Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH, 1889.

NOT A MATTER OF OPINION.

The ignorance and prejudice that are found among people supposed to be intelligent with respect to sanitary matters are simply astonishing. One would think that they neither read nor observed, nor were capable of reading and observing. We were, we must say, surprised to see in Monday's *Times* the following sentence: "Those who are of opinion that cleanliness is inseparable from health, will find evidence to the contrary in Mr. H. Norman's description of the city of Pekin which he describes as the dirtiest city in the world." That a newspaper in this age of the world, in a civilized country would speak of the connection of dirt with disease as a matter of "opinion," is indeed wonderful. Every intelligent man *knows* that cleanliness is an essential condition of health. He knows that it has been proved over and over again in every civilized country that effective drainage and the removal of decomposing organic matter have improved the public health. By the establishment of good sanitary conditions, that is, by the speedy removal of filth of all kinds, the death rate has been greatly lessened in hundreds of cities and towns. In many of the towns of Great Britain the chances of a man keeping in good health are much better than they were fifty or even twenty years ago, and many years have been added to the average length of the citizen's life.

"Two hundred years ago," an authority says, "the death rate of London was eighty per thousand; and by the influence of sanitary improvements it has now been reduced to twenty-one and one-half per thousand, in spite of the enormous growth of the town and the great crowding to which many of its people are still subjected. When the improvement of the sewerage was actively undertaken in London some twenty-five years ago it was found that the death-rate was so much reduced in some of the worst quarters of the town that if the same reduction could be made universal the annual deaths would be twenty-five thousand less in London, and one hundred and seventy-seven thousand less in England and Wales; or by another view, that the average ages at death would be forty-eight, instead of twenty-nine, as it then was."

There was a great change, indeed, brought about by greater cleanliness alone. Mr. Baldwin Latham shows from the bills of mortality of several English towns that the mortality in them was by making them cleaner, reduced 32, 22, 20, 18 per cent., and that the typhoid fever rate was lessened in all these towns from 75 to 10 per cent. In the twelve towns named the reduction in one only was ten per cent., in the others it was far greater, averaging at least fifty per cent. Reduction in the rate of phthisis or consumption was also marked, ranging from 41 to 11 per cent. We say nothing here of the awful epidemics of the times when sanitary science was unknown. The black death, the plague, the small pox, and the cholera morbus, then almost depopulated cities and large areas of country. Merely because Mr. Norman says that Pekin is an abominably dirty city and still people are able to live in it, our contemporary jumps to the conclusion that dirt after all does not do so much harm. But Mr. Norman says nothing about the consequences of that dirt. What he does not say about Pekin would fill several large volumes. He was only there a few days and had to condense his description of the city into a short letter. The laws of nature are not suspended in Pekin. Dirt produces disease there as well as it does in Victoria, or Toronto, or Montreal. Every one knows that in China human life is not valued very highly. If the dirt of Pekin kills thousands every year, as it no doubt does, they are not missed. Other thousands are ready to take their places. We would like to know what infant life is worth in Pekin. We know that bad sanitary conditions are cruelly hard on the babies. The tender little things die like flies in these horribly unhealthy hives. This is conspicuously seen no farther off than Montreal. That city is divided into the English section and the French section. In the part of the city inhabited by English-speaking people, some attention is paid to the laws of health. The infant mortality there, though much too large, is trifling compared with what it is in the French quarter where the laws of health are utterly disregarded. The difference of the infant mortality of the two sections is appalling, and one of the strongest proofs we know of the efficiency of the observance, though imperfect at best, of sanitary regulations.

We do hope that our contemporary will not become the apostle of the gospel of dirt. The Chinese do not grow fat in foul places. The complaint is that they are afflicted with loathsome diseases. How is it that the most horrible of all diseases, leprosy, is found among them? Is not this one effect of their violation of the laws of health? The Chinese, as far as our observation goes, are not personally dirty. They wash themselves frequently and this may, in some degree, counteract the evil influences of filthy surroundings. But we are very far from admitting that the Chinese do not suffer from their disregard of the laws of health. Closer enquiry than Mr. Norman has been able to make, would no doubt show that the consequences which follow the violation of nature's laws are to be seen in Pekin, as well as in European and American cities. We venture to say that when Mr. Norman gets home he will not be careless about his drain pipes or the condition of his own and his neighbors' premises, because he has seen Chinamen living in the midst of filth unspeakable. He would, no doubt, feel amazed that any intelligent person would draw the conclusion from his Pekin letter that the writer of the paragraph in the *Times* has done, and he would no doubt feel greatly annoyed if he believed he had given the most superficial and prejudiced reader any reason for believing that filth is harmless and that precautions for the preservation of the public health are not necessary. They are most necessary, and the neglect of them is nothing short of a crime.

A GROUNDLESS CLAIM.

