Ratification Of The Sale

New Vancouver Coal Shareholders Agree to Transfer Property.

Samuel M. Robins Voted £10,000 In Recognition of His Services.

An extraordinary general meeting of the New Vancouver Coal Mining & Land Company, Ltd., was held on December 30, 1902, at the City Terminus hotel, London, Eng., F. Tendron, F. G. S., presiding, in the absence of John Galsworthy, the chairman of the company, on account of indisposition.

The chairman said 18 months ago the shareholders were warned that the oil business was assuming a serious aspect, and one of his colleagues, Curtis Thomson, when in America, visited the company's collieries, and afterwards proceeded to San Francisco and discussed the affairs of the company with the manager and agents. He also visited the oil fields. On his return to England he did not favorably impress the members of the board with the prospects in store for the company on account of this threatened competition, and he advocated our acquiring, if possible, an interest in the oil fields. That was an undertaking that they had not the means to carry out, the company only being able to rely on its own strong financial position to meet the bad times, unless a combination could be arranged between producers, dealers and the various people interested in coal to make a stand against the oil competition. Producers had not always the wisdom to hold back. Each one wanted his neighbor to do this, and press forward himself, competition becoming so severe on this account that it would probably leave no profit. The directors saw plainly that it was only by combination that a different state of affairs could be brought about, and with this view they asked Mr. Rosenfeld and Mr. Robins to see what could be done in this direction, and an arrangement had been brought about in the form as now submitted to the shareholders for approval. The shareholders had had sent to them a circular which contained all the information which it was in the power of the directors to give. If, however, there was anything they wished further information upon he would be most happy to supply it to the best of his ability. He would put the resolutions seriatim and elucidate any points. He invited questions.

Mr. Hales was not convinced of the necessity of the sale, the sufficiency of the price, or the reasonableness of the terms. They were asked to part with a property at a price below what it stood on the balance sheet, after having been successively written down for many years. They were not going to get this price in cash either, but about half in cash and the remainder in 1. O. U.'s guaranteed by Messrs. Rosenfeld. His own opinion was that the risks the chairman alluded to with regard to the oil competition were to a large extent imaginary.

Mr. Petrie said he read the circular, and took it that they were going to get a considerable proportion in cash, and that there would be no parting with the property until the amount remaining was properly secured.

Major Rutton said by his reading of the circular he surmised that a certain sum was paid in cash, and then their property was parted with absolutely, and the parties who were undertaking the deal could then raise a mortgage on the property for the purpose of paying off the further sum due. That was to say the company parted with its property for a certain sum down for about half its value, and then waited for two years for the remainder.

The chairman, in reply, said that the company had a deposit of £11,000 pending the conclusion of the negotiations. With regard to the value they were receiving, the shares of the company had stood for years on the market at from 12s. to 15s., and had been as low as 5s. The offer that was now made to them would be at least 16s. per share, cash down as soon as the conveyance was made, and guaranteed securities from a firm of very high reputation for probably another 6s. more. Several shareholders had written to the board thanking it for having taken such a step. Indeed, the great bulk of the shareholders were grateful for the terms obtained, partly by the board, but chiefly by Messrs. Rosenfeld and Robins. They were grateful for what had been done, and that was his own feeling and the feeling of the board generally. In the critical position in which the company was placed, it was very difficult to manage it so many thousands of miles away. The directors strongly recommended the proprietors to accept the terms offered, and he believed that was the opinion of the great bulk of the shareholders who had followed the history of the company for over 40 years. He roughly worked out that they ought to receive 16s. a share very soon after the conveyance was signed, then as the end of the year or very soon after the first promissory note would be paid, which ought to be another 4s., and when the company was finally wound up it was hoped that there would be another 2s. to divide among the shareholders.

The chairman moved, seconded by Wm. Curtis Thompson, that the sale be ratified with the Western Fuel Co.

The chairman proposed the second resolution as follows:

That the directors be and they are hereby authorized to pay to Samuel Matthew Robins, so soon as the property comprised in the agreement of December 15th, 1902, adopted by this meeting shall have been conveyed and transferred according to that agreement, the sum of £10,000 sterling agreed compensation and satisfaction of his claim for, and in respect of, his uncompleted contract as superintendent of this company.

He said that as Mr. Robins had served the company for so many years in such an able manner, he hoped no shareholder would raise one word of objection to this resolution.

Mr. Andrew seconded. He had known Mr. Robins for many years, and Mr. Robins' efficiency as an agent of the company did not admit of dispute. His claim was founded on a calculation of the salary he was receiving plus commission on profits realized. It was a very close calculation, and he was not receiving a penny more than he was entitled to, and he had very great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

After a short discussion the resolution was carried.

