NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Vancouver Suffering for Want of Water—Commandant Booth Opens Fire.

Re-Survey By-Law Defeated by Nanaimo Ratepayers—Interesting Interior News.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, July 3.—There is no water yet, and considerable distress is experienced in this city in consequence.

A large contingent of the Salvation Army from Victoria, Westminster and Nanaimo convened here yesterday. Very interesting exercises were held in the Imperial Opera House. Commandant Booth addressed the immense assembly. He is a small man, not very impressive, but full of religion.

VANCOUVER, July 4.—J. W. Horne is back.

Ole Johnson was killed at the Royal City Planing Mills this morning, by being caught in the belt and thrown among the machinery.

D. McGillvray has secured the contract for clearing the branch line of the C.P.R. from Revelstoke to Arrow lake.

A comic paper called the Hornet has taken the place of the short-lived Owl. Mr. Gordon, formerly city editor of the Telegram, is responsible for the published matter. The Hornet is printed on fine paper, well set up and is a creditable looking publication. The subject matter is written in a careless, bright style, an indifference to facts and a keen regard for the humorous.

An immense number of Orangemen are expected here on the 12th, the local lodges exerting themselves to the utmost to make the day a memorable one.

Captain Lyman has returned from San Francisco much improved in health.

"Sunnyside" Thompson has purchased the Alhambra Hotel. This recalls the circumstance that on the site of the Alhambra Hotel was "Gassy Jack's" inn in the days of "Gas Town," the talkative gentleman's house being the first building erected in Vancouver. The building is no more, but the name of "Gassy Jack" and his successor "Sunnyside" Thompson will be recorded in local history along with the memorable Canoe street corner.

K. B. McLennan arrived from Tacoma on Saturday with his family, and will settle here. Mr. McLennan says other families are following him to settle in B. C.

Messrs. E. Powis, G. Anderson, J. W. Scott and T. Moore left to-day for the North on a prospecting trip. They will go as far as the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The Anglo B. C. Packing Company will ship 500 cases of salmon by the steamer Warrimoo to Australia.

There is no water yet. The authorities say it might be turned in to-morrow. Contractor McGillvray was severely handicapped in his street paving but he found it would pay him to draw rain water from Richard street excavation by an engine and pump it to Hastings which was done. Water is selling readily at $1 a barrel or 25 cents a pail. On Sunday as the watering carts were going their rounds one of them collapsed injuring the driver severely.

Messrs. Postill Bros., formerly of New Westminster, will locate in Vancouver and will engage in the butchering business.

There were 148 candidates at the teachers' examination held in the High school today. The examiners were Inspector Wilson, Mr. J. Anderson, B.A., and Rev. P. McF. Macleod, assisted by Messrs. A. Robinson, F. M. Cowperthwaite and H. M. Stramberg. Among the candidates are a number of graduates of Eastern universities.

Washburn's circus drew an immense crowd yesterday. It was a very good one ring performance. The managers were so vexed at the City Council not allowing them to show here on Dominion Day that they bought all the supplies for British Columbia at Westminster, but were paid up for this later on when they found they had to pay $1 a barrel for the immense quantity of water used by them. They went to Nanaimo last night leaving their wagons in Vancouver.

Steamer Etta White left for the North last night.

Steamers Coquitlam and Capilano are tied up at Coal Harbor.

Steamer Cutch, Capt. Newcomb, left for Nanaimo yesterday for the first time since her accident.

The American barque Seminole was towed into port yesterday by the tug Pioneer. She will load lumber at Moodyville.

Steamer Princess Louise went North from here to-day.

The third court of I. O. F. will be instituted in this city to-morrow evening.

George Giles, manager of the B. C. Mercantile and Collecting Agency, sued Charles M. Gray for $70, the yearly subscription to the agency. Mr. Gray stated that he had subscribed to the Agency believing that it would protect him against bad debts, but the courts had stopped the Agency from doing business and therefore he had received no value. His Honor gave judgment for the defendant, without costs, telling him he should not have been a party to such a blackmailing scheme.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, July 3.—The loss by the burning of Rousseau's tannery on Saturday morning was $9,000; insurance, $5,000.

There is a general movement of families to the seaside, Boundary Bay, Plumper Pass and Port Moody being the most favorite resorts with the majority.

A few days ago a huge panther entered Port Haney village and carried off a calf weighing 800 pounds.

Lehman's ranch at Port Moody was sold to-day by auction and brought $1,550.

The search after Findley, who escaped from the chain gang, has been abandoned.

The members of the Orange lodges here held church parades yesterday morning and afternoon.

All the Dominion Day drunks were let off without a fine.

Frank Wagner, an insane man, was brought over from Nanaimo yesterday, and proves not to be the missing John Wagner. He will be placed in the asylum.

NEW WESTMINSTER, July 4.—Commandant Booth arrived in the city this evening and was given a great welcome by the Salvation Army people. He had a big meeting in the opera house afterwards.