The American newspapers seem to be at a loss what to say about the President's proclamation respecting Behring's sea. They evidently believe that the claim to exclusive jurisdiction over that vast expanse of ocean is not just, and cannot be made good by the law of nations. If any other country made the same claim, under similar circumstances, Americans would be the first to protest against it and to denounce it as preposterous. No other nation ventures to make any such claim in any part of the world. If the British on the eastern side of the continent claimed exclusive jurisdiction over much smaller bodies of water, and which could, with far greater propriety, be called enclosed seas, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, for instance, the Americans would be up in arms in a moment, and would wax indignantly eloquent over the insolence and the unreasonableness of the claim. There seems to be no doubt that the United States has no right, natural or acquired, to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over the waters of Behring's sea. It is said that they purchased the right from Russia, but the Americans were among the first to deny that Russia possessed any such right, and it was impossible for Russia to sell what she did not own. If the United States exercises jurisdiction over the high seas north of the Aleutian Islands, she will do it according to the "good old way," which is, that they who have the power take, and those keep what they take who are strong enough to do so. It will be a singular thing if the United States, which is so exacting in her dealings with other powers, is allowed to hold what she cannot prove her right to by either law or custom. This is going back to barbarous times when might was right. It appeared that the Government of the United States a short time ago knew that it had no right to exercise supremacy in Behring's Sea, for it entered into negotiations with several maritime powers in order to come to some agreement relative to the preservation of the fur seal in the waters of that sea. Those negotiations have evidently been broken off by Mr. Blaine, who has taken upon himself to settle the matter by a short and what appears to him, no doubt, an easy method. But there are greater difficulties in the way of successfully asserting that claim than he may be aware of. To say nothing of the protests which will, doubtless, be put in by Great Britain and other maritime nations, there are many United States citizens who do not admit the Government's claim, who repudiate it, and who are prepared to contest it in the United States courts. In the pamphlet on the fur seal fisheries, which we alluded to a few days ago, American citizens deny in the plainest terms the right of their Government to exercise jurisdiction over Behring's Sea. They say:

"The impression has gone out that the Behring Sea is an enclosed water and under the full control of the United States and Russia. Just how and where this claim was first obtained no one seems to know. It sprang into existence like a mushroom, and apparently with the same strength and standing. Our government could with the same consistency all of a sudden, claim control of the Gulf of Mexico. It is considered by all maritime law that a nation can only control a certain distance of the sea from her shores. This has been the established custom as a maritime law for an indefinite time, and our Government insists that the American fishermen shall have all right outside of the three-mile limit from the land in the controversy between the Canadian and American fishermen, and would not consider the ten-miles headland point as asked by the Canadians, but when they come to the Pacific in the Behring's Sea they go directly back on what they claim on the Eastern side, and say we own all this sea and if you are found in it your vessels are subject to seizure and yourself fined, making no allowance whatever for what portion you may be in, whether one mile or one hundred miles from land. Our government going directly back on what it claims from the Canadian authorities on the other side, we ask, can this claim be held when it comes to a final issue. So far it has been done by force, but might is not always right, and can anyone claim but what our government will have yet to pay for the damages to Canadians and her own citizens for the losses they have sustained by the seizure of their vessels and forfeiture of same by our government in its raid among the sealers in the year 1887, in the Behring Sea."

The inconsistency and the injustice of the American government in making this claim, it is seen, strikes United States citizens quite as forcibly as it does Canadians, and it will be singular indeed if such an extraordinary claim when it is questioned, as it no doubt will be, can be made good.

AN UNLOOKED-FOR DEFEAT.

The defeat which prohibition sustained in New Hampshire a few days ago was a great surprise to Canadian prohibitionists. They theorize on the subject and draw such beautiful pictures of what a country under prohibition must be, that they believe that the state in which intoxicating drinks are forbidden to be sold by legal enactment, must of necessity be prosperous and happy. It would be free from all the evils which excessive indulgence in strong drink brings upon a community, and once having tasted the sweets of prohibition it would not dream of going back to the condition of those communities in which the traffic is permitted. But many things which in theory appear to be impossible are found in actual life to come to pass. New Hampshire has had stringent prohibition laws for over thirty years. A generation has grown to manhood since it was unlawful to sell intoxicating drink in New Hampshire, but singular to say, when the people were asked to strengthen prohibition by incorporating it into their state constitution a majority of them refused to do so. A constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds vote, but the prohibitionists, instead of getting the necessary two-thirds of the electors, were actually in a minority of some 5,000.