The third resolution was proposed as follows:

That the directors be and they are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement on behalf of the company with Messrs. John Rosenfeld's Sons, of San Francisco, under which this company (a) shall pay to the said Messrs. John Rosenfeld's Sons the sum of $10,000 (United States currency), in consideration of their subscribing the full $50,000 in the purchasing company; (b) shall pay to the said Messrs. John Rosenfeld's Sons a further remuneration in consideration of their guaranteeing the due payment of the promissory notes referred to in section 2 of the agreement of December 15th, 1902, adopted at this meeting.

The chairman said that one of the conditions made by the representatives of the purchasing company was that the Vancouver company should take $50,000 in the new company. The directors, however, preferred another course, so Messrs. Rosenfeld undertook to put their own money in to that amount, if the company would pay them $10,000 in consideration of their doing this, and that was acceded to by the directors. With regard to section B of the resolution, the extra remuneration would be 8 per cent. on the £30,000 that ran for one year, and 10 per cent. on the £20,000 than ran for two years. This was not 10 per cent. per annum, but was for the whole period.

T. Blair Reynolds seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The last resolution, proposed by the chairman, seconded by Major Rutton, was carried unanimously. It was:

That so soon as the property comprised in the agreement of December 15th, 1902, adopted by this meeting shall have been conveyed and transferred under that agreement the sum of £5,000 be paid out of the funds of the company to the directors as compensation for loss of office, and that likewise the sum of £3,000 be paid to Mr. Joseph Ramsden, secretary of the company, and £1,000 to Mr. Arthur Billet Mayes, an employee of the company, and that the directors be, and they are hereby authorized to make such further reasonable payments as they may think fit by way of bonus or compensation to other officers or employees of the company.

A vote of thanks, proposed by the chairman, and seconded by Mr. Petrie, was given to Messrs. Rosenfeld for their long services and for successfully carrying out the sale of the company's undertaking.

The proceedings then terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff.

PARTICULARS OF THE SALE.

New Owners Pay $550,000 For the Mines and Plant.

Referring to the above meeting the Financial Times, London, of December 27, says:

A meeting of the New Vancouver Coal Mining & Land company has been called for Tuesday next to consider a proposal for the sale of the property to "certain parties in San Francisco." The circular sent out with the notice of meeing states that the directors have lately been inquiring into the company's prospects in view of the increasing use of oil as fuel, and that they have consulted Messrs. John Rosenfeld's Sons on the matter. As an outcome of these negotiations the present offer has been made through Messrs. Rosenfeld, and consists of a proposal to buy the mines, plant, machinery, etc., but not the investments and other liquid assets, for $550,000, say, £112,500. The purchasers are to deposit $55,000 on execution of the agreement, and on transference of the property pay $245,000 in cash, the remainder of the money being secured by two promissory notes of $150,000 and $100,000, payable respectively on 15th December, 1903, and 15th December, 1904, and both bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. The directors have accepted Messrs. Rosenfeld's guarantee for the deferred payments in lieu of a mortgage, thinking it preferable that the shareholders should completely divest themselves of the property. The directors, "having regard to the unfavorable market outlook, and knowing the feeling of several of the large shareholders," have considered it their duty to accept the offer, subject to the approval of the shareholders. "It is estimated," the circular proceeds, "that the purchase price, together with the realization of the liquid assets (investments, cash in hand, coal stored, etc.) will permit, after payment of the remaining debentures (£6,000), allowances, compensations, income-tax, costs of winding up and all other expenses and liabilities, a return of at least 20s. per share, and possibly an extra 2s. per share. In the circumstances the directors consider that the shareholders will be well advised to take advantage of the present opportunity to realize their property, and the Board therefore strongly recommends the adoption and ratification of the provision agreement for sale." The compensations include £10,000 to the superintendent in respect of the unexpired term of his contract, $10,000 to Messrs. Rosenfeld "as an allowance on $50,000 which they have agreed with the purchaser as a condition of purchase to invest in the new undertaking in relief of this company," £3,000 to the secretary, £1,000 to the assistant secretary and certain bonuses to other officials, while the directors also put in a claim for a sum of £5,000 for loss of office.

The New Vancouver concern was formed in 1889 to acquire the properties of the Vancouver Coal Mining & Land company, and has a capital of £215,000. It has been fairly successful, and during the past fourteen years has paid 5½ per cent. in dividends. For the three years ended 1901 the rate of distribution was 6 per cent. per annum, and for the six months to 30th June last 3 per cent. was paid. In the balance-sheet for the last half-year the estimates, buildings, collieries, railways, plant, rolling stock and wharves are valued at £140,700, and are as they stand after having been steadily written down year by year. The net profits before allowing for this writing down, but after deducting management expenses, are something like £30,000 per annum, so that the price offered is only about four years' purchase, and scarcely seems adequate, notwithstanding the fears of the directors that the growing use of oil as fuel will interfere with the company's markets. Indeed, it might be contended that the willingness of the buyers to take the property argues not a little faith in its future. The terms of the payment of the purchase money do not appear very satisfactory either, and in the event of a failure of the Rosenfeld guarantee there would apparently be nothing tangible to seize to make good the loss. The curious part is that the shareholders are asked to sanction an unnamed payment to the Rosenfeld in consideration of their furnishing this very guarantee for the payment of the promissory notes. These points require a good deal more elucidation than they can have yet received, and the fact that the arrangements entered into have been conducted by cable is not suggestive that either sufficient time or opportunity has been afforded for concluding an agreement as satisfactory to the shareholders as they have a right to expect.

