the number of accidents in this vicinity justified a special boat being secured for that purpose.

To Mr. McPhillips—From the time Mr. Blackwood telephoned it would have taken the Queen City four hours to get up steam. The Kestrel was under control of her master, who received instructions from the department. He had no authority over the government tug Princess. The tug Earle was under the control of Dr. A. T. Watt, superintendent of the quarantine station. He told of the C. P. R. steamers in port, some of which had their machinery apart. The Queen City was to go out next night. None had steam up. If the boilers had been pumped out it would have taken six or seven hours to get up steam. The wind was blowing thirty or forty miles an hour during the wreck.

E. E. Ferris, of Traverse City, Mich., who had been a passenger on the lost steamer, said that when the sea became rough, enquiries had been made from the purser if there was danger, and he had assured those who asked that everything was all right. It was when the purser entered the smoking room and asked those there to put on life-preservers that the first intimation of danger was given. Then, shortly after the purser returned and said: "Take off your life-preservers; everything is all right." Witness asked if he was sure, and the purser replied: "Sure, the engines are running again." He thought a few took off their life-preservers. Shortly afterwards the passengers were called to the upper deck and asked to assist in lowering the boats. He saw three boats lowered, the first two being filled with women and children. He thought it improbable that the boats would live. He refused an opportunity to go in the boats. He had seen no one forced to go in the boats, but they had been commanded to take their places. Everyone was under the impression the steamer would sink at once. No intimation was given as to the probability of her remaining above water any length of time.

Witness asked an officer, either the mate or purser, before the boats were lowered, if it was not possible to keep the water down by bailing until assistance arrived. He was told it was useless to attempt anything of the kind, as the water could not be got at. Bailing was commenced an hour after the boats were lowered, and for four or five hours the water was kept down. When the third boat had been lowered the stern davit paid out, but the bow one did not, either from faulty tackle or bad management, and those in the boat were spilled into the sea. He had seen a boat drifting away half a mile from the steamer, but could not say whether this was the first or second one lowered.

When the Holyoke arrived all anticipated being taken off by the tug, but instead she commenced towing. He was under the impression that the steamer was being taken to Victoria, and went down to recommence bailing. Had the steamer been allowed to drift instead of being taken in tow and bailing kept up he would have been afloat until daylight. Witness and some others went and asked Capt. Roberts to go to them in the tug. The captain refused, saying they were safe where they were, and that he would put them on the tug if there was any likelihood of the steamer sinking.

Capt. Roberts was in a frenzy, acting like a madman, when the boats were lowered. He was self-possessed, though, when they had gone to him to request to be transferred to the Holyoke. No effort was made to put the passengers on the tug until the steamer seemed over to port. It was then that the Sea Lion came and was asked to go and tell the Holyoke to stop towing. When she returned the Clallam's decks were almost perpendicular, and passengers and crew were remained were clinging to the side and rail. Some were swept off, witness among them. He was picked up by a boat from the Sea Lion. The survivors could have been transferred to the Sea Lion before she foundered. Ten or fifteen minutes were lost by her in going ahead to ratify the Holyoke to stop towing.

To Mr. Lugrin—It was between 3.20 and 4 o'clock that the boats were lowered. Two or three men had been placed in charge of them as they went down. All were lowered about the same time; the purser seemed to be in charge of the work of filling the boats. The intention in the time the passengers were held by the purser to take off their life jackets and the lowering of the boats was at a few minutes. When the Holyoke took hold of the Clallam her course was changed. He had seen Captain Livingstone-Thompson among those bailing.

To Mr. McPhillips—He had not seen any of the passengers from the capsized boats in the water. There appeared to be some people in the boat he saw about half a mile away from the steamer. When the Holyoke came there were four or fifty people on the Clallam. Questioned as to the words of Captain Roberts when the passengers requested to be transferred to the Holyoke, he said Capt. Roberts had stated: "Just be quiet where you are, and I assure you I will signal the Holyoke to come back and remove you before the vessel sinks." The captain was possessed with an intense desire to save his steamer, and did not want to take the time to transfer the passengers to the tug. He said that, in view of the fact that the steamer had kept afloat for hours after the boats were lowered, he considered it short-sighted policy to lower out the boats.

Ralph Case, a Michigan lumberman, said he had been a passenger, said he agreed with the previous witness in general. When he was on the main deck the boats were being lowered, he said the purser: "Purser, are you going to put those boats?" The purser replied, "No; I am going to stay with the big ship. You can do what you like." In reply to questions as to why boats were being lowered then, the witness said it was the captain's orders. He went by the judgment of the purser and stayed with the steamer. George Ross was there and got into the boat. When the steamer careened over witness went out on a stay or her smokestack, and, as he saw the Sea Lion coming back, he jumped into the water with a life raft. He was pulled onto the raft. A short, fair lady of about middle age had her face bleeding when she came in the boats. Before he heard the purser said about the boats witness had been asked what he thought of putting in them by a young lady of about 20, and declined to give an opinion. The captain was trying to give commands, but he was very excited. He was running from one end of the bridge to the other, with his hat off and his hair waving in the wind. He did not seem to be in command of the vessel nor the crew. There was no one really in command.

