The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

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Purchase Of Gold

Bankers and Vancouver Board of Trade Discuss the Assay Office.

And Some Bitter Things Are Said About the Dominion Government.

No Sockeyes on the Fraser Last Night—W. A. Gilmour's Funeral.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, July 16.—There is much annoyance in Vancouver over the act of the Federal government in taking off the rebate on gold at the Vancouver assay office, which has resulted in all the Klondike gold passing Vancouver, to Seattle and San Francisco. Although the government doubled the capacity of the assay office, they are scarcely doing enough business to keep them going. The Board of Trade took the matter up, and as the banks seem in a measure responsible in morally supporting the government's action, the Bankers association were asked to meet the council of the Board of Trade and discuss the matter. They declined, stating that they were not prepared to talk as a body, and would first have to consider their position in the matter by a conference between themselves. This meeting of the bankers took place today, and a subsequent meeting will take place between the bankers and the Board of Trade. One of the most prominent members of the Bankers' association stated that his opinion was that the deliberate attempt of the government to wreck the Vancouver assay office was inspired by political motives, and that he believed that another year would find the Vancouver office abandoned, and an assay office set up in Dawson. At present the government would not be able to elect two members for Dawson, but if the assay office was removed to Dawson it would be sufficient to turn the political feeling around for the government. The idea of the government was to be able to technically demonstrate to the people of Canada at large that the Vancouver assay office did not pay, and it was necessary to remove it to Dawson. At present it pays Americans to take their gold to San Francisco and get New York exchange or coined gold for it. Under the present system the assay office gives a check on the Bank of Montreal, and deposits the gold brick with the bank in payment, the bank then sells their gold in San Francisco. The plans of the Canadian mint have been approved by the Royal mint, but the Canadian mint will not be built until next year, so that this most unsatisfactory state of affairs will continue for this season in any event.

W. H. Malkin, president of the Board of Trade expressed his opinion this morning to the Colonist correspondent on the log warehouse. Mr. Malkin states explicitly that he is in favor of the scheme, and that those who speak of the scenery being affected by the unsightly logs, have not the interests of Vancouver at heart.

The funeral of W. A. G. Gilmour was largely attended this afternoon. The members of the bar attended in a body. There were no sockeyes on the Fraser last night. The white fishermen are preparing to go out.

HOMESEEKERS.

Three Trains of New Settlers on Way West.

Montreal, July 16.—Three train loads of home-seekers left here yesterday for the Northwest.

STEYN ILL.

Former President Suffering From Enteric Fever.

Capetown, July 16. — Ex-President Steyn, of the former Orange Free State, Mrs. Steyn, and two doctors, sailed today for Europe on a British steamer. Mr. Steyn is suffering seriously from enteric fever.

MINISTER WU.

Receives Official Confirmation of Recall to Pekin.

Washington, D. C., July 16.—Minister Wu has received official confirmation of his recall to Pekin to assume a connection with the new Chinese Foreign office. He had previously received a copy of the official decree naming himself, with Isen Chai Pen as the compiler of a new code of laws for China, but he was not certain that the new duty would not be discharged in Washington without the surrender of his mission.

CHOLERA IN ORIENT.

Even Into Forbidden City It Makes Its Way.

Pekin, July 16.—Several deaths from cholera have occurred in the Forbidden City. The Dowager Empress is alarmed, and has kept the court physicians busy preparing remedies. The disease is increasing, especially among the Chinese soldiers here and at Pao Ting Fu. Reports from various parts of the Empire show that the epidemic is spreading inland from the Coast.

Manila, July 16.—Cholera is still increasing in the provinces. The provincial totals are 14,567 cases, and 10,937 deaths. Manila averages 40 cases daily.

TO AID JAMAICA.

Proposal of Mr. Chamberlain to Help Sugar Industry.

Kingston, July, 16.—The acting governor has received an intimation that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Colonial Secretary, subject for the approval of parliament, is prepared to recommend to the Imperial government that it place at the disposal of the government of Jamaica, the sum of £10,000, to assist the sugar industry in order that the sugar estates may not go out of cultivation, and secondly, to insure the maintenance of an adequate rate of wages. The offer is hampered with conditions which it is believed, will nullify its intention, and planters generally are not satisfied with its terms.

20 YEARS OF ITCHING PILES.

Mr. Alex. McLaughlin, Bowmanville, Ont., writes that for twenty years he suffered terribly from itching piles. Seven years ago he asked a druggist for the best cure for piles and was told to use Dr. Chase's Ointment. He continued this treatment until entirely cured, and as he has never had any return of his old trouble considers his cure permanent and remarkable on account of the length of time he suffered.

Tourist Association

[W]as Estate to Be Transformed Into a Popular Resort.

[Imper]ial Millionaires Appreciate [Vi]ctoria's Beauties and Attractions.

[Thro]ugh the efforts of the Tourist association, the old Douglas estate, Belleveue, is about to be utilized as a recreation ground, where nightly concerts will be given during the [sea]son.

