THE CELEBRATION

Suggestions as to How Victorians Should Observe the Twenty-Fourth.

Naval and Military Display Meets With VeryGeneral Approval.

Now that the wheels have been set in motion of the machine that annually provides Victoria with a Queen's Birthday celebration there should be a constantly growing and general interest taken in the preparations by all classes that go to make up the community in order that the thorough success of the carnival may be assured. As yet not even the main features of the programme have been decided upon, this being—contrary to precedent—left to a committee consisting of the Mayor, Captain Finnis, R. N.; Captain J. D. Warren, Mr. H. D. Helmcken, M.P.P.; Lieut.-Col. Gregory, R.C.A.; Major Williams, R.C.A.; Messrs. H. M. Grahame, Thomas Watson, R. L. Drury, C. H. Lugrin, A. E. McPhillips, M. P. P., G. L. Courtney, George Taylor, John Hall, Noah Shakespeare, C. A. Gregg, S. Sea, Thomas Deasy, Walter Morris and G. A. Kirk. This committee is to meet for the formulation of a programme to-morrow evening, and the result will be laid before a meeting of the general committee on Wednesday next.

Of the several features that have been suggested for the approaching celebration first in popularity appears to be that suggested in the Colonist of last Sunday—a purely formal parade in full dress at Beacon Hill of army, navy and volunteers, the Royal salute from the ships of Her Majesty brought round from Esquimalt and anchored off the Hill, and a return of the troops to quarters after the customary cheers have been given for the Queen. This for the morning of the 24th itself—the afternoon being reserved for the sham battle, with the landing of the marine forces from the warships under cover of their fire, and the swift-darting torpedo chasers playing their part in the instructive but not destructive mimicry of war.

In objection to this programme, with which, however, he expresses himself as heartily in accord, Captain Finnis, who is now senior officer in command on the station, informed the organization meeting of citizens last Wednesday that it would not be feasible to make a landing owing to the dangerous character of the beach at Beacon hill even in calm weather. This objection—and it appears to be the only one—would, however, be removed by the simple expedient of providing a landing stage, in which no engineering difficulties present themselves and by which no expense would be involved that would not be amply repaid by this feature of the carnival—for it more than anything else would draw hundreds and thousands of visitors to the city.

As for a regatta—and many still appear to regard this as an indispensable feature—it has been pointed out that the naval and the Indian races are always the central and all-interesting feature of the aquatic sport. It has also been declared by the naval people that no races with ship's boats can be contested on the Gorge course except against time. Then why not, it is asked, have a regatta in the afternoon of the second day off Beacon hill? Neither the ships' boats nor the Indian canoes are afraid of any rough water that may be looked for in late May, and the races could be contested with plenty of room for all participating and an unexcelled view of the sport for everyone fro mthe Hill and the cliffs.

There is another great attraction that suggests itself in the negotiations that Manager Jamieson has been carrying on of late with the directors of Dan Godfrey's famous band of the Grenadier Guards. This celebrated organization of military musicians will be in Victoria en route to Australia by the 24th and the complete and thorough success of the proposed sham battle might very easily be secured by their engagement to assist. Thus reinforced the sham battle as projected would draw to Victoria such a throng of visitors as the city has never yet had the honor or the opportunity of accommodating.

A firemen's tournament has also been suggested as a strong drawing attraction, while numerous other plans are put forward for the special committee's consideration at to-morrow's meeting. Here, too, is another recent suggestion received by the Colonist which is worthy of serious attention. It is signed by one who modestly signs himself "Resident," but who has borne an important part in celebration preparations for many years:

"As you invite suggestions for the Queen's Birthday," he says, "no apology is needed for a few suggestions. First limit the celebration to two days; and by all means include a naval demonstration off Beacon hill if you can get it—but remember what is an idle pleasure for us, is a very hard day's work to a large number of bluejackets and their officers. Secondly, though there is undoubtedly a terrible sameness about our regattas, I am not sure that it would be wise to give it up, the variety of a picnicking 'al fresco' entertainment after tramping or biking on dusty roads, or sitting in grandstands, is decidedly refreshing, and I think it has always been the one distinctive feature not unfavorably impressed on the minds of visitors.

"With the floral fete all will agree; the wonder is such a thing has never been tried before in Victoria of all places, though I think the 24th of May is nearly a month too late for the quantity of flowers necessary to ensure success.

