

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

More "Hold-ups" in Vancouver—Christmas Business Good—Sad and Sudden Death.

Snowfall at Vernon—Mining in the Okanagan—Seasonable Entertainment.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER, Dec. 26.—The talk of forming a vigilance committee still continues, and if, after the daring case of Wednesday afternoon, anything of a similar nature occurs without the miscreant being captured, the talk will undoubtedly take a more definite shape and result in action.

All the storekeepers in the centre of the city assured a Colonist reporter that the volume of Christmas business transacted was fully equal to that of last year. The streets on Christmas eve were thronged until a late hour by crowds of purchasers, and the amount of business done is taken as a healthy sign of returning prosperity.

A case of honesty of a nature not too often met with is reported. A physician of the city on Wednesday lost his pocket book, containing a large sum of money and some valuable papers, and had given it up for gone for good, when it was returned to him by the finder, Mr. Flynn, of Westminster avenue. Another pocket book was lost on the street yesterday by a lady who was shopping on Cordova street. The wallet contained a large sum of money in notes and has not yet been returned to its owner.

The city street cars only ran from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. yesterday, for the purpose of affording the employees an opportunity of participating in the Christmas festivities.

A free dinner and entertainment in the library, were given by the librarian, an assault-at-arms by the Gordon Highlanders' Boys' Brigade, in the Market Hall, and a Christmas tree entertainment by the Japanese Christian Endeavour Society, constituted the public attractions afforded in the city on the evening of Christmas.

The public notices announcing the election of Mayor and Aldermen, usually posted in the city, have this year, owing to some mismanagement, been given in to the hands of some person to post who, having no boardings, has tacked them up on telegraph and telephone posts with the result that hardly one is to be seen. Owing to this want of publicity some doubt exists as to the date of nomination day. There is still some talk of Alderman Brown's name being before the electors as a candidate for Mayor, which would leave a vacancy in Ward 4.

A substantial reduction in the water rate is recommended by the water and market committee. The present rate is \$9 per year for households, with 20 per cent. reduction for advance payments. The committee recommends a reduction to \$7.50, with a similar reduction for prepayment. This will be just half what was charged when the waterworks was owned by a private corporation.

City Clerk McGuigan met a masked man near the B. C. Iron Works last night. The man ordered him to throw up his hands. Mr. McGuigan pointed his pipe case at him and he disappeared. The same night a woman was robbed of fifteen cents, and a man with a brown beard jumping out of the bushes and confronting her. Other cases are reported. Several suspicious characters have been arrested. Five detectives have been added to the force. The citizens are arming themselves with revolvers and pistols.

Burglars entered Edwards Bros., photographers, establishment last night and stole a quantity of valuable goods. Entrance was effected by smashing the windows of the front door.

At midnight Christmas a masked man pointed a pistol at the head of James Sheriff, ordering him to hold up his hands. Sheriff did not obey and the man fired but missed, when Sheriff knocked him down. The man, however, jumped up and escaped.

WESTMINSTER, Dec. 26.—The very sad death of Arthur Jones, the eighteen year old son of Mr. J. J. Jones of this city, occurred on Thursday afternoon from brain fever following an attack of la grippe. Much sympathy is felt with the bereaved family, the deceased being a general favorite in the city.

The steamer Lakme, which finished discharging cargo for the Automatic Car Company, cleared yesterday for Portland, Ore.

Special services were held yesterday in all the places of worship.

Rev. John Reid officiated at the marriage of Mr. John Jackson, an employee of the tramway company, to Miss Walmesley of Sapperton.

MIDWAY (From the Midway Advance.) The Joe Dandy deal has at last come to a head, and the syndicate represented by Lord Sudely while the negotiations were in progress have put men to work.

The Joe Dandy and his sister claims are among some of the richest and best in Camp Fairview. The ore milled at the camp was taken from the Joe Dandy, and although put through a three-stamp mill it was of such a rich character it easily paid all the expenses incidental to the working of about 1000 tons. It is proposed to thoroughly develop the claims with shafts, tunnels and drifts, and to do this a large amount of money will be expended. Mr. Thomas Davis and associates were the original owners and locators.

Development is rapidly progressing on the coal claim at Rock creek, as during the past week the tunnel has been extended some fifty feet, all in solid coal. The vein so far shows a width of 40 feet, and the walls are now beautifully smooth and clear. Samples of this coal were brought to Midway a few days ago and the product is already being generally used by blacksmiths and others in the district.