The need of such a pleasure [resort] has been felt for years, not only [by visit]ors to the city, but by the resi[dents] on Beacon Hill Park, beautiful [as it] is, is too open and exposed to [the] breeze, refrigerated by the snow-[capped] Olympians, to make its temperature [comfort]able even on a midsummer [day], while Oak Bay offers the same [advantage] to thorough enjoyment. The [grounds] and beautiful grounds of old [Gover]nment House, on the contrary, are [shelter]ed on all sides from the winds and [are] a perfect pleasure ground.

[Arrange]ments have been made with [the] Regiment band to give nightly [music]al concerts, and it is hoped [other] attractions may be secured [to] afford variety to the nightly [dance]. The green sward of the lawn [invi]tes to the merry dance, and a [number] of colored electric lights will [light] up the scene. The lower floor of [the] Douglas' residence will be [open] for the accommodation of the [public] and light refreshments will be [served] in the rooms, and at the numer[ous] tables scattered about the grounds, [arbors], swings, and possibly a carousel [will] be provided, so that those who [desire] sport and exercise in conjunc[tion] with their enjoyment of the music [can] gratify their tastes gratified.

[The ne]cessary work of preparing the [grounds] for its new use will [take a] day, and it is hoped that the [concert]s will be given early next [week, t]ueadily on Tuesday.

[CHRIS]TS FROM CHINA.

[Prov]ince, Vancouver, says:

[At a] distance of the benefit of a [dis]cussion, if properly handled, [Mr.] A. Langrow, of this city, tells [us] that two of the wealthiest [Chin]ese, China, arrived in Van[couve]r the last Empress, and were [fri]ends upon leaving the steamer [that] they had had an unlimited [amou]nt of money and were willing to [spend] it. One, the son of a multimil[lionai]re, had already been around the [world] several times, though he had not [been] in Vancouver. They stayed here a [day] or two, and Mr. Cumyow tried to [make] them remain over for a week. They [were] charmed with the city, and [said] there was to be seen in the [cit]y, but they had heard so much [of the] attractions of Victoria, as advertised by the tourist association of that [city, t]hat they were impatient to spend [the re]st of their stay in British Columbia [instead of] this city.

[The] Fifth Regiment band is due a [large] share of the credit for carrying [out t]he arrangements. Bandmaster [Mann is] one of the first to offer his co[operation] and that, too, on a basis [that en]ables the association to justify [in] assuming the arduous task of [giving] a complete scheme of [entertai]nments for the public [without] handicapping itself in what may [be] its more legitimate field of [action.] The Fifth Regiment band has [prov]ed itself public-spirited, but [it is] more so than in the present [it is not to be understood that in dealing with [subject] the trustees of the Douglas [estate] have put the Tourist Association [to a] very liberal spirit, and it only [remains] for the citizens, through their [treasur]y, to prove that they appreciate the labors of all concerned in [this] and public-spirited enterprise.

[AGA]INST THE CORNER.

[Appeal] to Chicago Board of Trade to [Alter] Fix Margin Price.

[Lond]on, July 12.—A petition was [presented] to Secretary Stone, of the Board [of Tra]de, asking that a margin [be] fixed on July corn, which has [been] cornered by a party headed by [Jay] Gates. The meaning of the [petition] is that the directors shall provide [for] a fair price for corn, based [on the] selling price of the cereal in market [where] the supply is not manipulated [such] a step, it is said, has not [been taken] in 20 years, although the [rule] provide for such action. Brokers [here] are quoted as being opposed [to the] petition. Manager Samuel Gompertz, Harris, Gates & Co., says: "It's [a] fraud; if they win all right; if [not], they act the baby. What we [do] with corn hurts no one who [does] legitimate trades. People [who] sold corn can get the money [they] deliver the goods. If a lot [of peo]ple have sold wind, let them [bear the] consequences.

[CONFER]ENCE MEETING.

[Board of] Trade to Elect Officers on Friday Next.

[Mem]bers are reminded that nomina[tions for] the position of officers of the [Board o]f Trade must be in the hands [of the] secretary by tomorrow at the [latest. T]he officials to be elected at [the gener]al meeting which convenes next [month] at 11 a. m., are: President, vice-[president], secretary, members of council [and boa]rd of arbitration. The present [council] will hold its final sitting on Tues[day morn]ing, to wind up matters in pre[paration] for the annual meeting later [in the w]eek.

[WA]TCH OF WHALERS.

[Report] from Nome Tell of Success of the Fleet.

[Fifty] whales, valued at $100,000, [is the re]sult of the spring catch this [year] by the whaling fleet. The Alex[ander le]ads the list, having captured [twenty-s]ix males, the Jeanette three, the [other] two, the Karluk and Bowhead [one eac]h, says the Nome News of June [28. The] Thresher, Beluga and Narwhal, [in the] technical language of the old [whalers,] "are clean." They did not get [any of] the big game.