The Chilliwack fruit cannery has commenced operations for the season.

A Frenchman who has a large orchard in the western portion of the city adopted a novel plan to punish youths caught in the act of stealing cherries on Saturday. He took off the lad's breeches and allowed him to walk home with his linen fanning the breeze.

Owing to the large number of chickens that have been stolen of late by boys, the Chief of Police has instructed poultry dealers not to buy birds from youths without a written request from their parents.

The spring salmon run continues to be exceedingly good, with a small per centage of whites in each catch. One fishermen brought in forty-eight fish this morning, forty-two of which were reds. An odd sockeye is caught every night.

The enterprising people of Cloverdale are endeavoring to have the Surrey agricultural exhibition held in their village this year, and if the directors decide to have the show there the villagers will raise among themselves a sufficient amount to carry out a good programme of games and sports.

The manager of the Port Haney Freezing Co. yesterday shipped to London, England, five hundred pounds of fresh salmon cured by the new chemical process. The result of the new experiment is awaited with great interest by all connected with the salmon export trade.

Officer Calbick is satisfied that Findley, who escaped from the chain-gang last Wednesday, owes his freedom to the smallpox hospital, in which it is believed he took refuge until his pursuers went off in another directions. The officers never thought the man would hide in such a place, and consequently did not enter the building.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, July 3.—The City Re-Survey by-law, voted on to-day, was snowed under, there being 109 votes against to 83 for.

Arrived—Barks Detroit and Highland Light.

Sailed—Montserrat.

NANAIMO, July 4.—The foundation stone of the new Presbyterian church will be laid with fitting ceremonies on the 17th inst.

Commandant Herbert Booth will be here on the 6th and 7th inst., and will address meetings in the Opera House each evening.

The ss. Cutch has been repaired, and is again on her usual route. Captain Newcomb has replaced Captain Johnson in command.

DUNCAN.

DUNCAN, July 3.—Dr. Alexander and P. Auchinachie visited Victoria, and Wm. J. C. Prevost, Mrs. Prevost and Miss Prevost, F. Prevost, C. H. Dickie, C. E Lee and W. C. Duncan came up from Victoria on Friday.

Dominion Day was not distinguished by any special features in this district, though many took a quiet holiday in honor of the birthday of the Dominion.

H. Croft, M.P.P., Dr. Newcombe, Ashdown Green and Mrs. Green were at the Quamichan hotel on Saturday last, and H. Moffat left for Victoria on the morning's train.

WELLINGTON.

WELLINGTON, July 2.—The annual sports at Wellington were celebrated under the most favorable conditions on Saturday. The grounds, situated on the side of Diver lake, were gaily decorated with flags, and the dancing pavilion had quite changed its appearance under the decorations it received with festoons and Chinese lanterns. The large and varied programme was carried through without a hitch, and all the races and jumping were closely contested, as the exceptionally good prizes had drawn a number of well-known racing men from Victoria, Nanaimo and elsewhere. Perhaps the most interesting exhibition of the day was the wrestling contests—one for light weights and one for heavy weights. All the contestants, eight of them, had apparently been well trained, as they all exhibited considerable science, and the many clever devices they exhibited in getting out of a "hold" elicited the applause of the large audience. Dancing in the pavilion concluded the day's entertainment, which was kept up to the music of Mr. Fisher's orchestra until the last hours of the day.

KASLO-SLOCAN.

(From the Kaslo-Slocan Examiner.)

The Kaslo Catholics propose to erect a school and hospital at a cost of between $20,000 and $30,000.

News comes of the discovery of a seven-foot ledge of galena, ten miles out of town, on the Black Fox claim, an extension of the Daisy.

Mr. Starchman sold a half interest in the Dolly claim on Spring creek to gentlemen from the East for $6000. The Dolly is just across the mountain on Jackson creek.

In Duncan country rich strikes are continually being made and prospectors are going into the district by the hundreds.

VERNON.

(From the Vernon News.)

Among the many promising claims lately recorded may be mentioned the "Spotted Horse." This is 18 inches wide, of rich ore, and was discovered by Mr. Thornberry on Boundary Creek.

On the "Elkhorn," Mr. Smith, manager for the Spokane & Great Northern Mining Co., is taking out a carload of rich rock to be shipped to St. Louis.

On the "Nonsuch" there is a shift working who have in 300 feet of a tunnel. This cross cuts two veins about eight feet apart, one vein consists of iron pyrites carrying gold, the other is a three feet vein of galena.

On the "American Boy" there is a carload of ore ready for shipment. On this claim there is a tunnel 320 feet which taps a vein of mineral 24 inches wide of chloride and carbonate ore running from $60 to $250 to the ton.

NELSON.

(From the Tribune.)

The Minnie, a new location, shows a 4-foot vein of galena ore carrying $60 to the ton, about equally divided between gold and silver.

