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Local News

Mineralogist's Tour.—Word has been received to the effect that the provincial mineralogist and party have reached Fort St. James on the long journey to the Peace River country. This means that they have accomplished the water trip down Babine and Stuart lakes without accident, and also made the rather long portage between the lakes mentioned. The party will not be heard from now until they reach the outside, either by retracing their steps in this province or via Edmonton.

Line to Bella Coola.—At the next sitting of the legislature there will come up for consideration the granting of incorporation to a company to build a railway from a point near the Yellowhead Pass through the placer mining district of British Columbia where J. B. Hobson is carrying on work associated with the Guggenheims, and then on to Bella Coola. The solicitors for the applicants are Wilson, Senkler & Bloomfield.

Echo of Valencia Wreck.—Mrs. A. F. Rolph, whose husband was lost on the Valencia, and her mother, Mrs. Poingdestre, of New Westminster, are at the Gordon. They are anxious to obtain verification of the reports of skeletons being discovered at Carmanah, presumably of Valencia victims, and have interviewed the provincial police, receiver of wrecks and attorney-general's department in reference thereto. None of the departments mentioned have any confirmatory tidings.

Notes Changes in City.—F. G. Lyman of the firm of Lyman, Knox & Co., Limited, importers and wholesale druggists, Montreal, is paying Victoria a visit. Twenty years ago Mr. Lyman was a member of the local drug firm of Langley & Co. In 1885 he sold out his interest to Henderson Bros., after having resided here a year. Mr. Lyman has noticed great changes in Victoria. The streets particularly represent a great improvement. Victoria has now a life about it such as one might see in any city.

Watersheds Reserved.—Hon. R. G. Tatlow, acting chief commissioner of lands and works, gives notice in this week's issue of the British Columbia Gazette that there has been reserved, for the period of one year from the date hereof, for municipal purposes for the city of Victoria, the whole of the unrecorded waters of the following rivers, streams and lakes: The whole of the unrecorded waters of the streams and lakes in the watershed of the Highland district, and the waters of the said streams throughout their course to the sea. Also the whole of the unrecorded waters of the streams flowing into the Sooke lakes in the watershed thereof, and the waters of said lakes and of Sooke River and its tributaries, and all of such waters throughout their course to the sea.

Typhoid Amongst Indians.—Several cases of typhoid have been reported among the Indians at Alberni. Dr. Morgan of Nanaimo will arrive shortly and it is believed will reside there permanently.

The Palliser Tunnel.—According to information just received, the C. P. R. is getting the Palliser tunnel, in the Pacific section, into working shape. This tunnel was cut to obviate a big curve in the road, but when it was finished the mud oozed through the walls so continually that its use had to be abandoned. Recently a Swedish contractor undertook to put the tunnel into shape on the no-cure-no-pay principle, and after spending $150,000 on the work he has succeeded in casing the long hole in solid water-tight walls of concrete. The laying of rails will commence within a few days, and the tunnel will be in use before the fall.

Provincial Elections Act.—His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council has been pleased to appoint the undermentioned persons to be commissioners for taking affidavits in the supreme court for the purpose of acting under the Provincial Elections Act in the electoral districts in which they reside. Such appointments will expire on the 31st day of December, 1906: Similkameen district — David John Innis of Keremeos and Walter Tybell Shatford of Penticton, Kamloops district—James A. Gill, John Milton, George Brown, Frederick E. Young, Edward A. Shaw, Alfred P. Morris, William Frisken and John F. Smith, all of the city of Kamloops.

Companies Incorporated.—The following companies have been incorporated: Awaya Skeda & Co., with a capital of $100,000; D. A. Smith, Limited, capitalized at $25,000; Elk Valley Coal Company, with a capital stock of $200,000; Hatzic Prairie Company, capitalized at $60,000; Kootenay Amalgamated Oil & Coal Company, capitalized at $1,000,000; Reid & Young, Limited, with a capital stock of $25,000; Vancouver Dredging & Salving Company, capitalized at $25,000. The following extra provincial companies have been given licences for the province: Canadian Pacific Sulphide Pulp Company, of England, with H. Lockwood, of Vancouver, attorney for the company for the province; the amount of the capital of the company is £107,000, divided into 75,000 "A" shares of £1 each and 30,000 "B" shares of £1 each, and 40,000 "C" shares of 1s each. Standard Soap Company, of Calgary, with Arthur Nelson of Vancouver as attorney for the province.