[The to]tal weight of bone taken from [the fif]teen whales is estimated at 60,[000 pou]nds. Besides this the whalers [have a] large quantity of bone that has [been obt]ained by barter with the na[tives.] The Jeanette has 9,000 pounds [of whal]ebone aboard, which is worth in [round fi]gures $40,000.

[Owners] are pleased with the result [of the] work up to date. It is better [than the] average, and a bigger spring [catch] than has been reported for several [yea]rs. The whales have now gone [into the] Arctic, whither they will be [followed] by the fleet as soon as condi[tions o]f navigation will permit.

[A Ne]w Cook.

[A] cook has written me a letter [asking] for more wages.

[Well,] isn't that all right?

[I] don't like the letter because she [is spite]ful in it.

[Wh]o?

[W]hen she signs it "Your obedient servant," Yonkers Statesman.

PARALYTIC STROKE.

Nova Scotia Politician Stricken Down Suddenly.

Halifax, July, 16.—F. D. Davidson, M. P. P., for Lunenburg county, was stricken with paralysis at Bridgewater yesterday afternoon. His condition is critical.

RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

Lord Strathcona Says More of Them May Be Established.

Montreal, July 16.—In a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the Rhodes scholarships, Lord Strathcona says: "I am aware that there are several provinces not mentioned in Mr. Rhodes will, but the trustees would like opinions in the case of all the provinces, as it is not improbable that in future it may be possible to establish scholarships in all events, at some of those provinces." Quebec and Ontario are the only provinces mentioned in the will.

Rebellions And Torture

Prince Tuans Relatives Are Likely to Suffer For His Sins.

Massacres By Troops—How Robbers Are Done to Death When Caught.

Far away in Ninghsia, a walled city of Mongolia, General Tung Fu Hsiang, ex-Boxer and leader of many thousands of Chinese bannermen; Prince Tuan, ex-Boxer and leader of the hordes who planned to massacre all the foreigners in Pekin during that time of horror of the Boxer outbreak, and Lan Kung, another notorious Boxer leader, are arming their thousands of followers, including the army of General Tung Fuhsiang, which was ordered disbanded by the government, but which took its arms and refused to disband—and a rebellion is being planned which has for its object the invasion of Pekin, and the placing of Tung Tuhsiang on the Chinese throne. This is the startling news received by the Empress of India from China.

Pekin correspondents report that the relatives of Prince Tuan there are greatly alarmed as a result of his intended coup, for his union with the rebels means the falling of the knife on the neck of his grandparents, parents, sons, daughters, and all family connections—extermination of members of the family within reach of Pekin. One of the family is a Christian, and she informed the missionaries recently that death was near to her as a result of the intended action of Prince Tuan.

Tung Fuhsiang's life has been declared forfeited to the throne, he has defied his rulers, and now all Pekin knows that he is planning a desperate game, and even looking to the throne for himself. That he will act soon is regarded as certain by the Chinese, for he cannot maintain his large army long in idleness. They are now seeking to form an alliance with the rebels who are in the field in South Chihli, where the acts of the troops sent against them by the government has roused the rebels to a barbaric fury. A massacre took place at Wei Hsien, in which two thousand innocents were killed. The townspeople seeing soldiers and fearing attack, closed the city gates. This excited the suspicion of the troops. The people fled to the south gate, and met another section of the Imperial troops—and death.

The Pekin correspondent of the Shanghai Mercury, reports that two thousand of these, unarmed, innocent, helpless women and children were slain—an injustice which brought hundreds of villagers to the rebel ranks.

There is much alarm among the Chinese merchants at Pekin, according to their letters, for the belief is growing that tronblous times are soon to come again for China, and in this connection the future acts of Tung Fuhsiang are more to be dreaded, than any of the existing disturbances. There are, however, disquieting elements to be considered. Two great secret societies are growing in favor and numbers—the purpose of one being the restoration of the Emperor, and of the other the complete overthrow of the Manchus and the crowning of a Chinese ruler.

Boxerism is still practised largely in some sections, but it is generally believed that there is little probability of it again becoming popular or general. Were the people united in a common cause, there is little they could not accomplish, but with so many movements, the strongest of the present insurrections being in Kwangsi and Kwangtung and Southern Chihli, the unconsolidated struggles bring only constant friction, increased burdens, and great loss of life.

The Chinese government has been very severe in punishing crime this year. It is estimated that over 3,000 have been decapitated in Pekin alone since January. Highway robbers have made many districts unsafe, especially around Tien Tsin. Between Pekin and the Western Hills, travelers, priests, temples, etc. have been "held up" frequently of late. An official sent to investigate these robberies was robbed, and his official button stamped in the dust. In consequence of this, 200 troops were dispatched, and a trap laid for the robbers. A soldier disguised as a citizen, was sent out, leading a laden camel, followed by two others who had rifles hidden under their garments. The robbers fell into the trap, and two were captured.