The inquest was adjourned until this evening.

Buoy Soap—disinfectant—is strongly recommended by the medical profession as a guard against infectious diseases.

Dismissed.—The case of Look Lee, a Chinese merchant, charged with illegally diverting and using electric power of the B. C. Electric Railway Company, was concluded in the Police Court last evening after having been before the court on several different days since the first of the year. Police Magistrate Hall dismissed the charge when defence proved that, while there was a 32-candlepower light used in Look Lee's premises, when he was only entitled to a 10-candlepower, that the accused had no knowledge of such fact and that this was the only light which had improfitably used. A. D. McPhillips, K.C., appeared for the B. C. Electric Railway Company, and Geo. A. Fraser for the defence.

Inspection.—As suggested in the Inspector's annual report, which is published in full in the Colonist today, amendments to the Milk By-law are in preparation at the solicitor's office, and will doubtless be introduced in the near future. The object is to enforce a standard of milk.

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVI., NO. 14. VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1904. FORTY-FIFTH YEAR.

Take Very Gloomy View

Japanese Ambassador In London Has Little Expectation of Peace.

Denies Rumor That Troops Have Occupied Masampho In Korea.

When Moment For Action Comes Mikado's Government Will Act Openly.

London, Jan. 23.—There is no confirmation here of the reports that Japan has occupied Masampho. Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister, not only discredited them, but he said: "The Japanese government had previously decided not to take any half measures, or any steps which could be construed as being prejudicial to the negotiations so long as they are proceeding.

"When Japan decides to take action she will announce it frankly to Russia and the rest of the world."

According to Baron Hayashi, the situation is unchanged. He continues to take the gloomiest view of the situation.

The Russian ambassador, Count Benckendorff, when questioned as to the truth of the rumor that the reply of Russia to Japan was sent from St. Petersburg yesterday, said: "It is not true."

Count Benckendorff significantly remarked he believed the question of Japanese settlements in Manchuria to be the most important outstanding question.

"But this," he added, "certainly does not seem worth going to war about. As regards the Japanese demand for the inclusion of a Russian acknowledgment of Chinese sovereignty over Manchuria in the Russo-Japanese treaty, that is merely a matter of words, and surely no war about words would be justifiable. So, I am hopeful of a peaceful outcome of the negotiations."

A despatch to the Central News from Tokio says: "An extraordinary issue of the Gazette has been published containing an imperial ordinance approving the various coast defence regulations and forbidding under stated penalties the navigation of private vessels and fishing within specified limits. The decree is regarded as being highly significant."

The Kokumin Shimkun, in a warlike editorial, declares that the non-arrival of Russia's reply does not affect the situation, and says: "Every body of sentiment favoring the legitimate demands of Japan diplomatically has been abandoned, and the government therefore is compelled to take such steps and to reserve to itself such freedom of action as will insure peace in the Far East."

Commenting the despatch of yesterday, saying that the Dowager Empress and China has decided at all costs to fight for the freedom of Manchuria from foreign control, the correspondent at the Chefoo of the Shanghai News says: "I have reason to believe that the report of the armed assistance of the powers for the maintenance of the integrity of the empire, quite irrespective of any action on the part of Japan.

Seoul, Korea, Jan. 23.—The Korean government has made a formal declaration of neutrality in the event of war between Japan and Russia.

MURDERED IN THE WILDERNESS

The Rival in Woman's Affection Killed and Guilty Couple Elope.

Port Arthur, Ont., Jan. 23.—A startling story comes from Willey Fish valley of a suspected murder, which is alleged to have taken place last fall. The story is to the effect that with a family named Bissonette there lived two boarders, one named Williams and the other unknown. The unknown man made improper proposals to Mrs. Bissonette, and, after going to the woods one day, failed to return. Williams is suspected of having murdered him. Two weeks after the supposed murder Williams and the woman eloped, and are supposed to have taken the last boat for Duluth. The facts, as above given, were told his father some time after by young Bissonette, a twelve-year-old boy, who is said to have witnessed the occurrence. When the story came out search was made, but it was only yesterday that the story reached town.

MATTERS IN SAN DOMINGO.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Jan. 23.—The Cuban steamer Julia, from San Domingo January 21st, brings news that San Pedro De Macoris surrendered January 2. General Belman seized the custom house. Many families fled in panic.

THE CURRENT GAZETTE.

Official News of the Weekly Appointments, and Other Notes.

The current issue of the Provincial Gazette notes the following appointments:

Alfred Albert King, of Ladner, M. D., to be a coroner in and for the province of British Columbia.

