THE ROYAL CITY.

Happenings in and About the City of New Westminster.

From Our Own Correspondent.

New Westminster, Jan. 17.—Dr. Bodington, the recently appointed medical superintendent of the Provincial Asylum for the Insane, is expected to assume his duties on Feb. 1st. The medical superintendent's private residence is now being vacated, so as to be in readiness for Dr. Bodington. Although no official information is obtainable locally, it is understood that numerous applications have been made for subordinate positions in the asylum. It is very unlikely, though, that any changes in the staff will be made during Dr. Newcombe's temporary charge of the institution, nor is it yet known whether it will later be considered desirable to make any changes at all.

During the current week the city council are giving attention to the remaining branches of the civic service with a view to additional reductions. The Board of Works and Wate-works department were not dealt with at the last ordinary meeting of the council. These and probably a few individual cases not previously disposed, will come before the council at its next regular meeting.

The sum of $1,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Finance committee as provision for a special audit of the city's books and accounts, should the citizens think it necessary to have this done in addition to the periodical examination regularly made by the city auditor.

The attendance of pupils as the High and Central public schools this term is satisfactory. In the High school there are 70 enrolled, 38 being in Principal Stranberg's division and 32 in Mr. Law's. In the Central Boys' school the enrollments in the respective divisions at date are: Principal Coatham's 41, Miss Gordon's 46, Mr. Buchanan's 41, Miss Docrill's 44, Miss McDougall's 41 and Miss Brown's (primary division boys and girls) 41. The rolls of the several divisions of the Central Girl's school exhibit the following figures: Miss Roger's 42, Miss Robinson's 42, Miss Millard's 40, Miss M. F. Homer's 45 and Miss M. S. Homer's 40. These figures give a total enrollment in the three schools named of 542. It is anticipated, though, that this total will be increased to nearly 600 before the present term is well advanced. The average attendances to date are on the whole very good, only one division showing a comparatively low average. About 490 is the present average daily total attendance at the three schools, with a prospect of an early improvement upon this gratifying proportion.

The Rathbone Sisters Society held an apron and necktie social at the K. of P. Hall, Burns' block, last night. There were about 150 present, including many members of the K. of P. and their ladies was the chief pastime. Good music was furnished by Messrs. Darcy, Shelby and Rickman. Refreshments were served at 11 o'clock, the supply being very liberal. It was well into the early hours when the company separated, all voting the gathering a very pleasant and successful one.

Good progress is being made at the cold storage works on Front street. The boiler has been built in and the iron smoke stack put together in readiness for placing it in position. The tank bed is completed and preparations for putting the various appliances together are being pushed on. The framework of the second portion of the buildings is in course of erection. Altogether matters now present a more business like appearance and give promise of an early approach towards completion.

Simultaneously with the movement in Victoria and Vancouver towards securing an additional half-hour for the public schools' mid-day recess, the matter is having attention here. Some of the teacher's prefer that the existing rule, allowing one hour for lunch or dinner, and closing school for the day at 3 p.m. be continued. Others desire to see the mid-day recess extended to an hour and a half, and the schools closed at half-past 3 o'clock. The extension would certainly prove a convenience to many parents, and would allow more children to go home to dinner than now find time to do so. The matter will be doubtless dealt with shortly by the local school trustees, who may themselves come to a decision, as the Vancouver trustees have done, or may follow a like course to that just taken by Victoria, where the parents of children are deciding the question by a ballot.

On the occasion of the closing exercises of the New Westminster Central Girl's school, just before Christmas, visitors to Miss Millard's division were surprised to see on the blackboard some excellent chalk drawings done by a little girl named Dorothy Thompson. The subjects were chiefly birds, varying from a pretentious effort portraying a duck amidst reeds down to a simple robin or other small bird on a branch. A closer examination of this work reveals the fact that the child possesses talent most unusual in one so young and suggests that with opportunity and skilled instruction, her special gift in this direction may be developed until remarkable proficiency is attained. It is to be hoped that no obstacle will come in the way of this clever child's advancement, but that the most will be made of the singular endowment the possession of such an artistic faculty is an evidence of.

In the matter of Bushby against Tolmie, the sheriff yesterday afternoon, under distress for rent, sold the furniture, fittings, bar fixtures, billiard tables and stock-in-trade of the Hotel Douglas, to C. R. Townley for the sum of $3,000. The furniture and fittings of the hair dressing parlor attached were sold to D. Walker for $106.

New Westminster, Jan. 18.—The three top-masted schooner Beulah, Capt. Johnson in charge, returned to the Brunette saw mills yesterday for another cargo of lumber for California. She left here on the 28th of November last lumber-laden for San Francisco, and experienced very rough weather on the way down. As mentioned in The World last week, she had been advised to sail from San Francisco on her return voyage on the 31st of December. Coming up she met with even worse weather than when making for California. She lost her main sail and spanker, and was several times driven back to sea from the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Eventually she succeeded in reaching Port Angeles, where she arrived safely on Wednesday. The steamer Velos, of Victoria, there took her in tow and yesterday she berthed at the Brunette mills wharf. This morning she commenced taking in lumber and her loading will occupy about a week. The berkentine C. C. Funk, is well forward with her loading at the same mills and will probably sail towards the close of next week, her destination also being California. Four carloads of lumber for the Ashcroft bridge have already been sent out by the Brunette Company, and the balance of the order is either loaded or ready to be shipped.