The reason of the defeat appears to be that it was seen that prohibition in New Hampshire did not prohibit. The people of that State were not educated up to the point of honest prohibition in thirty odd years. The prohibition laws are, it is said, openly violated in every town in the State, and as it had been found impossible to enforce the laws they had in all those years, the electors did not see the use of enacting more laws to be treated with contempt. The prohibitionists of Maine no doubt gave their neighbors in New Hampshire all the moral support they could. Maine is pointed to everywhere as an example of the success of prohibition. Yet with such an example continually before their eyes and with their own thirty years experience besides, the prohibitionists of New Hampshire lost the day. We do not think that this is because temperance has become unpopular in New Hampshire or that its citizens have become indifferent to the evils that excessive indulgence in strong drink produces in the State. They have merely become convinced that prohibitory laws were not a cure for those evils. They are like a man who has been for a long time taking a certain kind of medicine for a disease with which he is afflicted and finding it does him no good throws it away. It is not to be thought that when he does this he has become careless as to the progress of the disease. It is quite possible that he sees his danger more clearly than ever, and is more anxious to be cured, but he sees that the old medicine is no remedy and he wisely discontinues its use. The case of New Hampshire and other States, which have found the prohibition one a failure are well worth enquiring into. Why has not prohibition produced the results hoped for and expected? Because it has not been enforced is the ready answer. But why was it not enforced? The answer to that question is not so ready. There are many answers to it, and they differ widely. The true one, we believe, is because the people were not prepared for prohibition. They really did not want it, and so violating the prohibition law was not regarded as an offence against good morals. Public opinion was on the side of the offender, and consequently it was found impossible to enforce the law. When the people really want a prohibitory law they will find ways and means of putting it in force. Then, and not until then, will prohibition prohibit.

Governor Waterman, of California, is reported to have sold his mine near San Bernardino for $3,000,000. It has been yielding the governor a net income of $500 a day, and $5,000,000 worth of ore is now in sight.

THE GREAT DEBATE.

Our Ottawa telegram of yesterday told us that the great debate on the Jesuit Act was opened at last. The crowds who filled the galleries of the House of Commons must have been disappointed for none of the leading men of either party spoke. Col. O'Brien who set the ball of debate rolling is a very worthy man. He is well educated and intelligent, but he does not shine as an orator. Besides being a layman he could not deal with the legal aspect of the case, and the question of disallowance has become one mainly of constitutional law. Is the Act *ultra vires* or *intra vires*—in plain English, had the Quebec Legislature the power to pass it or not? appears to be the question which the House of Commons is called upon to decide. This is a dry question of law with which gentlemen of the long robe alone are competent to deal. A plain blunt soldier like Col. O'Brien would soon get bewildered in the intricacies of an abstruse legal argument. He indeed would hardly be rash enough to attempt to discuss the legal points involved in the question. And the legal points are the only ones that are in the House of Commons really important. On the division of the resolution relating to the use of the prerogative of disallowance a large proportion of the members of the House have already made up their minds. The Liberals hold that if a law is within the jurisdiction of the provinces and is in other respects constitutional it should receive the sanction of the Governor-General as a matter of course. They have decided that to admit the expediency of using that power even on such plausible pretexts as "the protection of the rights of the minority, the preservation of the fundamental principles of constituents, and for safe-guarding the general interests of the people" is dangerous. We may say here that we suspect that the words "fundamental principles of constituents" should read "fundamental principles of the constitution." If a mistake has been made in transmission there will not be a great deal of harm done. For preserving the fundamental principles of the constitution is a nice sounding phrase, but it is exceedingly indefinite. It is a little difficult to tell what the fundamental principles of the British constitution are. If a law passed by a provincial legislature is in accordance with the British North America Act and if it does not clash with laws passed by the Federal legislature it is safe, we think, to take for granted that it does not violate any of the fundamental principles of the constitution. The minority in each of the provinces is supposed to be able to take care of itself, and Liberals hold that the provincial legislatures are quite as able to safe guard the general interests of the people under their jurisdiction as is the Government of the Dominion. The Liberals will, therefore, have to disagree with the greater part of the first division of the resolution. If Col. O'Brien cannot prove to them that the Quebec Legislature had no power under the constitution to pass the Jesuits Act, his eloquence will be thrown away upon them, and this is precisely the part with which the gallant colonel is not competent to deal. Neither Mr. Barron nor Mr. Clarke Wallace could be expected to make much headway in what is regarded as the most important part of the question. Mr. Rykert is not by any means a constitutional lawyer. His fort is enquiry into the antecedents of his opponents to find out whether their record at any given time on any given question is consistent or not. So famous is he for his industry and ability in disinterring the disagreeable facts of the past that he is known in Parliament as the "scrap-book orator." He would not be at home in proving to the House that the Statutes of Henry the VIII. and Queen Mary did not apply to the Quebec Jesuit Act. Mr. Clarke Wallace, although he has attained eminence in the Orange Order, is not regarded as an authority on constitutional law. He is an industrious painstaking representative, but his talents are not in the direction of historical research. We hardly think that his speech would make a very great impression on the audience, or throw much light on the subject under discussion. Mr. Colby is a gentleman of culture and ability, and it is certain that he would not undertake to speak on a subject of such importance unless he was well prepared. The speech that he would make would be worthy of the subject and the occasion. The Hon. Peter Mitchell can make a sharp speech and an amusing one, but he is not fond of heavy subjects. Take it altogether we would say that the great debate has not had a very auspicious opening, and those who came to be instructed or excited would be likely to be considerably disappointed. The men who could speak effectively on the subject were silent.

