Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 1887.

THE COMOX CONSTITUENCY.

The true inwardness of Mr. Stenhouse's resignation is laid bare by a correspondent in this issue. Mr. Stenhouse is not going to Salt Lake, he is not going to join the Mormons and he is not going to relieve the province of his profitless presence. Mr. Stenhouse—to use a mild term—is a political humbug who is trying to come the gammon over the Comox people by a scheme of false pretense. All his talk about having sought religion and found it and joined the church is pure moonshine. He is as wicked a little person as he ever was. He is simply as sick of Comox as Comox is of him. He knows the people are tired of him and he has made his spurious conversion on the basis of an attempt to perpetrate a cruel deception on his late constituents. In his ignorance of the law Mr. Stenhouse imagined that he had but to resign to force on an election within a fortnight thereafter. Therefore he gave Mr. Humphreys, a stranger, a friendly "tip" and sent him to the district to canvass before the people were even aware of his intended resignation. His constituents were entitled to the first intimation of his intentions. They were the last to receive it. It was known to Mr. Humphreys two weeks and to everyone in Victoria ten days in advance of the information reaching Comox! This is an instance of political duplicity and treachery, happily before unknown in this country. The wisdom of the government in declining to hurry on the election while they hold in their hands overwhelming evidence of Mr. Stenhouse's recreancy cannot be too highly commended. The interests of the constituency demand that they should not be brought in the market like so many sheep and sold at so much per head to a man who never visited the district before and never will visit it again. It was Mr. Stenhouse's duty to have first told his constituents of his intention and left to them the duty of selecting a man to fill his place. In this case Mr. Stenhouse has taken upon himself the task of attempting to foist a non-resident on a district whose interests demand that their representative should be a Local Man. The way Mr. Stenhouse went to work to fill the vacant seat proves that he is a schemer of a low order of intellect. There is really no necessity for haste at Comox. The house will not meet for sixty or ninety days, and it is right and proper that the Comoxians should have plenty of time in which to make a selection.

WANTS TO BUY.

In an editorial upon the proposed purchase of the three Maritime provinces from Canada, the San Francisco *Call* thinks that the purchase of British Columbia would be the most sensible and business-like move the United States could make in this line. It says: "There is, however, a much better piece of property for us to buy than the Maritime provinces. It is British Columbia. This little province, with a coast line 390 miles long, is the only gap in our seacoast line from the tropics to the Arctic sea. If it were ours, if we had held our ground, as we should have done, in the old days of 'fifty-four, forty or fight,' there would now have been no break in our seaboard fronting on the Pacific and peace would have been forever assured to this side of the continent. There was a time when we might have had it. At the moment when Mr. Seward was buying Alaska, the government resolved to dispatch a discreet envoy to British Columbia to feel the temper of her people as to annexation. The gentleman selected, who is still a resident of this city, and is as eminent in science as he is noted for his mastery of high politics, reported that three out of every five British Columbians would gladly repudiate the British connection and cast their lot with the United States. Unfortunately the golden opportunity was allowed to slip, and now, the completion of the Canadian Pacific and the establishment of a line of Asiatic steamers have probably modified British Columbian opinion. We experience no trouble at present from the proximity of this little foreign neighbor. But it is destined to be a thorn in our flesh. There is a boundary dispute of no ordinary difficulty to be sprung on us at any moment. Great Britain is fortifying Esquimalt and establishing a great dockyard there from which ships of war will issue to prey upon our commerce and bombard our seaport towns should war between the two countries occur. It is probably only a question of time when the Canadian Pacific steamships will reopen the Coolie trade. All these annoyances would be obviated if British Columbia were ours."

OUR NEXT GOVERNOR GENERAL.

The announcement that Lord Stanley of Preston is to succeed Lord Lansdowne as Governor General of Canada suggests some facts as to his family history. The Rt. Hon. Frederick Arthur Stanley, G. C. B., younger son of the fourteenth and brother of the present Earl of Derby by Emma, second daughter of the first Lord Skelmersdale, was born in London in 1841, and received his education at Eton. He entered the Grenadier Guards in 1858, was appointed lieutenant and captain in 1862, and retired in 1865. He represented Preston in the House of Commons in the Conservative interest, from July, 1865, till December, 1868, when he was elected for North Lancashire. He was a Lord of the Admiralty from August to December 1868, and Financial Secretary for War from February 1874 till August 1877, when he became Secretary to the Treasury. On April 2nd, 1878, Colonel Stanley was appointed Secretary of State for War, in succession to Mr. Hardy, now Lord Cranbrook, and was sworn of the Privy Council. In the autumn recess of that year he and Mr. W. H. Smith, the first Lord of the Admiralty, with a numerous suite, visited the island of Cyprus. He went out of office with his party in April 1880. In Lord Salisbury's government he was Secretary of State for the Colonies from June, 1885, till February, 1886, and in the Cabinet of August, 1886, was appointed President of the Board of Trade, and raised to the peerage with the title of Lord Stanley of Preston. He married in 1864, Lady Constance, eldest daughter of the fourth Earl of Clarendon. Lord Stanley is heir presumptive to the Earldom of Derby.

