-The British Columbia Medical Council's examinations will be held in Vic-

-The Christmas entertainment of St. Barnabas Sunday school, was held ou Thursday evening in Fernwood Hall. -The next regular meeting of Behnsen Temple No. 3, Rathbone Sisters, will

toria on January 12th.

be held in the new Pythian Hall, Broad -A special meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association will be held on Monday evening at 8 o'clock in the Con-

Several drunks were arrested yesterday, and as is customary on holidays, re-leased after they had become sufficiently

sober to appear. The annual Morris Tube competit tions of No. 1 company of the Fifth Regiment will be begun next Tuesday evening at the drill hall. -Police Officer Alex. Smith was re-

ported as resting easier to-day and the medical men in attendance are of the opinion that he may recover. -It was reported to the police yester day evening that a Chinese girl named

Moni, aged ten years, had been lost. Her whereabouts has not yet been ascertained. -John McDonald, of Colwood, came to the city to-day with a large panther which he shot yesterday. Just before

being shot the panther had killed a good--The funeral of the late William Blyth of Wilkinson road, Strawberry vale, took place to-day at 2:30 p.m. from Hanna's undertaking establishment, Douglas street. The Rev. Mr.

Laverock officiated at the cemetery. -The usual Christmas entertainment of St Paul's Presbyterian Sunday school was held on Thursday evening in Semple's hall, Victoria West. Besides a well laden Christmas tree a good pro-

gramme was provided. -A Chinaman who happened to be entangled up in the procession of boys who with tin horns marched along Government street soon after the beginning of the new year, was pushed through

window of Beaty's store. -A special meeting for the purpose arranging for the reception of U and President J. F. Kavanagh, who it is expected will visit this city on Wednesday evening next, will be held by Segh-

er's Council, Y.M.I., this evening. -During the coming session of the Provincial Legislature a consolidation bill will be presented by the Thompson Gold Fields, Ltd., will also ask for amendments to their act of last year. -On Wednesday evening, January 6, a special meeting of the I. O. F. will be held in the A. O. U. W. hall, beginning at 8 p.m. Major McGillivray, supreme secretary of the order, will deliver an address on fraternal associations, refer ring especially to Forestry.

-Hearing that New Year's eve was being celebrated by a quiet game of chuck-a-luck by about a dozen white men in On Hing's store at No. 11 Store street, the police decided to make a call. As a result of their call those participating in the game have received summonses to appear before Police Magis-

trate Macrae. -A reception was held yesterday afternoon by the W. C. T. U. in Temper-The hall was very prettily decorated by the ladies, who received a large number of visitors. In the evening an at home was held, when a programme of vocal music was given. Rev. J. P. Hicks occupied the chair during

the evening. -For the purpose of obtaining th right to try a newly invented machine for saving gold from black beach sand. Mr. Will Lysons and a number friends from Port Townsend are in the city. Mr. Lysons says he is convinced that his machine will recover the finest gold. He will experiment with it on the southwest coast of this Island.

-William Herman appeared before Police Magistrate Macrae in the police court this morning, charged with aggra vated assault on Archie McGregor on New Year's morning. The row took place on Government street early yesterday morning, and as a result Archie McGregor is lying in bed with several stitches in his head. As he was too ill to appear this morning the case was remanded until Monday morning.

-The funeral of the late John W Griffith took place this morning from the residence of William Denny, Par dora avenue. Services were conducted at the residence by Rev. Dr. Campbell, assisted by Rev. Solomon Cleaver, M.A., and at the cemetery by Dr. Campbell. A number of friends attended and florofferings betoken the esteem in which the deceased was held. The pallbearers were: Ald. Partridge, Richard Hall, W. H. Ellis, Louis McQuade, Duncan Campbell, Thomas J. Burnes, F.

Richards and T. G. Raynor.

Year's Eve, was 1089. The winners are: Geo. Jaques. Fort street, who S. Imperieuse, second, with 1.086, wins ton, third, with 1,093, wins \$15 worth goods; and Miss F. Scott, of 511 the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," Government street, and Mrs. J. Allen. of Victoria West, divide the fourth and fifth prizes, aggregating \$15 worth 1.100 respectively.