Eldon Sidney Hilliard Winn, of Rossland, barrister-at-law, and George Brown Armstrong, of Lower Nicola, to be notaries public in and for the province of British Columbia.

Charles Mear Field, of Revelstoke, to be a Court of Revision and Appeal under the "Assessment Act, 1903," for the Revelstoke assessment district, vice W. J. Dickey.

The following companies have been incorporated: Amalgamated McKee Creek Mining Company, Ltd., capital $20,000; Crother's Lumber Company, Ltd., capital $24,000; Keystone Mines, Ltd., capital $50,000; Victoria & Vancouver Stevedoring Company, capital $150,000.

A Dominion order-in-council is published reserving certain land within the railway belt in British Columbia in connection with the Granite Creek fish hatchery.

AFTERMATH OF FAILURE.

Toronto, Jan. 21.—The master in ordinary today gave judgment in the case of President Wallace, of the defunct Atlas Loan Company, of St. Thomas, for $80,000, as contributory for shares standing in his name at the time of the failure. President Wallace explained that he bought them under an agreement with Ames & Company. The liquidator admitted that he could have no case against Ames & Company.

NOT GUILTY.

Allentown, Pa., Jan. 23.—The jury in the Bechtel murder case returned a verdict of not guilty.

LORD BARRYMORE INJURED.

Cork, Jan. 23.—Lord Barrymore, vice president of the Irish unionist alliance and chairman of the national union of Conservative associations, was thrown from his carriage tonight and seriously injured.

PETITION FOR CHINESE.

Transvaal Whites Ask for Imposition of the Yellow Curse.

Johannesburg, Jan. 23.—A monster petition, signed by 45,100 white male adults, resident in the Transvaal requesting the passage of the law providing for the importation of Asiatic labor in the colony will be presented to the legislative council, January 25th.

WIRINGS FROM WINNIPEG.

Cashel Jury Recommend Murderer's Brother to Mercy.

Winnipeg, Jan. 23.—(Special.)—Thirty leading Winnipeggers leave here tomorrow for St. Paul to attend the land-men's convention.

The jury, after returning a verdict of guilty in the John Cashel case at Calgary, made a recommendation to mercy. This was done in a petition signed by all the jury afterwards. The foreman of the jury forgot to add a recommendation to mercy.

The Floods Are Now Subsiding

Colder Weather In Ohio Relieves Situation In Pittsburg District.

Loss In Damages and Shutdowns Will Amount to Over a Million.

Pittsburg, Jan. 23.—The flood danger point has passed. All day long both rivers continued to rise until 5 o'clock this evening, when thirty feet and one-tenth was reached at the Monongahela wharf. From that hour the water receded slowly. The temperature has gone down considerably and a slight snow is falling. From the headwater points on both the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers the reports tonight show them to be either stationary or falling. A round-up of the damage done in the Pittsburg district demonstrates that, owing to the timely warning, the actual loss will not reach the high figures given out, and will probably not exceed half a million dollars. To this amount, however, must be added the loss to the manufactories and mills through enforced shut-downs, and to workmen through suspension of wages, which will run the total to the million mark. As yet no loss has been reported, though a great deal of suffering has been caused in the Pittsburg district.

From all conditions it is clear that the worst of the flood has passed was over. The rivers were stationary at 3 p.m., with the marks on the gauges showing thirty feet, at the headwaters they were falling.

A cold snap, which is on the way, will give the twin rivers a chance to empty themselves of the swirling ice and water before more labor is forced upon them.

It is believed the loss in the Pittsburg district will exceed $1,000,000. In addition to this fully fifty thousand men are out of employment temporarily. Many of the heaviest losers are unable to compute their losses. At noon communication between Pittsburg, Allegheny and the west end was shut off except by trains and wagons.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 23.—Cold weather has checked the floods here and at many other points in Ohio.

Coshocton, Ohio, Jan. 23.—The Tuscarawas river is higher than ever before. A man clinging to a tree trunk floated down midstream today, yelling for help. Three boats put out after him and messages were sent down river to Mushigun to look out for him. It is feared many lives have been lost in the Tuscarawas valley. Although Coshocton is in a liable place, the lower part of the city is inundated, and the situation is most critical.

LIKE BANQUOI'S GHOST HAWAIIAN'S SPIRIT

Natives of Hawaii Flee In Terror Because of Alleged Apparition at a Feast.

A bona fide ghost which, like unto that of Banquo, appeared and took its seat at the feast, has, according to a report brought by the steamer Aoraugi, from Honolulu, caused a wholesale migration of the Hawaiian population of Punaluu in Kau. The story was told as follows by many Hawaiians, who were positive that they themselves saw and recognized the ghost:

Some short time ago a Hawaiian, Stephen Kuniakea by name, died at the house belonging to J. K. Kekauia in Punaluu. He was buried in ordinary fashion and his friends naturally supposed that this was the end of Stephen as far as this mortal world was concerned.