Another new location, the Edith Morey, shows a large body of iron pyrites and galena, a small sample from which assayed $32 in gold.

The recent discovery at the foot of Slocan lake is so promising that the finders have decided to work the claim themselves. The lowest assay gave a return of 920 ounces in silver and $40 in gold to the ton. The ore also contains copper, but no lead.

On Friday last a large body of high-grade ore was struck in the No. 1 mine, in Ainsworth district. The machinery for their concentrator is on the way in, and it has been decided to put the mill on Krao creek.

REVELSTOKE.

(From the Kootenay Star.)

Clearing the right of way for the Revelstoke & Arrow Lake railway will commence next week.

Jack Stauber has bonded the Silver Queen, on the Great Northern ledge, to Mr. Cassel, for $20,000, 10 per cent. paid down.

Road Supt. Thompson is locating a new trail from Harrison's up the west side of Lardeau creek.

Fruit and vegetables are very backward, although the prevailing rain has been most favorable to the growth of weeds. Clover and timothy are two and three feet high on an average. Potatoes are looking well, but a kind of black rot has attacked the stalk just below the soil, causing it to drop off at the least touch. Cabbages which have escaped the grubs are healthy, while turnips, tomatoes, beans, peas, carrots and onions are all vigorous, but a month behind. Small fruits will be heavy crops.

KAMLOOPS.

(From the Inland Sentinel.)

The Peerless made three trips to the Kamloops company's coal mines at North Thompson, bringing down a load of coal each time. The coal brought down is bituminous, of excellent quality, and makes the best of coke.

An extraordinary natural phenomenon in the form of a foal with eight legs, was foaled on Mr. Edwards' farm, North Thompson, about ten days since. The filly is very handsome and well-shaped, the superfluous feet and hoofs protruding from the four fetlock joints inside. Though smaller than the perfect hoof, they are of equal size and shape and very symmetrical. There are, moverover, separate leg bones traceable beneath the skin.

GOLDEN.

(From the Golden Era.)

Archie McMurdo and George Stark came back from the International and other claims last week. The snow is going very fast, and shortly the entire country will be open. The trail from Carbonate Landing to the Middle Fork extremity is in first-class order.

Dave Dickie and partner came in from the Duncan river country, last Saturday. They brought some good samples of galena and quartz.

STILL HARD AT WORK.

The Court of Revision Devotes Its Attention to Messrs. Lowenberg, Harris & Co.'s Appeals.

Douglas Estate Valuations Cut Down About Fifty Thousand Dollars —Another Session Thursday.

The appeals of Messrs. Lowenberg, Harris & Co., and the numerous property owners for whom this firm are agents, received attention at the hands of Mayor Beaven and Aldermen Belyea, Styles and Baker, sitting as a Court of Revision yesterday.

Lots 15, 19, 20 and 21, of five acre lot 19, owned by Hon. H. P. P. Crease, were reduced to $360 each, and block 25, Fairfield estate, to $3,250 per acre. Parts of blocks 6 and 7, Spring Ridge, the property also of Mr. Justice Crease, were brought down to $3 250 per acre.

Hon. M. W. T. Drake's portion of section 68, including 12 67-100 acres, was reduced to $600 per acre. Lots 7, 9 and 11, block E, Work estate, Mr. Justice Drake owner, were reduced to $600, $600 and $650 respectively, and the improvements on half acre, block G, Work estate, were cut down to $1,000.

Block 77, Fairfield estate, owned by Mr. W. F. Bullen, was reduced to $800 per acre.

For the Hudson's Bay Co.: Part of 17, block 70, Fort property, stands as assessed, $6,000, and lot 18, same block, also as assessed, $146 250. The improvements on lot 18 are reduced to $22,500. Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, block 72, Fort property, remain unchanged, $15,400; lots 13, 14, 15 and 16, as assessed, $7,350 each; and lots 9, 10, 11 and 12, aggregating $11,500. Lot 3, block 73, is reduced to $6,000 from $6,440; lot 4, of the same block, stands as assessed, $3,825. The assessment on lots 1, 2, 3 and 13, block 94, stands unchanged, at $15,700. The improvements on lot 2 are reduced to $100. Lot 10, block 75, is ordered to be assessed to Charles Hayward, and lots 20 and 21, block 77, stand at $8,400 for the two.

The improvements on S. Anderson's lot, 244, were reduced to $400, and lot F, sec 74, H. P. Bell owner, was reduced to $2,000 from $2,400.

Sir M. B Begbie's lots, 1,150-1, were reduced to $700 each; lots 1,678-9 reduced to $700 each from $750, and lots 1,682 5 to $700 each, also from $750.

Thomas Carrington's appeal was withdrawn.

The assessment upon lot 633, block L, standing in the name of the Coteford estate, was reduced to $1 500 from $1 800. J. J. Cowley's half of 61, block 14, was ordered to stand as assessed, at $1,600, the improvements being reduced to $400 from $500. Lot 800, block 10, same owner, was brought from $1,300 to $1,000.