But after all the intelligent reader of the newspapers will heat very little from even the great guns of the House on the Jesuit question that they had not heard or read before. It is astonishing how little there is to be said to the purpose on any question. When once it is fairly and fully stated, and the arguments on each side heard, very little follows that is not repetition. Here the newspapers have the advantage of the parliamentary orators. They have on most questions of general interest the first say. The subject is often pretty well threshed out in the newspapers before it reaches the House or Commons, and the members, even the ablest and best informed of them, can do no more than put their own dress on facts and arguments that the editors have for months, perhaps, been serving up to the public in a hundred forms. This Jesuit question is one of these well discussed subjects. It has been debated in the newspapers, at public meetings of many kinds and in the pulpit. In Ontario and Quebec particularly, it has been the theme of so many discourses that he must be a clever man indeed who can say anything upon it that is new or striking. The staleness of the subject, the conviction that they must say what others have said before them, no doubt acts as a damper on the really able men of the House, and it is no wonder that they are reluctant to speak on a subject which has already become hackneyed. This conviction seems to have no such depressing effect on the lightweights of the Legislature. A topic is never too stale for them. A debate is pretty well over before they are educated up to the speaking point, and when once they are loaded and primed they must go off if they empty the House.

When the lawyers come to speak they may have something fresh to say on the subject. It appears that they are divided. Mr. Dalton M'Carthy, who is one of the best lawyers in the Dominion, does not agree with Sir John Thompson, but rumor has it that Mr. Blake believes that the Act is within the competency of the Quebec Legislature. It does not seem to be known whether he intends to speak or not. When Mr. M'Carthy, Sir John Thompson and Mr. Blake have spoken on the subject there will be but little to be said on the legal aspect of the question. Anyone who expects the speeches of those gentlemen to be anything but cold dispassionate specimens of forensic reasoning, will be greatly mistaken. There will not be anything like what the frequenters of the galleries consider fun in the House when the really able men are speaking upon the Jesuits Act. We should not be at all surprised to learn that the great debate will be pronounced dull by five-sixths of those who hear it.

Mrs. Leah Garlitz, aged 23, was shot and killed on a Baltimore street yesterday. Her husband is accused.

JOURNALISTIC IMPERTINENCE.

It is hard for a small man to hide his smallness let him have ever so good a chance of concealment. When an editor abandons the subject under discussion to make guesses as to the authorship of a contemporary's articles he labels himself "little" in big capital letters. What does the public care about the secrets of the sanctum. If an article is good and to the point it is approved of and liked, and if it is dull and stupid they condemn it. The article is judged like other commodities by its quality. Who the author is is no one's concern. The personality of the writer cannot make a bad article good or a good article bad. But small-minded scribblers cannot get this obvious truth into their lilliputian skulls. They are perpetually making allusions to their opponents or rivals, which are as silly as they are impertinent. This habit is grossly unprofessional, and has been abandoned by all journalists who know their business. Yet the editor of the *News-Advertiser* clings to it. He makes guesses about the authorship of articles in THE COLONIST, which ought to convince the public that he is too narrow-minded a man to deal intelligently and impartially with subjects of public interest, and which demonstrate to us that he is lamentably wanting in literary discernment. As we have said the authorship of the articles has nothing whatever to do with their merit or with the subjects discussed in them; and we know that the *News-Advertiser's* conjectures are ridiculously wide of the mark. Although it is no business of his we will for once answer a fool according to his folly, and tell the *News-Advertiser* guesser that the articles which he attributes to outsiders were written by the editor of this paper and with no other information than is afforded by public documents, open to all. If our contemporary were as sagacious as he would have his readers believe him to be he would have known this without being told. His surmises merely prove his stupidity. For our own part, now that we have had such convincing proofs of his ineptitude, we merely laugh when we see him guessing at anything. We know him to be about the worst guesser alive, and therefore conclude that he is a thousand times more likely to be absurdly wrong than right. Would it not be better for the editor of the *News-Advertiser* to drop the guessing business and confine himself to the discussion of his subjects without rambling off into personalities and impertinences. If he did so he would save space and would be less wearisome to his readers, which would be two great points gained, and he might if the reformation were complete, convince some of his readers that he was, at least, beginning to learn how to do journalistic work.

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

It is surprising that so little progress has been made in settling the claims of the owners of the Canadian sealing schooners that were seized by the United States revenue cruisers in the summer of 1887. These men were deprived of their property as they consider, unlawfully. They were pursuing their lawful avocation on the high seas more than a hundred miles from land. The vessels were boarded by a foreign ship of war, the crews were imprisoned and their property was taken from them by force. They protested against this ill-usage and made the necessary representations to the government which was bound to protect them. But that government has not yet proved its ability to shield them from what they regard as open robbery. It does not appear that either the British or the Canadian government recognizes the claim of the United States to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over that part of the Pacific ocean that goes under the name of Behring's sea. They, we believe, question the validity of that claim, but although this is the case these loyal Canadians, these subjects of Queen Victoria, have not been able to get reparation for the very great injustice that has been done them. They are not rich men and they feel acutely the loss of their ships and other property. It is not surprising that they are becoming impatient and question the willingness of the government to protect them in the exercise of their lawful calling. They are ready to make allowance for the slowness of the movements of governments, but they think that something might be done in the very considerable period that has elapsed since the seizures were made.