Kuniakea, however, had a surprise up his sleeve for them. On New Year's eve a big luau was given at J. K. Kekauia's place. A large number of Hawaiians from the vicinity were present. The luau progressed in fine style and everyone was in the best of humor when a sudden stop was put to the merriment by the appearance of the ghost of Kuniakea, who had been dead and buried for a couple of months.

The ghost took its seat at the table, but the rest of the company did not relish its presence. Every mother's son present fled precipitately and did not stop before they had put a considerable distance between themselves and the haunted house. Everyone present at the luau is positive of the appearance and identity of the ghost.

The beads appeared once since then on the beach, where he almost frightened a couple of his former friends to death. These, however, had the presence of mind to jump into the sea, where they were picked up by a canoe. As ghosts cannot cross water, they escaped their erstwhile friend.

The late Kuniakea is making considerable trouble in his late home district.

One of the strangest churches in the world is at Taranaki, Australia. Each of its four walls bears a large advertisement in flaming letters. The church was built by the firms whose goods are advertised, and they claim that their investment will be a paying one.

Provincial Legislature

General Discussion on Supply Is Continued Yesterday Afternoon.

Considerable Wild Talk By Some of the Opposition Speakers.

Premier Announces That Night Session Will Begin on Monday.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock p.m.

Prayers were read by the Rev. Dr. Campbell.

THE ASSESSMENT ACT.

The Premier said, before the House proceeded to business, that in regard to the proposal to amend the Assessment Act, he had prepared a measure dealing with the question of taxation of mining properties, but as the question was one of vital importance to the country at large, he would like very much to consult with the mining committee. Since the passage of the act he had taken every opportunity to inform himself regarding the conditions connected with mining in the province. He wished to do nothing whatever to hinder or discourage the mining industry of British Columbia, and he would take no steps which would have that effect. He felt that he had the sympathy of the House in this matter. He intended to place this matter before the mining committee at as early a date as possible. This was, he thought, a step in the right direction.

MOTIONS.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. McBride, bill (No. 41) intitled "An Act to remove doubt as to the validity of the election of a member to represent the Lillooet electoral district in the Legislative Assembly," was introduced, read a first time and ordered to be read a second time tomorrow.

On the motion of Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Murphy, it was resolved:

"That a return be made to the House showing the number of non-residents of the province who hunted big game in the Lillooet district during the year 1903, and the number of licenses issued from the government office at Lillooet during such period.

QUESTIONS.

Dr. King asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:

1. Has any amount of royalty was due the government by the Carbon Creek Lumber Co. on August 1st, 1903?

2. Has such royalty been collected? If not, why not?

The Hon. Mr. Green replied as follows:

1. $523.93.

2. No.

3. The absent Indian inspector made a seizure of property to secure payment of the royalty, but it was found that such procedure would inflict a hardship upon innocent persons and the royalty was relinquished."

Mr. Murphy asked the Hon. the Minister of Mines the following questions:

1. How many (a) hydraulic mining (b) placer, (c) dredging leases are now in existence in Cariboo district?

2. What amount of yearly rental accrues from each of said classes of leases?

3. On how many of each of said classes of leases was the second year's rent due the 1st day of November last?

4. For what length of time on each lease so in arrears has the rental been in arrears?

5. In whose names do the leases so in arrears stand?

6. Why have not the leases so in arrears been cancelled?

7. On how many mining leases Cariboo district has the forfeit money, in lieu of work, been paid?

8. How many mining leases are there in Cariboo district on which neither the forfeit money has been paid nor the required amount of work been done?

9. In whose names do such leases stand?

10. Why have such leases not been cancelled?

Mr. Mr. McBride replied as follows:

"1. (a) 191; (b) 195; (c) 35.

"2. (a) $10,720; (b) $16,575; (c) $3,505.

"3. Returns are quarterly; on 31st December last; (a) 77; (b) 31; (c) 18.

"4. Returns do not disclose the information.

"5. 176 are in arrears for rental; their names appear in the annexed list.

"6. The matter is now under consideration.

"7. Returns do not disclose the information.

"8. Returns do not disclose the information.

"9. Answered by answer to No. 8.

"10. The matter is now under consideration."

The number of licenses exceeds one hundred.

ON SUPPLY.

Mr. Macgowan resumed the debate on the motion to go into committee on supply, after receiving Mr. Speaker's ruling as to limitations of discussion on the motion. He proposed to make a few practical suggestions. It was regrettable that the taxes were, for the present, necessarily high; there were good reasons for this; the government found a depleted treasury to begin with, and were confronted with many difficult problems of finance which they had grappled with in a courageous and undertaken carefully but firmly. He complimented the finance minister on the proposal to appoint a commission to enquire into the levelling of taxation. He then dealt with the question of education, having been closely connected with the matter for sixteen years he was interested in the question. He felt like complimenting the present and former administrations of British Columbia on their efforts to secure good educational advantages for the children. The expenditure for education in this province was proportionately among the highest in the world. He quoted the remarks of a United States clergyman who declared that the public schools of the republic were producing a gigantic paganism; and that there should be more religion taught in the schools. An enquiry into those assertions showed that they were absolutely without foundation; the public school graduates showed a far higher degree of morality than those coming from private schools. Mr. Macgowan then went into the details of educational matters at considerable length. He then dealt with the immigration question, and said that the class of immigrants going into the Northwest Territories was not the class wanted in this province. The transportation question next engaged Mr. Macgowan's attention, and advocated the improvement of the road system

(Continued on Page Eight.)