Ask for Amherst solid leather footwear.

Vancouver Bank Clearings.—For the week ending August 23, 1906 are $2,657,470; corresponding week, 1905, $1,832,001; corresponding week, 1905, $1,596,509.

Grand Trunk Grades.—The grade of the Grand Trunk Pacific line in the West will not be more than four per cent., according to the statement of Mr. F. W. Morse, vice-president and general manager, who has just returned to the East from an extended trip of inspection to the part of the line now in course of construction. He furthermore announces that an air-line will be run from Winnipeg to the Rockies. This branch, however, will be merely of the nature of an accommodation line, and will not be allowed to interfere with the central line of the road, though offshoots will be run from it to the towns along the way. Mr. Morse also said that the main line of the G. T. P. would be very much as the crow flies, and that it was expected that it would shorten the trip from ocean to ocean by as much as twenty-six hours.

Island Mining Activity.—There is much mining activity reported in the vicinity of Cowichan Lake. The recent finds of copper-gold ores have stimulated further prospecting. As a result several claims were recorded during the past few days, among them being the Black Bear, on the southeast branch of Robertson River, by W. G. Moody. A group of four adjoining locations has also been recorded, their names being the Toko, by H. Keast; the Scotty, by Olven Grahame; the Hall, by John Hall; and the Rose, by William Gott. Another claim was also recorded by S. S. West, called the Bella Coola. It is described as being on the summit of a mountain two and a half miles west of Bella Coola post office, and one mile north of Burke Channel.

Small Salmon Run.—John Pease Babcock fisheries commissioner for British Columbia, left Vancouver Tuesday, says a Vancouver despatch on his annual tour of the sockeye spawning grounds of the Fraser river. Speaking of this season's run on the Fraser, Commissioner Babcock said that it was only a little more than half of that of four years ago. Sockeyes, according to the reports of his assistants, are now reaching Quesnel lake. They are the early fish which passed up the Fraser before the fishing season commenced, on July 1st. The early fish pass clear to the headwaters of the Fraser, some of them ascending 1,000 miles from the sea. The later fish spawn in the tributaries close to the coast. Salmon conservators declare that if the fishing season is extended, none of the late runs will escape the nets. Anti-extensionists are now petitioning Ottawa to prevent such a catastrophe.

Romance of Treasure

London Capitalists Interested in an effort to Recover $500,000,000 From the "Gilded Man" in Central America.

In a small city office situated in London, England, news is anxiously awaited from a man who is sitting on the edge of a mountain lake in Colombia, Central America, waiting for rain. Heavy rain may mean for him, and for those in the city office in London the recovery of treasure worth, so experts say, at least $500,000,000. The hero of the vigil is H. Knowles, managing director in Bogota of Contractors, Limited.

The story of the company is one of the most amazing romances of treasure seeking in history. The Lake of Guatavita, in Colombia, lies in the basin formed by the cone of an extinct volcano. It stands nine to ten thousand feet above the sea level, and it is but a few miles from the thriving little coal city of Bogota. Many centuries ago it was the Sacred Lake of the Chibehas, a race which at the time of the Spanish conquest, numbered over 1,000,000 individuals. The Chibehas worshipped the "Gilded Man," and devoutly believed that their deity made his home at the bottom of the Lake of Guatavita. Periodically they are declared to have made pilgrimages to the lake, when they cast every imaginable kind of treasure, gold, silver and jewels into the waters with the object of propitiating the "Gilded Man," who through his army of priests threatened all kinds of pains and penalties unless the treasure were offered in sufficient quantities. The story of the Chibehas has many times been investigated by travelers, and all agree in believing that the lake contains untold treasures. Humboldt, the famous traveler and historian, was one of those who estimated its value at $500,000,000.

A Prosaic British Syndicate.