-The winning number in Jamieson's

lutions appended: officer for the ensuing municipal elecred on each lot-land and improvements

-Detective Perdue, of the city police force, yesterday received a dispatch child coming from school and tools her from Tacoma instructing him to arrest away. Mr. Mercer immediately started a Miss Black, who had kidnapped a twelve-year-old boy, the son of Dr. chase he was rewarded by finding his of Tacoma. Miss Black, who is about 50 years of age, was housekeeper for the doctor. She fled from Tacoma on Thursday with the doctor's son and also his jewelry. It was supposed that

offered a handsome reward for the ar-

rest of the woman. -A want has often been felt by all interested in reform movements for some common bond of union, in which single taxers on the land question; bimetallists on the currency question, prohibitionists on the liquor question and trades unionists on the labor question, might all unite their forces. To this end it has been proposed to inaugurate in this city a Social Science Society for the open discussion of social and religious questions. The preliminary meeting is arranged to take place in the Philharmonic Hall to-morrow (Sunday) evening at 7:30 p.m., and a goodly gathering

reformers may be expected. -The year 1896 was rung out, whistled out, shot out and fire-crackered out, and 1897 was welcomed in at the same time and in a similar way. Nearly every steamer in the harbor, and every engined establishment that is furnished a whistle, poured forth their melodious notes as the town clock tolled the hour of twelve. "Watchnight" services were held in a number of churches. At the regular prayer meeting hour Thursday evening. Rev. Dr. Reid delivered a very nstructive address at the Reformed Episcopal church. The street car serv ice was continued until 2 o'clock yesterday morning, to accommodate those who

-At the residence of the bride's mother, 159 Johnson street, last evening. Rev. W. Leslie Clay officiated at a very quiet wedding, Minnie Elizabeth, third daughter of the late William C. Bryant, being united in marriage to John P. Gropp, of Louisville, Ky. Only the reatives and most intimate friends of the family were present / Mr. W. Kurtz acted as best man, and the bride's sister, Violet, was bridesmaid. The bride wore a levender colored dress trimmed with plush and pearl: the bridesmaid a cream cashmere, trimmed with white silk. The presents were very handsome and useful. Mr. and Mrs. Gropp will take up their residence at 22 Farouhar

attended the midnight service.

-During the week just past the fol owing new companies have been incorporated with a total capital of \$11,500,-000: British Gold Mining Co., of Vancouver, \$1,000,000; Bald Mountain M. & D. Co., Golden, \$2,500,000; Black Prince M. & M. Co., Rossland, \$1,000,-000; Copper Mountain Mines, Vancou-\$500,000; Lucky George, M Co. Sandon, \$1,000,000; Observation Mountain G. M. Co., Grand Forks, \$1,000,-River Hydraulic Mining Company. The | 000; Rossland-Eastern G. M. Co., Ross-Fraser River, and Cariboo | land, \$1,000,000; Red Mountain Ida May G. M Co., Rossland, \$1,000,000; Trail Creek Hidden Treasure, G. M. Co. Rossland, \$1,000,000. Vancouver Gold

Fields, Vancouver, \$500,000; Washingon Mining Co., Spokane, \$1,000,000. -The children of the Protestant Orohan's Home had their Christmas enertainment on Thursday When Bishop Cridge made his introductory remarks the children were seated on the platform in the large dining room. Two Christmas trees were in vidence, richly laden with presents which were distributed by Lieut -Col. Gregory as represntative of that genial old gentleman Santa Claus. Among the visitors present were Right Rev. Bishop Cridge, Rev. Dr. Campbell, Rev.

W. Clay, Rev. Dr. Wilson, Rev. Dr. The entertainment was managed by the lady president of the ladies committee or a further month's imprisonment.

of the home, to whom great credit is —During the month just passed e for the pleasing manner the entertainment was conducted.

-The Y. M. C. A. rooms were crowded with visitors yesterday afternoon when the annual New Year's reception was held. The rooms were prettily dewhich for the time being had been clearentertained in the main hall by a gym- Henty. nastic exhibition by the members of the A. C. and Y. M. C. A. The exhibition was varied with vocal solos by Messrs. Clement Rowlands, Frank Bishop and H. Ireland. In the evening a concert was given to a very large audiby Messrs. C. Rowlands, F. Bishop, Rev. P. C. L. Harris and F. Harris, and Mmes. Rowlands, Laird and Giffen. Mrs. R. L. Drury made a very good ac-

