the Bank of British Columbia, another on the Bank of British North America, and others on the National Bank of Commerce of Seattle. He had a lot of the checks of this latter bank in his pockets when arrested; in fact, some of the checks drawn on the other banks were drawn on this bank's checks, the name being changed. Neither was he particular as to the choice of names, some of the checks being signed Cooper and others Cummings or Gordon; and it is said he also went so far on one occasion as to sign another man's name in endorsing a check. However, it is not likely that he will be charged with forgery, but there may be further charges of obtaining money under false pretences laid against him. Those who accepted his I. O. U.'s, a number of which are held by hotel and saloon-keepers, of course have no redress.

Cooper is a well-dressed and pleasant-mannered young Englishman. The money he obtained by his crooked dealings he did not horde; in fact he spent it just as quickly as he got it, mostly among the set who spend their nights in carousing and are seldom seen in the daytime. The coats he stole were put up for the drinks, and the money was spent lavishly; in fact, he was looked upon as "a good thing," in the vernacular of the "shorthand talker."

The hearing of the charges against Cooper was remanded until Thursday.

RICH ATLIN DISCOVERY.

As High as $3.50 to Pan Taken Out on Tributary of Pine Creek.

J. S. Byron, who has a hotel at Pine City, in the Atlin district, brings news of a new discovery on Gold Run, a tributary of Pine creek, which gives returns as high as $3.50 a pan. Numerous buckets, he states, carrying gold values of from $1 to $8 were taken from the bed rock.

"There is more or less winter mining in Atlin, the first at this season of the year since the discovery of the camp," Byron said. "On Gold Run alone over thirty men have been drifting all winter. Their operations and those of others at work in the district demonstrate that the Atlin placers can be worked to advantage in the winter. From 700 to 800 people are in the district, which has been remarkably free from sickness. No deaths have occurred, and the general health of the camp could not be better.

"Next season, I think, will witness a very general development of the Atlin district, and when navigation opens on the lakes and rivers people will begin to pour into the Atlin country."

SNOWSHOEING.

Selby Henderson of This City Distinguishes Himself at Winnipeg.

Selby Henderson, of the Henderson Directory Company, who has distinguished himself on several occasions in British Columbia as a bicycle rider, is making fame in his native city, Winnipeg. Last Saturday week he won the Green Steeplechase of the St. George's Snowshoe Club, in 29 minutes; and on the following Wednesday came in ahead in the Senior Steeplechase in 26½ minutes. The course in both instances was 3½miles cross country, with numerous barbed wire fences and other formidable obstructions to swift locomotion.

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE.

Ottawa, Feb. 9.—(Special)—Capt. Fall want west to-day to commence recruiting for the South African constabulary. The various drafts from Canada will remain together on arrival in South Africa. This is Baden-Powell's idea, as he finds men work better together when acquainted. Col. Steele's command will not necessarily include the Canadian contingent, but possibly only a portion of it.

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White Horse
Skagway
Juneau

Hotel keepers and others in these cities will kindly note that

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