THE BEHRING'S SEA BLUNDER.

The New York *Evening Post* denounces in the plainest possible terms what it characterizes as the "Behring's Sea Blunder." It speaks with contempt of the decisions of the Alaska judge, "Lafe" Dawson, of Missouri, and declares that the sale of the eastern shore of Behring's Sea and the Aleutian Islands to the United States "could not possibly give us what Russia did not own, and what we did not think we were purchasing—namely jurisdiction over the sea more than a marine league from the shore." The *Post* says further: "The United States can, of course, prevent citizens of any other power from using their bays, creeks, inlets or islands, or shores for fishing purposes, and can regulate the seal catch on any portion of their territory, but they cannot seize foreign ships in the open sea on the charge that they are doing something which is likely to diminish the value of United States fisheries." This is an honest and and an uncompromising application of the golden rule. The *Post* would have the United States do to others on the Pacific side of the continent what they would have Great Britain do to them on the Atlantic side. The ignorance and the perverted nationality of the Alaskan judge, besides causing unpleasant and embarrassing national complications, will no doubt cost the American government quite a considerable sum of money. The British government on behalf of the seized seal hunters have sent in a little bill of damages amounting to $151,523, and there will be most probably a greater sum to pay to those American citizens who have also suffered from Judge Dawson's ignorance of international law and his ardent desire to further the interests of the Alaska Fur Company's monopoly.

VICTORIA, C. B.

The last Liberal-Conservative victory was in Victoria, Cape Breton, as stated in our yesterday's issue, not in Victoria, New Brunswick, according to the *Times*, whose representative is the Hon. John Costigan, Minister of Inland Revenue. John Archibald McDonald, M.P., who has just been elected for the second time to the House of Commons is a native of Nova Scotia, having been born at North-East Margaree in 1851. He was educated at Horton Academy and Acadia College and was called to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1877. Mr. McDonald sat in the Nova Scotia Assembly from the general elections of 1882 until those of 1886, when he was not a candidate. He was first returned to the commons at the last general elections. He lives at Baddeck, Cape Breton, and is a most popular member of the House. Notwithstanding all the influence brought to bear to ensure his defeat, consequent on his being unseated, he has carried the standard to victory and added another to the long list of conquering "Tories" who have done valiant battle for the cause since the memorable 22nd day of February, 1887.

A MERCANTILE AGENCY CASE.

The position and liability of mercantile agencies for their reports, and the effects they may have upon the standing of a business man are questions that have frequently come up and been adjudicated upon, their liability for wrong doing in no case that we remember having been lessened or removed by reason of any privileges or supposed privileges to which they might lay claim. Mr. Justice Wurtele has delivered judgment at Montreal in the suit of Cossette *vs.* Dun, Wiman & Co. This was a suit for damages because of an alleged false report as to plaintiff's business standing. Defendants pleaded that their communication was privileged, and that they were merely the agents of their subscribers for obtaining information. The court decided that, had the report been substantially true, the defendant would be exempt from liability; but where they communicated information which was false, and the falsity was due to their want of care, they were liable for the damage done. In the present case the error was due to the negligence of defendants' agent, for which they were responsible and judgment must go for the plaintiff for $2,000, than which amount they could not, as had been shown, have received less damages.

THE INDIAN VOTE.

The grit organs, all over the Dominion, including the *Times* of this city, for want of any other excuse for their crushing defeat in Haldimand, are blaming it on the Indian vote. Their story is that it was the Indian vote that elected Dr. Montague. No more untrue statement could be made. The Indian vote in Haldimand is confined to one township—that of Oneida. Under the new franchise act the names of 130 Indians were placed on the electoral list in that township. The first election under the new franchise was held, as our readers will remember, in September of last year. At that election 90 Indians voted, and the government candidate had a majority of 38 in Oneida. At that time the grits carried the county by a majority of 117. At the last election the government candidate had 78 majority in Oneida, but the grits lost the county by a majority of 17. It is therefore sheer nonsense to attribute the result to the Indian vote. For, it is obvious, that while the grits lost in Oneida they also lost in the other districts, where there are no Indian voters. Adding 117 to 17 shows a change in the twelve months of 134. Of this only 40 can be charged to Oneida, altogether. And it is only reasonable to suppose that a proportion of that gain was made among the white population of Oneida, in sympathy with the liberal-conservative gains in the rest of the county. Here are the facts in a nutshell: In September, 1886, the grits carried Haldimand with a majority of 117,—the franchise being precisely the same as at present, and the Indians voting. At the last bye-election they lost the county with a majority of 17 against them. Of the difference, 134 votes, less than one-third was in the township where the Indian vote is recorded. Yet the grits want the world to believe that they lost the county through the Indian vote!

