The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

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B. C. FRUIT AGAIN WINS GOLD MEDAL

Captures First Prize at Horticultural Show in London and Ten Additional Prizes For Individual Displays

London, Dec. 5, 1906.

Hon. R. G. Tatlow, Victoria:

Medals awarded at Royal Horticultural Association show today: Province, gold medal; individual exhibitors, seven silver gilt and silver medals and three bronze medals. Names later.

R. M. PALMER.

The above cablegram received Wednesday by Hon. R. G. Tatlow, minister of finance and agriculture, tells of the great success of the British Columbia fruit over all exhibitors at the Royal Horticultural exhibition, principal of all such shows held at London, England. First it was at Edinburgh that the collection of fruit from this province this season won the gold medal over all competitors. Then an exhibit was made at Norwich, where there was no competition, the show being for cattle; but the British Columbia fruit attracted much attention there. Two more shows are yet to be held, and the fruit will be exhibited at each.

Previous Exhibits

Since exhibits have been made in England, the successes have been great. In 1903 Messrs. Stirling and Pitcairn, of Kelowna, on Okanagan lake, shipped a trial carload of apples to Great Britain. The shipment consisted of Spys, Baldwins, Ontarios and Canada Reds. They arrived in Glasgow, Scotland, on November 9th, in splendid condition, and sold at six shillings per box, or about $1 more per barrel than the choicest eastern Canadian apples—reckoning three and a half boxes to the barrel. The British Columbia apples aroused much interest among fruit dealers as well as consumers, and many letters were received by the consignors from persons eager to secure shipments of the splendid fruit. In the year following, 1904, the British Columbia department of agriculture forwarded a collection of British Columbia fruit to London, England, for exhibition purposes. It consisted of apples, pears and plums, including the following varieties: Apples, Fall Pippins, Kings, Vanderveres, Twenty-ounce Pippins, Blue Pearmains and Oranos, from Lytton; Ribston Pippins, Wolfe Rivers, Wealthies and Snows, from Kelowna and Lytton; Warners, Kings, Canada Red, King of Tompkins, Ontario, Jonathan, Northern Spy, Belle of Boskoop, Baldwin, St. Lawrence, *Greening, Golden Beehelm, Orange, Wagoner* and McIntosh Red from Kelowna; Wealthy, Ribstons and Gravensteins, from Victoria. Pears — Beurre Clairgeau, Easter Beaurre, Beaurre d'Anjou and Howells, from Kelowna, and plums from Victoria. The exhibit was greatly admired, and evoked the highest encomiums from the newspapers. The London Times, while hesitating to declare the fruit superior to the best English specimens, admitted that they very nearly approached them in color, shape and flavor, even after having traveled 6,000 miles by railway and steamship. The Royal Horticultural Society's appreciation of the fruit was shown by the award of the society's gold medal and diploma.

Proves Great Advertisement

One result of this exhibit was the deluging of the agent general of British Columbia, (Hon. J. H. Turner, Finsbury Circus, London), with letters from prominent fruitdealers anxious to do business with British Columbia fruit growers. To momentarily satisfy the clamor for British Columbia fruit, and to emphasize the fact of its good qualities, the department of agriculture shipped in cold storage a full carload of assorted fruits to London in the fall of 1905, in charge of R. M. Palmer, provincial horticulturist. This fine collection was the chief attraction at the Royal Horticultural fruit show at London, England, and at several provincial shows, and was awarded many prizes. The Royal Horticultural Society prize winners were:

Province of British Columbia (for collection), gold medal.

J. C. Gartrell, Trout creek, silver-gilt Knightian medal.

Thos. W. Sterling, Kelowna, silver-gilt Knightian medal.

Coldstream ranch, Vernon, silver-gilt Knightian medal.

Thos. G. Earl, Lytton, silver Knightian medal.

Mrs. J. Smith, Spence's Bridge, silver Knightian medal.

Kootenay Fruit-Growers' association, Nelson, silver Banksian medal.

J. L. Pridham, Kelowna, silver Banksian medal.

After going the rounds of the fruit shows and securing unqualified approval everywhere, this collection was broken up and sold to fruit dealers at the highest prices. Several of the leading fruit firms of Great Britain have placed orders for this season's fruit, so it may be confidently stated that the fruit trade with the Old Country has been firmly established.

Following up the success of last year the department of agriculture decided to forward a commercial exhibit of fruit to London this autumn, where it was shown at the Royal Horticultural show, with great success reported in the cablegram received by Hon. R. G. Tatlow yesterday from R. M. Palmer, who is in charge of the exhibit.