Quesada, the Spanish conqueror of the Chibehas, was told the story of the treasure, and succeeding in reducing the water of the lake, then 214 feet deep, to fifteen feet. Then the sides fell in and all his labor was wasted. Further attempts were abandoned, and the lake regained to a very large extent its former depth. Where the Spanish great administrator failed, however, Contractors, Limited, a prosaic British syndicate, formed just over six years ago, has determined to succeed. The syndicate was formed for the purpose of exploiting a concession obtained from the Colombian government to drain the lake and recover for their own use the treasure believed to be hidden by its waters. Among its directors are R. J. Price, M. P. for the eastern division of Norfolk, chairman, and C. J. de Murietta. Its capital was originally $150,000, and was increased to $170,000 in 1903.

After six years of hard work, however, some of those connected with the company are beginning to believe that the "Gilded Man" is still at the bottom of the lake guarding his treasure. Encouraging finds of isolated gold and silver gods, and jeweled goddesses have from time to time supported the tradition of the treasure, but so far the dreams of untold wealth have not materialized. First the lake was drained. It was not an easy task, for it is some nine miles in length, and unforseen difficulties were continually confronting the workers. The most harassing of these was the constant rain, which winter and summer, hardly ever ceased.

At last, however, towards the end of 1903 the welcome news reached London that Mr. Knowles and his staff of engineers and workmen had succeeded in cutting through the basin of the lake, and the water had been drained off successfully. There was great jubilation, and preparations were made for the large consignments of gold, silver and jewels which might be expected to arrive by the next boats. Unfortunately, however, the water is not the only barrier on which the "Gilded Man" has to rely for the safekeeping of his treasure. The jubilation in London was summarily ended by a cablegram stating that twenty-five feet of solid mud, or some 30,000,000 cubic feet in all, still lay between the treasure seekers and their quest. A new engineering feat was decided on—the construction of a great dam across the hole made in the side of the basin terminating in a shaft through which the mud should be washed and carefully precipitated, so as to secure the gold and silver treasures as they were distributed from their hiding place of centuries. The dam was constructed, and with it the cleansing shaft, but while the work was in progress a strange thing had happened.

Waiting for the Rain Now.

The "Gilded Man" was evidently at work again. For over three years the engineers had worked in the rain, in such a downpour, indeed, as was unprecedented in Central America. As the water ran from the lake, however, the rain had stopped, and a drought equally without a parallel in the history of the country set in. For more than two and a half years not a drop of rain has fallen at the scene of the operations, and when the engineers had completed the construction of the dam it was only to find that the sun had baked the 30,000,000 cubic feet of mud into the consistency of hard rock. Then, metaphorically speaking, the engineers sat down and wept. The rock-like substance still lies over the golden gods and the silver dishes and ornaments, to say nothing of the jeweled goddesses and their glittering handmaidens. The few natives in the region, remnants of the great race of Chibehas, occasionally visit the scene, and smile cheerfully at the downcast Englishmen. "It is all the work of the 'Gilded Man,' who is watching over the treasure mountain,' they say, and they plainly hint that when the rain comes—if ever it does come—to soften the mud, some other obstacle will defeat the desire of the treasure-seekers. Letter after letter from Mr. Knowles to the little office in London dejectedly refers to the determined opposition Nature has placed in his way. "I regret to say rain absolutely refuses to fall here," he wrote in one of his letters.

The "Gilded Man" is taking care of his own.

"PERRY PEAK."

New Volcano Which Appeared in Behring Sea Named After Cutter.

The officers of the U. S. S. Perry have transmitted a report to Washington regarding their visit to the new peak which recently sprang up on Fire island one of the Bogoslov group of the Aleutian islands, about sixty miles west of Unalaska.

The southern end of Fire island consists of two long spits from a half to three-eights of a mile in length and about fifteen feet above high water. On the western spit the new volcanic peak has sprung up rising abruptly from the water to a height of about 700 feet and in shape resembling a monster bee hive with a base 900 feet in diameter. From numerous crevices columns of steam and sulphurous smoke continuously rise and form a cloud which is visible for more than thirty miles.

Although the surface of the new peak was warm and soft in places, the officers succeeded in reaching the summit. In recognition of the fact that the officers of the revenue cutter Perry were the first persons to visit the new peak they named it "Perry peak."

VICTORIA TIDE TABLE.

For August, 1906.

(Issued by the Tidal Survey Branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa.