companist. -A large audience attended the Hogmanay concert given by the Sir William Wallace Society in their hall on New Year's eve. Mrs. McGraw's two Scotch solos. "The Flowers of the Forest" and Auld Robin Gray," were well received. Mrs. Rowlands' number was also vociferously applauded. Miss Blackie gave violin solo and Miss May Wolff sang Comin' Thro' the Rye." A quarette omposed of Messrs. Rowlands and Keith and Mmes. Rowlands and Mc-Graw sang "Annie Laurie" contest, which was concluded on New good style. Mr. Keith's "Mary

of Argyle" was also well received. Wm. Anderson danced a Highland fling and wins the first prize of \$50 cash with an Messrs. Munro, Anderson, Jameson and estimate of 1,087; W. Tracey, of H.M. Russell the "Reel of Tulloch." The pipe music during the evening was supplied \$20 worth of goods; Mrs. Walter Bur- by the Society's piper, Mr. Peter Macdonald. The concert was concluded by which the audience joined. -A Portland dispatch of December

31 says: "A two-months' chase after a of goods with estimates of 1,078 and kidnapped daughter, in which the father, T. C. Mercer, of Ogden, Utah., spent -Ald. Cameron has given notice \$10,000, and Sheriff Herber Wright, of that at the next regular meeting of the Weber county, Utah, travelled 25,000 city council he will move the two reso- miles through the United States and "That the returning | Canada in pursuit of Mercer's divorced wife, who had stolen his daughter tions be requested to arrange the polling | Maggie, ended .'est Tuesday night at booths so that the voter shall be separ- Victoria, B.C., where Mr. Mercer reated from the general public from the gained possession of his daughter, and, time he receives his ballot paper until with Sheriff Wright, immediately left the same is deposited in the ballot box. for Portland, arriving to-day. Mercei That the city engineer and assessor be is reputed to be one of Ogden's wealthrequested to furnish the council with an lest citizens and is well known all over estimate of the cost of a map of the Utah. In 1894 Mrs. Mercer brought city drawn to a scale of 200 feet to the suit for divorce, but Mercer filed a inch, with the assessed value marked in cross-complaint and was himself granted a divorce and awarded the custody now six years old. On October 28 Mrs. Mercer met the on the trail, and after a two-months

> daughter in Victoria -The Ministerial Association of this city have made the following arrangements for the week of prayer which starts to-morrow. A morning prayer

she took passage on the Kingston, but meeting from 9 to 10 o'clock each day a careful search of the steamer upon her arrival revealed no woman answer- the Y.M.C.A. rooms, Broad street, Rev. ing her description. The doctor is a P. C. L. Harris will read the singing prominent physician of Tacoma, and has during the week, while Rev. A. B. Winchester will conduct service on Monday unto them that wait for him; to the assignment. It was a creditors' sale adsoul that seeketh him. Lam. iii, 25. vertised by the assignee. Monday, Jan. 4., Thanksgiving and huand life; for a more steadfast "looking and Dolphin at \$3900... for the coming of the day of God." 1 Cor. vi. 19-20; Col. I, 10-11; 2 Peter, then read; he told of the seizure and iii. 11-14.

The regular meeting of the Friendly at Sitka.

Help Association will be held to-morrow Sir Ch morning at 11 a.m. at No. 40, Market

toria Camp No. 52, Woodmen of the Beck, also an extract from the log of the Grace, dated July 17th referring to World. -A general meeting of the directors the seizure.

of the Royal Jubilee Hospital will be held next Thursday evening at the office | 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. of Messrs, Yates & Jay. Before sailing for Acapulco Lieut. Commander Garforth of H. M. S. Phea-

sant, received notice of his promotion to the position of commander. -Miss Black, who kidnapped the 12year-old son of Dr. Myer of Tacoma, and for whom the city police were on the lookout, was arrested in Tacoma on

Saturday night. -The members of Columbia lodge. No. 2, I. O. O. F., concluded their last regular meeting with a sumptuous oyster supper. An entertaining programme was also carried out.