"There is another novelty which would be instructive as well as attractive to a large number which I would commend to the S. P. C. A., namely a 'Drivers' Parade' for want of a better name, similar to what may be seen in many English towns. I remember once seeing their annual May Day parade in Liverpool; prizes would be offered for the various classes of hacks or wagons with team and driver complete, the test being not so much the breed of the horses, as their general condition, evidence of care and smartness of turnout ready for everyday use. The parade would start from the City hall headed by the fire engines and accompanied by the indispensable band, proceed to Beacon hill where there might be competitions for loading and unloading drays, driving at a trot between stakes, etc., etc., but discourage by all means any form of advertising.

"Finally, if there are to be any bicycle races, why not have a bicycle parade exclusive of decorations but just to test our strength as a body."

Then here is another suggestion— if such it may be called—that emanates from "A Citizen" of sarcastic bent. He says:

"By all means let us keep the regatta—for without it how would the members of the J. B. A. A. be able to gobble up the prizes that are annually purchasable with the funds the citizens provide for the attraction of spending visitors. What difference doe it make, any way, whether only one boat "races" at a time, so long as the prizes are available.

"Besides, citizens of Seattle and Tacoma have long ago come to look upon the typical Victorian, as a result of these regattas, as a sort of amphibious animal of the seal order, spending much of his time in taking and smoking his winter store of salmon, and knowing no other form of recreation and amusement than he may find in his boat or his canoe.

"By all means let us have the regatta—as it was in '62, is now, and ever shall be—world without end. Amen."

SPYING ON THE CHALLENGER.

Sir Thomas Lipton Annoyed by Representatives of the English Press.

London, April 10.—Sir Thomas Lipton, owner of the America's Cup challenger Challenger, has written a letter to the Associated Press on the subject of the men arrested for spying upon that vessel. He says they are English newspapermen and that he has decided not to prosecute them in view of the circumstances. He added:

"I wish it to be known that the men are in nowise connected with America. This is the third attempt made by journalists and I hope it will be the last, as I shall be sorry if I am compelled to take measures which may jeopardize the good feeling at present existing between myself and the press."

THE DUTCH IN AFRICA.

The Cape Dutch have no enthusiasm for the English Empire and the English. To study their history from the time we came to the Cape will explain that fact. But it is to their interest to be loyal, and they know it. And their opponents know it. But in the South African political war game anything is good enough to beat a Dutch dog with.

The Dutch are slow. They are mostly uneducated, as we understand education. They often seem stupid to a quicker or town-bred mind. But the man who buys a Dutchman for a fool will have a hard bargain. Even a blindfolded Dutchman knows on which side his bread is buttered, and their motto in international politics is "Better the devil we know than the devil we don't know."—Fortnightly Review.

GALLANTLY RESCUED.

Officer of the Quadra Performs Noble Deed in Life Saving.

Coincident, or almost so, with the capsizing of a boat at the outer wharf yesterday afternoon, a little tot seven or eight years old named Willie Smithers, fell into the harbor and had a remarkable escape from drowning. The boy with two other children of about his own age were noticed playing about the steamer Quadra by the officers of that ship. At first little attention was paid to them and had it not been for the keen observation of Second Engineer Cullum, Willie would have been drowned. Asking his two playmates as they stood on the wharf gazing unconcernedly into the water, where their companion was, one—evidently not old enough to realize the gravity of the situation—responded without the slightest emotion: "Oh, he is down in the water." A pontoon lays by the side of the ship, which had been used while cleaning the steamer and Engineer Cullum and a fireman having seen the youngster on this, lost no time in searching. They hauled the little fellow out only in the nick of time to save his life; took him on deck and for upwards of twenty minutes Capt. Walbran and his men did everything in their power to resuitate him. Dr. Hall was summoned and the police were sent for to identify the boy but it was some time before his name could be ascertained. The little fellow has been cared for at the residence of Mrs. McCracken, 22 View street. Here he was first taken but on instruction from Dr. Hall he was afterwards removed to the Jubilee hospital, where last evening he had quite recovered.

ALLEGED ROBBER BAILED.

One of Three Who Took a Blacksmith's Wad—The Others Cross the Line.

Grand Forks, April 6.—A bold robbery was committed at Niagara, about six miles from here, last week, the outcome of which is that one Bresser, a blacksmith in McClennan's railway grading camp, is now minus something over $140, one of the robbers is out on bail and the others are over the line into the States.