Mr. D. A. Carmichael came over from Fairview a few days ago, and reported

lively times at the camp. He says never in the history of Fairview has the outlook been so bright as at present, as properties are changing hands and more men are being put to work every day.

VERNON (From the News.) Charles Taylor, of Montreal, who has been in the city for several weeks, has been giving careful attention to the mining interests of this section, and it is probable that he will make some investments in this section before his return to the East.

Mr. Taylor is interested in the manufacture of an improved quartz crusher and also a machine for saving gold in placer diggings, both of which he is anxious to introduce here if he can find a suitable location.

One of the heaviest falls of snow ever known in this district took place on Friday of last week, when fourteen inches fell.

Mr. W. A. Armstrong is a candidate for the mayoralty. Mayor Meyer will also allow his name to be put in nomination.

This year no poultry has been imported for the holiday trade, and the cash that formerly was spent for this country for turkeys, geese, etc., was kept at home.

The price of wheat is higher in this district now than for years. The Armstrong mill is offering \$35 per ton for it.

NEW DENVER (From the Ledger.) W. K. Richmond has given a 30-day option on his interest in the bond on the Ocean group to M. G. McLeod.

The lead is just coming in sight on the Westmont.

The bond on the Exchange and Victoria will be transferred from Bremner's syndicate to R. C. Campbell-Johnstone. The Enterprise ships four carloads of ore this week. Ten tons a day are being brought to the lake, and 33 men are working in the mine.

The Two Friends makes another shipment this week. The new superintendent is very pleased with the outlook. The shaft on the Erin, on Robertson creek, is down twenty feet and is improving every foot.

On this property situated at the head of Eight Mile creek six men are working day and night. They have run a cross-cut tunnel in 60 feet and have drifted in on the ledge for over 50 feet. The paystreak is from 5 to 16 inches, all high grade ore.

A one-quarter interest in the Crusader, Boulder and Hidden Treasure has been sold to W. H. Hellyar, of Brandon, Manitoba, for \$6,250, of which \$1,250 was paid in cash, the balance to be paid on July 5.

The tunnel on the Phoenix, on the north fork of Carpenter creek, is now in 80 feet. In the last ten feet the paystreak has increased from 6 to 13 inches of almost clear ore. The indications are that it will grow wider as the ore chute is approached.

The report that the body of Hubert Crackenthorpe, the author, had been found in the river Seine is confirmed. The body was almost unrecognizable, and had apparently been in the water for about six weeks. There were no signs of violence about the remains. Mr. Crackenthorpe disappeared during October and foul play was suspected.

The North German Lloyd steamer Sprea, Capt. Meyer, from New York Dec. 10 for Bremen, arrived at Southampton to-day, had an experience since that to that of the American liner St. Louis, which arrived this morning after encountering very heavy winds. Several of the Sprea's boats were stove in and the ship was completely covered with snow and frost.

DR. ZERTUCHA SCORED. New York, Dec. 24.—Thomas Estrada Palma, Cuban delegate to this country, issued the following statement to-day: "I am not very much surprised to see Dr. Zertucha rush into print for the purpose of distracting attention from himself by attracting it to a scandalous charge which can only aid him with the Spanish. For me it is sufficient indication of the man's character that he surrendered to the enemy under the conditions in his case, and that he is treated in such a kindly manner by the Spaniards. What more natural than that his combination with Spanish diplomacy, should be the instrument by which the revolution should be discredited."

"I know from letters received from Gen. Antonio Maceo, personally as well as from a person whose name I cannot communicate, that Maceo was not in the desperate straits depicted by Zertucha. The following extract from a letter lately received will show that Maceo was well satisfied with the condition of affairs: "Pinar del Rio, Nov. 30. My distinguished friend.—The active operations of the campaign have prevented me, against my wishes, from answering your letter. I have had several communications of the 19th and 25th ult. General Ruiz Rivera happily disembarked with all the war material sent, which was well employed in a series of hard combats which we sustained against our enemies, published. His assertion of Maceo's disappointment is absolutely groundless. Zertucha's gratitude toward his former companions in arms are not such as to win for him the credence of any honest man."