There is little of general interest to note at present in connection with the local hospitals. Both at the Royal Columbian and St. Mary's matters are very quiet. No new patients have been received lately, whilst those previously under treatment either have been able to leave, or continue much as usual.

This morning's market is not up to expectations, supplies and attendance being smaller and business generally lighter than was looked for with a resumption of river traffic. The steamers have as yet brought in comparatively little produce for to-day's market, but the Bon Accord is late in arriving, so her cargo is not available at the time of writing. Pork continues plentiful, but beef was, if anything, somewhat short. A supply of Australian mutton might reasonably have been anticipated so soon after the Miowera's arrival, but both home and foreign muttons were conspicuous by their absence. Poultry, too, was scarce, only about two dozen chickens having come in, these finding prompt sale at an advance on market rates. Home-cured bacon was offered with satisfactory results. Butter was in moderate supply and eggs in fair number, with little change in prices of either. Farm produce was much as usual, but garden stuff was very poorly represented. A couple of hogsheads of saurkraut attracted attention, and another unusual line was a stand of patent dish-washers, introduced by an enterprising agent.

New Westminster, Jan. 19.—There was a good attendance at last night's meeting of the Art and Scientific Association, which was held in the hall of the public library. The proceedings were opened by an overture on the cabinet organ and a song by two lady members. The president, Rev. H. H. Gowen, then called upon Prof. Odlum, who in the course of his introductory remarks mentioned, as the outcome of wide association with science societies, embracing some of the leading science organizations of Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Japan and others, he had observed that these societies were largely composed of earnest Christian men and women, or those having the theistic notion, the belief in God over all. From this fact it was concluded that those having this belief are not fighting against science, but are through it and by means of it acquiring some little knowledge of the Supreme Power controlling what men call nature. Taking up the evening's subject, Among the Mountains, the Professor said that it matters not where we begin, on the peaks of the mountains, at their bases, out on the wide prairies or in the depths of the ocean; go where we will we are on the earth's crust. On land, or out on the boundless seas, we are on the crust of the earth. A very long time ago—going back a long way into the region of conjecture—the crust of the earth was very thin. Prior to this the earth had been a molten mass. To illustrate the formation of the crust, the forming of slag on the surface of molten metal, as it cooled somewhat, was taken as a homely simile. In imagination the expansion of the earth under great heat was depicted, this expansion continuing under the influence of increasing heat until at length it might reach the moon and the two bodies become one. Similarly, enormous heat might cause the sun to expand, until its diameter would extend to such an extent as would eventually cause it to absorb all the heavenly bodies composing the present solar system, the whole thus forming one immense liquid or gaseous mass. Reference to the rings about the planet Saturn was next made, and the familiar sight of a grindstone passing quickly through water, which it threw up and around more and more as the speed was accelerated, was made to serve as an illustration of the way in which these rings were formed. The tendency of the component parts of rings to concentrate at given points, the result being the formation of satellites, was next mentioned, and the "nebular hypothesis" was otherwise dwelt upon in much interesting detail. Coming to the formation of mountains another simple illustration was used—that of an apple which at its early maturity is flat, but at well-rounded. Later as its liquids and gases escape the skin becomes wrinkled and uneven. So with the earth; as its shell hardened it contracted, throwing up mountains and deepening into valleys, this wrinkling process thus taking place on a large scale. Mention was made of the mountains with their variety of rocks—granite, mica of shistose, slate, talcar-ian or limestone, etc. The existence in Canada of some of the oldest mountains; the supposed discovery in the valley of the St. Lawrence of evidences of the first Canadian animal life; the opinions of geologists that vegetable life preceded animal; the productions of the various periods—silurian, devonian, carboniferous, etc., were in turn touched upon, particular mention being made of the discovery of fossil palm leaves in the coal mines on Vancouver Island. Then the early gigantic birds were spoken of—the Moa, of New Zealand, and a still larger bird with a big Greek name, found in Madagascar. Next the rocks had brief attention, these being described as nature's library, museum and workshop, wherein may be read things which tell somewhat of the art of the Great Designer. We have an idea that we are on the solid earth, but we are simply out on one of the planets—this earth being only one of the stars. All these things are nature's great free library, placed there by the Thinker, who has enabled us to think. The voice of the rocks, the hills, the stars—of all is this—springing up and through all there is order, purpose and design. But he, the speaker, would there say what the rocks cannot—that life and death are co-eternal; that so long as there is change there will be eternity of life and death. To illustrate this contention of equal life and death were cited the wearing away of the life of the mother for the benefit of the child; the destruction of the grass to nourish the cow, which in turn provides food in milk and beef for the sustenance of human life; the expansion of the rocks, of the mountains, by the warm sun of a spring day and their contraction by the cold of the nights, causing them to slowly crumble away, and the tearing down process which is always going on, the destruction of the rocks preceding the formation of such fertile lands as those of the Delta and Lulu Island. Then a vivid word picture was painted, the audience being taken in imagination to the summit of a mountain in Japan, from which could be seen the Pacific ocean, the Gulf of Yeddo, the Sea of Japan, and a wide extent of varying landscape below. The approach of a thunderstorm was depicted and a descent from the high eminence right into the region of danger, amidst thunder and lightning, was forcibly described, together with the accompanying deep impressions of man's littleness such surroundings made. Much information was next imparted relative to electricity and the comparative freedom of this coast from thunderstorms was ascribed to the prevalence here of mountain peaks and tall trees. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions were then spoken of. An eruption in Japan, which buried many populous towns and bombarded with stones others more distant, one stone 77 feet in circumference having been hurled a distance of five miles by the force of the outbreak was graphically portrayed. The helplessness of nature's great forces—of mountain, of ocean, of wind and water, was finally dwelt upon, the strong and unalterable conviction being that there is some kind of a power behind all. The speaker could tell of no cause that can be traced to any other source than that of the great Will Power, which moves and guides all. The lecturer was heartily applauded for his valuable and instructive lecture, and the desire of all was voiced by the president when, in asking those present to accord Prof. Odlum a cordial vote of thanks, he said that he hoped they would have the privilege of hearing more from him upon this interesting subject.