It appears from Bresser's story that he was sleeping in a tent at the grading camp. On the night of the robbery he was dreaming of someone holding a pistol to his head. He awakened suddenly to find his dream a stern reality, and himself looking down the barrel of a big navy revolver. One of his assailants, of whom there were three, forced him to hold up his hands, while the other two went through his clothes, taking some $140 in money and several checks. These latter, however, they decided were unavailable, and left them behind when they fled.

As soon as it was light Bresser came to town and swore out a warrant, Constable Dinsmore accompanying him to the camp, where he at once identified one Brault, proprietor of the Tunnel hotel at Niagara. The other two, one of whom is a man named Fouts, wanted on the other side of the line for stage robbery in Idaho, had become frightened and fled.

While the robbers were busy going through their victim's clothing the moon came out, thus enabling Bresser to get a good view of them and make his identification very positive.

Later, news was received that the other two men had been seen going over the trail from Niagara to Greenwood, and Constable Gardom of that place, was notified and at once set out to look for them. Late in the evening, while on the lookout on the road between Greenwood and Midway, he saw his men suddenly leave the road ahead of him and take to the brush. He at once started in pursuit, and pressed the miscreants so hard that one of them finally drew a revolver and fired point-blank at the officer, finally making his escape after five shots has been fired.

Brault was brought up before Justices Almond and McCallum to-day and was released on bail, which was put up by a woman with whom he has been living. It is very probable that his accomplices have made their way over the line by this time, but a close watch is being kept, as one of them, Fouts, has warrants out for his arrest over there and officers are already for him on that side, so he may be forced to return.

TO CORRAL SEALS

Elaborate Arrangements Made by the United States Treasury Department.

Wire Fences and Other Strange Devices to Keep Seals on Islands.

Under date of the 25th ultimo, the Washington correspondent of the New York Fur Trade Review sends his paper the following with respect to this season's Behring Sea patrol, and sealing prospects generally:

"The conditions under which the North Pacific and Behring Sea are to be patrolled this year differ materially from those of former seasons, and for this reason the treasury department is planning a campaign of great activity. No fewer than six revenue cutters will be assigned to this work, including the Rush, Perry, Corwin and Grant, which will spend the entire season in patrol service, and the Bear and McCullough, which will spend the closed season in Behring Sea. These six cutters are now being repaired and fitted out for service, and will start north early in May to patrol the Pacific ocean, the entire fleet entering Behring Sea about August 1, at the beginning of the closed season.

"The treasury department has inquired of the British foreign office as to how many British vessels will be contributed to co-operate with the American fleet of revenue cutters, and while no official reply has yet been received, the statement is informally made that two or three small warships will be detached from the British naval station at Esquimalt for this purpose.

"The peculiar provisions of the Davis act, which was not enforced last year owing to the necessity for withdrawing the revenue cutters for use in the Spanish war, have necessitated the formulation of a new series of instructions to the commander of the patrolling fleet, and these are now in course of preparation by Assistant Secretary Spaulding, who has succeeded Assistant Secretary Howell in charge of customs matters since the latter was appointed a member of the board of general appraisers. Captain Shoemaker, of the revenue marine service, is co-operating in this work, to which Supervising Special Agent Chance is also giving attention.

"The new instructions will call for rigorous examinations and prompt action in the way of seizure and confiscation in the case of all clearly defined violations of the law. Incidentally, it is reported that the department will utilize certain officials of the special agents' force to investigate suspicious circumstances pointing to the ownership of sealing vessels by citizens of the United States, or by persons 'owing fealty or obedience to the laws of the United States,' such vessels flying foreign flags and clearing from Canadian ports. No confirmation of these reports can be secured, and it is a question as to whether a vessel clearing from a Canadian port and flying the British flag could be seized under the Davis act, even though she were chiefly owned in the United States. It is assumed that under such circumstances the American ownership would be carefully concealed, and could hardly be proven so conclusively as to justify a seizure.

"This report is chiefly significant as showing the activity in the treasury department with relation to this matter, and the extent to which the officials are preparing to go in the protection of the seal herd. The failure of the joint high commission to arrive at a settlement of the Behring Sea controversy is chiefly responsible for the vigorous fashion in which the subject is now being treated.

"Another set of instructions about to be formulated by the treasury department will be addressed to Special Agents Clark and Judge on the Pribilof islands. They will be similar in more respects to the instructions of last year, but will provide for much more effective work in the branding of the female pups and in the confinement on the islands of all male seals that are driven to the breeding grounds after the killables have been taken out.