Both were tortured in a manner which illustrates how Chinese officials dom treats prisoners. They were first made to kneel on a pile of chains, a heavy board was placed across the back of their legs, and upon each a heavy man stood, thus crushing their shins against the uneven chains and laming them. Their wrists and ankles were then tied behind, and they were hung up by their arms, and "to ensure their telling the truth," burning incense was laid along their bare backs. Other robbers have had their eye brows slashed off. It is these cruelties of officialdom which make rebellions, and with the knowledge of the terrible sufferings borne by relatives and friends, oft unjustly, rebels are easily made.

Another wrong which cruses Chinese to rebel, is the manner in which the powerful priesthood slaves them. One of the Imperial temples alone controls 360 villages, the inhabitants of which are simply slaves. They work their fields for the profit of the temple, and receive only their food for their labor. Even the Emperor himself is more or less subject to the priests, for of one temple a legend is written that when the sacred buildings burn, Pekin will be swept by a great flood—and so a threat from the priests to fire their buildings (always sways the Imperial will. Such a thing seems incredible, but it is true, and nothing better can be expected, when, after the lesson of 1900 the Chinese government still defends the city with the painted mouths of cannon in the towers of the city gate.

The Mines Of The Island

Interesting Report By Hon. A. E. Smith, United States Consul.

The Improved Transportation Facilities are Also Referred to.

An advance sheet of United States Consular Reports, issued from Washington, contains an interesting report by Hon. A. E. Smith, United States consul, on the mines of Vancouver Island, and improved transportation facilities. The report follows:

There has recently been considerable activity in prospecting and exploiting the different mining properties on Vancouver Island. Copper has been found in the Sooke mountains, less than 30 miles from Victoria, and during the past two months 400 tons of high-grade ore has been mined. A cut of 1,000 feet or more leaves no doubt that a large vein exists there. The ore assays over 16 per cent. copper, apart from the gold and silver.

The iron mines on Barkley Sound controlled by the Pacific Coast Steel company(composed almost entirely of Americans) contain immense bodies of ore. The Sarita mine is especially valuable, and only needs to be developed to yield large results. The Copper Island and Secroft mines also show great veins, and active steps are being taken to push work in them. A small steamer has been purchased, and short railroad lines to convey the ore to the shore have been surveyed. As soon as the necessary financial arrangements have been made, active operations will be commenced.

Work has been suspended on the copper mines of the Nahmint Mining company, on Alberni canal; also on the Montour mine in the same locality. It is understood that the copper veins in each of these mines have become nearly exhausted.

The Yreka Copper company (composed mostly of residents of Tacoma, Wash., where the head office is) controls valuable mines on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island, including what is known as the Comstock group, situated on Comstock mountain, Quatsino Sound, which, with the Superior and Quatsino King groups, comprise about 900 acres of copper-gold mineral lands. These groups are contiguous and form practically one property. The average of eight assays recently made was, for all minerals, $21 a ton, while one sample ran 12.5 per cent. copper and $350 gold. Free gold is of frequent occurrence in the main lead of the Comstock, and the average percentage of copper is expected to be over 10. A temporary wooden tramway, erected to transport the ore to the water's edge, is to be replaced with an aerial conveyor. The first shipment from these mines, consisting of 400 tons of ore, was taken to the Tacoma smelter on June 17. It is expected that hereafter similar shipments will be made monthly or oftener.

The Wreck Bay placer mines, on the West Coast, which were discovered in May, 1900, and since operated with indifferent success, have passed into the hands of Seattle capitalists, who propose to spend $50,000 in developing the property with the latest improved machinery. The new owners believe that the fine gold in the black sands of Wreck Bay will, with modern methods, yield a handsome return on their investment.

American citizens are also in control of the Helga Mining company at Clayoquot, West Coast of Vancouver Island, where a ledge of apparently rich copper ore has been struck. A tunnel has been dug into the hill, and other development work accomplished, involving the expenditure of $25,000, but so far no ore has been shipped.

Heretofore, there has been no smelter on Vancouver Island; now two are in process of construction, both on the East Coast, about 40 miles from each other. The larger is at Crofton; the smaller at Ladysmith. The first is under the control of two Americans. Its daily capacity will be 350 tons of ore. The 500-horsepower engines to be used were built at Milwaukee. It is expected that the smelter will be running before August.

The new town of Crofton owes its birth to the building of this smelter. Although it is only four months old, the town now in its a permanent population of over 500 persons. Water for the smelter is provided by two reservoirs up the mountain slope. The ore to be used is brought from the famous Mount Sicker mines, 12 miles to the west, and 1,600 feet above sea level. These mines are connected with Crofton by a narrow-gauge railway, on which three mountain-climbing locomotives, manufactured at Lima, Ohio, carry the ore and laborers. Heretofore, monthly shipments of ore from the Lenora mine have been made to the Tacoma smelter, but during the past six months the ore has been permitted to accumulate. There is now $300,000 worth of ore awaiting the completion of the Crofton smelter. In this mine three tunnels at different levels have been opened.