PRAIRIE FIRES.

Laredo, Tex., Jan. 23.—Reports received here by several ranchmen are to the effect that an uncontrollable prairie fire is raging on their pastures a few miles east of this city.

Over 100,000 acres of fine grazing land already has been burned over. Hundreds of cowboys are making vigorous efforts to check the flames.

STILL MUCH WATER.

Saratoga, N. Y., Jan. 23.—A thaw, followed by a ten-inch snowfall, continued all day in the lower Adirondacks and threatens to continue throughout the night. Rain fell all day, and the temperature averaged 25 degrees above zero. Rushing surface waters are causing much apprehension in the upper country.

URGENT DEFICIENCY.

U. S. Congress Vote Eleven Millions Wanted in a Hurry.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The urgent deficiency appropriation bill was completed today by the House committee on appropriations. The bill carries a total of $11,201,906, based on estimates from the various departments aggregating $12,000,000. The largest items in the bill are $2,000,000 for armament and armor for new ships; $2,000,000 for the naval station at Guantanamo, Cuba; $100,000 for Alaskan boundary surveys; $570,000 for construction of new office building for the House of Representatives; $500,000 for rural free delivery, and $2,400,000 for collecting customs revenues.

Lumber Mills Reduce Wages

Owing to Break In Combine Chemainus Concern Will Work Shorter Hours.

XRay Outfit Installed at Hospital—Shipping In The Port.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Chemainus, Jan. 23.—On account of the break-up of the lumber combine and resulting fall in prices, the mill is only running ten hours instead of twenty, as hitherto, and the management has posted a notice that all wages and salaries will be reduced ten per cent. after February 1st, as the lumber business is not profitable at prices prevailing at the present. The logging camps are not working steadily on account of snow.

A fine X-ray apparatus, built by Bittman, Chicago, has just been installed in the Chemainus hospital, and has already proved very useful.

There have been one or two cases of diphtheria, Percy P. Smith losing a little girl and the family are quarantined to prevent a spread of the malady so fatal amongst children.

The ladies of Chemainus gave a leap year dance on the 21th, which was largely attended and very successful. A masquerade is proposed for an early date in February.

The first vessel of the season docked in the hospital here with a compound fracture of his leg, he having fallen off the wharf at night and was nearly drowned in addition.

Bennett, the foreman of camp No. 6, is likewise in the hospital with a broken leg.

The British ship Khyber, Rottery master, and the German bark Hoda, Wieting master, are taking lumber, and the German bark Ad Tegetthoff is awaiting cargo. The latter made a fast trip of 44 days from Autofagasta, Chili, for which port she will load.

INCREASED ACTIVITY AT CUMBERLAND

Double Shifts Work Night and Day on New Anthracite Seam.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nanaimo, B. C., Jan. 22.—There has been a sudden increase of activity at the new anthracite mine at Cumberland since the negotiations to supply the big Pacific limiters were opened by the agent of Mr. J. J. Hill with Mr. Dunsmuir. Whether the two facts are related as cause and effect is not known, but yesterday the force working there was doubled and others were received to push development work as rapidly as possible. The little mine, for it is the mere germ of a mine yet, is being worked every hour of the twenty-four, three men taking eight-hour turns in every place where it is possible to put a man with any effect on the output. The regulation pillared is in course of construction, and should be finished by the end of the month, and as soon as these facilities are completed it will be possible to take out several hundred tons of coal a day. A sample shipment is now on its way down to Victoria per steamer City of Nanaimo, which is to undergo tests as to its steaming properties. This was brought down to the wharves over the new railway which has just been completed. The seam is between four and five feet thick and is deposited in such a manner that it is easy to mine. Its qualities are those of the celebrated hard coal of the Lehigh valley.

Mr. Sharp Butterfield, the poultry expert, was busy all day yesterday and today awarding the scores at the local poultry exhibition. Mr. H. W. Bullock, of Salt Spring Island, cleaned out the list in blue Andalusians and silver Wyandottes. Mr. H. Hodgson, of Victoria, took everything in light Brahmas, and Dr. Milne, of Victoria, took a prize for one of his black Minorcas. In the pet stock classes Mr. A. M. Howell, of Victoria, won first prize for long-haired rabbits, and second for Belgian hares. Dr. Milne won the special prize for most points in the show homer class of pigeons. R. C. Willgress, of Northfield, took every prize for canaries. The remaining prizes were pretty evenly divided among the local men. Mr. W. Newberry, of this city, exhibited a White Rock Cock which Mr. Butterfield declared the best bird of its class he had ever seen. He was highly enthusiastic over the local exhibits of both White and Barred Rocks.