The delay in settling this matter produces other serious results. It makes the British subjects who are now engaged in this fur seal fishery uncertain as to what may befall them. They do not know how soon the fate of the owners of the seized schooners may be theirs, and they have no assurance, if they are seized illegally, that the government under whose flag their ships sail is prepared to obtain reparation for them. They think that honest subjects of the Queen of Great Britain should not be exposed to seizure and ill-usage on the high seas by the ships of any nation in the world. It is something new for British seamen engaged in a lawful business to fear interruption from the officials of a foreign nation. They have not been accustomed to do their work in fear and trembling. An end should be put to this condition of uncertainty, which has a very injurious effect on an important branch of British Columbia industry. If the British Government recognizes the claim of the United States to exclusive jurisdiction over Behring's sea, it is only right that its subjects, here and elsewhere, should be made aware of the fact without delay. If the Government does not allow that claim, those British subjects who have been made to suffer on account of its assertion by the United States, should have compensation for the losses that have been inflicted on them; and the uncertainty and the danger that hang over the sealing industry of the province, should be removed without any unnecessary delay. We, for our part, do not for a moment question the ability and the willingness of the British Government to protect all its subjects everywhere and to obtain satisfaction for any injury that may be done them, but we do think that those whom that Government employs to do its work, are not always as zealous or as energetic as they might be, or as the occasion demands. They sometimes need looking after, and are none the worse for being reminded now and then, that they might discharge their duties more efficiently.

THE SEIZED SEALERS.

The Grace, Dolphin, Ada and Anna Beck, Sold by Auction.

The Vessels Disposed of for $5,645 to Puget Sound Parties, Who Will Re-Fit Them For Sealing in the North Pacific Ocean.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

PORT TOWNSEND, March 26.—The British sealing schooners, seized three years ago in Behring's Sea by United States revenue cutters for violating treaty obligations, were sold at public auction to-day by United States Marshal Hamilton. The vessels laid at Sitka, Alaska, several months after being seized, and in this harbor for the past year. The schooner Grace was purchased by T. J. Corrigan and R. J. Lowe, of Port Townsend, for $1,525; the Dolphin by Mr. Olsen for $1,350; the Ada by J. C. Nixon, of Seattle, for $1,800; and the Anna Beck, by Mr. Peterson of Neah Bay, for $970. The vessels were appraised when captured at $10,000. They will be refitted for sealing in the North Pacific Ocean this season.

C. M. Bradshaw, of this city, was confirmed Collector of Customs of Puget Sound to-day.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, March 27.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

New Westminster Southern.

The contract for building the crib-work on the line of the Southern Railway, near the hatchery, is completed. The crib-work is 1,900 feet in length, and 60,000 lineal feet of timber were used in its construction. The whole structure is substantial and complete in every detail, and Lemon & Co., the contractors, are much pleased with their success.

Incoming Passengers.

The steamship Walla Walla left San Francisco yesterday with the following passengers on board for Victoria:—Mrs. Broderick, George W. Rayner, Mrs. B. Ker, R. Roberts, Rev. C. Croucher, R. S. Galbraith, Captain S. S. Allister, H. J. Morton, H. C. Brackett and wife, A. L. Hewson and wife, J. Coulson, T. Bolton, Mrs. A. Johnson, C. Kinsman, W. Leet, F. Scott, S. Johnson.

Lost in the Gulf.

The tug Leonora while on her way from Departure Bay to Vancouver on Saturday last, with a scow load of Wellington coal, encountered a heavy cross sea during a squall. The waves washed over the scow, smashing the bulwarks and causing about 180 tons of the coal to find their way to the bottom of the gulf. The total consignment was 140 tons, only 20 tons of which was saved. The loss was about $750.

Cayoosh Creek.

Captain McLeod, and one or two others who accompanied him, returned to Vancouver from Cayoosh Creek on Sunday. They report everything in a favorable condition. Captain McLeod and those who are associated with him are confident they have a bonanza. There can be no doubting the genuineness of the placer diggings which exist there. Some nuggets have been taken out ranging as high as $125 in value.

The Alaska Summer Travel.

The magnificent steamship Corona is expected to leave San Francisco to-day for the north. She will call at Portland *en route*, and will leave here on her first trip to Alaska about the 2nd of April, running as an excursion steamer during the season. The appointments of the Corona are all first-class, and tourists who take passage on her will enjoy luxurious travelling.

New Westminster Southern Car Shops.