In addition to the Lenora vein, another rich deposit of ore, known as the Tyee mine, has been found on Mount Sicker. The management of this mine is building a 3-mile aerial tramway to Ladysmith, for the purpose of conveying ore to the smelter in process of construction at that place. This smelter is to be completed during the present year.

Still another mine—known as the Copper Canyon mine—is being developed at the foot of Mount Sicker. Two tunnels have been dug, and in the main excavation a vein 4 to 4½ feet in width has been uncovered. The ore is of a high grade, but as yet none has been shipped.

STEAMER SERVICE.

One of the results of the erection of the large smelter at Crofton and the developing of the Mount Sicker mines has been the establishment of a daily steamer service between Crofton and Sidney, connecting at the latter place with the Victoria, Sidney and Terminal railway, thus enabling passengers to leave Victoria for Crofton and return the same evening. A large barge is also making daily trips from Sidney to Crofton and the Mainland, and a daily steamer service has been inaugurated between Sidney and Nanaimo, calling at Chemainus and Crofton.

The Canadian Pacific railroad company, also, has in process of construction in England a new steamer for service on the Victoria-Vancouver route. This boat will have accommodation for 350 passengers, run 20 knots an hour, and make the trip in less than four hours. It is expected to be completed and in operation by December of the present year.

FEAR OF THE FUTURE.

Most people who dread the future are victims of some terrible disease. Mrs. W. Francis, 204 Colborne street, Kingston, was in a bad state with kidney disease. She had severe pains in back and legs, was gradually losing flesh and felt a dread of the future. A friend recommended Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills and the result was a complete cure. There is no medicine more reliable, none so certain to produce a thorough cure. One pill a dose. 25 cents a box.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The number of victims of the Johnstown mining disaster is placed at one hundred and fourteen.

Marconi, who is on board the Italian flagship Carlo Alberto, at Kronstadt, Russia, has cabled to his London office that he has received wireless signals from the Cornwall station, about 1,400 miles distant, partly overland. Complete messages were received as far as Skagen, Denmark, about 850 miles from Cornwall.

Thirty persons were drowned yesterday by the sinking of a small passenger steamer on the Luge river, near Probroa-Schenskai, on the Warsaw railroad. The disaster was caused by overcrowding. Only those of the passengers who were on the upper deck were saved.

Tremendous explosions have occurred at the Waimangu geysers at Rotori, New Zealand, a height of 804 to 900 feet being reached.

Russia Must Go Or Japan Fights

Opinion of Major General Dorward on the Situation in Manchuria.

Reports of Later Boxer Disturbances Have Been Much Exaggerated.

Major-General Sir A. R. F. Dorward, K. C. B., D. S. O.—the latter distinction secured by his brilliant work in the recent China campaign—is in the city, having arrived by the steamer Empress of India from Shanghai. Major-General Dorward was in charge of the allied forces at the battle of Tien Tsin, when the Ninth United States infantry lost so heavily, their commander, Col. Liscum and many officers and men being among the dead—and he says that the heavy loss of the United States troops was no doubt due to the fact that Col. Liscum lost his way. He was the only United States officer present at the Council of War the night before the battle, and he had, it seems, not notified his officers of the plans. The Ninth Infantry were caught on the side of a swamp, and in endeavoring to edge around were misled and lost heavily. Major Waller's troops and the Welsh Fusiliers managed to get across the swamp without much loss.

But this is of the past. Major-General Dorward speaks interestingly of the present and future crisis in the Far East, in which all eyes are on Russia. Will Russia evacuate Manchuria, or not? A solution of this question solves another, and that is—will there be war in the Far East. Major-General Dorward says there will undoubtedly be war unless Russia evacuates Manchuria, according to terms of the agreement, which the Anglo-Japanese agreement forced that country to make with China. He believes, however, that Russia will go after seeing that Japan will not submit to her remaining.

If Manchuria is not evacuated, however, and Japanese correspondents at Pekin say there are no signs of withdrawal, although the time for retirement is approaching—it means war. Japan will fight, there is no doubt of that, if Russia does not go. Both nations are well aware of this, and Russia is rapidly strengthening her garrisons and points of vantage, while Japan is quietly preparing to strike a blow, if necessary.

If war comes, the first thing this continent would hear of, would be the blowing upland destruction of the big Russian railway, for even now there are at points of vantage Japanese engineers who are versed in explosives, ever ready for the signal that war had been declared. The war would have its scene of action on both land and sea, beginning no doubt in naval operations in the Yellow Sea, and being concluded on land.

Russia has now 80,000 men in the garrisons of Manchuria, and, as is the custom of the country, they will remain as long as they are permitted to. The policy of Russia, says Major-General Dorward, while it may not be admirable from the point of view of the fair-minded, certainly has its advantages. Russia always remains in control of any disputed territory, until, by show of arms, it is obliged to recede, and then the back-down is graceful and polite, but goes no further than necessary, and the Czar's troops are ever-ready to steal back again.