The "Five Sisters'" block, Government and Fort streets, was ordered to remain as assessed, $105,000 for the land and $35,000 for improvements, there being no appeal upon the latter.

E. J. Dodd's appeal from the assessment on improvements to his Douglas street property, 672 and 673, was allowed, the reduction being to $100.

John Dooley's lots, 3, 4 and 5, block 21, Spring Ridge, were ordered to stand as assessed, at $2,200, and lot 21, block 73, Spring Ridge, also at the assessor's figures, $500.

The Douglas estate, part of 168a, was ordered to stand at $8,400; lot 1,296 at $1,500; and lot part of 1,270, reduced to $1,000 from $2,000. Subdivisions of lot 1,694, assessed at $6,650, were reduced to $4,900.

Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, were assessed at $1,400 each, and Mr. Northcott asked that this valuation be raised, as other valuators had decided the lots directly opposite to be worth $70 per foot, and this sum would be paid by the Government.

Mr. Harris withdrew the appeal, and the assessment was ordered to stand at the original figures.

Six acres of section 6, assessed at $4,500 per acre, were reduced to $4 000 per acre; section 1 A, Fairfield, assessed at $19 500 for the 42 lots, was reduced to $13,200, in consideration of the fact that the land cannot be drained. The Cameron property, 8½ acres, assessed at $17,000, was brought down to $14,875; King's pond, total area 17 acres, assessed at $28 250, brought down to $19,750. Blocks 19 and 20, each containing 5 acres, were assessed at $7,500 and $6,250 and reduced by $2,500 Blocks 29 and 30 were also reduced by $2,500. Blocks 33 and 34, valued at $1,750 per acre, were ordered to stand. Block 38, reduced from $2,500 per acre to $1,750 Blocks 15 and 17 were cut $2,860. Part of block 31, 5 acres, was assessed at $1,250 per acre, and reduced to $1,000 per acre. Five acres, part of 36, assessed at $1,500 per acre, were reduced to $1,200. Blocks 46 and 45 were assessed at $2 500 per acre, and cut down to $2,250 per acre. Blocks 57 and 58, immediately behind, stand as assessed, at $1,500 per acre. Block 65, 2½ acres, on the Fairfield road, also stands at $1,500. Lot 62, Dallas road, was reduced to $500 per acre.

The court then adjourned until Thursday.

WINNIPEG, July 4. — The Exhibition Board of directors have granted a beer license for exhibition week and the ministers all through the city are up in arms in consequence. They threaten a boycott if the government does not interfere and cancel the license.

AN INVESTIGATION BURKED.

Decision of the City Council Not to Comply With the Commissioners' Report.

Engineer Mohun Will Sue the City—Chief Deasy on Imperfect Fire Protection.

Mayor Beaven did not put in an appearance at last evening's regular meeting of the City Council, and Ald. McKillican was voted to the chair. Other members of the Board present were: Ald. Belyea, Styles, Bragg, Henderson, Miller and Baker. After routine business, the aldermen waded into the big pile of communications on the City Clerk's desk representing the accumulation of a month or more, and the following is the result:

The monthly report of the Sanitary Inspector was received and filed.

A report from the City Engineer *re* drain opposite R. T. William's property on Yates street, was received and filed, and a copy ordered to be send to Mr. Williams.

Two letters complaining of depredations in the Ross Bay cemetery were referred to the Cemetery committee for report.

ALD. STYLES wanted to add the cemetery caretaker to the committee, but Ald. Miller objected, saying that when he, as chairman of the Cemetery committee, wanted information or advice from the caretaker he would call that official before the committee, and if he did not come would soon know why. He did not understand the growing inclination of members of the Aldermanic board always to add a city official to the committees. City officials were the servants of the corporation, and when it was necessary or expedient to have their assistance and advice the various committees could call for them.

A communication complaining of the drainage of Blythe street, Spring Ridge, was read and filed, as tenders are now being asked for for putting in a new drain.

The following communication from the Sewerage Commissioners was read:

SANITARY ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
CITY HALL, VICTORIA, B.C.,
June 28, 1893.

His Worship the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen:

GENTLEMEN:—We beg to call your attention to the unwarrantable statements with reference to the sewerage works, which have been reported in the daily papers as made by certain aldermen, and which so far have not been contradicted by their alleged authors. These statements, while reflecting chiefly upon the integrity and professional skill of the engineer, also necessarily imputе mismanagement, if nothing worse, to the commissioners.

We have been identified with the work since its inception; we know all that has been done; we have been, through the whole period, in constant communication and consultation with the engineer, and are firmly convinced that the statements referred to have not the slightest foundation. The works have been thoroughly well constructed, and have proved most efficient and satisfactory, in as far as the work has been carried out, assertions to the contrary notwithstanding.