FOUGHT FOR THE GIRL.

The following from Monday's Nanaimo Free Press shows that the practices of ancient chivalrous days have not entirely died out: Two of the youthful members of Nanaimo's volunteer fire department have, for some time past, been paying marked attentions to the same young lady. Each thought he was the more favored one and consequently neither would retire. This state of affairs could only terminate in one way—a duel. In days of long ago rapiers and pistols would have been in order, but now-a-days, at any rate in this part of the world, such weapons are not in favor, fists being in the long run equally effective and decidedly less dangerous. The encounter took place yesterday afternoon on the swamp at the back of Chinatown, and was witnessed by a few friends of the contestants, their seconds and referee. From the start it was evident that the fight would be a long and desperate one. Both men were young, in good training, and evidently in love. With varying results nine rounds were fought, then the seconds declared that their respective men had had enough. By this time it was rather difficult to make out who was who, the faces of both being battered beyond recognition. To-day neither man was able to be at work, though neither is seriously injured. Whether the outcome of the duel will sufficiently repay either for the trouble undergone is very questionable.

TWICE CROWNED AS A VICTOR.

Dr. Price's Baking Powder Wins at World's and Midwinter Fairs.

Another signal triumph has been achieved by Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder. At the California Midwinter Fair of 1894 as at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, it surpassed all competitors. An expert jury, after careful analysis and exhaustive comparison, awarded it highest honors and a special gold medal. The award was for highest leavening power, perfect purity and general excellence. It was sustained by the unanimous consent of judges. Coupled with the victory at Chicago, the achievement at San Francisco confirms Dr. Price's as the "Foremost Baking Powder in the World." It now stands supreme.

The Prince Albert Advocate, discussing the Territories Exhibition, suggests as a special feature of the fair that a convention of residents from all parts of Manitoba and the Territories be held to discuss Hudson's Bay railroad matters.

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

The First of a Course of Lectures by Mr. Hill-Tout.