According to the Washington Star, the old-fashioned molasses, especially disappearing as an article of commerce, said a prominent grocer, and in its place have come a number of syrups, which are more costly and by no means as satisfactory, especially to the little ones, who delight as we did when we were young, in having "lasses on their bread. Most of the molasses goes into the distilleries, where it is made into rum, for which, notwithstanding the efforts of our temperance workers, the demand is constantly increasing, especially in the New England States and for the export trade.

LANDING OF FILIBUSTERERS. KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 24.—Passengers from Cuba report that the Three Friends expedition has landed at Guanabo. They also say that the insurgents have burned a monastery near Moro castle on Havana bay, within range of the guns of Moro castle.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 24.—A special to the Commercial Tribune from Tampa, Fla., says: "One of the Cuban leaders has returned from Havana confirming the report recently received of Spanish losses sustained near Santiago and other towns while attempting to capture the cargo of a filibustering vessel. The Spaniards were routed and fired 30 miles away from the aid. A train was made up with great secrecy, but the Cubans sent word out to a nearby insurgent camp. The train was dynamited as the train came along, the bomb causing great destruction, four cars being almost blown to splinters. The Spanish soldiers poured out of the wreck only to receive a withering fire from the Cubans concealed behind the roadbed. The Spaniards fought bravely for a few moments but fled in all directions, the Cubans pursuing them for miles. Over 40 Spanish soldiers were killed or wounded and 40 taken prisoners. The Cubans secured a quantity of arms, ammunition and medical supplies. It is reported that the expedition landed safely and that all the cargoes were taken to Gomez camp."

In Havana much speculation is indulged in as to why Weyler changed his mind and went to Pinar del Rio section, instead of going to Matanzas into Santa Clara province as had been arranged. The solution is that bad news was received from the Spanish front near the trocha, and that the Spanish commanders, not wishing to stand the responsibility, wired for Weyler.

The last reliable reports from Manzanillo says Maximino Gomez has finally taken up his march with an escort in the direction of Santa Clara.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children.

The only safe and reliable remedy for all the ailments of Infants and Children.

ONE OF THE IMMORTALS

Succeeds de Lesseps in the Academy—An Inflammatory Sentence to Death.

Rough Experiences of Atlantic Liners—Author's Body Found in the Seine.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

LONDON, Dec. 24.—A dispatch from Rome to the Daily News says: All indications here seem to prove that Spain has been preparing for the event of warlike complications with the United States. The hurried manufacture of a large quantity of cartridges has been ordered at Brescia, and four cruisers have been ordered from the Ansaldo yards in Genoa.

A man named Simon was sentenced to death in Paris after having been convicted on a charge of setting fire to life-guards with a view to defrauding insurance companies, and thereby causing the death of a man by burning.

Three convicts who were returning today at Dartmouth prison, from outdoor labor, made a desperate attempt to escape. One of them was shot dead, and the other two escaped. Of the two convicts who escaped, one was wounded by a shot from the guards, and was afterwards arrested.

M. Anatole, poet and litterateur, was received to-day as a member of the Academy and pronounced an eloquent tribute to the memory of the late Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, who died December 7, 1894, and whose seat M. Anatole took. He summed up the great Frenchman as being imprudent and rash, but as having devoted his life to noble and peaceful tasks.

Arthur Pratt, alias Edward R. Taylor, who, while serving a term of months for burglary, confessed that he had murdered an insane patient in the Eastern Kentucky asylum, for which he was arrested while leaving jail at Oxford, Mississippi, on application of the U. S. marshal, was examined at the Bow Street, London, court to-day and was remanded.

General Meredith Reid, formerly minister to Greece, is seriously ill in Paris. He is said to be near his end.

The report that the body of Hubert Crackenthorpe, the author, had been found in the river Seine is confirmed. The body was almost unrecognizable, and had apparently been in the water for about six weeks. There were no signs of violence about the remains. Mr. Crackenthorpe disappeared during October and foul play was suspected.

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FOREIGN POSTAL CARD.

New Issue to Be Made Shortly—Christmas Day at the Capital.

Tariff Investigation—Two Immigration Agents Appointed for the Old Country.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 26.—The attention of the government has been called to the fact that a two-cent post card used in communicating with foreign countries contravenes the regulations of the Postal Union. One of the infractions complained of was the border on the address side of the card and the addition of the words "British American Bank Note Company." A new plate was therefore prepared to replace the present one. It is of a neat design, with the objectionable frills removed. The color of the stamp and printing have been changed from green to madder red, similar to the three-cent stamp. As soon as the present supply of post-cards is exhausted the new one will be issued.