Great Britain has her strongest garrison in North China at Shanhai-kwan—the coast terminus of the railway to Pekin, there being but 250 men at the Chinese capital. The force at Shan-hai-kwan will likely be augmented to five regiments, probably mostly Indian troops. The Germans have about 800 men, and the French and Japanese about 500 men each. It may be eventually, since the Anglo-Japanese agreement regarding an Eastern policy, that Britain and Japan will maintain garrisons of troops of both nations, Major-General Fumushima, who was in charge of the Japanese forces during the North China campaign, being now in London, it is said, making arrangements to this end, among other things.

Major-General Dorward says the situation is unchanged in China, the Boxer and other rebel disturbances reported from time to time being more or less overdrawn, as it is to the interest of the Russians and Germans to magnify these disturbances—which they do—to give excuse for the maintainance of their troops in China.

STEEL EARNINGS.

Reply of the Trust to Suit Against Bond Conversion.

Newark, N. J., July 15.—The answer of the U. S. Steel company to the suit designed to prevent the $200,000,000 bond conversion was filed today. The suit is based on the contention that the corporation's assets do not equal the amount of its preferred stock, and that therefore it cannot be proceeded with as indicated under the act of 1902.

The answer, which is supported by the affidavit of Charles Schwab, states that the assets will amount to more than the entire stock, common and preferred, and bonds, or more than $1,400,000,000. Mr. Schwab in his affidavit maintains that his position is such as to give him knowledge of actual worth of the properties and lists his estimates of their value. He says among other things that the earnings of the corporation in the 12 months of its existence have been an excess of ten per cent. of the entire capital stock.

HAD EXPERIMENTED.

Bobby—"You know them preserves ont in th' pantry wot you told me not to eat?"

Mother—"Yes."

Bobby—"You know you said they'd make me sick if I et 'em, didn't you?"

Mother—"Yes."

Bobby—"Well, they didn't."—Ohio State Journal.

The Tyee Mine Mount Sicker

One Hundred Thousand Tons of High Grade Ore In Sight.

Work Being Rushed on the Mine, Tramway and the Smelter.

Mr. Clermont Livingstone, manager of the Tyee mine, Mount Sicker, who was in the city yesterday, reports his mine in splendid condition. The work of blocking out ore is progressing steadily and with the most gratifying results.

On the 100-foot level, which is over 200 feet beneath the surface, the drift is now in 700 feet, and all in good ore, the face of the drift being in the best ore body encountered in the mine up to the present. Recent assays from this new strike run from 12 per cent. to 20 per cent. copper, from $5 to $8 in gold, and 5 ounces of silver, and the ore will average very high, the gold and silver values being considerably more than will cover cost of mining, transportation, and smelting.

The ore in the drift varies from 10 to 35 feet, and easily averages 20 foot throughout the whole 700 feet. In the cross-cuts the vein is 35 feet, 27 feet, 13.6 feet and 24 feet respectively. There is now, at a moderate calculation, 100,000 tons of high grade ore in actual sight, enough to keep the smelter going every day for three years from the present developments.

All the derricks are in position for the aerial tramway, which is to convey the ore from the mine to the E. & N. track at Somenos, a distance of four miles, whence it will be shipped over the E. & N. to Ladysmith. The tramway will be completed by the first week in August, when regular shipments will begin, and will continue steadily thereafter. The E. & N. railway company are putting in the necessary spurs, switches, and sidings to facilitate the hauling of the ore. One siding at Strafford's crossing will be 1,000 feet long, so that the ore trains can be sidetracked to accommodate the regular traffic of the line. The railway company are also building a long trestle at Ladysmith, which will permit of the ore being dumped into the ore bins at the smelter by the overhead system, which reduces handling to a minimum, or, to be more correct, dispenses with it entirely.

Work on the Tyee smelter at Ladysmith is progressing rapidly. The site has all been graded, the foundations are laid and the walls and superstructures are assuming shape, and will soon be ready for the machinery, which has been promised for an early day. The ore bins will be ready by the end of the present month, or as soon as the aerial tramway will be in working order.

At the present time 50 men are employed at the mine, 40 are working on the tramway, and 40 at the smelter, so that the company's payroll amounts to a considerable sum each month.

Although no effort has been made to boom the Tyee, the company's stock is in demand on the London market, its £1 shares selling at a premium of ⅛ to ¼.

Speaking of the general outlook at Mount Sicker, Mr. Livingstone says the prospects of the camp were never brighter. There is good work being done on several properties and more general activity than ever before.

THE RICHARD III.

The shaft of the Richard III. was pumped out recently, and work has been resumed on the mine, which has been closed down for some time. The Richard III. adjoins the Tyee and lies in the same formation as it and the Lenora. Mr. Livingstone has no doubt that the rich ore bodies of the Tyee and Lenora traverse the Richard III., and he will be surprised if it does not prove to be a valuable property.

THE COPPER CANYON.