Date.	Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
1 ..	6:32	1.2	.....	.....	.....	.....	22:52	8.9
2 ..	7:18	0.7	16:40	1.8	18:33	7.2	23:40	8.9
3 ..	8:01	0.4	17:06	7.4	19:26	7.1	.....	.....
4 ..	0:30	8.8	8:42	0.5	17:19	7.4	20:25	6.8
5 ..	1:22	8.6	9:22	0.3	17:27	7.4	21:23	6.5
6 ..	2:15	8.1	10:01	1.3	17:39	7.4	22:28	6.1
7 ..	3:10	7.5	10:41	2.0	17:58	7.4	23:31	5.7
8 ..	4:00	6.9	11:21	2.8	18:25	7.5	.....	.....
9 ..	0:35	5.3	5:17	6.2	12:01	3.6	18:56	7.5
10 ..	1:40	4.8	6:50	5.6	12:37	4.4	19:28	7.6
11 ..	2:46	4.3	8:48	5.4	13:07	5.1	19:59	7.6
12 ..	3:49	3.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	20:30	7.6
13 ..	4:47	3.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	21:01	7.6
14 ..	5:35	2.9	.....	.....	.....	.....	21:33	7.7
15 ..	6:15	2.5	.....	.....	.....	.....	22:09	7.7
16 ..	6:53	2.1	.....	.....	.....	.....	22:53	7.8
17 ..	7:20	1.8	17:08	7.1	18:53	7.0	23:45	7.9
18 ..	8:04	1.5	16:53	7.0	19:40	6.8	.....	.....
19 ..	0:38	8.0	8:33	1.4	16:36	7.0	20:23	6.4
20 ..	1:30	8.1	9:13	1.5	16:32	7.1	21:00	6.0
21 ..	2:23	7.9	9:50	1.8	16:36	7.2	22:00	5.6
22 ..	3:18	7.6	10:29	2.3	17:23	7.3	22:56	5.1
23 ..	4:19	7.2	11:10	2.9	17:52	7.4	23:56	4.5
24 ..	5:32	6.7	11:53	3.7	18:23	7.6	.....	.....
25 ..	0:59	5.0	7:08	6.3	12:37	4.5	18:36	7.8
26 ..	2:04	3.3	8:54	6.0	13:20	5.3	19:31	7.9
27 ..	3:08	2.7	11:32	6.2	14:05	6.1	20:08	8.1
28 ..	4:10	2.1	13:56	6.7	14:39	6.7	20:48	8.2
29 ..	5:05	1.7	14:53	7.0	16:30	6.9	21:37	8.1
30 ..	6:01	1.4	15:24	7.2	17:46	6.9	22:38	8.0
31 ..	6:49	1.3	15:44	7.3	18:48	6.7	23:43	7.9

The time used is Pacific Standard, for the 120th meridian west. It is counted from 0 to 24 hours, from midnight to midnight. The figures for height serve to distinguish high water from low water.

The height is measured from the level of the lower low water at spring tides. This level corresponds with the datum to which the soundings on the Admiralty chart of Victoria harbor are referred, as closely as can now be ascertained.

Monkey Brand Soap removes all stains, rust, dirt or tarnish—but won't wash clothes.

THE EVOLUTION OF FRANKLIN CAMP

A Fine Number of Excellent Surface Showings Have Been Made.

PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE GOOD

Camp Likely Be One of the Big Copper Districts of British Columbia.

Grand Forks, Aug. 22,—(Special) The initial stage in the evolution of a mining camp is usually characterized by an irrepressible and general optimism, the pressure of which on the mind of the individual prospector leads him to believe firmly that untold riches lie beneath the surface of his claim. On its best side this optimism is altogether admirable, on its worst it justifies the old adage of a mine being a hole in the ground and the owner thereof a liar. The second stage comes with the systematic and businesslike development of one or more properties on a large scale, and the proving up of mineral in quantity and carrying values which will warrant expenditures for the purpose of converting the property into a mine in the real meaning of that much abused term.