WANT LIFE-SAVING STATION.

Need of One in the Vicinity of Cape Flattery Pointed Out.

An agitation has been started in the Sound cities for the establishment of a life-saving station on the ocean beach somewhere in the vicinity of Cape Flattery. In this connection the Clallam Bay Record says:

"The wreck of the bark Prince Arthur near Cape Flattery, last week, is another argument in favor of a life-saving station on the ocean beach somewhere near the Cape. The drowning of 18 men out of a crew of 20 for lack of any help from shore is a frightful instance of neglect on the part of the Government to provide any life-saving facilities at Cape Flattery. There is no other part of the United States, and probably in no other civilized country on earth, where such neglect is apparent. Puget Sound is one of the great sea ports of the world. Its commerce is large and rapidly increasing, yet there is no life-saving station at its entrance and none along the sea board of the state except in the vicinity of Grays Harbor, 150 miles South of the Cape. Loss of life goes on right along upon the lonely ocean coast of Washington because there are no means of saving life, and the sailors are left the prey of the breakers whenever a ship gets ashore among the rocks in the darkness.

"Senator Foster, it is reported, has this matter of getting a life-saving station at the Cape under consideration. He ought to push it right along. It has been needed for half a century on the coast; not inside the straits where it was once established and afterwards abandoned as useless."

FOR FALSE ARREST.

Toronto, Jan. 21.—(Special)—In the suit of Mrs. Dority against the T. Eaton Co. for damages for false arrest, the jury at the assizes dismissed the action against both floor-walkers, but gave the plaintiff eight hundred dollars damages against the company. The case will be appealed.

International Athletic League

Proposal to Hold a Convention at Seattle on February 21.

To Perfect Organization of the Pacific Northwest Athletic Association.

At a recent meeting of the James Bay Athletic Association, it was decided to call a meeting of the various clubs which have signified their desire to join in the formation of a Pacific Northwest Athletic Association, composed of all the principal clubs of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, and a committee was appointed to make all necessary arrangements. A constitution for the proposed association was drafted and approved of for submission to the convention, which it was suggested, to hold at Seattle on Saturday, February 21.

The committee is now in communication with the outside clubs, which are asked to meet and appoint two delegates, each to represent them at the convention.

The constitution is as follows:

ARTICLE I.
Name.

The name of this Association shall be "North Pacific Amateur Athletic Association."

ARTICLE II.
Object.

The object of this Association shall be the advancement and improvement of field and other sports among amateurs, and it shall be composed of the James Bay Athletic Association, of Victoria, British Columbia, Brocton Point Athletic Association, of Vancouver, B. C.; Seattle Athletic Club, of Seattle, Washington; Multnomah Athletic Club, of Portland, Oregon, and the Spokane Athletic Club, of Spokane, Washington, and such other clubs as shall be elected as hereinafter provided.

ARTICLE III.
Defining an Amateur.

The definition of an "amateur" shall be as follows: An amateur is one who has never competed for a money prize or staked bet, or with or against any professional for any prize, or who has never taught, pursued or assisted in the practice of athletic exercise as a means of obtaining a livelihood.

ARTICLE IV.
Membership.

Section 1. The representative body of this Association shall be composed of two delegates from each club, with alternates assembled in an annual convention, or if necessary at more frequent periods.

Section 2. Any club desiring to join this Association shall make written application to the Secretary of this Association enclosing a membership fee of $25 (to be returned if the application be rejected) at least sixty days prior to the annual convention, when upon the Secretary of the Association shall at once submit such application by letter to the Secretary of each of the clubs then forming the Association, who shall in turn submit it to the ruling power in each club, and shall within thirty days after the receipt of such letter, advise the Secretary of this Association of the approval or disapproval of such application. If such application is objected to by any one club, such application shall be considered as declined by the Association. Provided, If any club fails to respond within said thirty days, said club shall be taken as having voted in the affirmative on such application for admission.

Section 3. Delegates upon election, must forward their credentials to the Secretary of the Association.

Section 4. The terms of office of delegates shall commence with the next annual convention after their election.

ARTICLE V.
Conventions.

Section 1. The annual convention shall be held at three o'clock p. m. on the ..... day of ..... in each year, at..... Other meetings may be held by general request, or by order of the President, of which two days' notice shall be given to each club by the Secretary; such last mentioned meetings shall be held at some place as nearly as possible central to all clubs forming the Association.