Captain Sinclair, secretary to the Governor-General, left for Scotland to-day via New York.

Christmas Day passed off quietly in Montreal. The weather was comparatively mild, but seasonable.

The tariff investigation committee will hold a meeting in Ottawa on Monday, January 4.

Mr. Sifton has appointed two immigration agents to work in the old country. One goes to Wales and the other to Ireland.

SYMPATHY WITH CUBANS. SAN DIEGO, Cal., Dec. 24.—The patriotism of Mexicans and their fervent love of liberty is shown in their strong sympathy with the Cuban insurgents. Every day during the past six months there have been encounters in the City of Mexico between Mexicans and Spaniards, and the general government is taking severe measures to quell any public demonstration of hostility to Spain.

In the city of San Luis Potosi the feeling runs so high that serious trouble is threatened. Last Wednesday night a mob gathered in that city, inflamed by a circular said to have been written by a Spaniard, and defaming Mexicans and Mexican institutions, especially with reference to the part taken in sympathy with the Cubans. This circular precipitated a riot. A crowd gathered early in the evening, constantly growing in numbers and violence, until at 10 o'clock it had reached the proportions of a mob which would have broken into the Spanish consulate and threatened to demolish the structure, but was finally controlled by one or two cool heads.

Spaniards, inscribed with huge red letters, were fastened before the consulate, and violent talk and insults bandied. The Spanish consul was in great peril and appealed to the authorities to protect him. The mob finally left, after severe threats to the part taken in sympathy with the Cubans. This circular precipitated a riot. A crowd gathered early in the evening, constantly growing in numbers and violence, until at 10 o'clock it had reached the proportions of a mob which would have broken into the Spanish consulate and threatened to demolish the structure, but was finally controlled by one or two cool heads.

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On the other hand the distress among the poor of London was equally marked, over seven hundred persons being relieved out of the funds from the poor box at Bow street police court in three days, some of the cases being most pitiful.

The Queen's Christmas was celebrated very quietly at Osborne, the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg having made all the usual festivities unseemly. Only the old traditional customs of the table were uninterfered with and the usual presents were given to-day. The royal baron of beef, which is the principal dish on the Queen's sideboard, was cut this year from a Devon ox, which was fattened on Her Majesty's Flemish farm, Windsor Great Park. The joint was roasted at Windsor and sent to Osborne Christmas eve, along with the boar's head and a woodcock pie. All duly appeared on the sideboard yesterday. Her Majesty received from Her grandson, Emperor William of Germany, as usual, a quantity of presents, including the Christmas royal preserves at Springle, Hanover, and another from the Duke of Coburg, besides a quantity of German cakes and sweetmeats.

Christmas day here was sunny and was a quiet day. Many of the old customs were followed out in the true spirit of the English Christmas. At Queen's College, Oxford, the ancient ceremony of bringing the boar's head was solemnly gone through in the presence of the University Dons.

At Rochester six poor travellers en route for the Watt's charity, in the shape of an old-fashioned dinner and a present of fourpence. In Liverpool 20,000 poor people were given to the poor, and the impoverished people of this city were well cared for through thousands of free breakfasts, dinners, etc., in many parts of the metropolis. In the London workhouses 104,583 paupers enjoyed the Christmas celebration, and 4,667 hospital patients were made as comfortable as possible under the circumstances.

DECADENCE OF COBDEENISM. NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—A dispatch from London says: Comment has been provoked by the feeling shown at a recent meeting of the London county council whose committee having suggested that tenders for new fire engines be held on a closed basis, and that they be awarded with a howl of disapproval showing that "made in America" is apparently regarded by members of council with equal aversion to "made in Germany."

The Conservative newspapers claim to see in this incident an evidence of the decadence of Cobdenism, and express the opinion that Great Britain must certainly have travelled a long way from the position taken by the old free traders, when a popularly elected body like the London county council approves of the idea that no work must be given to foreign countries while Britain need employment.

OTTAWA, Dec. 24.—Justices Tait, Jette and Taschereau, of the Queen's Bench of Quebec, are here trying to secure higher salaries.

A Wonderful Medicine.