-The Old Men's Home inmates were

made very happy on New Year's eve by a social given by Mr. and Mrs. Bolden, Mr. and Mrs. Winter, Mr. and Mrs. Dow, Mr. Green and Mr. Eli. -Grand Patriarch Haxtable with grand officers will visit Vancouver Encampment No. 1. I. O. O. F. to-morrow evening and install officers for the

ensuing term who will afterwards entertain the grand officers with a social and refreshments. -Mr. Clement Rowlands will continue the leadership of the male voice singing class in the Y. M. C. A. rooms. Practices will be held on Thursday evenings. There are vacancies for four first bass and three first and two second tenor singers. Application for admission

may be made to Mr. Rowlands at the Y. M. C. A. any Thursday evening. -Vancouver Encampment No. 1, I.O. O.F. will have their officers installed by Grand Patriarch W. H. Huxtable and the other grand officers to-morrow evening. The Grand Patriarch will leave on Thursday morning accompanied by W. E. Holmes, P.G.M., and J. E. Phillips, grand representative, to install the encampments at Wellington, Vancouver and New Westminster. They will return

on Sunday.

In the police court this morning before Police Magistrate Macrae, Ah Kai for playing and Ah Sam for looking on at a game of chuck-a-luck played in a cellar at 4 Store street, were each fined \$50, or in default of payment two months' imprisonment. mann, on remand from Saturday charg-Reid, President Hayward, Dr. Milne, ed with assaulting Archie McGregor, James Hutcheson and several ladies. was convicted and sentenced to two months' imprisonment and a fine of \$25

-During the month just passed the Public Library loane 2019 books, 1035 to gentlemen tnd 984 to ladies. The most loaned on one day was 132 and the average per day 78. Thirty-five new members were enrolled, of whom twenty-one were gentlemen corated, and in the reading room, and fourteen ladies. The following new books were donated: "Wonder Book." ed of its literature, several well laden by Nathaniel Hawthorne; "Theory of refreshment tables were spread. The Wages," by Thompson, "Marine Paintladies of the Y. W. C. A. were in charge ing in Water Colors," by Carmichael, by Carmichael, f this department. The visitors were and "In the Reign of Terror," by G. A.

-All the public schools re-opened today. In the city schools the attendance was fair. In the majority of the rooms the children were assigned their essons, told what new books they had to purchase and then dismissed ence in the main hall. Solos were given | As a result the bookstores were to-day invaded by hundreds of school children. Messrs. Erskine, Wall & Co., the well known grocers, gave a good lead pencil to each scholar who called at their Below is to-day's attendance in the different schools: North Ward, 477: South Park, 387; Girls' Central, 331 Victoria West, 215; Boys' school, 364,

and High School, 120. -The following is a statement of the work accomplished during the past year n connection with the Salvation Army Food and Shelter, Market Building: There have been 4658 beds occupied and 13,947 meals supplied. With the Sabbath. exception of some who were unable to work through age and otherwise, all of in the above meals and beds have been worked for in the wood-yard in connection with the institution. There has been no pauperizing or loafing allowed. Each man has worked for what he has got. There has been an average of five men per day during the year just passed applied for work, and none have been refused. The officer in charge would like to take this opportunity of thanking the many kind friends who have patronized the wood-yard in connection with the work during the past year, and by doing so they have helped to accomplish the above work done. -The charitably disposed residents of Victoria will to-morrow evening have an opportunity of assisting the widow and two children of Murdoch McLaughin, who was accidentally killed on the collier Costa Rica a few weeks ago. A benefit concert will be given in Semple's Hall, Victoria West. The programme includes 19 meritorious numbers, Piper James McKenzie opening with a selection on the bagpipes. The subsequent numbers follow: Piano duet, Miss Nicholson; song, Mr. F. Leroy; recitation. Mr. A. Semple: violin solo, Miss R. Blackie; song, Mr. H. Cave; Mando lin Club, R. M. A.; comic song Mr. Douglas; song, Miss A. McKenzie; piano solo, Miss L. E. Russell; song, Sapper Truscott, R. E.; violin solo, Mr. R. J. Russell, jr.; comic song, Mr. W. Cave; guitar duet, Messrs. North and Ball; song, Mr. A. Cave; song, Mr. Row-

lands; comic song, Mr. Douglas; song, Chinner Ayton, R. M. A. -We wish you all the compliments of

BEHRING SEA CLAIMS. The Sitting of the Commissioners Continued This Morning.

At the continuation of the sitting of morning. The association in selecting the Behring Sea Claims Commission this morning hour were anxious to meet this morning the case of the Thornton the convenience of many business men was resumed. Capt. J. D. Warren, rewho would like an opportunity of attending the meetings. Subjoined are the topics suggested by the Evangelical Alliance for the first two days: Sunday, took place in connection with the sale Jan. 3. Sermons—"The Lord is good of the other schooners after witness."