We find it difficult to believe that any member of the Council has faith in the unfounded reports which for many months past have been circulated by certain aldermen, for the purpose of decrying a sewerage system which has met the approval of the most eminent authorities. Surely it would have been the duty of any member of the Council, as the guardian of the public funds, believing these assertions well founded, to have demanded an immediate investigation. Nearly a month ago Mr. Mohun addressed a letter to the Council requesting that such an investigation be made. No notice whatever was taken of that communication until a second letter had been sent to the chairman of the Sewerage committee, requesting him to call the attention of the Council to the matter. Upon this, we believe a committee was appointed to ascertain if an investigation was advisable, and up to the present time this committee has apparently done nothing; while in the face of Mr. Mohun's reiterated application, Alderman Baker is reported to have asserted that the Sanitary Engineer did not want any investigation. Judging from the reported proceedings of the Council, your honorable body appears to be unaware of the contents of the reports made to you from time to time by the commissioners and the engineer.

Some of your members express disapprobation of the work, because the connections with the buildings were not made at the time when the covers were being constructed. The blame for this, if any, must rest with the Council, as in and since 1890 the commissioners have repeatedly urged upon the Council the great importance of having these connections made as the work proceeded, but with no result.

We again earnestly call your attention to the great importance of at once having the flush-tanks constructed and the flap-valves put in place; neglect of these essential conditions to success will inevitably result in the accumulation of sewer gas, which sooner or later will find its way into dwellings, and cause an outbreak of typhoid, diphtheria, or other disease, for which the public will be justified in holding you responsible.

We trust you will cause the investigation asked for by Mr. Mohun to be made, and on the lines suggested by Alderman Baker, viz.: Before a tribunal competent to take evidence on oath, into all or any matter connected with the sewerage works

We have the honor to be,
Gentlemen, your obedient servants,
(Signed) J. H. TURNER.
THOS. KARLE.
JNO. TEAGUE.
Sewerage Commissioners.

ALD. BELYEA—I move that the communication be read and laid on the table for further consideration.

ALD. STYLES—Received and filed.

ALD. BELYEA—No you don't! You can't treat this communication that way. Some of you are going to face the music now, after all your loud talk for a year or more.

ALD. BAKER wanted an investigation, and denied that he had ever said the Sanitary Engineer did not want any investigation, at least not since the report had come in.

ALD. BELYEA—Oh yes, you did.

ALD. BAKER—No, I have not. I never accused Mr. Mohun of doing anything wrong, nor did I ever attack his character.

ALD. MILLER—What is that communication?

THE CHAIRMAN—It is from the Sewerage Commissioners.

ALD. MILLER—Well, I move that the letter be received and filed and the commissioners thanked for their timely advice.

ALD. BRAGG seconded the amendment, claiming that members of the aldermanic board had every right to criticize public acts of public officials, and should not be blamed for so doing. Certainly, the construction of the sewers had not been carried on for the benefit of the general public.

ALD. BELYEA, speaking to the amendment, said he was not surprised to hear anything that Ald. Bragg or Baker or Styles might say now about not wanting an investigation. The commissioners, in this communication, had taken the only course that was open to them as honorable men. For the past six months Ald. Baker, backed up by Ald. Bragg and Styles, had been making all sorts of insinuations and statements, which no one could let pass. Four or five weeks ago Ald. Baker had stated that he wanted an investigation. Now he had a chance to have it, and did he want it? No, not a bit of it. He was just about as much afraid of an investigation as it was possible for any man to be. The object of Ald. Miller's amendment was as clear as anything could be—it was intended to burk an inquiry. It was not the wish of the mover to thank the commissioners, it was not his purpose to assist in having the inquiry, but simply to stave the whole question off, and try to crawl out of the boastful position they had pretended to assume a few weeks ago. It was high time this Council undertook to get down to business and stop its nonsense. The Board was at present only making itself ridiculous, and it was high time some business policy was adopted and stuck to, so that even if the public did not approve of the policy it would have some respect for a Council manly enough to pursue a consistent course. He, for one, was thoroughly sick and tired of this "jumping-the-fence policy," which some of the Board always pursued, and in order to get a proper discussion of this matter and a reasonable decision, he wanted the letter laid on the table until the committee to which the previous letter was referred made a report. Then this communication could be taken up with the report.

ALD. BAKER defended himself, saying he was no coward, but would be glad to have an investigation.

ALD. MILLER'S amendment was carried.

Mr. W. Ridgway Wilson, city architect, forwarded accounts for infectious diseases hospital plans, and certificate for first payment on account of construction new police barracks. Referred to Finance committee.

ALD. BAKER presented a report from the City Engineer, showing on a plan how a brick surface drain might be built through the Work Estate, instead of on the road. The cost of this work would be some $17,000 less than if the drain had to be built along the road, and the drains would be better.