Section 2. At all conventions a majority of all legally enrolled delegates shall constitute a quorum.

Order of Business.

Section 3.
Roll Call.
Reading, correction and adoption of minutes.
Reports and communications.
Unfinished business.
Election of officers.
New business.
Adjournment.

Section 4. The "May's Parliamentary Practice" is selected as the parliamentary guide of the Association.

ARTICLE VI.
Initiations and Dues.

Section 1. The initiation fee shall be $25, which sum each club desiring to join this Association shall send to the Secretary, with its application, to be returned to said club on failure of election.

Section 2. Each club shall pay $25 annually as dues to the Association, remitting the same to the Treasurer at least ten days prior to the annual convention. No club can be represented in conventions unless all dues are paid.

ARTICLE VII.
Officers.

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be, a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot at the annual convention, and in all cases a majority vote shall be required to elect.

Section 2. The term of officers and executive committees shall begin on the first day of the month following their election, and continue to the first day of the month following the next meet, or until their successors are duly qualified.

ARTICLE VIII.
Election of Executive Committee.

Section 1. At each annual convention there shall be elected an Executive Committee, which shall be composed of two members from each club a member of this Association. The President and Secretary shall be ex-officio members of said committee, and shall each count as one of the members from the club to which they belong. The President shall be ex-officio chairman of said committee, but shall have no voice or vote on any matter except in case of a tie vote.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have general control and management of the affairs of the Association, under the directions of the convention, and carry out their instructions. They shall also fill all offices becoming vacant until the next convention.

ARTICLE IX.
Suspension or Expulsion.

Section 1. Any violation of the rules of this Association, or any conduct prejudicial to honor, morality, or the general interests of the Association, shall render a club liable to suspension by the Executive Committee, and expulsion by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at the next annual convention.

ARTICLE X.
Status Committee.

Section 1. The Status Committee shall be composed of one member from each club, who shall continue to be a member of said committee until he resigns from the club of which he is a member, or until the club of which he is a member shall request his removal and appoint one in his stead to represent said club.

Section 2. In case of a vacancy on this committee it shall be filled at the next convention from the club in which the vacancy has occurred.

Section 3. Said committee shall have full power to interpret and construe the definition herein given of an amateur after hearing all parties, and may disbar any man, and their decision in all cases shall be final, and such disqualified man shall at once be notified by the Secretary of his disbarment.

Section 4. Upon the filing of any petition by any club, a member of the Association, asking for removal of any member of this committee, stating the reason therefor, the Secretary shall immediately transmit to said member a copy of said petition, with a notification that the petition will be considered at the next annual convention of this Association.

Section 5. This Association at the next annual convention following the receipt of this petition, shall proceed to consider the same, and take such testimony and receive such evidence as they deem proper in support of or against said petition, and the accused shall then be given full opportunity to be heard in his own behalf. After said hearing the convention may remove said member by a vote of two-thirds of all delegates present.

Section 6. In case said member does not appear before said convention, or assign a sufficient reason for his absence, the convention shall have full power to proceed the same as if he were present.

Section 7. All protests of whatever nature, made against any person or club, must be accompanied by a fee of $20, to be forfeited if protest be held frivolous and absurd; $10 to be forfeited if protest is not sustained, and entire fee returned if protest is established.

ARTICLE IX.
Amendments.

Section 1. No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to this constitution at any convention except by a two-thirds vote of all legally enrolled delegates, nor unless thirty days' notice of any proposed change has been given to the Secretary of this Association, of which due notice shall at once be sent by him to the clubs belonging to this Association.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.
Duties of Officers.

Section 1. The President shall preside at all conventions of the Association, appoint all committees the appointment of which is not otherwise provided for, and act as chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of that officer.

Section 3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the minutes of each convention of the Association, shall conduct its correspondence, and have charge of and be responsible for all the books and papers of the Executive Committee and Association. He shall also act as Secretary of the Executive Committee, and shall make an annual report upon the condition of the Association. He shall collect and have charge of all moneys belonging to the Association, shall pay all bills when properly approved, and submit a report thereof to the Executive Committee whenever called upon by them so to do. He shall, if required, give a bond to the Executive Committee, which shall be satisfactory to them, in the sum of $500.

ARTICLE II.
Meetings of Executive Committee.

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held on the second Saturday in March, and prior to and upon the same day as the annual convention, at such place as may be determined as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Executive Committee shall be called by the Secretary, either at the written request of three members of said committee, or by written order of the President, and notice of said meetings shall be sent to every member of the Executive Committee ten days prior to said date.

Section 3. At every meeting of the Executive Committee, the place for holding the next meeting shall be decided upon prior to adjournment, and in the event of a special meeting being called it shall be held at the place chosen for the next meeting, or at such other place as may be agreed upon.