Last evening the poultry men celebrated the show with a banquet, at which were present Mr. Ralph Smith, M. P., Mayor Manson and Ald. Barlow, of this city; Mr. Mainguy, of Chemainus; Mr. H. W. Bullock, of Salt Spring Island, and Messrs. J. Large and J. Nanham, of Vancouver. The latter gentleman, the former of whom is a recognized expert in poultry.

The whistling tree of South Nobla, East Africa, is so called from the flutelike sounds made by the wind in its branches. The sound is caused by holes bored by an insect in the spines of the branches.

Sky Scraper Catches Fire

Masonic Temple In Chicago Scene of Conflagration That Causes Panic.

A Twenty Storey Building With Four Thousand Tenants Gives Bad Fight.

Explosion of Chemicals In Doctor's Laboratory Starts Blaze on Fifth Flat.

Chicago, Jan. 23.—Fire in the Masonic Temple today caused a panic among the 4,000 occupants of the building and did $20,000 worth of damages. All occupants of the building escaped without serious injury through the bravery of the elevator men, who remained at their posts operating their cars while dense columns of smoke filled the building. The fire broke out on the fifth floor in the rooms of Robert Friedlander & Co., manufacturers of X-ray apparatus. A lighted match carelessly thrown into a pile of excelsior is believed to have started the blaze.

A number of X-ray vacuum tubes exploded the moment the heat reached them. Robert Friedlander, senior member of the firm, realized the danger from these tubes, and worked until overcome by smoke, throwing them out of the window.

The fire spread rapidly through the company's rooms to a light shaft, through which the smoke rose to the upper stories.

Thousands of the occupants of the building, with the memory of the Iroquois theatre holocaust fresh in their minds, rushed into the elevators, many women fainting in the scramble. But none were seriously injured, and the large building was emptied within half an hour of the fire was discovered.

Fire broke out this afternoon in the Masonic Temple, a twenty-story sky-scraper, one square east of the Iroquois theatre. Owing to the fact that upwards of 2000 people occupy the offices and stores in the great structure, the fire caused much excitement. Great crowds of spectators quickly gathered, the throng being drawn from the fashionable shopping district of States street and adjoining thoroughfares. The series of elevators surrounding the rotunda in the centre of the building continued to run until the smoke and flames issued from the windows in the fourth storey, where the fire was confined. The people were removed from the upper floors as rapidly as possible.

The firemen were summoned by an alarm automatically sent in from the floor in which the fire began. The firemen quickly made connections with the stationary standpipe in the building. Immediately tons of water flooded floors where the smoke and blaze was the thickest. The danger of the flames was increased by the suspected presence of chemicals which occupants declared were stored near the place where the flames appeared. Guards were stationed at each elevator landing on every floor and the panic stricken people were hurried from the building. The cause of the fire was in an explosion of chemicals in a doctor's office on the fifth floor. The explosion was sufficient notice of the danger to the occupants on the floors immediately above and below, but was unheard by hundreds of other persons in the vast structure who had their warning when suddenly confronted with walls of dense smoke. Flames followed the explosion and quickly spread to the floors above. Men and women rushed wildly for the stairs and elevators. So rapidly did the immense skyscraper fill with smoke that the firemen found it almost impossible to work within the walls. In a short time the fire was raging on three floors containing many chemical establishments and doctors' offices. Further explosions were momentarily feared. As at the Iroquoise catastrophe Fire Marshal Musham was soon personally on hand and he quickly warned his men of the danger.

ANOTHER DRIVERS' STRIKE.

St. Louis, Jan. 20.—Eight hundred hack and carriage drivers went on strike today to enforce their demands for $12.50 per week pay, a 12-hour day, 25 cents an hour for overtime and recognition of the union.

SMUGGLERS SENTENCED.

Elmira, N. Y., Jan. 20.—In the federal court this afternoon the jury in the case of Frank Fisher, alias "Kid" West, May Simpson and Wm. Dingman, returned a verdict of guilty on all three charges of smuggling Chinamen into the United States, against West and Mrs. Simpson and not guilty in the case of Dingman. The jury recommended that mercy be shown Mrs. Simpson. Judge Hazel sentenced West to two years in the Auburn prison and to pay a fine of $250. Mrs. Simpson was sentenced to six months in the Erie county jail and fined $250. Mrs. Simpson fainted in the arms of a woman companion as the sentence was pronounced.

EMIGRANTS FOR B. C.

Party of Miners Arrive at Montreal en Route to This Province—Elections.

Montreal, Jan. 20.—Five hundred immigrants bound for the Northwest passed through here today, included in the party were a number of coal miners from Newcastle who are going out to British Columbia in search of work in the mines of that province, and who say if they can secure work at fair wages there are many of their friends at home who will follow them out next year.