ALD. BELYEA favored the scheme, but did not think the Council should commit itself to any course of action until a proper title was given to the property. No business man would have made a proposition of this kind, and the Council should not. The proper course was to adopt the course and then refer the document to the City Barristers to have the documents drawn and signed.

This suggestion prevailed, and the motion was amended accordingly.

A communication from the Sanitary Engineer *re* delivery of sewer pipe was referred to the Finance committee.

S. Perry Mills wrote on behalf of the proprietors of the Grand Pacific hotel, complaining of a nuisance. Referred to Sanitary committee.

The City Engineer wrote again urging the construction of flush tanks for the sewers.

ALD. BELYEA—These tanks are an absolute necessity, and if we don't attend to this matter this year we will have some trouble.

Referred to the Sewerage committee.

The Chief of the Fire department sent in the following letter:

CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
Victoria Fire Department,
Victoria, B.C., June 5, 1893.

His Worship the Mayor and Fire Wardens:

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to submit the following report for the month of May:

Three fires occurred, with a loss estimated at $2,030 Two of the fires were promptly extinguished; the third occurred in a quantity of rubbish at the north east corner of Broad and Johnson streets, near a building formerly occupied by the late Willis Bond. I notified the agents to remove the debris, but they failed to do so. The whole locality is dangerous.

I have two firemen on the sick list and one out of town, with substitutes in their places.

The dry season is a reminder that the department asked for 2,000 feet of fire hose at the beginning of this year It is sadly needed, and I respectfully recommend the placing of this hose in the fire halls as soon as possible

I would also recommend the placing of the reserve engine in one of the stores connected with the market, so that they might be taken out at any time. The superintendent of the market is away during the night, and the doors are locked. The dry weather makes it imperative that no delay should occur in placing engines at work, and a small sum would be well spent fitting up one of the empty stores on Broad street for the use of the Fire Department. At present the engine in the large market hall is liable to injury, and cannot be taken out at night without breaking the lock on the gates.

The stane crossings and car tracks throughout the city are responsible for several breakages of fire apparatus, and the mireing of the engine and truck at the last fire on View street caused the issuance of an order to avoid that portion of the street, between Quadra and Vancouver streets.

It is almost unnecessary to add that Victoria West, the Eastern section of the city and James Bay depend on Providence to save them from fire One engine, six hundred feet of hose, one truck and one chemical cannot be relied on always to save the millions of dollars worth of property in this city, and should a conflagration occur I can only refer to the many vain efforts made to point out the requirements of the Fire Department. At three o'clock this afternoon the water gauge in the City Hall indicated 22 pounds pressure, which is insufficient to throw a one-inch stream, direct from a hydrant, into the upper window of a three story building

The Department will drill at 7:15 o'clock on Thursday evening.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS DEASY,
Chief of Fire Dept.

This letter was referred to the fire wardens.

Residents of Lansdowne avenue petitioned for an electric light. Referred to electric light committee.

Messrs. Bodwell & Irving wrote:

VICTORIA, B. C., June 28, 1893.

To His Worship the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Victoria, B. C.

GENTLEMEN:—Mr. Edward Mohun has consulted us with reference to a letter written by the City Clerk to him, dated the 18th day of June, 1893, which states that the City Clerk is instructed to inform Mr. Mohun that the Corporation are obliged to dispense with his services, which, in consequence, will cease from and after the 30th day of June, 1893, and directing him to make over the plans, property, etc., in his charge to the City Engineer.

We can scarcely conceive that this communication was intended to express the serious determination of the Council, as it would be a direct breach of the contract made with Mr. Mohun when he was appointed Sanitary Engineer for the construction of the sewerage works.

That appointment was made in pursuance of a written communication from Mr. Mohun, dated the 19th September, 1890, in which he agreed to accept the position of Sanitary Engineer, and to carry out the proposed sewerage works at an annual salary of $3 000 in lieu of the regular commission to which he would otherwise be entitled from the Corporation.

Mr. Mohun has acted in perfect good faith upon the basis of the terms thus arranged with the Corporation. The letter of the 18th June, to which we have referred, expresses the intention on the part of the Council to directly derogate from this contract.

If this course is persisted in, Mr. Mohun will have but one remedy, and that is to bring an action against the Corporation for breach of contract, in which, no doubt, his damages against the City would be assessed at a very large amount.

We are instructed to say that unless the Council reconsider its determination as expressed in the letter of the 18th inst, we shall bring an action against the Corporation for the damages to which we have referred.

An early reply will oblige.

Yours faithfully,
BODWELL & IRVING.

ALD. BRAGG thought if Mohun was a pensioner on the city the sooner the ratepayers knew it the better. Let Mohun go to law if he wanted to, and if he had the documents he said he had, he would win. He moved, seconded by Ald. Baker, that Bodwell & Irving be informed that the Council do not wish to reconsider its action.

The motion was lost, and Ald. Baker and Bragg then left the Council chamber, the Council adjourning at 10:05 p.m. for want of a quorum.