Franklin Camp, is forty-five miles up the North Fork of the Kettle river from Grand Forks, has in a small way experienced both those stages of evolution. A wonderful number of excellent surface showings have been made, chiefly of ore carrying chalcopyrite, and pyrite; quartz with galena; some considerable bodies of magnetic iron, and with more or less gold and silver values. The general indications are such as to inspire very strong hopes that Franklin will eventually be numbered amongst the big copper camps of the country.

Depth and magnitude of ore bodies have still to be thoroughly demonstrated, and until this is accomplished, too much shouting about fabulous riches is always to be deprecated about this or any other new mining section. The property which bids fair to prove first to the outside world what Franklin is to become is unquestionably the McKinley mine. Professor Brock, while very favorably impressed with the McKinley in 1900, stated in his deport that not enough surface has been exposed to furnish much information regarding the deposit. Since that time immense progress has been made. In 1904 the property was taken up by Geo. McLeod, and a company was formed and a considerable amount of work done, enough to indicate the existence of mineral in large bodies. In April, 1905, the McKinley was bonded to eastern people for $150,000 for a period of two years, and during that summer development work was carried on both by open cuts and tunnel under the superintendence of A. D. McPhee. In October, 1905, F. Aug. Heinze, visited Franklin and made an inspection of the McKinley, and shortly afterwards a meeting of the company was held which constituted Chas. Hamilton, of Rossland as managing director, and A. B. Mackenzie of the same city, secretary, and a rearrangement followed by which a bond of $200,000 was given for two years dating from October 1st, 1905. Last Spring work was pushed forward under the same superintendent and took the form largely of diamond drilling, a contract being placed with the Diamond Drill Company of Spokane.

Though nothing has been officially stated as to Heinze's connection with the bond it is generally believed that he is interested. It is clear that the company is bent on thoroughly exploring the property before commencing to develop on a big scale, and at the present moment plans are being evolved for additional work both on this claim and on adjoining claims of which a large number are bonded to the same company.

On Tuesday morning Mr. MsPhee left for the camp, accompanied by L.A. Stadler, a mining engineer of Butte. Mr. Stadler was born in Helena, and has for years been gathering mining experience in Butte. He is stated to be the last of the Heinze men left in Butte, the big copper operator having now entirely cleared out his interests in the camp to the Amalgamated. Mr. Stadler will survey the work already accomplished on the McKinley, and will assist supt. McPhee in laying out work for the future, and will probably stay in the camp a couple of months. Mr. Stone of the Diamond Drill Contracting Co. was here on Monday, and will be on the ground again as soon as plans are formulated as to the amount and direction of the next drilling work, when a fresh contract will be signed.

The work accomplished on the property to date, roughly estimated by Supt. McPhee for your correspondent, is as follows: Four hundred feet of tunnel and crosscutting, 3300 feet of diamond drill work, and surface exposures by open cuts, eight in number, and running from 20 feet wide to from twelve to thirty feet in depth, with a length of from 150 to 200 hundred feet. The latest of these cuts was in a fine body of magnetic iron recently exposed on the McKinley, and one of the drills has already penetrated this magnetite to a depth of 200 feet. One drill is now being moved to the Banner, an adjoining property controlled by the company. The Banner has an open cut in quartz carrying galena, and a tunnel of some 200 feet showing a fine body of chalcopyrite. Probably 1000 feet of drilling will be done on the Banner at once, for which water will have to be piped 3000 feet from a spring lying towards the Gloucester group.

Taken all in all the sanguine feeling as to the rich future for Franklin Camp is warranted by the operations going on now on its largest property.

Innumerable samples have been sent away, including of course, the various drill corps, and though the results of the assnys have naturally not been made public, it is plain that all this vigorous pushing of exploration work implies a large faith in the merits of the mine, and it may be no idle prophesy to predict the day when Franklin will equal or eclipse Phoenix and Rossland in the extent and value of its ore tonnage.

Curiously enough though this Camp is directly tributary to this city, it has been discovered by John Kirkup of Rossland, who was at the camp on Sunday last, that the greater part of it lies in the West Kootenay land division. As a matter of fact while access is not practicable from that direction yet the Arrow lakes lie only eight miles from the map, and as Kootenay division is supposed to comprise a stretch ten miles from the lakes this would put a large portion of the camp in Kootenay instead of Yale.

In Canada a locomotive engineer gets $2.80 for 100 miles. In the United States he receives $5.25 for 100 miles.