Section 4. At all meetings of the Executive Committee a majority of members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The Executive Committee may at any meeting, by a majority vote, reconsider the decision of the Status Committee to the amateur standing of any person, and by such vote repeal the action of the Status Committee. The decision of..... ..... shall be final.

ARTICLE III.
Payment of Bills.

Section 1. All bills shall be presented to the Treasurer, who is authorized to approve, audit and pay the same.

Section 2. The funds of the Association shall be devoted to Association expenses and the purchase of suitable trophies.

ARTICLE IV.
Meets.

Section 1. The Association shall hold one Annual Championship Meet in each of the following different lines of sport, to be at a time and place to be decided upon at the Annual Meeting of the Association, the date to be fixed and published by the Committee at least two months prior to the holding thereof:

(1.) Field sports.
(2.) Tennis and other outdoor games.
(3.) Indoor sports.

Section 2. The said Annual Meets shall be conducted under rules and regulations to be decided upon by the committee having charge of same.

ARTICLE V.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary during his term of office to keep and transmit to his successor in office, an accurate report of all meetings, records made, and other matters of interest in connection with the Association.

ARTICLE VI.
Amendments.

Section 1. These By-Laws may be altered, amended or suspended at any convention of the Association by a simple majority vote, provided two weeks' notice shall have been given to each club of the Association of the proposed alteration, amendment or suspension. In the absence of such notice a two-thirds vote of the delegates present shall be required.

EXPECTS A RUSH.

On the 15th of next mouth the new settler one-way rates to the Northwest go into effect on all North Coast lines, and also on the Southern Coast lines. At present the indications are that there will be a larger number of this class of travel on these rates than ever before at this season.

A. D. Charlton, assistant general passenger agent of the Northern Pacific, with headquarters at Portland, who is in Seattle, said in an interview there, that the West will receive more of a settler influx this spring than ever before at the same time.

"We are looking for a very large number of settlers to come West over the Northern Pacific on the new settler rates, which go into effect February 15 next," said Mr. Charlton. "At the present time there is very little travel other than the regular, and this shows that those intending to make the trip from the Eastern and Central States are waiting for the settler rates. These rates are based on $25 from St. Paul. From all points East of St. Paul there are reduced rates, so that the settler rates to the Pacific Coast is low enough to encourage travel.

"Applications for transportation of families and personal property are larger than they have ever been before at this season, and therefore all lines expect a big rush.

AN ARTISTIC TREAT.

Talented Musicians Will Render a Splendid Programme Next Tuesday.

The concert to be given on next Tuesday evening in Institute hall, under the auspices of the Alexandra Royal College of Music and Art promises to be one of the musical events of the season. Some of the most accomplished musicians in the city, including Mrs. J. D. Helmcken, Miss De Weckmar-Stoess, Miss Stone and Miss Ella Margaret Helm, will take part and the programme has been most judiciously arranged. With regard to Miss Helm the Seattle Times has this to say:

Miss Ella Margaret Helm, who sings at the Easter service of the Unitarian church, has recently come to Seattle from Madison, Wis., where for three years she has been an instructor in the Farnese Vocal school, and has held the leading choir positions. For the past year she has had complete charge of the music at the First Congregational church in the Wisconsin Capital City. Miss Helm is a graduate of the Farnese Vocal school, and later a pupil of the celebrated coach, Johanna Hess-Burr, of Chicago, and has been a successful concert singer in the Middle West.

"You are charged," said the Billville justice, "with stealing two gallons of whisky. Why did you do it?" "Kaze I couldn't git away with a barrel, yer honor—I never was very strong,!"—Atlanta Constitution.

FORESTERS INSTALLATION

Interesting Ceremony and Concert and Addresses at A.O.U.W. Hall.

An interesting and impressive ceremony took place last night in A. O. U. W. hall, the occasion being the joint installation of the officers-elect of Courts Cariboo and Victoria West, Independent Order of Foresters. A large audience, composed of members of the order and their friends, comfortably filled the large hall and great interest was manifested in the proceedings.

The installation was conducted by M. J. Crehan, of Vancouver, high secretary, assisted by Rev. J. Irvine, of Vancouver, supreme marshal, and H. Marymont, supreme conductor.

The officers installed were:

Court Cariboo, No. 743.—C. R. King, court deputy; W. L. J. Prevost, junior past chief ranger; E. A. MacEachern, chief ranger; G. P. Kelley, vice chief ranger; Jos. Gibbs, physician; Wm. Brunell, orator; T. R. Dee, recording secretary; T. Le Massurier, financial secretary; C. B. Deaville, treasurer; E. Brandson, senior woodward; H. P. Mellish, junior woodward; E. H. Neelands, senior beadle; D. Dewar, junior beadle.

