

Tells of Work of Illustrious Father

Daughter of Sir Rowland Hill, founder of penny postage, revisits city

Staying at the Balmoral hotel is a daughter of Sir Rowland Hill, founder of the penny postage, Mrs. Eleanor C. Smyth.

In an interview yesterday she spoke of the life and work of her illustrious father, concerning whom she has written an interesting book recently published by Mr. Fisher Unwin, and included in the "Reformer's Series."

Mr. Smyth is an oldtimer of Victoria. As the wife of Mr. Arthur Pelletier, of the hardware firm of Pelletier and Pelletier, she lived here in the sixties, and as a young woman was a singer at the Victoria Lyceum, and at St. Andrew's R. C. Cathedral. Two sons are living here. She left Victoria about forty years ago but has always had an affection for the city and returned recently to spend a visit here until next summer.

"I have great faith in Victoria," she said, "and were it not for the fact that I have to return to London, I would gladly take up my residence here. Many of my dearest friends are among the oldtime residents of Victoria. Mr. Edgar Fawcett, of the postoffice customs department, is a second cousin."

His Favorite Daughter

Mrs. Smyth is the last immediate descendant of the great postal reformer. "I knew him best," she said; "for I was a young girl I assisted him in his work. My mother was an admirable woman, a devoted wife and true helpmate, resembling Lady Salisbury. Mrs. Gladstone, Lady Campbell-Bannerman and other women who have aided to all the first man to post a letter under the new system was Samuel Lincolne, of Birmingham, my father's drawing master. Determined that no one in Birmingham should get the start of him he waited outside the post office till midnight and making up the clerk's duty he handed in a letter for the penny, and laconically remarked: 'A penny, I believe. There was a rush, and the post office was closed. There was an impetus to learning, many people past middle age crowded into night schools, some of which were provided for the purpose to recover the lost art—as far as the poor people were concerned—of letter writing."

Improved Stamps

"The first postage stamps designed by Sir Rowland Hill had the young Queen's head engraved on them. The stamps were printed as today on sheets of 24 each. Archer's perforated patent was not used until the mid-fifties. Improvement followed improvement. So far back as 1832 my father had recommended the adoption of parcel posts but he was obliged to leave this work to later reformers. In 1882 he secured arrangements for registration of mails. It was not without the hardest opposition, though, that the fight was carried on, and he passed by incessant toil and frequent absence from his home, he resigned in 1884, when he was 68 years of age."

"Many honors were paid my father for his work after retirement, several statues being erected to him, the one at Kildare, Ireland, by Thomas Brock, R. A., being the best. This Westminster Abbey is scarcely recognizable. He was presented with the freedom of the city of London three months before his death in 1873. "My mother survived him. They had a romantic courtship. It began when their combined ages were 11 years, and of all places, in a culvert. The Bruce Castle school where they lived was a romantic place, an ancient lake, and the Norman days, and like many old places it had its ghost stories. The ghost, that of an upper balcony the story was—and threw herself and a child she carried over the railing."

Liquor Campaign

Alleged Endeavor of Trade to Get License System Established in Cobalt District

TORONTO, Dec. 31.—The provincial liquor department has learned that a paid campaign has been launched by a liquor interests with a view to forcing the hand of the government to re-institute its present prohibitive policy in northern Ontario and decide to grant licenses. This campaign, the department declares, has several phases. Emphasis is being given to press work calculated to cast discredit upon the department's attempts to enforce local option and stamp out illegal selling. This is being done by the publication from time to time of grossly exaggerated and untrue stories of conditions alleged to prevail in the non-temperance areas. A recent contribution to the campaign is a report from Cobalt to the effect that "blind pigs" were being sold in the town on Christmas, and that the "blind" was lifted for fair."

According to the department the above is disclosed in the following sentence: "For an out and out farce, the Ontario government's so-called prohibition in mining camps is about the most absurd known in this Dominion. It is so pitiable as to be laughable. The origin of several of these articles is being investigated, and developments may follow."