A bill is to be introduced in the Provincial Legislature to-day to provide for the granting of a certain quantity of land at the head of Lulu Island to the city of Westminster, it being the intention to erect thereon car shops and other buildings in connection with the New Westminster Southern Railway. The land in question is partly submerged and will require considerable filling in. A bridge will be built from the mainland to the island.

Obituary.

Capt. Chas. E. S. McDonald, who will be remembered by all old residents of this city, died in San Francisco last. The deceased was aged 65, and a native of Dingwall, Scotland. Capt. McDonald came to Victoria about fifteen years ago, and trained a troop of Indians in his lifetime. Some years ago he was again teaching they gave remarkable exhibitions of their proficiency in the old Theater Royal. The Indians were afterwards taken to Europe, with several Modoc Indians, and gave many exhibitions in London, Paris and other European capitals.

The Salmon Industry.

A Richmond correspondent of the *News-Advertiser* writes: "There will be six canneries in operation this year. The enterprising firm of Ewen, Todd & Co., in addition to the Richmond Cannery, have completed a very extensive establishment on the south side at Lulu Island wharf (Condon's). A Montreal firm is constructing one at Steveston, between D. and E. Munn & Co. are erecting one on an island in the mouth of the North Arm near "Terr Nova." So the members of the fishing fleet will need no considerable dodging if they evade the nets that will be stretched out for their capture during the coming season."

Mining Property Sold.

The Walla Walla *Statesman* says: A letter has been received from the Okanagan country stating that "the Jessie mine has been sold for $60,000 cash and the Triune bargained for by the same Montana company for $40,000. It may be remembered that certain mining experts of this city reported adversely upon those properties last fall, and the country generally was condemned. Persons in this city had conditional interests in the Triune, but based upon the opinion of their expert, neglected to comply with the terms of the contract, consequently losing their interests in the property. The adjoining town of Golden is reported to be "booming" and lots selling from $150 to $275."

The Mission Bridge.

The city council of New Westminster, at a meeting held on Monday evening, passed a resolution requesting the Minister of Marine to prevent the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s bridge at St. Mary's Mission or any other bridge across the main channel of the Fraser, with a draw of less than one hundred feet in width. The council also resolved to inform that the plans of said bridge provides for a draw of only sixty feet in width, which is said by the best pilots to be inadequate for the safe passage of steamers plying on the river at certain stages of the water. The city council and board of trade will do their utmost to prevent the construction of the bridge according to the present plans.

North Arm of the Fraser.

The people along the north arm of the Fraser, and the cannery men in particular, are beginning to agitate in favor of a means whereby the current in the north arm of the river may be increased. The building of the new wharves from the C. P. R. station westward, it is claimed, has lessened the volume of water running into the north arm and this has had the effect of blocking up the channel to a considerable extent. It is proposed to place a set of mattresses 500 feet long, be extended southward from the head of Lulu Island. This, it is thought, would turn a sufficient quantity of water into the north arm to keep the channel free from blocking up and would possibly deepen it considerably and without detriment to the main channel.—*Columbian.*

Fatal Accident on the City of Puebla.

The steamship City of Puebla arrived at Seattle on Monday about 11 o'clock, and soon after her arrival, the seaman, Charles Pearson, was standing near the hatchway when suddenly, he lost his balance, pitching forward into the lower hold, receiving fatal injuries. He was taken at once to a neighboring drug store, where on examination it was found that his left temple had been crushed and his injuries would very soon result in death. From the drug store he was taken to Grace hospital, where he died at 3:30 p. m. Pearson came from Sweden to the Pacific coast about four years ago. For the last year he has been on the City of Puebla in the capacity of second mate. He was liked by all, and the sad accident has cast a gloom over the whole vessel.

Bad Boys.

While Mr. R. Hunter, of the customs department, was driving home on Monday evening, a couple of small boys on North Park street, threw a volley of good-sized stones at him. He saw the missles coming, and ducked his head, one stone hitting him with considerable force on the side of the head, cutting through the rim of his soft felt hat. He was somewhat stunned by the blow, which struck him just above the temple. Mr. Hunter alighted, but the boys ran away. On enquiring at the house where one of them resided and telling the mother of the occurrence the door was slammed in the face. The police are investigating the affair. It is said that the crowd of boys, who are of tender years, are in the habit of attacking every vehicle that passes, and pay special attention to the maltreating of Chinamen.

Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M.

A special convocation of the British Columbia Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M., will be held in the Masonic Hall in Vancouver, commencing next Friday, the 29th instant, and continuing in session the following day. On Saturday the brethren will attend divine worship in a body. It is the intention of the Vancouver brethren to entertain the officers of the Grand Lodge and the visiting brethren at a banquet in the Hotel Vancouver on Friday evening. The large room in the Springer Van Bramer block will be dedicated in due ancient form during this session of the Grand Lodge. The ceremony will be an interesting as well as an imposing one, and will be taken part in by many members of the craft from Victoria and New Westminster. Grand Master A. R. Milne and the Victoria deputation will leave for Vancouver on Thursday night's boat.