Court Victoria West, No. 4183.—Thos. Redding, court deputy; C. W. Kirk, junior past chief ranger; A. R. Colby, chief ranger; F. Kroeger, vice chief ranger; C. E. Foote, physician; J. Collins, orator; Geo. Andrews, recording secretary; Beaumont Boggs, financial secretary; H. Lawrie, treasurer; W. English, senior woodward; A. H. Minor, junior woodward; A. H. Gray, senior beadle; S. Lawrie, junior beadle.

After the installation ceremonies His Worship Mayor McCandless took the chair and the following programme was rendered: Overture; address, Rev. J. Irvine, supreme court organizer; club-swinging, H. P. Mellish; address, Rev. E. S. Rowe; song, J. G. Brown; recitation, Grace Le Massurier; address, M. J. Crehan, high secretary, Vancouver; recitation, A. Semple; song, G. F. Watson; recitation, Master Le Massurier. During the evening refreshments were served and the large number present enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

MR. LEVY'S TRAVELS.

What He Said About British Columbia in New Zealand.

The Taranski, N. Z., Herald, of December 9, says:

Mr. H. E. Levy, whose standing as a prominent business man in the capital city of British Columbia is attested by a document under the hand and seal of the Mayor of Victoria, B. C., has been spending a few days in New Plymouth as part of a tour through the colony.

Mr. Levy has been combining business with pleasure, and has formed a favorable opinion of the possibilities of establishing trade between the Pacific Coast of Canada and New Zealand. British Columbia is a heavily timbered country, and has numerous wild animals, quite unfitted for sheep raising, and likely to continue so till long after the time of the present generation. The inhabitants have been importing a good deal of mutton from Australia, but of course the Commonwealth's shortage, owing to the drought, has stopped that trade. British Columbia could therefore, according to Mr. Levy's statement to a Herald reporter, absorb a fair quantity of New Zealand mutton, if only there was a line of steamers with refrigerating chambers, running between this colony and Vancouver. "It was a great mistake ever to let that service drop," he added. In reply to a direct question he expressed the opinion that British Columbia would prefer to have a connecting service with New Zealand, rather than with Australia. He also thinks that this colony should subsidize an "all red" line, in preference to a United States service.

While in Wellington, Mr. Levy made enquiries as to woollen goods which British Columbia at present draws chiefly from Britain and Eastern Canada. He formed a high opinion of the Wellington articles, which he thinks, if prices were right, would command a ready sale in his province. On going into figures, however, he found that on the score of price, our goods would be handicapped, though at the request of the Wellington manager, he selected a few lines which he will experiment with when he returns home. The disability under which we labor in regard to price, arises partly from Canada's preferential treatment of British goods. Articles from Eastern Canada of course go into British Columbia free, while goods from Britain, certified to have been manufactured in the Mother Country, are allowed a substantial rebate on the ordinary duty. If preferential trade were established throughout the Empire, New Zealand could compete on an equal footing.

Other articles which British Columbia requires to import in large quantities are eggs and dairy produce. The province is going into dairying herself, but at present confines her attention to butter. Eggs are largely imported from Eastern Canada.

On the other hand, Mr. Levy's colony is in a position to ship back produce which he has found commanding high prices in New Zealand during his visit. Flour and potatoes are two lines that he could have sent in to Auckland at a lower figure than they have been selling at. To show the immense possibilities of Canada as a grain producing country, he mentioned that in Manitoba 20,000 workmen were imported from the States, besides numerous arrivals from Britain, to cope with the last harvest. In fruit growing, too, Mr. Levy thinks that British Columbia excels New Zealand. He brought with him a case of apples averaging about 18oz. each, which, when exhibited in a shop window in Wellington, created great astonishment.

In the matter of scenery, our visitor is quite satisfied with his own country. Within easy distance, even within sight of his own home, there are, he says, several mountains which considerably outstrip Mt. Egmont in size, while as a tourist resort, he has, unfortunately, visited New Zealand during a peculiar period of weather that has not confirmed the claims he has heard made about our wonderful climate.

TRIAL FOR TREASON.

Naturalization Act Will Not Excuse Lynch.

London, Jan. 22.—The court in which Col. Arthur Lynch, member of parliament for Galway, is being tried on the charge of high treason, was again crowded today.

After reading the deposition of an American, Lewis Handley, who said Col. Lynch had compelled him to take up arms in behalf of the Boers at Glencoe, but who had got off through the intervention of the United States consul, counsel for the defence submitted that the prisoner was protected by the naturalization laws. He claimed that a man was entitled to become an alien at any time, even after the outbreak of a war. He referred to the United States war of Independence, said there were at least 20,000 of British birth in United States mercantile marine, and asserted that there were 20,000,000 people living in the United States who possessed two nationalities.

Counsel contended that Col. Lynch took up arms in behalf of the Transvaal without secrecy, and under the mistaken belief that the Nationalization Act permitted this. In any event, counsel added, if the court decided the prisoner was a British subject, he ought to be tried in Australia, where he was born.