The mayors and city officials of nearly every Massachusetts city have already issued orders regarding the eight-hour workday clause being inserted in all contracts. The eight-hour bill passed this year carries a penalty for the official who does not observe it.

One of the most remarkable features of the Alabama coal industry during the year 1905 was the increase in the number of mining machines employed and the amount of machine mined coal produced. In that year there were 196 machines at work, against 141 in 1904, and the increase in tonnage was 741,170 tons to 1,786,474 tons. The total amount of coal mined by hand and machin labor was, according to the United States survey, 11,866,000 short tons, the value of which was $14,387,721. Most of the larger mines were operated on a ten hour day, and 19,595 men were employed at an average of 225 days.

The House of Lords

Not since the House of Lords obstructed Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule bills has that body been so important a factor in English politics as it is today, says a writer in the Toronto Mail and Empire. With half a hundred Socialistic Labor leaders in the Commons, with a prominent unionist holding a cabinet position, and with Radicalism rampant in the great Liberal majority, Conservatism looks to the Lords to save the country from the effects of revolutionary legislation. Among the measures that have been passed by the House of Commons and sent to the Upper Chamber, upon none is the action of the Lords awaited with such keen interest as the Education Bill.

The Education Bill

In some quarters it is predicted that the hereditary legislators will throw the bill out altogether. Other observers say that the Lords will discuss the matter week after week in an endeavor to arouse the hostility of the public to its provisions, and then, after making several important amendments, send it back to the Commons. That the peers will approve the bill in its present form is not considered likely. In the first place the Lords is strongly Conservative, and in the second it is still more strongly Anglican. Indeed, every Anglican bishop is entitled to a seat in the Upper Chamber. That a body so constituted will tamely pass a measure that tends to the disestablishment of the English church by placing it on the same footing as all other churches in educational matters, is hardly to be expected.

"Down With the Lords!"

Anticipating the action of the Lords, talk of abolishing the Upper Chamber is beginning to be heard in some quarters. "Down with the House of Lords!" is a very sure of applause at Radical meetings. Mr. Winston Churchill has breathed the same threat in more parliamentary language. John Burns and the bitter Lloyd-George would be glad to see the institution wiped out of existence. Sir Herbert Maxwell in the Nineteenth Century and After, declares that if the Lords is not to be ended it must be mended, and he suggests reforms that he considers imperative. The number of legislating peers should bear a due proportion to the number of Commoners. The House of Lords should be an elective body, and fitness for public office would thus be secured. A peerage should not be transmittable.

A Scheme of Reform

Sir Herbert says: "Let the number of peers of parliament be fixed in permanent proportion to that of the House of Commons. To ascertain the original proportion between the two chambers, the date of George III.'s accession may be taken, down to which time the creation of hereditary legislators had been sparingly exercised. In 1760 there were 224 peers of parliament and 558 members of the House of Commons—making the Lords as nearly as possible equal to two-fifths of the Commons. The same proportion to the present House of Commons would give 268 peers."

This limitation is to be secured by causing the whole peerage to choose and elect its own representatives in parliament. He says:

"Let the elective principle at present applying to the peers of Scotland and Ireland be extended to all peers on the rolls of the three realms, including the Scottish and Irish peers, to whom writs of summons are not issued at present. The House of Lords would then be elected by their peers at the beginning of each new parliament, thereby obviating the necessity for any elaborate machinery or invidious proceedings for the elimination of 'black sheep.' Men whose conduct or habits rendered them unfit for the work of legislation would not be elected peers of parliament, and the second chamber would become in fact and practice what it is now only in theory and by flattering fiction—la creme de la creme."

Titles Dying Out

The writer's idea is that if the creation of new titles ceased forthwith, those remaining need not be abolished. They would disappear in time, for the process acts more rapidly than most persons seem to realize. Of twenty-two dukedoms existing in 1905, only one, that of Norfolk, goes back to the fifteenth century; of twenty-three marquisates, only those of Winchester and Huntly are as old as the sixteenth century. Only two of 126 earls, Shrewsbury and Derby, reckon from the fifteenth century, and of thirty-six viscounties, the oldest is that of Hereford, created in 1549, and there are but three extent of those created in the seventeenth century. Among the 315 barons, nine strike back to the Plantagenet dynasty, and Sir Herbert thinks that few Radicals would care to sever a link with a past so remote. With the practice of creating hereditary titles abandoned, knighthood would resume its old importance as the highest distinction a Commoner could hope for, save only the rank of privy councillor.