Another property of which Mr. Livingstone expresses a very favorable opinion is the Copper Canyon, on which considerable development is being done. The formation in which it lies is most favorable, and he has every reason to believe it will turn out a big shipper when sufficient work has been done to disclose its capabilities.

"You can say," said Mr. Livingstone in conclusion, "that I consider Mount Sicker camp second to none in British Columbia, and in a very few months its importance will be recognized everywhere."

NIAGARA POWER.

Biggest Electric Machines in World for Canadian Works.

From Toronto Globe.

The progress being made in the development of the water power for electrical purposes at Queen Victoria park, Niagara Falls, Ont., is a matter of interest in these days when electricity is in such great demand as a motive power. About a year ago the Canadian Niagara Power company began operations in the park, and now has nearly five hundred men employed in the various works of construction. This company will take water from the river a quarter of a mile or so above the falls, through a broad basin, and in pipes carried down an immense tower cut in the rock to the water wheels at the bottom of the chamber. These wheels are to have long, upright shafts, with the electric generators at the top, in the power house, the same principle being adopted as on the United States side, only that on the Canadian side the water-wheels and electric machines will be double the size, or the largest in the world. After turning the water-wheels, a tunnel cut in the rock will carry away the exhaust water to the river below the falls.

Substantial progress has been made in carrying out this great enterprise. A cofferdam has been constructed in the rapids to keep out the river from the excavations in progress; the basin has been taken down to nearly its proper depth; the wheel pit is down about one-fifth of its depth, and the headings from the hydraulic tunnel have been driven for over one-half of its total length. This work has, of course, involved a very large outlay by the company, as much of it requires the employment of skilled labor, and the entire cost of the works when completed is estimated to be in the neighborhood of five millions of dollars.

In addition to the works of the Canadian Niagara company, referred to, the Ontario Power company has also secured rights in the park and active operations have been begun upon this competitive scheme. Under its agreement the company is to take water from the Welland river, two miles distant, and lead it to the park, where an open canal will carry it on to the penstocks, by which it will be taken down the cliff to the power house in the gorge below the falls, much after the manner adopted by the Schoellkopht works, on the United States side of the river, near the steel arch bridge. The works already executed by this company consist of a a deep cutting along the line selected for its open canal.

MERILL'S BODY DISCOVERED.

Seattle, Wash., July 15.—A special from Chehalis, Wash., says: "The body of David Merill, who escaped from the Oregon penitentiary with Harry Tracey on June 9th, has been found. A bullet wound in the back reveals the nature of his death, and substantiates the story told by Tracy about the duel in the forest. The remains were in a somewhat advanced stage of decomposition, but were still recognizable. The last time that Merill was seen in company with Tracy was on June 26th in Tumwater canyon, when both escaped their pursuers. Later Tracy told that he had killed his companion unfairly in a duel.

Nothing has been seen of Tracy today.

Scooped Out Children's Hearts

Atrocities Perpetrated by Chinese Who Have Since Been Executed.

Empress Dowager Reported to Be Adopting Western Methods of Entertaining.

News of a grewsome incident near Pekin is reported by the Empress of India, which arrived yesterday. Two men's heads were found by the metals of the railway, two miles from Huang Tsun, the decapitation being presumably caused by the train. The tragedy was rendered mysterious by the disappearance of the bodies—search all along the line failing to reveal them. A more shocking story is reported from Hunan, where a railway is being constructed between Pinghsiang and Liling. For some time there had been reports of the finding of bodies of young children in solitary places with their hearts scooped out. Two men were arrested, charged with this atrocity, and when tried before the magistrate, the accused said they belonged to a party of 80 who had come from Szechaun and Kwiechow to gouge out the hearts of young children for medical purposes. Both were decapitated. One was a Chinese monk.

The Taotai of Central Shansi, writes to the Shanghai papers telling of the maltreating and plundering of some missionaries on the borders of Shansi. The party, including a man, two ladies, and three children, was set upon by robbers, beaten, and robbed. The official expresses sorrow for the crime just without his borders, and urges travelers to secure bank drafts for their money, and not carry large amounts in cash.

The Boxer propaganda is steadily increasing in Szechuan, according to reports from there, and on June 17, an attack was made by a party of Boxers on a country mission station, and a Methodist preacher and nine converts were beheaded by the Boxers. From Pekin it is reported that Prince Tuan and Tung Fu Hsiang and Lan Kung, former Boxer leaders, are organizing a force of Boxers with the object of attempting to place Prince Tuan on the Chinese throne.

At Pekin the Empress Dowager continues to entertain the foreign ladies from time to time, and a correspondent writing from the capital on June 19, says she has ordered a foreign table ware, so that she may entertain them after the European fashion in the future.

The funeral procession of the late Li Hung Chang is still going about the country, like a large circus, and has still much travel before it. It made a great show at Tungchow, tall pagodas and a huge catalogue, adding to its picturesqueness. A large throng of retainers accompany it.