W. Fitzherbert Bullen, formerly man miliation—Praise and thanksgiving, humiliation—Praise and confession of sin. Prayer the engines of the Thornton and Anna for the more entire consecration of heart Beck at \$2950, and those of the Grace The deposition of Andrew Lang was

the treatment of the crew at the trial Sir Charles H. Tupper submitted copies of letters from the officer of the United States revenue -D. H. C. C. Neah Shakespeare will cutter Rush relating to the seizure of this evening install the officers of Vic- the Sayward, Dolphin, Grace and Anna

An adjournment was then taken until

A MOUNTAIN OF GOLD. Will Be Uncovered by Captain Wood

of Spokane. Among the passengers going north on the Boscowitz to-night will be Captain A. Wood, E. R. Smaulwood and E. Capson of Spokane. They are mining men of experience and are going up Queen Charlotte Islands to open out an extensive free milling proposition. Captain Wood spent considerable time last winter on the Islands and discovered that Lawn Hill, at the entrance to Skidegate Inlet, is covered with calcareous tufa, carrying free gold. Lawn Hill is about 500 feet high and from about 250 feet up to the peak appears to be of this calcareous formation. Captain Wood has tested this rock and has found gold in paying quantities. If it can be quarried at a profit, it will be one of the most extraordinary mines of the province. Lawn Hill is situated within stone's throw of ocean navigation, the rock is so soft that it can be quarried and crushed with the greatest ease. It was reported to Captain Wood that there were similar formations on other parts of the islands, but he never saw He will however, remain ou them. the islands some time and will do considerable prospecting

Although Captain Wood is turning his attention to Queen Charlotte Islands, he has by no means lost faith in the Koo tenay country, where he has been engaged for several years. Until a few weeks ago he was the manager of the Two Friends mine and is interested in other properties. He believes that there will be a great rush of moneyed people to the province next spring and that Trail, Slocan, Salmon River, Boun dary Creek and other districts will re-

ceive their fair share of attention. THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

ening Meeting of the Week Held Today at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms. At the Y.M.C.A. rooms this morning

week of prayer was opened, Rev. A. B. Winchester being in charge of this first meeting. The subjects for the remaining days of the week are as follows: Tuesday, Jan. 5, the Church versal.—Prayer that the whole Church of Christ may be more separate from the world; that there may be more true one ness of heart among her members. John xvii. 20-21; Col. ii. 16-19; 1 Thess. i. 5-8;

Wednesday, January 6, Nations and their Rulers.—Prayer for the speedy evangelization of the nations, for sovereigns and rulers, and for all that are in authority. 1 Kings iii. 5-10; Prov. xiii. 34; xvi. 12; Jonah iii. 5-10: 1 Tim. ii. 1-4; James ii. 8-9.

Thursday, January 7, Foreign Missions.-Praise to God, for the "open doors in nearly every part of the world; for the success which has attended the proclamation of the Gospel, especially in Africa, China and South America. Acts xi. 19-24; Rev. vii. 9-10. Prayer that the hearts of Mohammed

ans and heathen may be opened to recewe the gospel. Isaiah vi. 5-8; Zech. iv. 6-7; Mal. i. 11; Luke i. 78-79; Matt. ix. 36-38. Friday, January 8, Home Missions .-Praise for increased activity amongst

God's people, and for the many tokens of the power of the Holy Spirit accompanying the means used. Prayer for the blessing of God to rest abundantly upon all evangelistic efforts; for work amongst soldiers and sailors; and for the better observance of the

Saturday, January 9, Families and schools.—Thanksgiving, for families bound together by the love of Christ Eph. iv. 31-32; v. 1-2; Col. iii. 18-22; Deut. vi. 6-9; Ps. cxix. 9-12; cii. 28; 2 Tim. iii. 14-15. Prayer that parents may more stantly seek to bring up their children in

the fear and love of God; that greater prominence may be given in Christian iseholds to the study of God's word and to united prayer. Sunday, January 10, Sermons .- "Go ye therefore and disciple all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Matt. xxviii. 19-20.

PERSONAL

Charles Wilson, Vancouver, is at the Driard. Capt. H. H. Lloyd, Seattle, is at the Oriental.

J. C. Harris, Somenos, is at the New England. E. S. Kirkland, New Westminster, is at the Driard. Hamilton Abbott returned last evening from Vancouver. C. S. V. Branch and W. S. Nicol, of

vancouver, are at the Driard. Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Pritchard, Ta are guests at the New England H. A. Munn and E. M. Johnson were among the Islander's passengers from Vancouver last night.