The Constitutional Safeguards

Fortunately for the English constitution makes it impossible for the House of Lords to disregard the will of the people. The Lords can only block the Commons when it is supported by public opinion. Thus was made possible its defeat of the Home Rule bills. By the time the matter was referred to the country in a general election there had been a revulsion of feeling against the legislation, a new parliament was elected, and the Lords justified. In 1832 the Lords refused to pass the Parliamentary Reform bill, but had not the support of the people who sent back the old parliament. The Lords remained obdurate, so the government appointed enough new peers to vote the measure through. The sovereign is constitutionally bound to accept the advice of ministers that have the confidence of the House of Commons, and so it is always possible, as a last resort, to flood the Upper Chamber with Liberal squires and nonconformist merchants. Nowadays, it would be difficult to imagine any measure, having behind it the support of the people of England, that the Lords would dare to reject, once the mandate for its acceptance was made plain.

AN INTERVIEW WITH REV. DR. BRYCE

Distinguished Winnipeg Divine is Now on a Visit to the City.

CONVENTION OF THE BRITISH ASSN.

Outlines Scheme of Arrangement For Sessions of This Important Body.

Rev. Dr. Bryce, of Manitoba, arrived by the Princess Victoria Saturday and is staying at the Driard hotel. He has come west in connection with business of Manitoba college and desires during his visit to bring before the public the matter of the coming to Canada in 1909 of the British association for the advancement of science. Action was taken in the matter by the Royal Society of Canada and Dr. Bryce was appointed convener of the committee of the Royal Society of which he is a fellow.

The committee waited upon the Dominion government and obtained the promise of $25,000 towards bringing out the association. The matter was then brought before the city of Winnipeg and the city extended an invitation to the association to hold its annual meeting in Winnipeg in 1909. The city also promised a grant of $5,000. At its late meeting in York, Eng., after a considerable amount of pressure to overcome the unwillingness to leave England again so soon after its visit to South Africa last year, it accepted the invitation of Winnipeg. Arrangements have thus been made for the entertainment of the association so far as Winnipeg is concerned.

A desire has been expressed, however, that the association should visit the Pacific coast and the western provinces. Dr. Bryce brought the matter before some of the leading men last week in Vancouver and they seem favorably disposed towards it. In order to accomplish this visit west of Winnipeg, it is estimated that ten or eleven thousand dollars will be required—as there are three provinces, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia and five chief cities, Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Regina, it is proposed that each of the western provinces should be asked to subscribe $2,000 and each city $1,000.

The suggestion has been made that there should be a public meeting addressed by members of the association in each of the five cities mentioned. An opportunity will thus be given of studying the different points of the country and it is proposed that a comprehensive hand book showing forth the resources and features of the whole of western Canada should be prepared by the committee in charge for circulation in Great Britain.

Dr. Bryce will be in the west during the coming month and will come in touch with the various authorities at the different centres commencing with Victoria and working eastward. As the British association is the most influential body in the world and has at its annual meetings an attendance of some six to seven hundred members it will be able to give forth, accurate and scientific description, on their return to England concerning the features of the Canadian West. It will thus be seen that the very greatest importance attaches to the coming of the association to Canada.

Dr. Bryce's sphere of activity in the literary world has covered the history of the whole of western Canada and some of his most important works comprise "The Remarkable History of the Hudsons Bay Company," "The History of Winnipeg," which latter appeared last year, and this year his work in "Mackenzie, Selkirk and Simpson," appearing as one of "The Makers of Canada" series was by the London "Times" and "Spectator" very favorably reviewed and is regarded as his best work.

Dr. Bryce is moreover one of the founders of the Manitoba university and college and has taken a leading part in all educational work in the province of Manitoba since the year 1871 and has seen the growth from the beginning of the province of Manitoba and the city of Winnipeg.

If this matter is brought to a satisfactory issue as regards the West, it is proposed to have a special train under the direction of the association with powers to stop wherever the association may desire.