On Tuesday evening in the assembly room of the Art, Historical and Scientific Association, Principal Hill-Tout gave the first lecture of his course on English Literature. There was a fair-sized and appreciative audience, but the highly-interesting and instructive character of the lecture deserved a much larger one, and the younger teachers of the city and the pupils of the higher classes will find this course of lectures very helpful and suggestive. At the beginning of his address the lecturer sketched the plan of is course, and stated how he proposed to treat the subject. His lecture for that evening was an introductory one, and its purpose and aim were to show the relation existing between the English tongue and the languages spoken by the rest of the world; for he was of the opinion that a consideration or study of their own tongue and literature involved, if one would rightly understand it, an acquaintance of some sort with language and literature in general. He then proceeded, by the help of some excellent diagrams, to sketch the history of our mother tongue from prehistoric times down to the Saxon of Alfred the Great. He asked the audience to go back with him in imagination to primitive times—before the dawn of the earliest known civilization—to a picture man as he then was. This, he thought, would not be difficult, as history was ever repeating itself, and the the aborigines of this very Province would afford a very good idea of the condition and character of early man, if we first took off the little veneer they had recently acquired through intercourse with ourselves. The life of primitive man was simple and his wants few. His language was of the same character, very simple and very scanty. Indeed the lecturer thought, and quoted in support of his views, passages bearing on the question from leading philologists, that primitive man most likely had no speech at all in one sense of the word, and did all his conversation by means of signs and gestures, after the manner of the professional mimic or pantomime, aided and supplemented, it may be, by the emotional sounds he possessed in common with the higher brutes; and that it was not until many centuries had passed over his head that he gradually and laboriously developed these emotional sounds into a medium for the conveyance of thought. In support of this he stated that there were to-day certain tribes on this continent whose members could not converse with each other in the dark because they could not see the accompanying supplementary gestures and signs that gave the meaning to their words; thus, this sign language was common to all primitive people the whole world over, and by it the Hottentot could converse with the Maoris of Australasia or the sign-using savages of our own continent. When man first began to perceive the superiority of oral sounds or gestures and mimicry no one could tell—the record was as wholly lost as were the traces of his brute descent. The earliest date we had only took us back some 7,000 or 8,000 years ago, to the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Accadia. This constituted the dawn of of the historic period, and we here find two great nations and centres of civilization as high in some respects as our own of to-day. The lecturer then pointed out that a very great interval of time must have elapsed between man's early speechless days and the condition of things under these civilized peoples. We could just get the barest idea of how long this was from the fact that many of the barbarous races of to-day were living in the same slough of savagery as they lived in thousands of years ago, and unless aided by extraneous influences would be found doing so thousands of years hence, so slow and difficult is the unaided ascent of life. The lecturer then went on to show that at the dawn of the historic period the race that then peopled the globe all possessed independent unrelated languages more or less developed. With the aid of a diagram he represented this condition of things by a group of adjacent circles, each circle representing an independent linguistic stock. This he pointed out was the condition of early speech. Our next acquaintance with it disclosed the fact that two of these many stocks, at different centres had become differentiated into families called respectively Semitic and Aryan, or as the latter was more generally known, Indo-European, the remaining indifferentiated stocks forming a group known as the Turanian or Allophylian. A linguistic tree of the chief Semetic branches or sub-families, ancient and modern, was shown and explained. In this family are found the tongues spoken by the old-time Babylonians and Assyrians, the Hebrew of Old Testament days, the Samaritan and the Phoenician. The chief of living representatives of this family to-day is the language of Arabia. A linguistic tree of the great Aryan stock or family was then exhibited and explained, and the question of the ancient ancestral home of the Aryan family was also considered in the light of recent linguistic and archaeological research, the lecturer stating that the highest authorities were now unanimous in placing this home somewhere in the great central plains of northern Europe, instead of in Asia, as was formerly held. He then drew attention to another large diagram representing the divisions of the Aryan stock, pointing out that it was from this stock that our language was descended, as well as all the other languages of Europe with the exception of four, viz., that of the Hungarians, of the Basques, of the Finns and of the Turks, which were independent, unrelated Turanian stock. The lecturer then went on to say that the discovery at the beginning of this century of the relation existing between all these languages of Europe, as well as between two members of the same family to be found in Asia, the Persian or Iranian, and the Sanskrit, or Indian, is regarded as one of the grandest discoveries of our time, inasmuch as it throws more light upon the past history of the human race, and upon their language than anything else in the world; that by it we know to-day, as certainly as we know anything in the past, that some thousands of years ago the common ancestors of all those peoples and now divergent nations once lived together on the plains of northern Europe as members of one family or tribe. We have even discovered by a comparative study of the root words of their languages to what degree of culture this Aryan tribe or community had attained and the conditions of life under which they lived. We know they were nomadic shepherds, that they planted and used some kind of grain, that they possessed ox wagons, that they could count up to 100 before the separation took place, as the roots of all the words, as well as many more, are common to all the branches of the Aryan stock. The lecturer, continuing, went on to say that of all the linguistic stocks of the world, and there were some hundreds of them, no less than 58 along this very coast of ours between Alaska and Mexico, the most vigorous and far-spreading was the Aryan. For of the twelve hundred millions that peopled this earth to-day, one-half of them, or six hundred millions spoke Aryan tongues. And of the Aryan tongues themselves the one that seemed destined to swamp and supersede the rest was our own Anglo-Saxon one. He then traced down the various sub-divisions of the Germanic family to the Saxon spoken by the people of England in the time of Alfred the Great, and brought an exceedingly interesting lecture to a close by stating that after he had traced in much the same way in his next lecture the history of our alphabetic symbols, he would then take up the Saxon of Alfred the Great again and follow it step by step into the English of Elizabeth, and of our Bible, written a few years later, and which was practically the same as our own. He concluded by hoping that when he should have done this little work he had set the course of his lectures would find their mother tongue more interesting to them than it was perhaps before.

WHEEL AND WHOA!