RABBITS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA.

When we referred to the proposed importation of rabbits into British Columbia some days ago we scarcely believed that the information could be genuine. However the following extract from the London, Eng., *Standard*, of the 29th ult., would go to show that there is something in the scheme:

"Two thousand live rabbits, it is announced, are on the eve of being dispatched to British Columbia. When one reads of folly like this, the question is naturally suggested whether any man ever profits by the experience of his neighbors? Every one knows what a pestilence this animal has proved to Australia and New Zealand, and how, in spite of every effort to keep it in check, the nuisance still increases so prodigiously that in many parts of these countries the land is utterly useless owing to the herbage being eaten, and the ground honeycombed, by the "furry folks." Yet the British Columbians—or, at all events, some British Columbian of less than the average wisdom of his fellow colonists—has the audacity to inflict on a prosperous section of Canada a plague which men still unborn will live to bitterly bewail. It is, of course, quite possible that the rabbits are intended to be placed on some barren island, at a considerable distance from the mainland. But, even then, it will scarcely be possible to prevent them from straying beyond their pristine limits. Increasing with amazing rapidity, they will soon spread over the country, a great portion of which is still in a state of nature. Fattening on the abundant undergrowth of the woods which cover so large a section of the region to the west of the Cascade mountains, they will soon establish themselves in a portion of Northwest America, the climate of which is except in the extreme North and in part of the country between the Rocky mountains and the Cascades, much milder than that of England. If, however, the rabbits continued to feed on the salal and huckleberry, or even to find their pasture grounds on the grassy strips by the sides of the endless rivers and lakes, or in the fern-govered prairies which are found here and there in the depths of the great fir forests, they would not be altogether harmless, since the soil would speedily get so honeycombed that when the time arrived for it to come under the hand of the agriculturist it would be practically worthless. It is true that a large area both of British Columbia and Vancouver Island can never be cultivated or even used as grazing ground. Still that will not prevent the rabbits from raiding on the corn and clover fields in the farming districts, or finding their way across the mountains into the Kootenay country, in order to share in, and eventually monopolize, the pastures of the cattle ranches, just as they have done in Australia and New Zealand."

"It is, therefore, the height of unwisdom to risk, either for the sake of possible profit, or, still worse, in the hope of sport, a nuisance which the misfortune of the southern colonists proves to be incurable if it once gains a footing. British Columbia has an ample supply of native game without supplementing it by any such foreign stock as the rabbit. The few possible enemies it may find in the province will certainly not suffice to keep it within bounds, while the wild and still untrodden recesses of the woods and mountains of a region only very sparsely populated will afford it a very secure refuge from which to descend at its leisure on the farms which border its savage fastnesses. Curiously enough, the same agent who is collecting this importation of four-footed colonists for British Columbia, is also preparing to consign a small cargo of ferrets to New Zealand, to be followed up by another of stoats and weasels, in the hope that these fierce little carnivores will aid in the extermination of the rabbits which the Western Canadians are so rashly going to the trouble of introducing."

This is astounding intelligence, and so prominent a journal as the *Standard* would hardly make the statements we have laid before our readers unless it had proofs of their authenticity. This is the first public intimation, with any definiteness, that has been received here of such an intention, and the enterprise (!) of the individual or individuals who are making the shipment can only be regarded as an act of insanity. The plagues of Egypt would be mild in comparison with such a raid. If the idea is really carried out British Columbians will feel like rehearsing the Boston tea act and dumping the two thousand pests into the Gulf. The authorities should at once take the matter in hand, ascertain its truth or falsity and take such steps as will prevent the landing of these animals in the event of their being sent here. They would undoubtedly prove as great a nuisance here as they have become in Australia and New Zealand.

THE COMOX CONSPIRACY.