Nominations for civic elections took place here today and resulted in the election of just half the council by acclamation. For the other nineteen seats there are contestants and in some cases the fight is to be a lively one. For the twenty three candidates were nominated—Mayor Cochrane, Ald. Laporte and U. H. Dandurand. The election of Laporte is probable. The aldermen elected by acclamation include the leaders of the council.

INSANE MAN'S DEED.

Springfield, Mass., Jan. 20.—Attempted murder and actual suicide were the facts revealed by a fire at 120 Margaret street today, where lived August Steinert and his wife, Pauline, two of the city's poor. The woman, who is seriously, if not fatally, burned, says her husband saturated the kitchen and her clothes with kerosene, set fire to the house and threw her to the floor, where he held her in the flames. She declares he was insane. Steinert's body protected that of the women and she was burned but little externally. When he rolled away in his pain she crawled to the kitchen door and staggered, screaming, into the open air. Steinert was burned to death.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.

New York, Jan. 23.—Apparently crazed because his wife and his son had deserted him on account of his intemperance, Frederick Thrush, a lithographer, attempted tonight to murder his wife and seventeen-year-old son Frederick. After the shooting Thrush ran into the street as if to escape, but suddenly halted and fired a shot into his own head and died an hour later. Mrs. Thrush and the boy will live.

ADJUSTING DIFFICULTIES.

American Arranges Matters for British and U. S. Investors at Bogota.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Mr. Snyder, the United States charge at Bogota, has reported to the state department that he has succeeded in adjusting satisfactorily with the Colombian government the vexatious issues arising out of the controversy between the government and the National Street Railway Company of Bogota, most of the stock of which is held by British and American subjects. Mr. Snyder's news is welcomed here as showing that the legation's relations with the government of Colombia continue on a friendly footing, unaffected by what has happened in the isthmus.

AN ASTONISHING REPORT.

Paris, Jan. 23.—The correspondent of the Journal at Rome telegraphs to his paper that Pope Pius X is still worrying over the manner of his election, and may shortly retire.

Masses of Ice Choke Rivers

Gorge Forms In Streams At Pittsburg and Waters Rise Rapidly.

Bridges In Danger Tracks Washed Away and Worse Still to Come.

Pittsburg, Jan. 22.—(Midnight.)—Lulled into a sense of security in the early evening by the rapidity with which the Allegheny was carrying the ice and water from the upper stream into the Ohio, Pittsburg went to sleep tonight with the belief that the warnings of dangers from the rivers had been exaggerated, but at 11 o'clock hour a new danger has arisen; the Monogheln has broken loose. Huge masses of ice are choking the harbor. Both rivers are steadily rising. The Allegheny is already three feet higher than her present stream, and as a consequence a dangerous ice gorge is now forming between the Wabash and Smithfield street bridges, just above the confluence of the two rivers. The worst is to come and the flood will not have reached its height until late tomorrow. The Allegheny at Lelight is three feet from the railroad bridge. One track of the Pennsylvania railroad at Roaring Run is washed away, and is also washed away at Avalon. The railroad bridge at Apolo was declared unsafe by the railroad company tonight.

THE LATEST "SITUATION."

Washington, Jan. 21.—According to a cable report to the American state department from United States Minister Finch at Montevideo, the revolutionary disturbances in the country are much more serious and extensive than has been supposed here. The minister cables under date of January 20th, as follows: "There have been three battles, all won by the government, the last being on the 18th. The total number of killed and wounded was about 500. The government troops were estimated at 20,000, and the rebels at 17,000. The opinion here is that the insurrection will be suppressed in a month unless aided by neighbors. The press and telegraph censors continue, so also does martial law."

NOTABLE WEDDING.

London, Jan. 20.—H. F. Grierson, formerly of Chicago, Ill., and Rochester, N. Y., who was a commander of Grierson's Horse in South Africa during 1881, was married in London to Mrs. Fitzgerald Creagh, widow of Major-General Creagh.

TEMPLE BUILDING'S NARROW ESCAPE

Montreal's Handsome Business Block the Scene of Fire Yesterday.

Montreal, Jan. 23.—(Special.)—Rev. Father Sinnott, well known in the West has been appointed vicar-general to the Right Rev. Bishop Pascal, of Saskatchewan. Father Sinnott leaves for Prince Albert on Monday.

G. J. Bury, general superintendent of the Lake Superior division of the Canadian Pacific railway, has been appointed general superintendent of the central division with headquarters in Winnipeg. Mr. Brady will be transferred to another part of the system. As yet no successor has been named for the Lake Superior division.

The Temple building had a narrow escape this morning from fire, which broke out in the basement of the Eastern Townships Bank. The damage, however, is small. The building was recently purchased by Senator Cox from the St. James' Methodist church.

FATALLY BURNED.