BEECHAM'S PILLS

For Bilious and Nervous Disorders, such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Sick Headache, Dizziness, Flatulence and Swelling after meals, Dizziness and Drowsiness, Cold Chills, Flushing of Heat, Loss of Appetite, Shortness of Breath, Constipation, Blotches on the Skin, Disturbed Sleep, Frightful Dreams, and all Nervous and Trembling Sensations, &c. THE FIRST DOSE WILL GIVE RELIEF IN TWENTY MINUTES. This is no Fiction. Every sufferer is earnestly invited to try one Box of these Pills, and they will be acknowledged to be WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.

BEECHAM'S PILLS, taken as directed, will quickly restore Females to complete health. They promptly remove any obstruction or irregularity of the system. For a Weak Stomach, Impaired Digestion, Disordered Liver, they act like magic—a few doses will work wonders upon the Vital Organs; Strengthening the muscular system, restoring the long-lost Complexion, bringing back the keen edge of appetite, and arousing with the Rosebud of Health the whole physical energy of the human frame. This is no Fiction. Every sufferer is earnestly invited to try one Box of these Pills, and they will be acknowledged to be WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.

Prepared only by THOMAS BEECHAM, ST. HELENS, ENGLAND. OF ALL DRUGGISTS.

Cecil Rhodes' Declaration.

PORT ELIZABETH, Cape Colony, Dec. 26.—At a banquet tendered to Cecil Rhodes here, he made a speech in the course of which he declared that his public life was not ended, and that he would not give up his seat in parliament until he was turned out. He asserted that no savage country can remain a part of Africa. Cape Colony, he said, must be the dominant power south of Central Africa. His idea was to assimilate the tariffs and the peoples. This, he said, could be done in the North. It was not a question of race, but of unity. He urged his hearers to cultivate a closer union with other South African communities. He stated that when he was negotiating with the late Charles Stewart Parnell, Parnell had promised him that a clause should be inserted in the home rule bill which would permit representatives from the colonies to sit at Westminster.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—Cecil Rhodes' speeches at Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, are exciting much comment both here and in Cape Town. In the course of his speech on landing in Port Elizabeth he said: "I am going to meet and be examined by my fellow-countrymen. I know their unctious rectitude, but I know that I also have your sympathies in the trouble I am about to meet." In his speech at the banquet tendered him at Port Elizabeth he referred to the mother country as a power out of sympathy with him to whom he had presented a new colony.

The Times protests against Rhodes' invitation to the British public, who stood by him during a year of trouble and who are prepared to accord him a fair hearing.

BRONCO PETE KILLED. BOISE CITY, Idaho, Dec. 24.—News has reached here of a tragedy at Hagerman. An altercation took place between Marion Garner and Harry Kline, alias Bronco Pete, during which Pete shot, and it is supposed, fatally wounded Garner. Pete at once mounted his horse and struck for the cattle camp of the Shoelace outfit. A posse at once started in pursuit, and as he had stopped to see a woman to whom he was engaged to be married, the posse overtook him. He was ordered to throw up his hands, and replied by opening fire on the posse, who in turn shot him dead. Bronco Pete was a cowboy and all-round bad man from the locality where Diamond Field Jack and others recently killed several shepherders.

WHEAT STRONGER. NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—In their report Dun & Co. says: "Wheat has grown a little stronger in spite of the disturbance of the Chicago market. The exports have been 1,471,443 bushels, flour included, for five days, and 3,392,587 for four weeks, against 8,527,569 for the same week last year, when the Pacific ports, the increase has been large. Western receipts are still small amounting to 8,455,631 bushels in three weeks of the month, against 14,344,359 last year. The volume of business, all branches included, is not large. The failures for the week have been 297 in the United States against 323 last year, and 44 in Canada against 40 last year."

PUBLIC CHARITIES. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood, of Washington, who was one of the delegates from the United States to the International congress, which was held at Genoa, Switzerland, in September last, to consider the administration of public charities and the protection of children, has made a report to the department of state relative to the proceedings of congress. The societies were represented in the association and about 65 delegates were in attendance. The congress was in session for six days, during which many interesting and valuable reports were presented and ably discussed. Among the important topics considered were the education of abandoned women.

JAPAN AND PERU. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—An interesting ceremony occurred at the Japanese legation at 11 o'clock this morning, when the final ratifications of the new treaty between Japan and Peru were exchanged by Minister Hoshi, of Japan, and Consul-General Hergmann, acting plenipotentiary of Peru. The new treaty is one of a series which Japan is effecting with all the nations, and is almost identical with the one concluded with the United States a year ago.

THE CHINESE.

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