EMSDALE, July 4.—Johnson Rose, a farmer residing near here, committed suicide to-day by hanging.

THE REED ISLAND MURDER.

Magistrate Manson Explains Why He Didn't Arrest Kennedy—The Latter "Had the Drop."

The Coroner's Jury Return a Verdict of Wilful Murder—Cowardice Among the Searchers.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

NANAIMO, July 3.—Coroner Walkem returned from Comox yesterday, where he had been to hold an inquest upon the body of John O'Connor, shot at Reed island last Monday morning. The jury found a verdict of wilful murder, charging Kennedy with the crime.

The principal witnesses were Salem Hinckley and Angus Cameron. The former saw the whole affair, heard the dispute, saw O'Connor and Kennedy clinch, heard the shooting and later on heard Kennedy make light of his murderous act and threaten to do the like again.

Mike Manson, J.P., of Cortez island, came down with Dr. Walkem. Mr. Manson stated to your representative here that he had a chance to arrest Kennedy. When he first arrived at Reed island Tuesday afternoon, he did not know anything of Kennedy's whereabouts, naturally supposing that he had made good his escape. He (Manson) had not been in the cabin where the dead man lay many minutes, when Kennedy, armed with revolvers, a knife and a Winchester rifle, put in an appearance.

Kennedy covered him with the rifle and then threatened, swore and bragged for several minutes, never once losing his drop on the magistrate. Seeing that, unarmed as he was, it would be worse than useless to attempt to arrest him, Mr. Manson tried to pacify the man and make out that he considered the whole affair an accident, and that nothing could be done in the matter.

Kennedy backed out of the cabin a few minutes later and made his way to the beach, where his sloop was. At midnight he set sail, never once having given Mr. Manson an opportunity of effecting his arrest. With the exception of Andrew Halkrow, deck-hand on Manson's steamer Stella, everyone round the cabin was more or less under the influence of liquor.

The search party under Constable Anderson, which left Comox last Wednesday, did little that was any good. Some of the specials showed by their actions that they were badly scared of Kennedy, on more than one occasion, but particularly at one spot on Valdez Island. Mr. Manson pointed out to Anderson foot marks on the beach leading up into the woods, and advised him to trace them up. Anderson only landed on the beach, walked along the shingle a little way, not venturing near the bush, and then returned to the sloop.

Last night the steamer Estelle left here with Chief Stewart and Constables Anderson, McKimnon and McLeod on board. They are to continue the search, but as none of them know the coast nor the Indians, and further, none of them ever having seen Kennedy, their efforts are not likely to be very successful.

Actuated by a desire to bring Kennedy to justice as speedily as possible, Superintendent Hussey leaves by the Joan to-day for Comox and Valdez Island, where he will meet and assume command of the expedition which left Nanaimo by the Estelle, endeavoring on the way up to interest the Indians in the desperado's capture. To have held the Estelle at Nanaimo until Superintendent Hussey reached there would have been to have lost a day, hence the adoption of the course taken. The authorities are thoroughly aroused, and will leave nothing undone to secure Kennedy's capture; if, as he asserts, he will never be taken alive, then his body will be brought back. The Evans and Sontag game of defiance will not work long in British Columbia.

FIGURES FOR JUNE

The Inland Revenue returns for the month of June are as follows:

Spirits	$ 6 371 63
Malt	2,382 44
Tobacco	2 625 61
Cigars	1,077 90
Petroleum inspection	109 50
Other receipts	125 10
Total	$126,883 21

For the Free Library the figures for the month are:

Books loaned to ladies	314
" " gentlemen	390
Total	704
New members, ladies	8
" " gentlemen	12
Total	20
Highest issue in any one day	156
Average daily issue	66

MARINE MOVEMENTS.

The schooner Venture, Capt. George McDonald, completed an unprofitable sealing cruise yesterday afternoon, when she sailed into port with only eighty-one skins, her total season's catch. During the cruise the schooner was slightly damaged, having lost her foresail, besides receiving minor injuries, in a heavy gale. On June 7 the U. S. revenue cutter Rush hailed the Venture and notified her of the Behring Sea regulations, telling her also the catches of a number of the schooners. Of the latter Capt. McDonald took a memorandum, which is as follows: Rosie Olsen, 609; Pioneer, 1,020; Otto, 118; Brenda, 400; Annie E. Paint, 409; E. B. Marvin, 700; Walter L. Rich, 900; Triumph, 1600; Henry Dennis, 1,500; Mist, 31; South Bend, 24; Wanderer, 192; Minnie, 500; Oscar and Hattie, 1,140; Fawn, 700; Dora Steward, 1,340; Ainoka, 1,090; Walter A. Earle, 1,400; Mascot, 700; Ocean Belle, 1,100; Borealis, 1,000; Sapphire, 2,261; Mischief, 3½, and Katherine 118. The Venture brings no very late news. She heard of no wrecks during her voyage, and had only seen three sealers within the past few months. Those were the Katherine, Minnie, and Rosie Olsen. The latter, when spoken to, was bound for the Russian coast, it being her intention to go as far as the Behring Sea Pass and then retrace her course and head for Victoria. The only report which the vessel heard while away was that the steam schooner Mischief was to meet several of the schooners at Ugah Island and there receive their catches to take home.