The police are called on at times to settle some very curious disputes and altercations. The other day the chief was met with a poser. A man rushed into the police station in a very excited state and wanted to have another man arrested at once for highway robbery. The chief soothed his ruffled feelings, and asked him to tell his story quietly. The man then said that he had left his milk wagon at a blacksmith shop to be repaired and stipulated what work to be done to it. The blacksmith did more than was ordered. When the man went for his wagon he tendered $6 in payment that in his opinion being sufficient to cover what he had ordered done. The blacksmith refused to accept the money, and that night the man came along with his horse, hitched up to the wagon and drove off with it. Next day the blacksmith and another man stopped the complainant on Carrall street, and while one held the horse the other took off the wheel to which the repairs had been made, and left the wagon severely handicapped on three wheels. It was for this that the milkman wanted the blacksmith arrested for highway robbery. The chief, who is always in favor of the smoothest course, counselled the man to go to the blacksmith and arrange an amicable settlement. It is presumed that he did so because he has not been back since. While not strictly in accordance with legal procedure the blacksmith took a very practical method of enforcing the payment of his account.

LOUIS VICTOR EXECUTED.

The Hanging Occurred in the Gaol Yard at New Westminster.

New Westminster, Jan. 17.—(Special.)—This morning broke grey and cheerless, with a thin covering of snow on the ground and the air frosty and sharp. From 7:30 o'clock till nearly 8 stragglers were to be seen wending their way towards the Provincial gaol, where by the hour appointed for the execution of the Indian, Louis Victor, condemned to death for the murder in October last of the Indian policeman, Peter, at Cheam, about 40 persons had assembled. Most of those present were in the performance of their duties; but there were some in whom a morbid curiosity or love for witnessing tragic occurrences is too strong to be resisted when opportunity occurs to gratify it. The gathering included Sheriff Armstrong, his deputy, the governor of the gaol and his officials, the coroner and the men summoned to serve under him as a jury, the police magistrate, Drs. Bourgs, Drew and Walker, representatives of the Vancouver and New Westminster press, and a few others who attended in some representative capacity or other. Just as the hands of the clock approached the hour of 8 a move was made to the gaol yard, where the gallows had been erected the previous evening. On the usual demand being made by the sheriff, Louis Victor was surrendered to his custody, and preceded by the sheriff and the governor of the gaol, with his spiritual adviser, Father Demeau, at his side, repeating a prayer in a low tone of voice, and accompanied by several gaol attendants and the hangman, the doomed man entered the yard. With a firm step he approached and mounted the scaffold, where a few more words of prayer were uttered by the priest. The hangman, clad in gruesome habiliments and hideous of aspect, completed the scene, moved somewhat hurriedly to hide his victim's features, but was restrained, as Victor desired to say a few words to those present. After requesting the interpreter Meeloy to interpret what he was about to say, he, speaking in Chinook, said in a clear, distinct voice, which exhibited little or no trace of agitation or nervousness: "I am going to die with the quiet, Indian, but I am innocent. I have not done anything. Christ knows it, so I am going to Heaven. Jesus Christ came to save sinners and died on the cross; and I am going to Heaven. I want you all to take warning; I want you all to look out not to do any wrong, but to do good, then you will go to Heaven, as I am going. I shake hands I with everybody and I know that now I am going to Heaven. Farewell all." The black cap was then placed over his head and immediately afterwards his response, "O, Lord, have pity on me!" to the priest's final prayer was distinctly heard. Then at about 8 o'clock the signal was given by the sheriff, the bolt was drawn, the drop fell, the black flag was half-mast-ed, and in the eyes of the law the murder was avenged. Not a movement of the body was noticeable. After hanging a sufficient time it was cut down and placed in a coffin. The spectators then dispersed and the doctors made the usual post-mortem examination, finding the neck completely dislocated. The customary inquest was then held by Capt. Pittendrigh, and a jury, having D. Box as foreman returned the verdict of death by hanging, according to law. It remains only to add that prior to the confirmation, by the Dominion authorities, of the death sentence, Victor had the benefit of the ministrations of Fathers Demeau and Thomas. Since all hope of reprieve was gone Father Demeau, who is a missionary priest having spiritual charge of all Roman Catholic Indians located between the mouth of the Fraser river and Yale, has been in constant attendance upon him. He states that Victor passed a sleepless night and partook of very little breakfast this morning. To the last he maintained his protestations of innocence of the crime for which he forfeited his life.

As a side accompaniment to the dread tragedy of execution it may be mentioned that whilst the majesty of the law was being vindicated within the precincts of the gaol a sad scene was witnessed outside. Gathered in front of the gaol was a group of Cheam Indians composed of six men, two women and a 10-year-old boy, waiting for the body of the law's victim. Among them were Victor's wife, brother and young son; also Chief Joe. Patiently they waited in the drizzle of snow that had commenced to fall, until at length Father Demeau appeared and gave them the details of the execution. Grief was depicted on all faces, particularly on that of the grief-stricken wife, whose tears flowed freely as she stood bereft and forlorn. Eventually at about 9:30 the coffin containing the body was brought out, placed in the gaol rig and driven down to the Fraser, where, near the Lulu Island bridge, a boat was in readiness to receive it. There it was covered by an Indian mat and a sail, and to-night it will be placed on the steamer Transfer to be taken up the river for burial in an Indian cemetery at Cheam.