To the Editor:—Mr. Stenhouse is not going to Mormondom. Put that in your pipe and smoke it. He isn't going to leave the country at all. It's a big sell, in more senses than one. A bad excuse for bringing Humphreys out in this constituency is better than none. I have it from a confidential friend of Stenhouse that he put up the game because he knew that steps were on foot to ask him to resign.

I find it hard to forgive Stenhouse. He had a chance to bring out a local man and he didn't. At least a dozen of the men who supported Stenhouse at the last election are out for Dingwall now because of the shabby way in which he has treated the district.

There need be no fear of Humphreys' return. VINDEX.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER.

To the Editor:—It seems strange that so little interest appears to be taken in the election of an individual to fill so important a position as that of chief engineer of our fire department. Surely if proper interest were taken in the matter we would not find a comparative stranger and one who has never taken sufficient interest in the preservation of the property of our citizens to join the fire brigade *without* pay, coming forward with a requisition to assume the responsible part of head of the department. That the department during the past year has frequently been in the deplorable condition of having no responsible chief, is well known, but surely it would be foolish to repeat the experiment next year.

C. D.

THE METLAKAHTLA TROUBLE.

[Reply to John Bull.]

To the Editor:—In a letter published in The Colonist Nov. 15th, I noticed the falsity of "John Bull's" assertion "that the Indians brought down from Metlakahtla in H. M. S. Comorant had been wrongfully committed and imprisoned by incompetent judges, and had to be released from false imprisonment." In The Colonist of November "John Bull" returns to the charge saying "I, (Lookeron,) willfully misstated the case and asserts:—

That the eight Indians brought down by the Cormorant were *committed for trial only—not sentenced* to a term of imprisonment. They were kept in prison for four months although not proved guilty and never brought to trial, the charge against them being so frivolous that the attorney general did not feel justified in going to trial.

And asks me to search the records. I have done so and find that six out of the eight *were sentenced* to terms of imprisonment—two of these being also committed for trial and two for trial without preliminary punishments. Here is the record:

1. Atkinson, 3 months.
2. Smith, 3 months.
3. Tait, 3 months.
4. Haldane, 3 months.

Convicted for assault, molestation and interference.

5. Ridley, 1 month ditto and trial.
6. Mather, 1 month ditto and for trial.
7. Bain, committed for trial.
8. Calvert, committed for trial.

Ridley and Atkinson (test cases) appealed to the supreme court to quash their conviction, but the judges sustained the conviction and they were accordingly sent back to endure their sentences. The prisoners served their time, at the expiration of which the government released those who had been committed for trial, not because the charges against them were frivolous—this could not be—but possibly because they wished to exercise clemency towards the dupes of the instigator of the "assault, molestation and interference"—the instigators not having been arrested.

Let "John Bull" search the record and ask himself who has wilfully misstated the case, he or I.

Having then again exposed "John Bull's" misstatement, I should under ordinary conditions disregard his other utterances, but I feel it impossible to let the following silently pass:

Why! What does he expect to gain? Why so much malice? Why so devoid of common sympathy for a wronged people?

Sympathy! I have great sympathy "for the wronged," but for the wronged *are not Metlakahtlans, but the people of British Columbia, of Canada, of Britain*, these being they who subscribed annually, for more than twenty years their money and their influence to support a teacher, Mr. Duncan, to civilize these Metlakahtlans, to raise them from their degradation and become useful members of the industrious British Columbia, without any just or irremovable cause. This teacher goes, not to another part of British Columbia or to another part of the Tsimpshean reserve, which is fifteen miles in length by four or so in breadth, but goes to the United States government, a foreign country, gains an island in that country, and then drives these Indians (whom the British had paid him to civilize) there like a herd of cattle, as though they were *his* property, *his* goods and chattels, and not subjects of Her Majesty and residents of British Columbia. Not only does he do this, but persuades them to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, thereby making them become when necessary enemies to the Queen; to those who gave them their first lessons in civilization and to their benefactors. Surely the British are the wronged, and the wronged never did any injury to those ungrateful Metlakahtlans. Yet I am asked why I have no sympathy with them. Sympathy with enemies to our country? Not much. "John Bull" asks what I expect to gain. The answer is, the exposure of a fraud on British Columbia, and secondly, the rescuing of her name from the cruel libel cast upon her by their machinations. It is not malice, but honorable indignation.

A. Looker On.

Victoria, B. C., Nov. 24, 1887.

From the Daily Colonist, Nov. 27.

PERSONAL.

T. H. Piercey, of Comox, is in the city.

Speaker Kirkpatrick has left Kingston for this province.

Lieut. Grenfell was a passenger by the Louise last evening.

Bishop Durieu arrived in the city last evening by the steamer Princess Louise.