Miss E. V. Wilson, who has been vis iting friends in Victoria for the last year, has returned to St. Thomas. Ont W. J. Armstrong and F. L. Clinton, New Westminster, and L. B. Hesse Vancouver, are at the New England.

B. C. RAILWAY POLICY

THIRD LETTER

To the Editor: In following the discussions, to which the proposed grants in aid of the British Pacific railway have given rise, I have not failed to observe a disposition to regard the construction of a road through Central British Colum- Sierra Blanca Chartered to bia as a mere local affair for the benefit of Victoria, and hence to be hardly a proper subject of support from the other sections of the province. I submit that British Columbia must rise above mere local considerations if it is ever to profit by the full development of its immense resources, but, as this matter presents itself to me there is no ground for any local feeling about it. Ultimately Victoria will probably become the terminus of the proposed railway, but that this means a monopoly of transportation over it I do not admit, nor do I think it can be fairly claimed. The proposed railway would reach tide water at the head of & Co, the Fort George was regis Bute Inlet, and this would prevent Vic- from the port of Glasgow. toria from ever having a monopoly of the traffic over it. Doubtless after the necessary mileage was constructed on the Island and connection by ferry established with the line on the Mainland, Victoria would be the terminus of the transcontinental traffic and the entrepot of the trans-Pacific business of the road; as Vancouver now is for that class of business done over the Canadian Pacific; but for the local trade of the interior and as a distributing point for goods carried over the line, except the trans-Pacific business, Vancouver would stand on an equal footing with Victoria, while Nanaimo and New Westminster would find the field also open to them; for once freight reached tide water, the Gulf of Georgia and Bute Inlet, would make them all termini of the new artery of transportation, and each of these cities, that is, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo, would be nearer the point where the rails would reach tide water than Victoria would be. It is of course altogether probable that a new city would grow up at the head of the Inlet, but this is no more an argument against the building of the line than the existence of Vancouver is an argument against the Canadian Pacific. In this connection some statement as to dis-

tances may be of interest. From the head of Bute Inlet to Victoria by the proposed British Pacific, 285 From the head of Bute Inlet to Na

naimo, 207 miles. From the head of the Inlet to couver, 232 miles. From the head of the Inlet to Nev

Westminster, 242 miles. These distances are only intended as fairly close approximations, being relatively rather than absolutely correct. In the case of Victoria the distance would be all rail; in the case of the other cities it would be all water. In saying that the distance to Victoria would be all rail, I am assuming that the British Pacific project would be carried out in its entirety, and a line be built upon the Island with a connection by ferry with a line on the Mainland at Frederick Arm. If this were not acomplished Victoria would have the handicap of a longer water carriage than either of the other cities or else would have to handle its business part way by is expected that she will go to Aus rail via Nanaimo. My impression is that line between the head of the Inlet and Frederick Arm, the interests of Victoria would be best served after the line on tish author, was invited about the Mainland had been built, by the construction first of a line on Vancouver Island as far north as Seymour Narrows. and the establishment of ferry connection with the terminus at the head of the Inlet, leaving the line to Frederick

Arm to come later, as it undoubtedly

The foregoing facts show that what I am contending for, namely, a line of railway from the head of Bute Inlet into the Cariboo country, would be in no ense an enterprise peculiarly for the idvantage of Victoria or any other part of the coast to the exclusion of the rest; but that each city would share in the trade to be developed by it in proportion to its ability to handle business. I shall discuss later the aspects of the proposition from a transcontinental point of view and think I can show that the construction necessary to afford uninterrupted rail communication between Victoria Winnipeg would be immediately orthcoming: but with this I am not concerned at present. To properly understand this project it is necessary to consider it in sections, or more correctly speaking to look at it from different points of view, and I am now consider ing it as a local railway for the develop ment of the resources of the great cen tral portion of the province. Its merits in this respect are sufficient of themselves to lead to the granting of the needed aid once they are rightly understood. In good season I shall present, some arguments in favor of a new transcontinental line; but just at present all I am advocating is that the provincial government shall take such a line of action as will be likely to secure the construction of a line from the coast at the head of Bute Inlet into the rich gold fields of Cariboo, and what I have said in this letter has been designed to show that such a railway is everything else but a project for the exclusive advantage of Victoria, but is one in the benefits of which all the cities of the coast will alike participate. The line referred to will be 232 miles long and its estimated cost is slightly over \$7,280,000. It is no exaggeration to say that no line of railway can be located in North America that will open up a district more full of promise than that which this comparatively short one would render accessible. This will more fully appear when the district has neighborhood of the rivers all been described in detail; it is sufficient may be able to arrange a look now to ask the reader to bear in mind that the best opinion of explorers and experts is that the region which such ters. a road would open to settlers, miners and capitalists, contains some of the richest placers in the world, an even more abundant source of wealth in its auriferous rocks, and an area of farming and pasture land nearly, if not quite, equal to the whole of Nova Scotia, Surely it is worth while to make an effort to looet. bring such a land of promise in close touch with the coas CHAS. H. LUGRIN.