Coroner's Inquest.

The following jury was empannelled yesterday morning to enquire into the circumstances attending the death of Jeremiah Kelehar, the steerage passenger on board the steamer Umatilla, who died in this city on Monday: Messrs. W. J. Conlon, foreman; J. W. Switzer, John Jones, James Maynard, Richard Maynard and W. C. Bryant. The jurors, after viewing the body, returned to the office of the superintendent of police, where the evidence of the police, and of Dr. W. Redmond, who made the *post mortem*, was taken, and the affidavits of the officers of the Umatilla were read by Coroner Jackson. After hearing the evidence the jury returned a verdict as follows: That Jeremiah Kelehar came to his death by an over dose of poison, also that his death was the result of negligence on the part of the officers of the steamer Umatilla, in not calling medical aid at once, instead of sending Kelehar to the hospital in an express wagon.

Y. P. A. Concert.

Following is the programme of the Y. P. A. Concert, to be presented at Philharmonic Hall this evening:

1. Overture......"Lampa,".....Herald
   Messrs. Herman, Pauline, Agius & Proctor. Violin. Piano. Clarionet. Cornet.
2. "Characteristics of American Humor."
   ..... Rev. P. McF. Macleod.
3. Solo......"Needles and Pins,".....Mr. Tiarks
4. Solo.....Mr. Brooks, (Tacoma)
5. Reading.....Mr. Wm. Whyte
6. Solo.....Mr. Rhodes
7. Violin Solo...."Caratina Raff,"....Miss Young
   INTERVAL.
1. Overture..."The Barber of Seville,".Rossini
   Messrs. Herman, Pauline, Agius and Proctor.
2. Solo.....Miss Mathews
3. Recitation.....Miss Maude Jay
4. Solo.....Mr. Lombard
5. Solo.....Miss Kirkpatrick
6. Recitation.....Mr. Jas. Begg
7. Solo.....Mr. Brooks, (Tacoma)
   God Save the Queen.

From the North.

The steamship Sardonyx, Capt. Irving, arrived from northern ports yesterday, bringing several passengers and a quantity of freight. Capt. Irving went up to Queen Charlotte Island on the Maude, but meeting the Sardonyx he changed ships with Capt. Meyer; who was in command of the latter vessel and returned to Victoria. The Sardonyx brought no news of importance. Her trip was an uneventful one.

A Four-Legged Chicken.

Mr. Morris, manager of the powder works at Cadboro Bay, left a monstrosity at this office yesterday in the shape of a chicken with four legs. The bird was perfectly formed, having the usual well developed two legs accorded by nature. The two extra protruded from where the tail ought to be, one having three claws, the other but two. It was but short lived, and died without a kick, which is somewhat remarkable considering the advantages possessed by it.

Matrimonial.

On Monday evening, by the Rev. Dr. Reid, Mr. Charles Beasley, engineer of the Union Mines at Comox, was united in marriage to Miss Susanah Milne of Sooke.

Mr. R. Mavin was married on Monday evening to Miss Kate Sinclair, Rev. P. McF. Macleod performing the ceremony.

Nightwatchman David Thompson, of this city, will lead to the altar this evening Miss Flora Tod, daughter of Mr. James Tod, of Cedar Hill. The ceremony will take place in the pretty little church at Cedar Hill.

The Anthracite Mines.

Mr. J. L. Mudge, business manager of the Banff anthracite coal mines, arrived on the Islander last night and left overland for San Francisco this morning. Mr. Mudge stated that work at the mines was proceeding rapidly. The output has not increased as yet, but shafts were being sunk and it was expected before the year was out that coal would be taken from a depth of twenty hundred feet. The coal was becoming harder as depth was attained. Next year they hoped to have a large daily output.

Bank R. N. A. Annual Meeting.

The annual general meeting of the Bank of British North America was held in London on Tuesday, March 8th. Mr. Henry R. Farrer, chairman, in opening his address, said: "It now becomes my duty to move the adoption of the report, which I assume you wish to be taken as read. (Hear, hear.) I think that in presenting it I may fairly say it is very satisfactory. We are able to declare a dividend of forty shillings per share—that is at the rate of 4 per cent. for the half year, which, together with 3½ per cent. for the previous half year, makes 7½ per cent. for the whole year. At the same time we possess what we now call a reserve fund, formerly called undivided net profits, amounting to £250,000—a sum which we have been aiming at for some time past."

Vancouver Coal Co.