Arthur Turner, son of the Hon. J. H. Turner, returned from Europe yesterday morning.

A letter from Gaspe, P. Q., announces the death of Hon. Mr. Savage, ex-legislative councillor.

Hon. Mr. Mercier's health continues improving and he is expected to resume his official duties soon.

Chief Justice Sir Adam Wilson has formally retired from the supreme court bench of Ontario. He delivered a valedictory address.

G. A. Baldwin, city treasurer of Vancouver, accompanied by his sister, who is in this province on a visit, spent yesterday in Victoria "doing" the sights of the capital city.

Frank X. Cicott, one of San Francisco's leading commission merchants, arrived on the Premier yesterday from the Sound and left *via* the C. P. R. for an extended trip in the east.

Mgr. Joseph Laroque, Bishop of Germanicopolis, is dead, aged 79. In 1852 he was made coadjutor bishop of the late Archbishop Bourget, and in 1860 became Bishop of St. Hyacinthe, which he held for five years, when ill-health obliged him to resign.

E. Telfer Wetter, advance agent of the "Monte Cristo" company, is in the city. He was formerly a miner in the interior of this province in '73, and in the western territories, but has before and since been engaged in the show business, and is an ideal showman.

MARINE.

Br. collier Antonio sailed from San Francisco for Departure Bay on Friday.

Ship Lindisfarne, with 2,650 tons of Nanaimo coal for San Francisco, was towed to sea on Friday by the Alexander.

The steamship Idaho arrived from Alaska during Friday night and cleared for Port Townsend early yesterday morning.

Ship T. F. Oakes completed her cargo of Wellington coal yesterday and will be towed to sea shortly, bound for San Francisco.

Ship Beaconsfield with 1,050,000 feet of lumber from Moodyville for Montevideo, was towed to sea by the Pilot on Friday.

LOCAL BRIEFS.

There is about a foot of snow at Roger's Pass, and just a few inches at Donald.

Rear-Admiral Heneage last evening entertained a number of gentlemen friends at dinner on board the flagship.

The steamer Premier arrived from Port Townsend yesterday afternoon and will remain several days while some repairs are being made.

Furs are beginning to be brought into New Westminster by the Indians, though not in large quantities. The principal kinds so far are bear, deer, beaver and mink, with an occasional wild cat and mountain goat. The quality of the furs is excellent for this time of the year.

ANNUAL INSPECTION

Of Our Noble Army of Citizen Soldiers —Sir Adolphe Caron

Expresses His Admiration—Lieut.-Col. Holmes and Wolfenden's Happy Remarks.

The annual inspection by Lieut.-Col. Holmes of the local volunteers took place yesterday afternoon at Beacon hill before Sir Adolphe Caron, minister of militia and defence, and Lieut.-Col. Powell, A.G. The parade was called for one o'clock at the drill shed, and 117 officers and men were present. Shortly after two o'clock the battalion, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Wolfenden and consisting of the three local batteries of the B. C. Garrison Artillery and the Victoria Rifle Co., headed by the fine Artillery band under Prof. Agius, arrived at the hill and were formed in line facing the baseball ground. A few minutes later Sir Adolphe Caron and Lieut.-Col. Powell escorted by Lieut.-Col. Holmes, D.A.G., Major Peters, and Capt. Jones, made their appearance on the ground and were received with the customary honors. Having inspected the men the ranks were closed and the order given to march past. Instead of forming quarter column on No. 1. and moving the battalion around in front, column was formed and the companies wheeled around on to the saluting base so that on coming to the third wheeling point a misunderstanding arose as to whether or not quarter column was to be formed, the ranks changed and marched back again, thereby causing a slight tangle, which marred what would otherwise have been an almost faultless "march past." However, in a few seconds the parade was wheeled around the third point at the double and away around the three sides of the square at a jog-trot, keeping remarkably good time the whole way. This brought them back to the saluting base, and the order having been given to march past at the double, the whole again went past the saluting point in real good style. The battalion was then formed on its original ground and was put through the manual and firing exercises by Major Prior. At this point Sir Adolphe Caron and Lt. Col. Powell, A. G., having an engagement with the Lieutenant Governor and Admiral, were compelled to quit the field, but not before they had excused themselves and expressed to Lieut. Col. Wolfenden their regret at being prevented from addressing a few remarks to the men under his command. Various other evolutions were gone through in a manner which reflected great credit on both officers and men. The parade was then marched back to the drill shed, where refreshments had been provided.