OUR HYDRAULIC MINING.

At the session of the Quebec General Mining Association held at Montreal, Jan. 12th, Capt. Robt. C. Adams, Montreal, said that the fact of a committee having failed in an interview with the Dominion Government was an evidence that the efforts of mining men were useless. The present customs law was made long before the great mining ventures of British Columbia were known. He knew that the mining men in British Columbia could not offer machinery of Sherbrooke, Que. He knew, too, that the Government was continually anxious to put duty on the people never to take one off. Mining in British Columbia, in his opinion, was a great and vital question. No mining man would stand a tax of 35 per cent. on the importation of machinery; and hence many of the best mines in the West were to-day lying idle. The choice seemed to be shall we help machine shops in Quebec or mining in British Columbia. He hoped for a broader view of things. He thought that the committee named should ask the Government to allow mining machinery to enter British Columbia free of duty for a certain period. This was unanimously carried.

Dwight Brainerd stated that he was an out-and-out free trader, and that "bucking against a stone wall was useless." The Ministers had long ago made up their minds on this customs question and all committee appeals were useless.

B. Hobson's paper on Hydraulic Mining in British Columbia was well worth hearing, as it embraced the product of a practical miner from California. Mr. Hobson outlined many advantages that to his knowledge existed in British Columbia for gold mining under the hydraulic system which did not exist in California. The Canadian mines, he said, were richer and more extensive, and he was pleased to announce that he was at present associated with a number of Montreal men with a view to operating hydraulic mining in gold in the Cariboo district. He knew from what he had seen that the day was not far distant when the gold mines of British Columbia would not only astonish Canadians but also the civilized world. At the conclusion of the paper a vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Hobson. It was moved by G. E. Drummond, who made an eloquent speech in eulogy of Mr. Hobson, and seconded by B. T. A. Bell.

The Montreal Board of Trade has elected the following officers by acclamation: Pres. J. A. Cautlie; 1st vice-pres., J. Torrance; 2nd vice-pres., W. McKergow; treasurer, C. P. Smith.

The Ottawa carnival opened to-day. Everything augurs well for a most successful function.

ORIENTAL ADVICES.

Japanese Ready to Deliver a Crushing Blow in the Spring.

Further advices by the Empress of Japan to the United Press, dated Tokio, are as follows:

In addition to Chang, president of the board of revenue and formerly Chinese Minister at Washington, the Pekin Government appointed Shao, Governor of Formosa, to proceed to Japan for the purpose of arranging terms of peace. Shao was in Shanghai at the end of December, and Chang would have had to join him there, traveling overland from Pekin, a painful journey taking about a month. Thus the mission could not have reached Japan before the beginning of February. But it does not seem likely to come at all. The latest news is that Chang has been recalled at an early stage of his travels. This intelligence was prefaced by rumors that a sharp conflict prevailed in the Chinese Government between the peace and war parties. On the side of peace were the Empress Dowager, Prince Kung, and the Viceroy Li; on the side of war the Emperor, General von Hanneken and General Liu. To Hanneken the continuance of the war means fortune. He is the deus ex machina of the moment. To him China has entrusted the duty of supplying her forces with arms and ammunition and procuring an unlimited number of German military experts to give vertebrae to her braves. Liu is ex-leader of the Black Flags, that gave the French so much trouble in Tonquin. He has just been summoned to the aid of the Central Government and he believes in himself. The Emperor is a youth. Hence the motives and sympathies that weld these three into a war party are easily appreciated.

There is probably no country in the world where the interchange of New Year's gifts takes place on so wide a scale as in Japan. Everybody that can afford to be liberal presents something to his friends and relatives, and those who have not the means to be generous are at least politic, since they bestow theirs in quarters whence a return with large interest may be expected. Naturally the glad season this year set people thinking of the country's soldiers, spending their New Year's among the snows and frosts of Manchuria. Thousands of tons of rice dough (mochi), thousands of boxes of cakes, and hundreds of dozens of blankets, have been sent across the sea. Certainly the soldiers are suffering terribly from cold. In the neighborhood of Port Arthur it is reported that already 23 men, while serving on picket or outpost duty, have been frost-bitten so badly as to lose ears, hands or feet. No statement as to the first army is published, but as it is operating in regions still colder than Port Arthur, its sufferings must be still greater.