Whitepleins, N. Y., Jan. 20.—Mary Gerr, a German servant died in the hospital here today from the effects of burns received at Harrisdale on Monday last. She was employed as maid by Mrs. Harvey Bassford, who in trying to save the girl, when the latter's dress caught fire from the kitchen range, was herself fatally burned, dying in the hospital Monday.

RESENT MEDDLING.

Pretoria, Jan. 20.—The Asiatic labor bill passed its second reading before the executive council today. Sir Percy Fitzgerald criticized the Premiers of the Australian commonwealth and of New Zealand for having cabled the authorities here, their conviction that it was imperative to prohibit the introduction of Chinese labor into the Transvaal.

FREE TRADER ELECTED.

London, Jan. 20.—The bye-election at Gateshead to fill the seat in the House of Commons made vacant by the death of Sir Wm. Allan, advanced Radical, has resulted in victory for John Johnson, Liberal free trader, by a majority of 1,205 votes over Lord Morpeth, Unionist and tariff reformer.

Furnishings For New Hotel

Mrs Hayter Reed Authorized to Provide Fittings For Tourist Hotel.

A Lady of Recognized Taste and Will Receive Handsome Fee.

Premier Ross Decides Not to Follow Mr. Whitney's Tour.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—Chief Justice MacDonald, of Nova Scotia, has resigned from the bench. He is father-in-law of Sir Hibbert Tupper, and one of the most distinguished public men in Canada.

Mrs. Hayter Reed, wife of the manager of the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, has been authorized to purchase the furnishings for the new C. P. R. Hotel at Victoria. Mrs. Reed, who is a daughter of the late Chief Justice Amoun, is a woman of great taste and judgment. In addition to expenses she receives a fee of $10,000.

A writ for Montmagny was issued today. Nomination February 16th; polling a week later.

After yesterday's great storm trains are running fairly well today.

Premier Ross stated this morning that he would not speak in Woodstock tonight in connection with the North Oxford election.

Mr. Whitney was there last night, and was given a magnificent reception. The premier's refusal to follow the Conservative leader is regarding as somewhat significant.

TIMBER DEAL CLOSED.

One of the most important timber deals that has taken place in the last few months, was consumated yesterday, when the provincial government accepted the tender of McLean Brothers of Vancouver, for 27,000 acres of timber lands on Klinanch river, Vancouver island, says the Ledger.

The limits are composed of fir and cedar, and are situated in what is known as the Rupert district. The leasehold is for a term of five years.

McLean Bros. have had the matter in hand for a long period, and have made extensive surveys of the property. It is probably the largest bunch of timber in one place that could have been secured from the government.

A charter was received last year by McLean Bros. to build a railway twenty-two miles into the heart of the timber. This railway will cost from $12,000 to $15,000 a mile. Preliminary work will be commenced on the railway at once.

Under the terms of the lease a large mill will be erected and it is the intention of McLean Brothers to manufacture lumber for sale in the local markets and probably for foreign shipments.

KAISER HONORS VICTORIA.

Berlin, Jan. 23.—Emperor William today attended memorial services in honor of Queen Victoria at the English church here and unveiled a tablet in memory of Queen Victoria and the late Empress Frederick.

MINER KILLED IN A SNOWSLIDE

Starts Over Mountains at Slocan to Visit Brother and is Lost in Avalanche.

Slocan City, Jan. 23.—A sad fatality occurred near here on Tuesday last. The Speculator mine, located about eight miles from Slocan city, was closed down and the miners returned to town. One, Joe Dolron, however, having a brother working at the Black Prince mine, some distance away, started on ski's across the snow to See him. On finding out yesterday that he had never reached there or returned to Slocan City, the population got alarmed, and last night a large search party, with teams and saddle horses, started out. At a point between the two mines they encountered a huge slide about a quarter of a mile wide. Two portions of ski's were plainly visible to the slide, and there lost. Digging was immediately started, and this morning a portion of the unfortunate man's ski was uncovered, leaving no doubt as to poor Dolron's sad end.

He was single, about 25 years old, and had lived here five years. He has a brother and a sister residing here. The search will continue until the body is found.

FOR HOME PROTECTION.

Berlin, Jan. 23.—Under the presidency of Duke Ernest Guenther zu Schleswig-Holstein, Emperor William's brother-in-law, the Middle European Economic Society was formally founded here last night. It aims to procure the establishment of a middle European economic alliance on lines proclaimed by Count Goluchowski, the Austro-Hungarian minister for foreign affairs, several years ago. The president declared the society was formed to defend Germany from an overflow of foreign goods, to strengthen German capacity in the markets of the world, and above all, to meet American competition.

THREATENED WITH FLOODS.

Cincinnati, Jan. 21.—The large ice gorge in the Ohio river, between Ludlow, Ky., and the western part of this city, gave way today. No damage was done here, but lower points have been warned. Great apprehension is felt in the harbor here on account of the ice gorges