Lt.-Col. Wolfenden addressed the officers and men, stating that he had been requested by Sir Adolphe Caron to express the latter's admiration of the soldierly appearance of the officers and men, and that he was extremely sorry that he had been unable to watch the evolutions to the end. Half an hour was then given the men to sign the pay rolls, and having fallen in again, Lt.-Col. Holmes, D.A.G., called the officers to the front and expressed his delight at the improvement made since last inspected, for, as he stated, although this inspection was not as perfect as it might have been, still when compared with that of former years, it was by far the most satisfactory one he had yet held in Victoria, and he would be enabled to send in a much better report this year than he had done last. In a very happy way he pointed out several defects in the various batteries which he hoped would be rectified. In conclusion he said that considering it was impossible to go through battalion drill in the drill shed—the only place the men have to drill in—the result on parade was highly commendable, and he was sure that when the minister of militia looked into the matter he would find the present shed too small.

The usual details having been gone through, the parade was dismissed, thus ending an inspection which would be a credit to any crack eastern corps.

POLICE COURT.

A Chinese Merchant Known as Lim Sam Charged with Threatening to Murder Mr. John Vrooman-Gardener—Interesting Evidence.

The first case at the court yesterday was that of a drunk and he was fined $5.

Lam Lop Fon, charged with sending a letter to John Gardener, threatening to murder him.

Messrs. Thornton Fell and Chas. Wilson appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Taylor (Eberts & Taylor) for the prisoner.

Mr. Fell stated that the charge was brought under section 7, chap. 173 of the Consolidated statutes. The letter was received by Mr. Gardener on Nov. 9th, in which were uttered threats of murder. Another letter was subsequently received. Counsel then requested that all Chinamen be ordered out of the room as it was a well-known fact that Chinese are afraid and witnesses would be terrorized.

Mr. Taylor said he did not see why such a course should be adopted and it would be unjust to clear the court. His honor, no doubt, had that power, even counsel had no right there without his honor's consent. If the magistrate decided that the room must be cleared, he would ask that he be allowed to have at least one or two Chinamen who would be able to assist him somewhat. Mr. Taylor selected Lim Lee and Ah Wing, after which the others were told to go.

John E. Vrooman-Gardener, sworn:—My step-father is named Vrooman; I am employed in the customs house as Chinese interpreter; have been in the custom house since April; have been employed teaching Chinese and also in rescuing girls from slavery for the past nine or ten months; I have rescued about a dozen girls; some two or three cases were in the police court and a number in the supreme court; prisoner was against me in nearly every case; nine of these Chinese girls are in the Home on Frederick street and one has been restored to her husband; another has been given to a private family; on the 10th instant found a letter on my desk in the customs house; the postmark is Nov. 9th; the envelope is addressed to the "Chinese speaking John," from Lam Lap Fong. On the reverse are eight characters which read: "If, when you receive this letter, you sincerely repent former wrongs, all right." The letter produced is in Chinese, and the translation in English accompanying it was made by myself and is true. The letter contains a threat to murder me; the letter says, "We will grant you life for half a month, and no more; if, when you have seen the letter, you will not attend to any affairs whatever, all right, all right; if you continue doing so, we will have you of a certainty die before our eyes. We hope you will value your own life."

The letter is signed by Lam Lap Fong, YipWing and another Chinaman. Lam Lop Fong is designated Chief Ax Wielder of the society known to us as Highbinders; I know the first signature; it is that of the prisoner; I have seen him write; he has brought me documents in his own handwriting; he brought to me a notice of dissolution of partnership, which he wished translated, and I at the time made a special study of his writing; I have reason to believe that he would write such a letter, as he was always on the opposite side in the late women cases, and on the occasion of the girl who was brought from Nanaimo. The prisoner had said to the girl that she need not be afraid as he would get her back; he was spokesman on the occasion, and several other Chinese were present; in the letter reference is made to the girls I have rescued; It reads: "Still not repenting from former wrongs, you furthermore caused the ruin of the houses of prostitution belonging to the Lee family, scattering them to the four winds, one and all. * * * * In the early part of this month you tried to get Yip Wing's girl to escape from him, and on the 9th of this month you tried to get Chin Foong's girl away from him to go into the Home, when in reality you simply wanted to kidnap her, or to catch her by false pretences. Prisoner is not of the Lee family; he is of the Lung family; I have received anonymous letters in much the same strain; I have also received letters written in English signed by fictitious Chinese names.

To Mr. Taylor—I did not see the prisoner write the notice to be translated, but he told me he had composed it; the prisoner has not yet paid me for the translation.

Mr. Taylor asked for an adjournment for a week.

Mr. Fell objected on the ground that further delay would be of no use, as next week would be assize week. He also objected to the prisoner being let out on bail, as the case was serious.