"In this connection the treasury department has received the latest advices from the seal islands in the form of an interesting supplementary report prepared by Special Agent Morton since the death of Agent Murray, whose preliminary report was briefly chronicled in these despatches.

"The latest device adopted by the government to prevent the re-driving of seals and also their capture by pelagic sealers, is the impounding of the bachelors. The construction of wire fences around a large lagoon and around Webster lake, on St. Paul island, was completed late last July, says Mr. Morton, and the seals were driven into the inclosures without difficulty, and their confinement was attended with no results affecting their general health and condition, so far as could be observed. Such confinement was not, however, of very long duration at any one time, as the fencing in some respects proved to be imperfect, and it was not found practicable, for want of proper material, to make such alterations as the season's experience had shown to be necessary.

"Some of the larger seals succeeded in climbing over the panels; others found an exit in places underneath, while many of the younger animals forced their bodies through the lower meshes of the wire. The important object to be attained has induced Mr. Morton to recommend such further expenditures of money by the department as may be necessary to complete and perfect the work. In his opinion, if the bachelor seals can be retained on the island during the months of August and September, a diminished stock at sea to meet the demands of pelagic hunters must be the result.

"An additional consideration is found in the fact that such seals as are dismissed from the sealing grounds and allowed to return to the sea are driven and re-driven many times during the season, and by their presence in large numbers on the field seriously retarded the work of segregation and selection by the sealers. The confinement of such animals will materially facilitate the progress of the season's work.

"Mr. Morton made a special study to determine practically the rate of the diminution of seal life, which he found to be evidenced in various ways: first, by the official records of the killing showing a diminished catch of nearly 3,000 as compared with the previous year; second, in the decided contraction of the rookery grounds and the decreased number of cows to the harem; third, a noticeable decrease of idle bulls on and about the rookeries; and fourth, by the results obtained from an actual count of pups. In his opinion, it is evident that if the number of young seals born on the islands each season can be determined with reasonable accuracy, a reliable basis may then be established for comparative estimates of the numerical condition of the herd from year to year. If counted at the proper time, an approximately correct result is practicable.

"Professor Townsend's counts were made in August on both islands, and these, compared with the counts made by him in previous years and with others made under the direction of Dr. Jordan, show that in 1897 there was a decrease of 11 per cent. over the previous year, and during the past season a decrease of 22 per cent. since 1897.

"In concluding this feature of the report, Mr. Morton makes a comparison between the size of the herd at the present time and during the period of its most flourishing condition, from 1870 to 1878. But for the pelagic sealing he declares that the killing annually of 100,000 male seals on the islands could have been carried on indefinitely and without detriment to the future well-being of the fisheries. During the past season, however, in which the utmost efforts of the sealers were put forth, a catch of less than 19,000 was obtained, when the available supply became exhausted. During the coming season Mr. Morton predicts that the catch must be yet smaller, and so on until the lease of the islands will be valueless.

"The report pays a high compliment to the North American Commercial Company, the present lessees of the islands, saying that they have complied with the lease in every particular, and that there is not a shadow of distrust between the company or its employees and the treasury agents. Every demand made by the treasury agents for a change—and many such demands were made—was complied with willingly and cheerfully. Ample supplies of fuel, food and clothing, all of good quality and at reasonable rates, were landed at the islands for the people's use and supplied as wanted on the written orders of the treasury agents, who will henceforth keep an accurate account of every dollar expended on the islands.

"Mr. Morton gives an interesting statement concerning the number of foxes trapped on the Pribilof islands during the season, making a total of 513, for which the natives were paid amounts ranging from $1 to $5 each, aggregating a total of $2,295. As food for the foxes was very scarce on the island of St. George, the carcasses of several hundred seals were transported from St. Paul; but in spite of this effort to supply food, it is Mr. Morton's opinion that this spring there will be a scarcity of sustenance for these animals on St. George, where all the seals killed are required for the support of the natives.

"Concerning the branding of seals, Mr. Morton quotes Mr. Murray as saying that it is a complete success, and may be resorted to annually with perfect safety so long as existing conditions require such measures. From those branded by Mr. Murray in 1896, two were killed in 1897 and the skins were sent to Washington. Mr. Morton thinks that the appearance of the brands will amply demonstrate that neither hair nor fur will ever grow on sealskins after it has been burned by a red-hot iron. Before leaving St. Paul Mr. Murray instructed Special Agent Judge to kill a few of the seals branded in 1897 and send their skins to the department for inspection."