Farman Wins Prize

Michelin Cup Goes to Him For Endurance and Distance Flight for Year 1909.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—The Michelin cup, for endurance and distance covered in the air during 1909, goes to Henry Farman, the English aviator, who, on November 8, established a since unbroken record of 144 miles in four hours, 17 minutes and 35 seconds. A keen struggle for the prize ended at sundown today. M. Delagrè, who flew 124 miles in two hours and 36 minutes, Latham also tried to beat Farman's record, and the competition was continued today, arousing great interest. Farman was present prepared to make another flight if his record was broken. The Michelin trophy is given by M. Michelin, a wealthy member of the Aero Club of France, and consists of a beautiful prize and \$32,000 to be competed for during a period of eight years. Each year the trophy is valued at \$4,000, or one-eighth of the cash prize, goes to the aviator making the longest flight in that year.

Toronto's Building Record.

TORONTO, Dec. 31.—This has been a record year in building operations in Toronto. The approximate value of work done was \$13,260,000, an increase of \$5,454,584 over last year.

TRAIN SERVICE TO CAMERON LAKE

E. & N. Extension Will Be Partially Opened For Traffic Sometime in May

A train service to Cameron lake, a point on the route of the Alberta extension of the E. & N. railway, probably will be inaugurated sometime next May. This will allow sportsmen to obtain ready access from Victoria and neighboring points to a section which, hitherto, has been but rarely visited by disciples of the immortal "fish or the fowls" of Nimrod's passion. The lake mentioned and the waterways of that locality are known to abound with trout while the district is virgin soil as far as the hunting of big and small game is concerned.

The announcement was made yesterday from authoritative sources and therefore may be considered authentic. From the same source it is learned that the actual laying of rails has reached Englishman's river. It was beyond that point before this date, in order to allow the operations to proceed without interruption a temporary bridge was constructed over the stream. The recent floods, however, brought with it destruction and how gangs are employed in replacing the timbers that were washed away. With the rapid grading on the west coast end of the line it is thought probable that the work may continue without hind from this date forward to completion.

That the past year has been one of the best from a business standpoint in the history of the E. & N. railway company, H. E. Bensley, general superintendent, declares after a tour of the road that the advances of the past few months will be nothing to what the future has in store. He says that there is apparent in every corner a spirit of optimism that has not always been evident. The mills are preparing for larger shipments and industry generally is increasing.

Such the same is a statement made yesterday by E. Van Dusen, manager of the Victoria Terminal and Railway Company. He stated that since the close of the company's last fiscal year in June there had been a twenty-five and seven-tenths growth in the road's traffic. This included both freight and passenger. He took this not so much as an indication that the through traffic from British Columbia to the west coast is developing, but that the merchants in development of the San Juan peninsula, the country that is thickly settled and is increasing in prosperity with every passing month.

WM. MACKENZIE COMES

Will Visit Vancouver Next Week to Confer Regarding False Creek Terminals

VANCOUVER, Dec. 31.—G. H. Cowan, M. P., has wired Mayor Douglas that Wm. Mackenzie, of Mackenzie and Macdonald, is in Vancouver next Wednesday to confer regarding False Creek terminals.

Suburb Joins Quebec.

QUEBEC, Dec. 31.—The voting in Limousin, on the question of the annexation of that town to Quebec was concluded yesterday and resulted in the carrying of the by-law for annexation by 180 majority.

Ottawa Bye-Election.

OTTAWA, Dec. 31.—The Liberal convention to select a candidate for the House of Commons, filling the vacancy caused by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's resignation, will take place next Friday night, January 7. The primaries to select delegates will take place in the different wards on the previous evening. It is expected that the writ will be issued without delay.

Hydro-Electric Case.

TORONTO, Dec. 31.—Chief Justice Falcoubridge gave judgment against Mrs. J. Louis Pelletier yesterday in her suit against F. H. McGuigan & Co., Ontario Contractors, and the Niagara Power Co. to allow the hydro-electric transmission line on her property although they offered her \$500 for a thirty-year lease.

American Scientists.

BOSTON, Dec. 31.—After an unusually interesting three days' meeting, profitable in invaluable scientific suggestions, the general session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which opened today, to meet a year from now in Minneapolis. Professor Albert A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago, and a Nobel prize winner, was selected president of the general session.

Thief's Apt Device.

OSWEGO, Ore., Dec. 31.—Pretending that he was a United States post-office inspector, a robber looted the post-office safe at this place of between \$200 and \$300 Thursday. The man entered the office, introducing himself to Postmaster G. W. Prosser, a government official, and was given access to the safe without being required to show any credentials. Prosser left the room for a moment, and when he returned he saw the stranger disappearing down the stairs, and with the cash contained in the safe.