The headquarters of the first Japanese army in Antung have now been brought into telegraphic communication with the headquarters of the second army in Chinchow. The distance is 180 miles. The line has been laid along the coastwise road on the north of the Yellow Sea. Some obstructions were encountered at the outset, but the line is now efficient. I have not done anything. Christ knows it, so I am going to Heaven. Jesus Christ came to save sinners and died on the cross; and I am going to Heaven. I want you all to look out not to do any wrong, but to do good, then you will go to Heaven, as I am going. I shake hands I with everybody and I know that now I am going to Heaven. Farewell." The black cap was then placed over his head and immediately afterwards his response, "O, Lord, have pity on me!" to the priest's final prayer was distinctly heard. Then at about 8 o'clock the signal was given by the sheriff, the bolt was drawn, the drop fell, the black flag was half-mast-ed, and in the eyes of the law the murder was avenged. Not a movement of the body was noticeable. After hanging a sufficient time it was cut down and placed in a coffin. The spectators then dispersed and the doctors made the usual post-mortem examination, finding the neck completely dislocated. The customary inquest was then held by Capt. Pittendrigh, and a jury, having D. Box as foreman returned the verdict of death by hanging, according to law. It remains only to add that prior to the confirmation, by the Dominion authorities, of the death sentence, Victor had the benefit of the ministrations of Fathers Demeau and Thomas. Since all hope of reprieve was gone Father Demeau, who is a missionary priest having spiritual charge of all Roman Catholic Indians located between the mouth of the Fraser river and Yale, has been in constant attendance upon him. He states that Victor passed a sleepless night and partook of very little breakfast this morning. To the last he maintained his protestations of innocence of the crime for which he forfeited his life.

As a side accompaniment to the dread tragedy of execution it may be mentioned that whilst the majesty of the law was being vindicated within the precincts of the gaol a sad scene was witnessed outside. Gathered in front of the gaol was a group of Cheam Indians composed of six men, two women and a 10-year-old boy, waiting for the body of the law's victim. Among them were Victor's wife, brother and young son; also Chief Joe. Patiently they waited in the drizzle of snow that had commenced to fall, until at length Father Demeau appeared and gave them the details of the execution. Grief was depicted on all faces, particularly on that of the grief-stricken wife, whose tears flowed freely as she stood bereft and forlorn. Eventually at about 9:30 the coffin containing the body was brought out, placed in the gaol rig and driven down to the Fraser, where, near the Lulu Island bridge, a boat was in readiness to receive it. There it was covered by an Indian mat and a sail, and to-night it will be placed on the steamer Transfer to be taken up the river for burial in an Indian cemetery at Cheam.

FREDERIC VILLIERS.

Artist and War Correspondent—The History of His Career.

There is at present in our midst a noted journalist and artist, whose name has been before the public for years—Frederic Villiers. As stated yesterday, he returned on the Empress from the Orient, where he had been to the front in the war in the interests of Black and White, and other publications. He has returned to engage in a lecture tour throughout the United States, describing the incidents which came under his notice. The reading world has already enjoyed many of these experiences written in graphic language, illustrated by the same hand that inscribed the words. Mr. Villiers was born in London, Eng., in 1852, and was educated in the north of France. Afterwards he studied in the schools of art at South Kensington, and became a student of the Royal Academy in 1870. In 1876, as special artist and correspondent of the Graphic, he went through the Servian campaign with Archibald Forbes. He was with the armies of Tirnok, Drina, Eber and with Tchernaieff on the Morava. He was decorated with the order of the Takova, and also received a war medal for this campaign. He was recalled in November of the above year to Constantinople. He then travelled through Roumelia and Bulgaria and examined the Turkish Army. Recrossing the Servian lines he returned with the Turkish troops to Constantinople. Having been ordered to Russia he in January of the following year started for Kishenieff, and saw the mobilization of the Russian troops at Bessarabia. He got back to England in 1877. The day war was declared between Turkey and Russia he started for Bucharest where he joined Mr. Forbes, and was present at all the chief engagements. When the armistice was declared he was the third correspondent to enter Constantinople, and was present at San Stefano when peace was signed and announced to the Russian guard by the Grand Duke Nicholas on Sunday, March 3, 1878. Mr. Villiers received the Cross for the passage of the Danube and the war medal. In June of that year he went to Malta, and was present at the review of the Indian contingent by the Duke of Cambridge. In November following he left England for Afghanistan. He went through the first part of that campaign till the signing of the treaty of Gandamuk; then he left for Australia; was at the opening of the Sydney exhibition; travelled through New Zealand, and returned to England via San Francisco and New York, thus making a journey round the world. Mr. Villiers left England for Egypt immediately on receipt of the news of the massacres at Alexandria, June 11, 1882. He was on H. M. S. Condor during the bombardment of that city, and landed with the marines. Afterwards he followed the army to Ismalia, and was at the first fight at Tel-Mahuta, and was with the Highland brigade during the night march and subsequent attack on Tel-el-Kebir. Mr. Villiers remained in Cairo until the trial and banishment of Arabi and his confederates. He received for this campaign the order and rosette of the Medijieh, and the Egyptian war medal from the hands of the Khedive. In February, 1884, Mr. Villiers left for Suakim, to join General Graham who had gone to avenge the defeat of the late General Baker at the first battle of Teb. Mr. Villiers was present at the Arab defeat at the second battle. On March 13th he was at the battle of Tamai, and subsequently accompanied Admiral Sir W. Hewett on his mission to the court of King John of Abyssinia. In the autumn of 1884, and the spring of 1885 he was with the Nile expedition for the relief of Khartoum, being present at the battles of Abu-Klea and the advance upon Metemmeh. Returning to England he started almost at once for Ireland, where he witnessed the manoeuvres of the evolutionary squadron in Bantry Bay, in June, 1885. In November of that year he started for Servia, and served with the Servian forces at all the chief encounters with the Bulgarians. An armistice being declared, he started on his homeward journey. At Venice he found a telegram from the Graphic telling him to go to Burmah. He accomplished the trip from Venice to Rangoon in one month—arriving just in time to accompany Lord Dufferin on his journey up the Irrawaddy to Mandalay. His more recent exploits are within the ken of the public, but from the above one can gather but a very small idea of what he has gone through, the scenes he witnessed, the people he met and the countries visited. Mr. Villiers is resting at Hotel Vancouver and may be in town for several days. He is a most genial, unaffected gentleman and carries his well-earned honors very lightly. Local newspaperdom has fallen completely in love with him.