JAMAICA'S GRIEVANCE.

Though Sore About the Tariff Act the People Are True to Their Allegiance.

Halifax, April 10.—(Special)—Mr. Eustace Burke, Canadian government trade commissioner to Jamaica, arrived in the city last night. He says there is not as much United States annexation sentiment in the island as has been reported. He believes the people are loyal to England.

But there is, he says, intense indignation against the colonial government on account of their enactment of a new customs tariff, which largely increases the duties on imports. The passage of the act was only secured by the appointment of four irresponsible members of the legislative council pledged to vote for the government's proposal. They voted for it and the high tariff law passed. Mr. Burke says the government should have met the deficit of £50,000 in colonial finances by cutting down salaries and reducing expenses, and not by increasing duties, particularly in the arbitrary way they adopted.

Reciprocity in trade matters with the United States is what the people of Jamaica want, says the Canadian commissioner, and they are convinced that this alone will secure prosperity to Jamaica.

COQUETTING WITH SILVER.

Suggestion of Fixed Ratio Passes Between the United States and Great Britain.

New York, April 10.—A bluebook giving the evidence obtained by the Indian currency inquiry committee was published to-day. It includes a letter from the United States secretary of state to Lord Adenham, a director of the Bank of England, dated November 25 last, saying: "The Washington cabinet do not consider it expedient for the United States to re-open the bi-metallic question at the present, in view of the characters of the British ministry's reply to the bimetallic commission in 1897." Col. Hay added that the cabinet was open to consider the question of a ratio.

Lord Adenham suggested before the committee that negotiations be entered upon the part of Great Britain with the United States, with the view to coming to arrangements for the re-opening of the Indian mints at the ratio of 22 to 1, because he thought there was a possibility in the future of the American government taking the bit in its teeth and re-enacting the old ratio. He quoted Col. Hay's letter in support of his views that the American government was disposed to adopt the ratio of 22 to 1, and added:

"I talked with Col. Hay when he was here as ambassador, and he seemed favorably disposed to this ratio, but said: 'I am an outgoing ambassador, and of course have no power.' I pointed out that he would have considerable influence when he got back to America and assumed the secretaryship of state, and I asked him to communicate with me. He waited for some time after he returned, I think intentionally until after the congressional elections, and then wrote the letter."

SAXE-COBURG SUCCESSION.

Gotha, April 10.—In the diet to-day a declaration from the Duke of Connaught, brother of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, was read in which the former announced that he was prepared, in view of the death of Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, son and heir of the reigning duke, to assume the government of the duchy should a contingency arise.

CARRIED BY STORM

Santa Cruz Offered But Brief Resistance to the American Forces.

Well Planned Assault by Land and Water Successfully Carried Out.

By Associated Press.

Manila, April 10.—Santa Cruz, the Filipinos' stronghold on Laguna de Bay, fell into the hands of General Lawton's expedition after some sharp, quick firing, forming one of the most interesting and important battles of the war. The plans of the American commanders worked perfectly, with the exception that the progress of the expedition was delayed by the navigation of the river.

About 1,500 picked men composed the expedition, which was under the personal command of General Lawton, on account of the illness of General King. The troops partly surrounded the city, while the gunboats Leguna de Bay, Napidan and Ceste, under the command of Capt. Grant, of the Utah battery, shelled the city and outlying trenches. General Lawton and his staff accompanied the troops, sometimes leading charges in Indian fighting tactics, which eventually resulted in the complete rout of the rebels, with the smallest amount of damage to the city and slight loss to the Americans.

The expedition started from San Pedro Vacati at dusk on Saturday, intending to capture Santa Cruz by assault at daybreak, but in navigating the shallow Pasig river, perhaps through the

Cunning of the Native Pilots

who were not anxious to see the Americans successful, several boats grounded, and it was nearly dawn when the troops reached the lake. The expedition then steamed cautiously forward, the Napidan and the Ceste a mile ahead and the Laguna de Bay guarding the rear. Rebel signal fires, however, were lighted on the mountain top, giving warning of the approach of the troops.

It was noon before the white church towers of the city appeared in the shadow of the great volcanic mountain on a marshy plain, dotted with occasional palm groves. A square-ended, flat-bottomed boat, with a force of 200 picked sharp-shooters under Major Weisenberger, mostly belonging to the First Washington regiment, was run into a shallow inlet about five miles south of the city. Then a few shells were sent towards the entrenchments of the rebels at the edge of the woods, sending the enemy scampering inland. Then a number of Americans jumped into the water, and wading about 100 yards, crept forward and formed in line, covering the landing.