Business Good in Canada.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—In wholesale and jobbing lines in Canada, a large, unbroken spring business has been booked. Prices of commodities are undiminished strength. Wholesale business is rather quiet, as usual at this season of the year, but the count of stock taking, which is coming quite general, and a temporary falling off in demand in numerous departments that is natural after a active holiday movement of merchandise during the past few weeks. Prospects for the future, however, are encouraging. Failures in Canada numbered 11 against 38 last year; two the preceding week and 17 last week.

Wilbur Watson, a Chilliwack blacksmith, has been fined \$25 for attaching the letters "V. S." to his name and practicing as a veterinary. The information was given by the Veterinary Association, and was the first to be instituted in this province. Appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court. A decision was made by the court that the defendant, and who claims that section 17 of the Act does not apply.

Young's Annual January Sale

Started Monday, Jan. 3rd

Watch for the Items in the Daily "Colonist"

Every article in the store reduced in price; a multitude of incredible bargains in every department; splendid surprises for shrewd shoppers; greater offerings than ever before.

Come and see for yourself. "The early bird catches the worm." If you come early you will have first choice.

DOORS OPEN 8:30 A. M.

HENRY YOUNG & CO.

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Ring in the new,
And let the fates portend,
Good luck and health
And wealth to you
In nineteen hundred ten

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FIT-REFORM

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MANY INJURED BY EXPLOSION

Disaster Caused at C. P. R. Montreal Station by Ignition of Gas

MONTREAL, Dec. 31.—Twenty-five people were injured, some fatally, in an explosion which occurred at 11:20 a. m. at the C. P. R. station here.

The Quebec train was just about to pull out and the platform was thronged with people wishing the passengers goodbyes and a happy new year. A lighted cigar fell into a leaking tube the gas is fed to the trains, and the explosion which followed ripped up the whole platform.

There was a scene of indescribable confusion and a general alarm. A call was sent out. So far it has not been possible to recover all of the victims from the wreckage, but the work is being rushed. One poor woman had

her leg torn off, while many others are so badly injured that their recovery is not expected.

Among others badly injured are E. Bertrand, H. Labelle, R. Sanson, S. Borrie, T. J. Cullen, H. J. Belletre and J. Piteau, all of whom were taken to the hospital.

The hospital attendants were kept busy for some time in carrying the victims out on stretchers, and a large crowd gathered around the station. The platform of the station was completely wrecked, but none of the passengers on the train were injured, and the train got away with but a short delay.

At a meeting of East Indians (so-called Hindus) of Vancouver recently, it was decided to send back to Hindustan one of their number, of the priest caste, to bring out to this country the wives of many of the natives of India who have emigrated here, and also wives for others. The establishment is planned of a colony in some of the agricultural districts of the province. A representative of the projectors went to London recently to secure the opinion of an eminent constitutional lawyer as to whether or not these women could be for-

After the Holidays—If Alive

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C. & Y. FRESH INDEPENDENT CREAMERY BUTTER, 3 lbs. for \$1.00
ANTI-COMBINE TEA, in lead packets, 3 lbs. for \$1.00
BIRD'S CUSTARD OR EGG POWDER, per package 15c
TRUMILK PURE MILK, in powder form, 2 teapoonfuls makes a glass of pure, fresh milk, per tin 15c
C. & B. EGGO—Dried Fresh Eggs (can be used for the same purpose as fresh eggs). Per tin 15c
NICE NAVAL ORANGES, per dozen 25c
GOOD COOKING APPLES, 5 lbs. for 25c
NORTHERN SPY APPLES, 4 lbs. for 25c
ANTI-COMBINE LAUNDRY SOAP, 7 full weight bars for 25c
SUPERFINE TOILET SOAP, 9 cakes for 25c
PURE WHITE CASTILE SOAP, long bar 20c
PEARLINE, 2 packets for 25c
COLMAN'S MUSTARD, 1/2 lb. tin for 25c
PURE BLACK PEPPER, per lb. 25c
RICE, SAGO OR TAPIOCA, 4 lbs. for 25c
Or 9 lbs. for 50c
ROWAT'S ENGLISH VINEGAR, quart bottle 15c
GILLARD'S PICKLES AND RELISH, 3 jars for \$1.00
TRAVERS' ENGLISH PICKLES, 18 oz. bottle 15c
SHREDDED COCONUT, per lb. 20c
SHELLED ALMONDS OR WALNUTS, per lb. 40c
CALGARY RISING SUN BREAD FLOUR, per sk. \$1.75

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Chilliwack Christmas trade was record proportions.