Rev. Dr. Bryce will conduct service at the First Presbyterian church in the morning and at St. Andrew's in the evening.

CONDITIONS IN SAANICH.

An Interview With F. C. Norris, Clerk of the Municipal Council.

F. C. Norris, clerk of the municipal council for North Saanich, was in town yesterday. He brings in a most favorable report of the farming industry in his district. The hay crop has been an excellent one this year and with favorable weather has been harvested in splendid condition. It has also been a most prolific year for grain, most of which is already cut and will soon be all in. The threshing gang is hard at work in the neighborhood and will soon have completed that operation, the results in most cases having proved highly satisfactory. Mr. Norris himself from a small patch of four and a half acres secured a return of no less than 255 bushels of fall wheat. This was an experiment with seed brought out from England of a species which appears to thrive exceptionally well in this climate.

A meeting of the municipal council took place last night at Sidney at which matters of great interest to the district were considered, comprising the building of a new cross-road which will be of great convenience to the neighborhood.

Much good work has already been done by the council comprising the repainting and general renovation of the school houses and the filling in of bridges, thus dispensing with many of the old and defective wooden structures.

The prospects for the orchard crops are not of the best as regards apples, but of other fruits the return has been fully up to the average.

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A NOTABLE VISITOR INVESTIGATING CANADA

Secretary of Information Bureau of Women's Institute of England Here.

Miss Hodge, secretary of the information bureau of the Women's Institute of England, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Greer of Pandora street. Miss Hodge has been touring in Canada and the United States in the interest of the London institute, and paid visits to Nelson and Greenwood to spend a short stay with her brothers, J. C. and L. B. Hodge. Miss Hodge expects to leave for home today via Seattle, traveling by the Northern Pacific route across the continent and taking passage by the steamer Caronia from New York. The National Council of Women of Canada is one of the women's societies affiliated with the institute represented by Miss Hodge in Great Britain. During her stay in Canada Miss Hodge investigated conditions with regard to the immigration of women from England to Canada, and she said to a Colonist reporter that she couldn't find many opportunities for educated women, although there was scope in the country for domestics. Although domestics from England could find occupations, there was no urgent demand for them, the Canadian women being sufficient to supply any demand.

COLD ON THE LUNGS.

"We have seven children and have used Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine for every one of them and with good results. We get four bottles at a time and find it a good remedy to break up cold on the lungs."—Mrs. R. D. Turner, Broadview, N. W. T.

An agreement was reached last week between fifty independent employing contractors and striking carpenters at Toronto, which practically ends the strike inaugurated a week ago. The terms of agreement are: Eight hours a day, thirty-three cents an hour; agreement to expire May 1, 1908.

President Gray has introduced the following resolution at the Trades and Labor Council: "That the council forward to the Trades and Labor Congress the following motion: 'That steps be at once taken for the formation of a Canadian Labor Party, having a combined national, provincial and municipal platform, to which all joining members and all candidates shall be firmly pledged.'"

BLUE FOXES OF ALASKA.

But one litter is born each year and that in May. The number of cubs ranges from four to as high as eleven. The average number that reach maturity is about two or three to the female. The fox lives and brings forth its young in a burrow or den about like that of a red fox, except that the blue fox is very fond of digging under the buildings on the islands. If there is a floor they are sure to have one or two dens under it if permitted to do so. They will also den under suitable piles of old lumber, logs or trash of any kind that will keep the water off. They are very suspicious of any person or thing coming near their barrows. If they are at all disturbed while their pups are young, they are said to move their young to another burrow. This is one reason why it is a bad plan to keep cattle on the same island with, or on that part of the island frequented by, the foxes and used for burrows. They are not quarrelsome or vicious like other foxes. In close confinement they will kill and eat one of their own kind that is injured or weak, and I suppose if starved to it would eat each other. I have found a bit of a fox skull in the stomach of a fox, and once found what we were sure was blue fox hair. It is difficult to learn very much about their habits where they are running loose on an island. They now and then have "scraps." Let a fox go where he does not belong an drou will soon hear a great racket. You would think a fox was being killed, and if in sight will soon see one getting away as fast as possible, yelping like a whipped dog.