The well known bark Thermopylæ, Capt. Winchester, returned home yesterday morning, having been towed in from beyond the Cape by the tug Richard Holyoke, where she was becalmed for fourteen days. Notwithstanding this delay, she made the passage from Hongkong in forty-five days, only ten days of this time having been occupied in making the run north as far as Yokohama. Until the meridian was passed Capt. Winchester says he experienced very strong and cold southeast gales, but from that point on to Victoria the weather was much finer. The bark brings 1,150 tons of paddy for the Victoria Rice Mills Co., 400 tons of which she discharges immediately at the outer wharf, the remainder to be landed on the company's own wharf in the city.

SEALERS IN JAPANESE WATERS.

A letter from Capt. Byers, of the sealing schooner Carlotta G. Cox, reached here Sunday, and contains the following information about sealers now on the Japan Coast: The W. P. Hall had 437 skins on May 25; Penelope, 1,300 on May 18; Annie C. Moore, 450, May 15; Mattie T. Dyer, 800, May 28; May Belle, 1,651, May 30; Geneva, 1,100, May 30; the Cox, June 2 (the day the letter was written) 1,905; and the Casco, June 2, 1,200. The last named sailed for the sealing grounds from Hakodate the same day.

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Captain Nickerson Writes as to the Progress of the Work in the Northern Wilderness.

Climbing Rugged Mountains Only to Be Baffled by the Presence of Cloud.

Captain Alonz Nickerson, master of the the steamer Thistle, which is this summer engaged as tender to the Canadian Boundary Commission party in the North, writes as follows to the COLONIST from Fort Wrangle, under date of June 26:—

"Leaving Victoria at 8 a.m. on May 25, we called at Comox and took on coals, arriving at Fort Simpson on the 31st without any special incident worth mentioning. June 1 at 4 a.m. we left Simpson, and at 7 p.m. the same day arrived at Burroughs Bay, at the head of Behrings Canal, Alaska, where we took on board Professor O. J. Klotz, who has charge of the International Boundary Survey expedition for the Canadian Government. At 5 a.m. we got up steam and proceeded to Fort Wrangle, passed through Behrings Canal and Clarence Straits at 6 p.m. on the 6th and reached Wrangle, which is a small place of 200 inhabitants, has three stores, a sawmill, two churches and a cannery. A steamer runs from there up the Stickeen to Gentrance, five miles distant.

"Here we waited for the mail, which arrived on the 9th, and on the 10th got steam up and proceeded to Wrangle straits, where we were joined by the U. S. steamer Hassler, which is acting as tender to the officers stationed at the different astronomical stations. Commander Ackley came on board the Thistle and piloted us through the straits, it being a very difficult and intricate part of navigation for a stranger. Proceeding North we visited the various survey parties in Endicot Arm and Holcom Bay, where we saw the Sumdum glacier—a fine sight indeed. From there we passed to Whitting river, to Swettisham Inlet, where we left our party.

"On the 13th we steamed up Taku inlet to the astronomical station at the head, near the mouth of Taku river, in latitude 58° 25' North. In this inlet are the Windom and Foster glaciers, the latter of which is constantly sending down icebergs to the sea weighing from ten tons to ten thousand, numbers of which cover the surface of the water, mostly afloat, but many of them aground in ten fathoms of water. We had to pick our way carefully amongst them to reach the anchorage. Every five minutes the hills around would re-echo with a noise like distant thunder, as a huge berg would break from the glacier and drop into the sea.

"From there we proceeded to Juneau, a town of six or seven hundred, principally supported by the fur trade and mining operations, the Treadwell mines, at Douglas island, being right opposite the town. Here we met Mr. Ogilvie, the chief of the most northern party. From Juneau we returned to Fort Wrangle.

"I may here say that we have met with every kindness and courtesy from the customs officers and also officers on board or connected with all of the U S. steamers since our arrival in Alaskan waters.

"We are now on our way North on our second trip, and have so far steamed about 1,600 miles of coast line, visiting all the survey parties established on the coast, as well as all the minor inlets and bays, doing work in connection with the expedition. There is one party on the Unak river, and there are two on the Stickeen, which can only be reached by canoes. All of the men connected with the expedition have unenviable and arduous duties to perform. They are continually climbing rugged and snow-clad mountains from 3,000 to 6,000 feet high, meeting with the snow line 2,000 feet above the sea, and from there having to walk over immense banks of snow, sometimes sinking knee deep, and sometimes having to climb over two or three smaller mountains to get to the highest ones, from which their observations and measurements are