Heavy snowfalls are reported in the Bulkley valley.

An athletic club is mooted for Lad and the Delta district generally.

Vancouver's new police patrol system has been installed and is working.

Vancouver's senior and junior leral associations have decided to an

Vancouver's first exhibition is to be held during the second week of next next, the opening being on the 16th.

R. Curlew of New Westminster purchased the tug Sandi from Hut & Bartlett.

Inverhorne school will be unable to receive more than 500 pupils as yet been secured.

The Nanaimo Ladies' Choral society are making preparations for a concert on the 19th inst.

The marriage was celebrated in Vancouver on Thursday last of Pelly Clayton and Miss Caroline A. Liddell.

Delta's municipal elections are on the 15th inst. Robert E. Kitchin has withdrawn from the running for the ree

Thomas Lewis, formerly a well known resident of New Westminster, died last week in Prince Rupert last week. He remains have been received in the Royal City for interment.

The names of H. O. Alexander and W. M. Kay are mentioned as possible nominees in connection with the appointment of Vancouver's new police magistrate.

General Manager Sperling of the C. E. R. Co., has made the announcement that Fourth avenue cars will run through to Cedar Cottage in a very near future.

Mrs. Robert White of Ladysmith, who was cruelly widowed by the last E. tension mine disaster, met with a serious case Thursday, \$105 disappeared from her purse.

Martha Dalber of Vancouver was charged Friday fined \$15 for cruelty to a horse. Acting Magistrate South promising a prisonment without the option of a fine should the offense be repeated.

The engagements are announced of Miss Josephine H. Dalber to J. J. F. Fransen, recently from England, and of Miss Rachael Hughes to David Gunn of Boundary Bay.

A notable increase in Vancouver's assessment values was noted in the year just closed, the total advancing from \$72,581,321 to \$106,572,475. The city's population is estimated for the twelve month is estimated at 12,400.

The North Vancouver Athletic Association is to seek immediate incorporation.

Vancouver's new Labor Temple is to be a handsome four-story structure, and cost approximately \$50,000.

The Presbyterians of Mount Pleasant, Vancouver, today dedicate their handsome new church home.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Gillies, of Nanaimo, have just celebrated their silver wedding anniversary.

The G. T. P. will shortly submit definite proposals to Vancouver city in respect to the False Creek tidelands.

New Westminster's vital statistics for the last year are: Marriages, 297; deaths, 351; births, 356.

For making alterations to the Willson house bar without first obtaining permission from the select means of sioners, J. R. McKinnell, of Nanaimo, has been fined in the coal city police court.

The Home Hospital at Nelson, owned and conducted heretofore by Misses Desbriere and Nelson, has been acquired by the directors of the Nelson General Hospital as a first step toward the establishment of that much-needed institution.

R. Fleming of Revelstoke has been appointed assistant in the Ladysmith school. Miss Hill has been appointed to succeed Miss Mobius, resigned; Miss Irene Charman of Nanaimo is promoted to the place vacated by Miss Hill; and Miss Laura Cousins of Vancouver succeeds Miss Wilkie, resigned.

John Haverly, an expert just returned from the Skeena district, predicts exceptional mining activity during 1910 along the route of the G. T. P. The prospecting companies have virtually established a new route of the divide, in communication with the Telkwa valley, by extending the wagon road up Copper river to the summit of the divide. In this locality a Vancouver syndicate will in April begin diamond drill prospecting on what appear to be valuable coal measures.

According to the annual statement of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company the dividend of 6 per cent. is to be resumed. Production at the mine has increased from a daily output of 4,000 tons in July to an average of over 4,000 a day last month, and in addition the new main haulage system is in operation. The interests of the company by setting aside 10 cents a ton for depreciation.

A chest of silver, together with a beautiful sterling silver tea service, was presented to Chief Justice and Mrs. J. A. Macdonald, prior to their departure from Rossland, to take up their residence in this city, the presentation being made by their friends of the Rossland club.