An extraordinary general meeting of this company was held on Thursday last at No. 12, Old Jewry chambers, E.C., for the purpose of confirming the special resolutions passed at the general meeting held on 5th February, and which were given at length in our issue of last week. Mr. Alfred Galsworthy presided, and said that the first thing he had to submit to the shareholders was a resolution with regard to a dividend. The board declared the dividend, but in the hurry of the moment omitted to notice that it should really have been declared by a meeting of the shareholders, the directors having merely the power of recommending the dividend. He did not suppose anyone would object to receive such an excellent dividend as £1 per share. At the same time, in order to be perfectly regular, it was thought advisable at the present time to rectify the little irregularity. He therefore moved the resolution for the payment of the dividend, and also that the resolution passed on the 5th February be now confirmed. Mr. Joseph Fry having seconded the motions, they were carried unanimously, and the proceedings terminated.—*Canadian Gazette.*

LITTLE LOCALS.

A large quantity of through mail matter arrived by the Islander last night.

There were 130 passengers by S.S. Islander last night, 150 being through passengers *via* the C. P. R.

The St. George Society have decided to hold their annual picnic on the 1st of July. Full particulars will shortly be made public.

Marion Johnson was charged with vagrancy in the provincial police court yesterday. The case was remanded for one day.

Another important settlement is to be given in the Gorge Road church on the evening of April 9th.

It is said a rich strike has been made by prospectors from Vancouver on Hornby Island, Gulf of Georgia.

Arrangements have been completed for a tri-weekly service between Vancouver and Nanaimo. The steamer Dunsmuir will perform the service.

J. A. Fullerton, manager at Vancouver of the China steamships, is in the city arranging for the docking of the S. S. Danube and the coal barge Robert Kerr. They will go into the Esquimalt dry dock about 15th April.

A woman named Kitty Calvert, a resident on Broad street, attempted suicide on Monday morning by taking an overdose of morphine. Her life was saved by the strenuous efforts of a medical man.

Last evening's conversazione in the Reformed Episcopal Church called out a well pleased audience, equal in number to the usual gathering at these delightful affairs. The good programme, ice-cream, etc., was thoroughly appreciated by all.

A couple of midnight prowlers attempted to effect an entrance to the residence of Mrs. Langley, Humboldt street, on Monday night, but were scared away. It is supposed that they are the same crooks who have recently made their presence known in the city.

A new sidewalk is being laid out on the bank of the North Aarm of the Fraser river at the end of the Vancouver North Arm road. The road will be 8 feet in width and can either be used for market gardens or sub-divided into smaller building lots. A daily steamer will connect the new village with Westminster.

The Y. M. C. A. of Westminster have elected the following officers: Mr. D. S. Curtis, president; Mr. George Kennedy, first vice-president; Mr. W. H. Higgins, second vice-president; Mr. Arthur Rand, treasurer; and Mr. Brydone Jack, recording secretary.

SUPREME COURT.

(Before the Chief Justice and Justices Gray and McCreight, sitting as a full court.)

Guardian Insurance Company, appellants, *vs.* Stephen Jones, respondent. Action on a policy of insurance upon the International Hotel, at Esquimalt, and contents, which had been insured by the Guardian Insurance Co.—$2,000 upon the building and $2,000 on the furniture. The property was destroyed by fire and Jones made a claim on the company for the full amount of the policy, placing the loss upon the building at $2,500 and upon the furniture at $3,500. The case was tried before Justice Walkem and a special jury on 21st January ult., resulting in a verdict for plaintiff for $3,500. Mr. Theo Davie, Q. C., on behalf of the Guardian Insurance Company, had obtained a rule nisi on behalf of the plaintiff to show cause why there should not be a new trial on four grounds. (1) The allowance of an amendment at the trial, setting up a waiver by the company of the conditions requiring the preliminary proof of loss; (2) the rejection of Jones' testimony given before a coroner's inquest called to enquire into the cause of the fire in question; (3) the refusal of the presiding judge to leave the distinct question of fraud to the jury, and (4) the refusal to charge the jury that if they found Jones' claim for loss to be wilfully false in any material particular, the defendants were entitled to a verdict.

Mr. F. G. Walker and Mr. W. J. Taylor on behalf of Mr. Jones yesterday showed cause against the rule contending that the condition relative to preliminary proofs had been waived by an offer to compromise for $2,500; that the testimony of Jones at the fire inquest had never been properly tendered by appellants counsel, and that broadly and substantially the question of fraud had been left by the judge to the jury.

The court, without leaving the bench or calling on Mr. Davie to reply, held the evidence of Jones' statement at the inquest to have been wrongly rejected, and that the judge should have directed the jury upon the question of fraud as contended for by appellants counsel.

A new trial was therefore ordered, costs of the rule to abide the event of the second trial.

MARINE.

Steamship Idaho will leave for Alaska on the 29th inst., Friday next.

S. S. Tyrania arrived at Hong Kong on Wednesday last from Vancouver.

Steamers Corona for Portland, and Wellington for Nanaimo, cleared from San Francisco yesterday.

The Swedish bark Daphne was towed to Moodyville on Monday by the tug Sea Lion to load lumber for Port-au-Prince.

Steam schooner Joanie arrived at Seattle from Alaska on Monday. After discharging a cargo of merchandise she proce ded to Nan