The Attorney-General, Sir Robert Finlay, replying for the prosecution, argued that Col. Lynch procured naturalization papers for the purpose of fighting against his own country, and added that even could naturalization cover the prisoner's subsequent actions, it could not cover his anterior reasons, namely, adhering to the Queen's enemies and declaring his willingness to fight against her forces.

Ultimately the court decided that the Naturalization Act afforded no defence in the present case. Naturalization was preceded by taking an oath of allegiance to the enemy, which was a treasonable action.

The case was then adjourned.

POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

Preparations Well Under Way for the Exhibition Next Month.

The members of the Poultry Association are doing their best to make their annual exhibit of birds a grand success. Birds of the best quality and breed have been imported from all parts of the United States. Mr. J. M. Abbot, one of the importers, has just received two beautiful white Leghorn cockrels, from H. J. Blanchard, of Groton, New York. These birds have never been exhibited, but have sprung from a stock that takes a lot of beating, and the owner is confident that there are very few birds, if any, in Victoria that can hold a candle to them. It might be said that Mr. Blanchard, from whom the birds came, is the largest raiser of white Leghorns in the United States.

The executive committee of the association have decided to hold their exhibition in the Market building, on February 4, 5, 6 and 7. The prizes are to be seen in the Shoe Emporium windows on Government street. The secretary says he has had inquiries for particulars of the list of prizes and also for special premium lists from Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo, and that everything points to a grand success.

THE RIVALRY FOR ISLAND BUSINESS

Vancouver Merchants Have a Scheme to Get Trade of Quatsino.

A merchant of Victoria is in possession of information calculated to arouse the wholesalers of this city to still greater activity in attempts to retain the trade of Vancouver Island. It has long been known that Vancouver has been putting forth special efforts to corral business originating on this Island, and has made a strong bid for the trade of the rapidly growing mining camps on the West Coast, commercial travelers from the Terminal City making special trips there for orders.

Now it appears that the wholesalers of Vancouver have formulated a plan whereby they hope to corral the rapidly growing trade of Quatsino, and the mining camps at that point. The plan is to take advantage of the fact that there will be shortly a new wharf at Hardy Bay, which is being built by the Government, put on a small steamer from Vancouver on a regular service, and reach Quatsino by the wagon road from Hardy Bay, a distance of only eight miles. By holding out inducements of a regular and frequent service to the Quatsino people, via Hardy Bay, it is hoped to divert most of the trade to Vancouver.

A proposition emanating from Vancouver people is also under way to handle the ore from the Yreka mine via Hardy Bay. The idea is said to be to build a tramway from Quatsino to Hardy Bay and tow scow loads of ore by tug to the Crofton smelter. It is claimed that this would save 50 miles of a sea voyage from the present method of handling the ore, which is done by the steamer Venture from Quatsino Sound direct.

In connection with the development of the Northern end of the Island it may be mentioned that plans are now being drawn for a 16-room hotel which is to be erected at Hardy Bay in the spring.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Motion to Dismiss Petition Against Col. Prior Thrown Out.

Final argument of the preliminary objections filed in the election petition against Hon. E. G. Prior took place before Mr. Justice Martin yesterday morning, the motion to dismiss on technicalities being dismissed. A. P. Luxton argued the objections on behalf of Col. Prior, T. M. Miller opposing him. The date of the trial has not yet been set. L. P. Duff is acting in conjunction with Mr. Miller for the petitioners.

FULL COURT.

In Oppenheimer v. Sperling, Mr. A. E. McPhillips, K. C., applied for leave to appeal to the Privy council from the recent refusal of the Full court, to order the statement of claim to be struck out. The motion was dismissed with costs.

Wilson v. Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co. Argument of this appeal was continued yesterday by Mr. Bodwell, K. C., on behalf of the company, and Mr. S. S. Taylor, K. C., on behalf of the plaintiff. The court intimated that in accordance with its decision, as announced on Thursday, second counsel would not be heard on behalf of the company.

CHAMBERS.

In Chambers yesterday morning, before Mr. Justice Martin, an application was made in the case of Anderson v. Anderson for an extension of time in filing the executor's accounts. The application was granted. A. F. R. Martin for the applicant.

COUNTY COURT.

In the County court, before the Chief Justice, yesterday the trial of McGregor et al v. Bale, on a claim for damages concerning the tug Sadie was concluded, judgment being awarded the plaintiffs for $100.70 and costs. A. L. Belyea, K. C., for plaintiffs; F. Higgins, contra.

The case of Jones v. McMillan was tried before Mr. Justice Martin. Plaintiff obtained judgment for $47 and costs. J. M. Bradburn for plaintiff; L. Bond, contra.

VICTORIA FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for Current Year.

The annual meeting of the Victoria Farmers' Institute was held at Royal Oak school house on Wednesday evening, a large number being present. The secretary's report gave a membership of 205 for the past year.