Landed Under Fire.

Three troops of the Fourth cavalry, unmounted, were sent ashore on a dangerous marshy point directly south of the city, under fire from the enemy's trenches. Meanwhile in the town itself there was utter silence and not a sign of life. Gen. Lawton desiring to make an inspection and to give the inhabitants an opportunity to surrender went on board the Laguna de Bay and accompanied by the Associated Press launch steamed slowly to the dock, the whole fleet watching anxiously. When it was discovered by the glasses that the trenches and stone buildings were swarming with white clad soldiers, the two boats withdrew, receiving volleys from the trenches thrown up on the marshy plain north of the city. The fleet anchored in compact formation for the night ready to resist any surprises from the rebel gunboats supposed to be in the lake.

At sunrise to-day (Monday)

The Assaut Commenced.

The American lines south of the city stretched two miles inland and with its left sweeping to sea it moved north, while the Fourth cavalrymen on the point advanced toward the city pouring volleys into the trenches. Simultaneously the gunboats hovered along the shore shelling the woods ahead of the troops and driving the Filipinos inland. The Gatlings cleared several trenches. The brigades were divided into squadrans of twelve and the fighting was carried on in the old time frontier fashion from behind trees, crawling through bushes or rushing across the open. The trenches that were not cleared by the gunboats gave considerable resistance when the lines were nearing the city. The Laguna de Bay and Ceste bombarded them for an hour in the hope of making it too warm for them, but they did not succeed in clearing them entirely. General Lawton with the Fourteenth infantry battalion approached a narrow bridge across a stream on the border of the town. Here a company of Filipinos was entrenched across the stream and behind a stone barricaded at the entrance to the bridge. The Americans rushed forward in single file in the face of a galling fire,

Demolished the Barricade.

with their hands, and drove the enemy from the trenches, killing a dozen. The Filipino soldiers in the town, secreted in the various buildings and firing from the windows, gave the invaders an interesting hour. There was a regular nest of them in the stone gaol, which is hedged in by a wall. This was a veritable pepper pot. The Americans singly or in pairs entered the houses and many warriors were taken prisoners. A considerable body of Filipinos filed northward crossing open marshes, but the Gatlings poured upon them a deadly hail until they disappeared in the woods, a dozen being slain. Major Weisenberger deployed the sharpshooters along the creek and they crept steadily northward. A large body was sent against the enemy in the woods, driving them towards the mountains. Gen. Lawton established headquarters at the elegant

Palace of the Governor

and a guard was immediately placed in the church, as the sacred edifices are always the first objective of looters. Within an hour the town was patrolled and all looting rigidly prevented. Almost all the inhabitants had fled during the two preceding nights and only a few Chinese shop keepers have emerged from hiding and resumed business.

Dead and Wounded.

On the marshes north of the town were found forty dead Filipinos, some terribly torn by shells and many others wounded, to whom the Americans offered their canteens as though they were comrades. A surgeon who traversed the field counted eighty killed.

One Filipino attempting to make his escape slashed violently at Major Weisenberger, who shot and killed him. Yesterday the insurgents captured two men of the Fourteenth infantry while unarmed but the Americans stole the guns from their captors, clubbed them, hid in the trees over night and returned this morning.

The gunboats this afternoon have been searching the Santa Cruz river for shipping. To-morrow the expedition will push forward, the Americans having destroyed several miles of telegraph lines, cutting off insurgent communication east and west.

INDIAN TRADITIONS.

An Interesting Talk by Father Brabant at the Natural History Society Meeting.

One of the most interesting meetings of the season of the Natural History Society was held last evening in their rooms. There was a very large attendance, and among those present as visitors were Rev. Father Brabant, of Hesquoit, and Rev. Father Van Nevel, of Clayoquot. The former has been twenty-five years among the Indians of the West Coast and is thoroughly familiar with their habits, customs and language. He gave a very interesting talk on some reminiscences, especially relating to the traditions of the visit of Capt. Cook and Capt. Vancouver, the Spanish occupation and the loss of the Tonquin, and which is definitely located near Leonard Island in Clayoquot Sound. He also gave a lot of information about the Indians of the West Coast and many other things referred to certain personal experiences of an unpleasant character. He was shot twice by an Indian chief at the time of the smallpox epidemic, and was threatened by the Nootkas with a similar fate. Some day probably Father Brabant will write fully his experiences of the West Coast.