Mr. Taylor did not object to reasonable bail, and urged that the case was not as serious as it was made out. In fact the evidence would in no way convict the prisoner.

His Honor did not care to let the prisoner out on bail, and some discussion then ensued. Mr. Taylor, however, elected for the continuance of the case, and the letter was then read, as follows:

"To the English speaking John, son of a dead prostitute, you could not die in San Francisco, instead of attending to public affairs, breaking the laws, reconciling enemies, why did you not get by exchange a faithful nature, instead of preserving a crooked one. Could it be that you were murmuring that your life would be long from the time you came to Victoria. You have hurt us Chinese and merchants not a little, paining them to their very bones. The proper thing to have done, would have been to get some one to kill you, s— of b—. But the merchants all being proper men, and men of rectitude, would not do that kind of thing. Still not repenting former wrongs, you furthermore caused the ruin of the houses of prostitution belonging to the tribe of the Lees, scattering them to the four winds, one and all. In the early part of this month you tried by false pretences to get Yip Wing's girl to escape from him, and on the 9th of this month you tried to get Chew Foon's girl, Ling Kum, pretending to take her to the Home, when in reality you wanted to kidnap her. Unfortunately, for you, you were not secret enough in your actions, and we found you out. On account of this fact, the fact that you could not get these girls, we might well say, brighter are the eyes of Heaven. How the gods have protected us. Hereafter, you son of a prostitute, had better by no means six more of these letters to give Victoria the go-by, etc., if the customs officers did not carry on their business to suit him. The law requires that either master or purser of the vessel shall proceed to the custom house and make a sworn statement as to her passengers, crew, cargo, and so on, but Capt. Webber wants the customs officers to allow him to carry out their duties, and in effect to enter and clear steamers without complying at all to customs regulations. Every possible assistance has been rendered Capt. Webber in his endeavor to facilitate the entering and clearing of the steamships, but there are certain statute requirements to be complied with, and the collector has no other course to follow than that laid down for him. As an evidence of the necessity for this, the seizure of the goods yesterday is an instance. Captain Webber complains of the great inconvenience caused him in coming to Victoria to clear the ship, but so far as that is concerned, he might as well remain at home, for the captain or purser are the recognized individuals for the work. However, as soon as the ship's officers becomes acquainted with the routine of the work, which is really very simple, no doubt matters will move pleasantly.

The Abyssinia carried a full list of cabin passengers and 160 in the steerage, among whom were 60 Chinese from Victoria. Amongst the freight were 300 tons of flour, 50 tons of machinery, 100 tons of general freight. A Portland contract for 1,000 tons of flour failed to reach the steamer in time.

THE BALDWIN HOTEL.

Five Thousand Six Hundred and Odd Dollar Claimed for an Unpaid Coal Bill.

That magnificent caravansary of San Francisco, the Baldwin hotel, has already changed hands very often and now another change is contemplated. A Cincinnati man, named Rockfield, is at present in San Francisco awaiting, from the East, the arrival of Mr. Baldwin. Attachments for over $6,000, in the name of Joseph E. Shane, have been made upon the present managers of the hotel. The Oregon Improvement Company claim $5,661 for an unpaid coal bill, and Messrs. Tilman & Bendel, wholesale grocers, claim $1,100. The claims are very heavy, and a sheriff's deputy has already been installed in the hotel to hold possession of personal property and to assume charge of whatever money may be taken in until the matter is settled. Something over a year ago various parties levied attachments upon the hotel property to recover sums aggregating something like $30,000. E. J. Baldwin came forward and asserted that he himself owned everything about the building, in consequence of which, so far as is known, the creditors failed to realize anything. The lease under which Messrs. Pearson & Arnold hold the hotel will expire, it is said, upon the 18th of December.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES.

A special meeting of the board of school trustees was held last evening in the city hall. Present: Chairman Hayward, Secretary Walker, and Trustees Milne and Heisterman.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Secretary Walker said that two letters had come to hand since the last meeting—one from Mr. Sutherland and the other from Mr. McCulloch.

The former explained his position in having declined the principalship of the high school.

His communication was received and filed and the secretary instructed to reply.

Mr. McCulloch's letter, dated at Thorold, Ont., was an answer to a telegram sent him by the secretary. His principal objection is that he would be compelled to pass an examination which he considered unfair to a man in his position in Ontario.

Trustee Milne moved that the letter be received and filed. He regretted that Mr. McCulloch had refused as he was just the man fitted for the position of principal of the high school. The trustee was inclined to think that the board had never yet appointed a man with such attainments as Mr. McCulloch possessed. Probably some inducements could be offered him yet to come, as he seemed inclined to come.