Was Purchased by Welch, Rig & Co., and Registered at Victoria.

Rice in China-Lumber Charters.

Messrs. Welch, Rithet & Co., of Francisco have purchased the four-la ed clipper ship Fort George. She been registered at the port of Victoria through R. P. Rithet & Co. The George will be used in the sugar and will probably ply between San Fa cisco and Honolulu. She is an iro of 1756 tons register and was bu 1884 by Workman, Clark & Co., of fast. Until purchased by Welch,

To-night the C.P.R. steamer F. of India will call at the outer who her way to Yokohama. Among loon passengers will be Mr. J. Grant and wife. Mr. Grant is a of Sir James Grant, of Ottawa. been heavily interested in many enterprises on this continent, and ing to China to engage in the co tion of some of the numerous rai which the Chinese are about to Mr. Grant is backed up by English tal. The Empress of India will away a full cargo of general merel

ise and several Chinese in the stee Yesterday the Northern Pacific st Braemar called at the outer w route to the Orient. She carries full cargo of freight and a number passengers. Sixty-nine Chinese arr from the Sound via the Kingston evening and took passage on the

Since yesterday the Rosalie has running on a new schedule. She leaves Seattle at 9:30 o'clock evening and reaches Victoria al in the morning. She leaves V for Seattle at 7:30 in the morning

The ship Sierra Blanca, now unlo coal at the navy yard, has receive ders to proceed on Saturday ne China in ballast to load rice either Rio Janeiro or Great Britain. about the first instance known of a sel leaving here in ballast for Chin

The sealing schooner Sadie T Capt. A. S. Crane, has cleared sealing cruise. She carries a crev seventeen white men.

The ship City of Florence receive orders yesterday to proceed to T to load lumber for Australia. She pected to leave to-night.

The ship Indore is having ports the Albion Iron Works. She when finished proceed to the Sou load lumber for the United Kingd The ship Kate Thomas has been

tered to load lumber on the Sound

J. M. BARRIE AS A CHAIRM Mr. J. M. Barrie, the well known ago by the Aberdeen corporation liver a public lecture in that city. reply was characteristic. "You are kind," he wrote, "and I thank you heartily for this pleasant remem of me that induced the committee send me this invitation; but on very few occasions on which I have on a platform I wished to get bene-I never did lecture, and I am s never could." This recalls a very story that is not generally known cerning the author of "A Windo Thrums." It seems that, on one oc being induced to take the chair Burns supper at Ayr, he sat glui helpless at the head of the table. none of those things which we exp chairman to do, not even simulating joyment. The papers chaffed him his gaucherie, and the cruellest ch all appeared in the National Observ an article on "Mr. Barrie in the C Most people who read it contende it went too far and showed person: mus, and so on. It eventually leak

that the writer was Mr. Barrie h Captain H. H. P. Deasy, of th teenth Queen's Lancers, left E some time ago for a journey Thibet from west to east, says the don Times. He intends on the throw soldered-up tins parchment notices French into the tributaries of the po and into the other large rivers he may meet with, in the some of them may be picked down stream, possibly in Brahm Salween, and Mekong, and thus solve the vexed problem of the and connections of these rivers. I tices will be consecutively nu and the tins in which they will closed will have a brass label se on the outside, bearing the "Please open this" in English French, and Captain Deasy's The parchment inside bears the that, it be forwarded without d the Royal Geographical Society don, with as assurate a staten possible as to where it was pick Captain Deasy is trying to rend important service to geogr knowledge, and it is hoped that ficials, English and French, may be able to arrange a look that the tins may be secured parchment delivered to the prop