A paper was read by Mr. J. W. McKay, of the Indian office, on "Indian Music," which will form a valuable contribution to the society's archives. He described the Indians as only moderately musical, and gave an interesting discourse on the characteristics of their compositions and performances. Of all the Indians of British Columbia those of the Lower Fraser and the South Coast were the most musical. They had, he said, no musical instruments. All Indian airs were of a plaintive character, a melancholy cadence pervading all their numbers, and set in a minor key. Their songs were without words, except as improvised as they sang, and to a greater or less extent explained their mental characteristics and various moods. Mr. McKay gave one vocal illustration of their songs. The paper was well received.

Mr. O. C. Hastings presented a collection of mice and birds collected by him while North; Mr. Carl Loewenberg, a collection of shells, and Mr. Deans a brick from an Indian cairn.

The treasurer's statement was submitted, showing $86 in hand. Although the receipts were larger than usual, the surplus was smaller, owing to the large expenditure in fitting up the new quarters.

VANCOUVER'S BUDGET.

Tailors and Bricklayers on Strike--Two Drowned--Attempt at Suicide.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, April 10.—Spring suits are at a big premium owing to the tailors of Vancouver being still on strike. One enterprising merchant who is having his made-to-orders put together in Victoria and shipped back to Vancouver is doing a big business.

Westminster bricklayers are also still out on strike for an increased wage, and as the early reconstruction of the city depends in great measure on the work of these artizans, the trouble is a serious one.

The stenographers of Vancouver having combined, have decided to raise the standard of competency and demand higher wages.

J. J. Kane attempted to cross the Lillooet river, 12 miles from Jack's landing, with a klootchman in a canoe. The canoe upset and both were drowned. Kane was an American.

Ruby Vernon, a demi-mondaine hailing from Victoria, attempted suicide by jumping into the Inlet on Sunday morning at 7 o'clock. She obtained a hack, drove to Stanley park and paid the driver, who, suspecting something wrong, hung about and shortly afterwards saw her in the water. He drew her from the water with some difficulty, but on the way back to town she threw herself out of the hack and was run over. She was not much hurt and quickly recovered. She said she fell off a log into the water. She had $200 with her at the time.

LAW MAKERS GO SEEDING.

Call to the Fields Causes Adjournment of Manitoba Legislature.

Winnipeg, April 10.—(Special)—It is reported to-night that owing to the early approach of seeding operations the Manitoba legislature will adjourn this week until June. During the interval, if the adjournment be taken, the Manitoba ministers will visit Ottawa to present the claims of the province for control of the school lands.

There was an extended debate in the legislature this afternoon on the proposal that the province should ask the Dominion government to hand over to Manitoba all the lands held for school purposes and that the revenue derived therefrom should accrue to the province. Several members of the opposition supported the motion.

TWELVE MINERS KILLED.

Victims of Gas Explosion in a Texas Mine.

Austin, Tex., April 10.—A mining disaster in which 12 men lost their lives is reported from Sierra Medjeda mining camp, located in the state of Coahuila, Mexico, fifty miles south of Presidio, Texas. An explosion of foul gas occurred in the Veda Rica silver mine, and before all the miners got to the surface the dry timbers took fire, the fierce flames barring exit.

DROWNED IN MONTANA.

Twelve Persons Victims of Overflow of Yellowstone River.

Glendive, Montana, April 10.—Twelve persons are now known to be victims of the overflow, caused by ice, of the Yellowstone river below here on Friday night. Ten bodies have been recovered, and the search party expect to find two to-day. Among the drowned whose bodies have been found were James Sullivan, his wife and six children. The doors and windows of their residence were found open and the entire family dead in the rooms.

Croker's Fat Graft.

Young Man's Happy Thought Varies Fortunes of Construction Company.

The Boss Notifies Committee of His Early Departure for Europe.

By Associated Press.

New York, April 10.—At the second day's sessions of the Mazet investigation committee to-day a surprise was created when Mr. Moss rose and said that certain disreputable individuals were going about extorting money upon the plea that they had been engaged to serve subpoenas. According to Mr. Moss their plan was to withhold the suprious subpoena for a consideration.

Dr. O'Sullivan, who represents the city departments, then rose and after announcing that Frank Croker was in court and had not been served with a subpoena, created some little stir by adding: "Mr. Richard Croker desires me to say that he will be at the disposal of the investigating committee at any time up to 18th of April, when he sails for Europe."