The officers elected for the current year are as follows: President, W. F. Loveland; vice-president, J. Shopland; secretary-treasurer, C. E. King (re-elected by acclamation); directors, Messrs. H. T. Oldfield, H. Tanner, G. Deans, G. Sangster, R. Layritz, J. Erskine, J. Nicholson, J. Bryden, R. B. Bowker, F. Haddon; auditors, Messrs. A. G. Suelling and J. R. Carmichael (re-elected); delegate to Central Institute, Mr. Bryden.

A somewhat lengthy discussion followed on the question of obtaining cheaper blasting powder. The institute will give a basket social at Saanichton on the 12th prox.

New Association.—Business men of the city to the number of 30 assembled in Pioneer hall yesterday evening and decided, after due deliberation, to organize at an early date a Business Men's Association. Arrangements were made to meet again on Thursday next, when initial steps towards formally organizing will be taken.

STRUCK BY A STREET CAR

Samuel Banner Sustains Serious And Possibly Fatal Injuries.

Samuel Banner, carpenter, a well known resident of the city, was struck by a street car on Fort street yesterday, shortly after noon, and severely injured. Mr. Banner was standing between the rails at the corner of Cook and Fort streets, and evidently did not notice the approaching car. The motorman saw him and supposed he was waiting to board the car, but as he did not move from the track as the car neared him, the gong was sounded and the brakes applied, so that the car was almost at a standstill when it struck him. The force of the concussion was so great, however, that he was hurled to the ground, striking on his head and knocked unconscious.

Those who witnessed the accident say the unfortunate man was looking in the opposite direction to that from which the car was coming, and that he did not seem to hear the warning sound of the gong. It is said that he was very deaf, which would account for his seeming carelessness of his dangerous position. There seems to be no question that the motorman took every possible means to avoid the accident, and that no blame can be attached to him.

Immediately after the accident the injured man was taken to the Jubilee hospital, where he was found to be suffering from concussion of the brain.

OBITUARY.

Death of Alexander Clearihue, a Pioneer Resident of the City.

The death occurred yesterday evening, at the residence of his brother, Joseph, of Alexander Clearihue, one of the pioneers of the province, in the 79th year of his age. Deceased, who was unmarried, was a native of Quebec. There are two brothers resident in the city, Joseph and Peter. The funeral will take place from the residence of the former, Cadboro Bay road.

The funeral of Mr. Drewett will take place this afternoon from Hanna's undertaking parlors.

The funeral of the infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Calderwood took place yesterday afternoon from the family residence.

RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Northern Pacific to Build to Port Angeles.

The Post-Intelligencer of yesterday makes the important announcement that the Northern Pacific Railway Company will build to Port Angeles, on the West side of Puget Sound. It is further stated that the standard-gauge railroad now being constructed from Angeles to La Push, 80 miles, was financed by the Northern Pacific, and that the work of "belting" the Olympian peninsula with that company's tracks will begin at once, and be pushed to a rapid completion. Passengers by the Majestic and Rosalie yesterday report that this announcement of railway extension has caused the liveliest interest along the West side of the Sound, and that real estate is advancing by leaps and bounds. A rumor, which was referred to in these columns a week or two ago, that the Union and Southern Pacific companies are preparing to build to Angeles from Portland, is prevalent at Seattle and generally believed there. The effect of these extensions upon Victoria, it is claimed, will be most favorable, as the trip from Victoria to Angeles can easily be made in an hour and a quarter by a properly equipped ferry boat.

HIS HALF-BROTHER.

Capt. Mellon of Vancouver Related to Late C. P. Gee.

Vancouver, Jan. 22. — (Special.) — Charles Palmer Gee, who died in Victoria last week, was a half brother of Captain Mellon. Captain Mellon had lost all trace of Mr. Gee for 17 years, and thought him dead. He last heard of him in Weymouth, England, and had no letters from him in 20 years, while all his letters remained unanswered. Captain Mellon saw the notice of his half-brother's death in the Colonist, but could hardly credit that after looking for him in the Old Country for 17 years and finding no trace of him he should have passed through Vancouver and died in Victoria. Capt. Mellon says that his right name is Gee, and that when his mother married again she gave him the name of Mellon, and called his half brother Gee. Mrs. Gee was communicated with regarding the matter, and said her husband often spoke of his half brother, a sea captain, who he had given up as lost at sea.

Capt. Mellon wrote a member of the Colonist staff a few days ago asking him to make enquiries regarding his relative. The Colonist man called on the widow, and from information furnished by Capt. Mellon soon established the identity of the deceased as the long-lost brother of the Captain. Mrs. Gee, who has supported the family for over a year, since they arrived here from Red Deer, Alberta, by dressmaking, is living in humble circumstances over Jones' cigar store on Douglas street. She has two young children dependent upon her and her sad position calls for the assistance of the charitably inclined.

THE PLAGUE IN FRISCO.

Seattle About to Take Steps to Protect Itself From