Trustee Heisterman seconded the motion, and said that correspondence should be kept up with the gentleman as he is evidently a man of high attainments. The schools would benefit by his presence.

Trustee Milne said that the members of the government were beginning to see that the clause in the school Act, which made it compulsory for those who hold degrees from recognized universities to pass an examination, was likely to prove a great drawback and he hoped it would be repealed.

Chairman Hayward was of the opinion that the clause was beginning to be felt by the board, and was a great inconvenience. Mr. McCulloch seemed willing to come and he thought with Trustee Milne that correspondence should be kept up.

Secretary Walker said that he perfectly agreed with the remarks of the trustees and the appointment was a judicious one. The clause which compelled teachers of Mr. McCulloch's standing to pass an examination was liable to do injury.

The following resolution was then drawn up and moved by Trustee Milne: "That the secretary be authorized to explain by telegraph the position of the board to Mr. McCulloch and promise the influence of the board towards the repeal of the existing law regarding compulsory examinations of masters and bachelors of arts and experienced teachers."

Trustee Heisterman seconded the motion and the resolution was carried.

Trustee Milne thought that it would be just as well to communicate with some other applicant and suggested Mr. Tanner of Listowell, the secretary to be authorized to write him stating salary, etc.; carried.

STANDARD TIME.

Chairman Hayward drew the attention of the board to the fact that the city council had decided to adopt standard time after the 1st December.

Trustee Milne moved that the schools be opened and closed on standard time after the 1st December.

The board then adjourned.

THE CHINA STEAMSHIP.

Customs Officers Seize Contraband Goods—Capt. Webber and Collector Hamley—The Steamer's Freight.

The S. S. Abyssinnia, Capt. Lewis, arrived off the outer harbor shortly before 10 o'clock yesterday morning, when she was boarded by Mr. Milne, appraiser of customs, and Officer Hunter. Information had been received by cable from Hongkong, advising the authorities of the fact that the crew had a considerable quantity of smuggled goods aboard. Mr. Milne informed the captain that he desired to search the vessel, and that gentleman accorded the officers every possible assistance in their overhauling. This occupied over two hours, and resulted in the discovery and confiscation of 20,000 cigars and over 200 bottles of Chinese wine. According to strict law this would have made the captain subject to a fine of $400, but as there was no doubt about his non-connivance Collector Hamley did not inflict it. It is said that when entering the vessel at Vancouver, Capt. Lewis gave a hint to the customs officer that induced him to search the steamship, but he only discovered articles of small value. However, before she left on Friday night Collector Bowell, it is said, seized a quantity of goods. The vessel was cleared and ready for sea at 1:30, but did not sail for some time after.

Capt. Webber is unfortunate. He scarcely ever comes to Victoria but what he runs foul of some person or other, which generally winds up by his prancing around, and consigning Victoria and Victorians to regions generally credited with being of a tropical character. The captain makes but a sorry land lubber and would be more at home on board a ship where his imprecations would be regarded as part of his business as commander. As the negro deck hand remarked after the first mate of a Mississippi steamboat had got through cursing him: "Golly, you ought to be captain." But that is just where the trouble arose. Although he is Capt. Webber, ship's husband, agent for the owners, their first representative, etc., and therefore entitled to consideration, he is not captain of every steamer that runs between this port and China. Yesterday Capt. Webber used some rather offensive language to the collector of customs in regard to the clearing of the vessel, and was politely informed that he had no status in the matter, and was requested to withdraw. Before doing so, Capt. Webber made his stereotyped threat that he would order the steamer to give Victoria the go-by, etc., if the customs officers did not carry on their business to suit him. The law requires that either master or purser of the vessel shall proceed to the custom house and make a sworn statement as to her passengers, crew, cargo, and so on, but Capt. Webber wants the customs officers to allow him to carry out their duties, and in effect to enter and clear steamers without complying at all to customs regulations. Every possible assistance has been rendered Capt. Webber in his endeavor to facilitate the entering and clearing of the steamships, but there are certain statute requirements to be complied with, and the collector has no other course to follow than that laid down for him. As an evidence of the necessity for this, the seizure of the goods yesterday is an instance. Captain Webber complains of the great inconvenience caused him in coming to Victoria to clear the ship, but so far as that is concerned, he might as well remain at home, for the captain or purser are the recognized individuals for the work. However, as soon as the ship's officers becomes acquainted with the routine of the work, which is really very simple, no doubt matters will move pleasantly.

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