Mr. Moss then called for Frank Croker, and the son of the Tammany Hall leader took the witness chair. He said he was 21 last September. He owned 170 shares out of 500 in the Roebling Construction Company. He had no relative who was interested in the other Roebling Company. Young Croker said he himself proposed to his father that he enter the Roebling Company. He admitted he did not know much about engineering or fire proof construction. He simply wanted to go into a good company. Mr. Moss by his line of questioning apparently endeavored to intimate that Richard Croker had put his son into the Roebling Company. The young man, however, was persistent in the statement that it was his own idea. Croker said he paid $17,000 for his stock. He paid it by check to the treasurer of the company. His check came back in the ordinary course of events. Then Mr. Moss got very interested. Young Croker said his father paid the check, gave him the money for it and he gave them the money for it.

"You can get that check that was given you?"

"Yes, sir," said Croker.

"Will you send it to me?" asked Mr. Moss, courteously, and then it transpired there had been no check at all in the transaction. Mr. Croker corrected his previous statement.

"Why did you say you gave a check?" asked Mr. Moss.

"I thought you meant paid it, gave him a check," replied the witness, who firmly declared he had not understood Mr. Moss' question. The money was paid to the treasurer of the company, Frank Briggs.

Mr. Moss got Croker to say that before going into the Roebling Company they had explained the status of their business to him and he had found their statements to be absolutely correct.

One of the Roeblings testified Saturday that it was only recently that their method of construction had been passed by the building department. Mr. Moss suddenly changed his friendly line of questioning and asked Croker:

"Then you learned that the kind of fire-proof business the Roeblings were doing was a kind that was not allowed generally to go through the building department, did you not?"

"I learned that afterwards," answered Croker.

"Then tell me," said Mr. Moss, "in the light of everything that you have discovered since the original statements made by those people, if they were fair and square, if before allowing you to join they had made representations which concealed the fact that their kind of fire-proofing was in bad odor in New York, and allowed you to put your money in, it would have been misrepresentation.

"They never said they were in bad odor; I don't think it is in bad odor now," replied Croker.

"Of course it is not now," said Mr. Moss with emphasis.

"It was not then, either," rejoined Croker. The witness held that although he at first had only expected to go into the company in a subordinate position, he was not surprised at the proposition that he should be made a stockholder. They had told him that the new company was going to do fire-proofing. He did not really know then what fire-proofing was.

MANITOBA AND NORTHWEST

Farmer Suicides—A Church Anniversary—C. P. R. Official in Luck.

Winnipeg, April 11.—(Special)— Wm. Leask, a Dominion City farmer, committed suicide this morning by shooting. Deceased was about 48 years of age and came to Manitoba from Lindsay, Ont., twenty years ago.

T. L. Metcalf has received from Ottawa official notification of his appointment as clerk for the revision of the voters' lists for Winnipeg and has opened an office to receive the names of voters.

Hon. J. D. Cameron received a telegram this morning announcing that his mother had died suddenly. He left on the first train for Woodstock, Ont.

It is reported that Premier Haultain will be offered the Conservative nomination for Eastern Assiniboia for the next Dominion election.

Joseph Ross, an ex-Toronto contractor, is dead here, aged 72 years.

Yesterday was an important occasion in the history of the Winnipeg congregations of the Church of England, being the commencement of the centennary celebration of the church missionary society in Canada. Appropriate services were held in the afternoon. Besides local clergymen the Archbishop of Rupertsland, Bishop Ridley of Caledonia and Archdeacon Kirkby were preachers of the day.

On severing his connection with the C. P. R., F. W. Jones, late assistant to Manager Whyte, was presented by his fellow employees with a check for $1,000 and a silver tea service valued at $300. Mr. Jones leaves here shortly to manage a British Columbia lumber company.

Chief Hughes Fails.

Montreal, April 10.—Brierly and McKay, of the Herald, were acquitted this evening of the charge of criminal libel laid by Chief of Police Hughes. The jury, after being out one hour, returned a verdict of not guilty.

Workhouse Collapses.

Montreal, April 10.—The fourth floor of the flour and provision warehouse of Eli Benoit, on St. Paul street, gave way this afternoon under the weight of its load and fell through to the cellar. The interior of the warehouse is a wreck. Philip Dubar, a storeman, was carried down with the wreck and is badly injured.