VANCOUVER'S SHADY QUARTER.

A Section of the City Which bears an Unenviable Reputation.

Things in connection with some portions of Dupont street and vicinity are assuming a character that the police law must step in and with a firm hand chastize the offenders. If not we shall soon have in this city the parallel of a section of State street, Chicago, Canal street, Buffalo, or even alleys and slums of Seattle's Whitechapel. Some places on the street are becoming the resort of characters of the very vilest kinds, and rows, fights, bestial orgies and dances are becoming quite common. Several of the more undesirable of the denizens have lately been run out by the police, but others are still here, and The World feels that it is but voicing the sentiments of the community in saying that the police will be upheld in enforcing the most drastic measures. On Tuesday night in what is known as "Mother McKenzie's rookery," there was an uproar, the noise connected with which annoyed people several blocks away. Women participating in the affair vied with each other in yelling out obscenity and blasphemy so that they could be heard anywhere within a radius of 500 yards. On Wednesday, as a result, four of them appeared in the police court. One had the map of the battle of Ping Yang scratched on her face, and another was stupid for want of morphine. The unfortunate battered one, another, who has just got out of jail, and the other a morphine fiend, and the last one, whose brother, under an assumed name, was recently run out of town, were each fined $20 and costs. It appears that a man who bears a notorious name, and said to be a relative of the proprietress of the place, was also mixed up in the scrimmage. The police should get after him again for vagrancy. One of these days will end in murder if a stop is not put to them.

GOT THE WRONG BOTTLE.

A well-known Lardeau silver king, having seen an advertisement in a Seattle newspaper of the wonderful virtues of a complexion improver and renewer of youth, determined not to miss the opportunity afforded. While he was enjoying a comfortable snooze in the cosy tar-room of a hotel, some of his friends in whom he had confided went to his room and got the mixture, with which they liberally covered his face and head. When he awoke—oh, what a difference in the morning! His face was as black as the proverbial crow and his hair as curly as a nigger's. He spent a considerable portion of the small hours of the morning looking for the man who did the deed, but without success. It has since transpired that owing to an error of the doctor's apprentice a bottle of the fluid intended for the Southern States, and not the quality of white people, had been sent to the trate miner.

A LOVING MOTHER.

The Winnipeg Free Press of Jan. 8th says: Yesterday S. F. Gill, a C. P. R. locomotive engineer in this city, received the sad intelligence of the death of his mother at Vancouver. The deceased was 75 years of age. She was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, and came to Canada when a little child, settling with her parents at Fergus, Ont., where she experienced the hardships and discomforts incident to pioneer life. All her children, seven sons and two daughters, survive to mourn the loss of a loving and Christian mother.

market. * * * The largest shipment of butter that has left the colony was taken away on Saturday by the R. M. S. S. Parramatta. It consisted of 720 tons or 1,612,800 lbs., and is valued at about £70,000. The Secretary for Agriculture, who has been assiduous in fostering the butter industry, is exceedingly gratified at the growth of the export trade, which will bring into the colony about £1,000,000 this season. The department also shipped by the same vessel 9,600 eggs.

GIGANTIC BUTTER EXPORTS.

In the Melbourne Australasian, of the 24th November, there appears the following relative to exports from that colony: D. Wilson, the dairy expert, has furnished the Minister of Agriculture with a return, showing the growing importance of our dairy expert trade. Within the last few days the colony exported £139,000 worth of butter, eggs, peas, poultry, calves and rabbits. The R. M. S. S. Parramatta, which left Sydney on Saturday for London, took away 27,411 cases of butter, valued at £70,000, and 37 cases of eggs, and the previous week the R. M. S. S. Austral had 23,652 cases of butter, 99 cases of eggs, and a quantity of poultry, rabbits, peas, and a few calves, placed in its refrigerating chambers while here for the London

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