Cholera is causing much loss of life at different Chinese ports. At Sochow it is reported that an average of one hundred deaths are occurring each day, and according to a correspondent writing on June 21, there have been many scares among the foreigners, but the loss of life has so far been confined to natives.

The Japanese have a flying machine inventor. From Tokio it is reported that after two unsuccessful attempts, an air ship, devised by the military authorities, rose over the city of Tokio, and seemingly in perfect control, performed various evolutions, and returned finally to the starting place.

Prince Vladimir, of Russia, was accorded a great reception at Tokio on July 2. He arrived at Yokohama on the Russian warship Sevastopol. At Tokio he was dined by the Emperor. The band and three hundred sailors of the cruiser Matuse escorted him. The Prince arrived in Japan from China, having visited Pekin.

LABOR DEMONSTRATION.

Parade in Sympathy With the Strikers in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Man., July 15.—(Special.)—A labor parade and demonstration in behalf of the United Brotherhood of Railway employees of the Canadian Northern railway who are on strike was held here to night. About 800 union men were in line and addresses were delivered by local labor leaders and sympathizers. The only new feature of the strike situation is the announcement that the old established unions of conductors, trainmen and firemen will be recognized by the company. Mr. Hanna, superintendent of the road, refuses, however, to have anything to do with the Brotherhood of Railway Employees, the members of which are on strike.

SIDNEY.

Work Progressing on the Extension of the Telephone System.

Sidney was well represented at the Orange celebration at Nanaimo on July 12. The Strathcona looked lovely as she steamed out of Sidney harbor with revelers floating in the breeze. The holiday-makers report an enjoyable day, and the sail was a delightful one.

Mrs. Thomas, of Baltimore, Maryland, and Master Robert, spent Sunday in Victoria.

Mr. Drury, of Victoria, will explain next Sunday's lesson in the Sidney Sabbeth school.

Mrs Cusack of Victoria, who is the guest of Mrs. Drury, sang a solo at the Methodist church service on Sunday evening, with good effect, which added much interest to the service.

Holes for telephone poles are being dug from the Sidney station to Mr. Taylor's ranch. The telephone poles are all on the ground, and the work is being pushed forward seven days a week.

Mrs. Gibson, Miss Gibson, and Mrs. W. P. Porter, Chemainus, are staying at the New England.

G. H. Campbell, wife, son and two daughters, tourists from Denver, Col., are at the Victoria.

Another Big Crop

Manitoba Farmers Delighted Over Prospect of a Bounti-ful Harvest.

Provincial Government Preparing Beforehand For Supplying Men to Gather It.

Lake of Woods Milling Company to Give Wholesale Outing to Employees.

Winnipeg, July 16.—Manitoba farmers are now enjoying beautiful weather, and many are enthusiastic over the outlook for another large crop. Continued hot days and cool nights are doing wonders in advancing the date of the harvest.

The Department of Agriculture of the local government, has sent out post cards to all their crop correspondents in the province, requesting them to send in not later than July 25 an estimate of the number of men, in addition to those already at hand, that will be required to harvest the forthcoming crop. The crop will no doubt be a very large one, and a large number of men from the East will be required. The government are taking the matter in hand, and will endeavor not only to secure plenty of men, but to put them without delay into whatever portion of the province they may be needed.

Hearing of the election protest against the return of D. A. Stewart, Liberal, as member of Lisgar has been fixed for September 25. The trial will be held at Manitou.

The Lake of the Woods Milling company have planned a treat for all their employees in connection with the industrial exhibition. On Tuesday morning next week at 6:30, a special train of three sleepers and three coaches will leave Keewatin with the company's employees, their wives and little ones to the number of 250 on board. The run to Winnipeg will be made without a stop, and the train is due to arrive at 9 a. m. On the same day the entire staff of the Portage mill, with their wives and families, will come in at the company's expense. In order that everybody may get away, the entire plants of the company will be shut down for 26 hours, and to make the reunion more complete, the elevator men of the company throughout Manitoba and the Northwest, are being brought in at the company's expense.

EVACUATION OF TIEN TSIN

Explanation Regarding Request of China to the United States.

Washington, D. C., July 16.— It is said at the State Department that the statement made by Lord Cranborne in the House of Commons yesterday in regard to the evacuation of Tien Tsin to the effect that the British government was not aware that the Chinese government had asked the good offices of the government of the United States in the matter, and that no proposition had been made to Britain in that regard, is entire accurate. There is, however, in this no conflict with the statement previously made, for though the Chinese government did so appeal to the United States government, the only reason why Great Britain was not immediately addressed on the subject when the other powers were being approached, was that the department previously had satisfactory assurances from London on the point. The facts are that the Chinese authorities on July 1st, requested that Minister Wu would kindly ask the government of the United States, which had pursued a just course from the beginning to the end, and maintained an attitude of great fairness, to consult at once the other powers, with a view of causing instructions to be sent to their representatives in China, for a speedy transfer of authority without any more delay. This request was repeated on July 5th. The action taken by the United States in pursu