-A W. Smith, M.P.P., and Lillooet, arrived in the city last and are registered at the Drian Smith will remain for the sitting legislature, He reports consi mining activity in the vicinity

-Hungarian Flour for \$1.35 at

ecollections Captain Wilkie

CONAN DOYLE.

w First Published-All Rights Reserved. Who can he be?" thought I, as I watchmy companion in the second-class car-ge of the London & Dover railway. had been so full of the fact that my ig-expected holiday had come at last. d that for a few days at least the gayes of Paris were about to supersede the Il routine of the hospital wards, that we re well out of London before I observed at I was not alone in the compartment. these days we have all pretty well reed that "three is company and two is ne" upon the railway. At the time I rite of, however, people were not so morly sensitive about their traveling comnions. It was rather an agreeable surise to me to find that there was some ince of whiling away the hours of a

ious journey. I therefore pulled my down over my eyes, took a good look m beneath it at my vis-a-vis, and repeatmyself: "Who can he be?" d rather to pride myself on being e to spot a man's trade or profession by cood look at his exterior. I had the ad ntage of studying under a master of the



CAPTAIN WILKIE.

who used to electrify both his patients his clinical classes by long shots, somenes at the most unlikely of pursuits; never very far from the mark. "Well. man," I have heard him say: "I can by your fingers that you play some muinstrument for your livelihood, but a rather curious one-something quite of my line." The man afterwards inmed us that he earned a few coppers by ving "Rule Britannia" on a coffee pot, spout of which was pierced to form a gh flute. Though a novice in the art, as still able to astonish my ward comons on occasion, and I never lost an ortunity of practicing. It was not curiosity, then, which led me to lean on the cushions and analyze the t, middle-aged man in front of me. used to do the thing sytematically, and rain of reflections ran somewhat in wise: "General appearance, vulgar, opulent and extremely self-possessed oks like a man who could outchaff a

e, and yet be at his ease in society. Eyes well set together and rather prominent-would be a range marksman. Cheeks flabby he softness of expression redeemed by are-cut jaw and a well-set lower lip he whole, a powerful type. Now for hands-rather disappointed there. ight he was a self-made man by the of him, but there is no callous in the n and no thickness in the joints. Has r been engaged in any real physical L. I should think. No tanning on the s of the hands; on the contrary, they very white, with blue projecting veins ong delicate fingers. Couldn't be an with that face, and yet he has the s of a man engaged in delicate manitions. No red acid spots upon his es, no ink stains, no nitrate of silver ks upon the hands (this helps to negamy half-formed opinion that he was a ographer). Clothes not worn in any cular part. Coat made of tweed, and old; but the left elbow, as far as I

right, which is seldom the case with who do much writing. Might be a nercial traveler, but the little pocketin the waistcoat is wanting, nor has ly of those handy valises, suggestive uples." rive these brief headings of my ideas ly to demonstrate my method of arat a conclusion. As yet I had ob d nothing but negative results; but to use a chemical metaphor, I was in ition to pour off this solution of dis-

d possibilities and examine the resi-I found myself reduced to a very ed number of occupations. He was ner a lawyer nor a clergyman, in spite soft feit hat, and a somewhat clerical about the necktie. I was wavering between pawnbroker and horsebut there was too much character t his face for the former; and he lackat extraordinary equine atmosphere hangs about the latter even in his of relaxation; so I formed a provisidiagnosis of betting man of methecal persuasions, the latter clause beserted in deference to his hat and

ay, do not think that I reasoned it out his in my own mind. It is only now, ng down with pen and paper, that I ee the successive steps. As it was, I formed my conclusion within sixty ds of the time when I drew my hat over my eyes and uttered the men aculation with which my narrative

not feel quite satisfied even then y deduction. However, as a leadnestion would - to pursue my analogy-act as my litmus padetermined to try one. There was a s lying by my companion, and I ght the opportunity too good to be

mind my looking at your aly, sir, certainly," said he most

ing it across. ed down its column until my eye on the list of the latest betting. I said, "they are laying 'odds favorite for the Cambridgeshire. es," I added, looking up, "you d in these matters? , sir!" said he violently; "wiles ny! Mortals are but given a few live, how can they squander them hey have not even an eye to their forldly interests," he added in a

ee it, has as much of the fluff left on

me m forgo He saw t did I there

that which haps I

"On me ext sort lighter brethi gone l think I lit "It w

severa