Progress of Industry

To show the progress of the province's fruit business it is only necessary to quote the shipments for the last four years, which are as follows:

	By Freight Tons	By Express Tons	Total Tons	Increase Tons
1902	1,469	487	1,956	....
1903	1,868	676	2,544	568
1904	2,161	864	3,025	481
1905	3,181	1,176	4,357	1,332
	8,679	3,203	11,882	2,401

An increase of over 50 per cent in 4 years.

[illegible] for four years, 11,882 tons, are far from representing the whole crop, the greater portion of which is consumed locally.

The increase in fruit acreage has also been great within recent years. In 1891 the total orchard area was 6,431 acres; in 1901 it had only increased to 7,430 acres, but between that and 1904 the increase was jumped to 13,430 and in 1905 to 29,000 acres. This increase in acreage for 1905 means the planting of about 1,000,000 young trees.

The quality of the peaches and grapes grown in Southern British Columbia can scarcely be excelled, the crisp, dry air and bright sunshine combining to impart a luciousness and flavor lacking in the fruit of hot countries. The recent discovery of fig trees growing wild on Vancouver Island, near Nanaimo, has suggested the possibility of the successful cultivation of this fruit, especially in the southern districts, and no doubt the experiment will be made in the near future. Almonds, walnuts, chestnuts, nectarines, apricots, olives, and other semi-tropical fruits, have been successfully grown.

SON OF LORD MAYOR JAILED IN WINNIPEG

Frederick Hoy Is Charged With Stealing From the Williams Piano Company

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 5.—Frederick Hoy, a son of the Lord Mayor of Manchester, now occupies a cell in the police station pending inquiry into a charge against him of stealing from the Williams Piano company.

Hoy has been in this country for some time. His friends have done their best for him and have located him in no less than six positions, but he seems unable, or unwilling to conduct himself in a proper manner and every position found for him has been lost. Yesterday £20 was received from his father to square up his indebtedness and it is likely that it will be devoted towards sending him home to England.

CAR FOUNDRY BURNED.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 5.—Fire tonight destroyed part of the plant of the American Car Foundry company at Depew, and at one time threatened the whole suburb. One building 500 by 150 feet, once the main building of the old union car shops, was burned to the ground. The loss is estimated at $75,000.

BANK TELLER MISSING.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 5.—William C. Anderson, collection teller of the First National bank of this city, is missing, and President E. F. Swinny admitted today that Anderson was short $9,000 in his accounts. The bank officials have sworn out a warrant for his arrest.

REORGANIZE TIMES.

London, Dec. 5.—The Chancery court today granted an order allowing the reorganization of the London Times, a joint stock company. This marks a notable departure in the traditional methods of the representative English journal. The court, in granting the order, also directed that a general accounting be made of the assets. The order was granted by mutual consent, all the proprietors agreeing to the re-organization.

THREE MEN DROWNED IN THOMPSON RIVER

Tackle Breaks, Scow Upsets and Bridge Builders Lose Lives at Ashcroft

Ashcroft, Dec. 5.—(Special)—At the bridge now under construction here across the Thompson River three men were drowned this morning.

The accident occurred through the breaking of the tackle holding one end of a scow to a cable spanning the river. The scow was swept against the false work of the bridge, and, tipping over, threw five men into the water.

Carl Gregory and John Smith were rescued after being in the river some time.

The drowned men are L. McMillan, H. McMillan and E. A. Etheridge. The search for the bodies as yet has been unsuccessful.

BALL NOMINATED.

Beacancour, Que., Dec. 5.—George Ball, ex-M. P. was yesterday chosen as Conservative candidate in the coming by-election in Nicolet.

SAVE SHIP AND CREW.

Chatham, Mass., Dec. 5.—The barkentine Bonnydoon of New York was saved from destruction on the Great Round shoal at the eastern entrance of Nantucket Sound, and six of her crew from death today, by the arrival of the Monomy Point life-saving crew and two revenue cutters.

For more than thirty hours the fate of the barkentine, which sailed from St. John, N. B., for Vineyard Haven Nov. 26, hung in the balance. Twice it was thought that she was about to go to pieces. When the life-savers and the cutters arrived alongside today, they found her aground and half full of water, but apparently seaworthy, with six of her crew on board and two others not far off, on the Great Round shoal top.

The cutters collected the crew, hauled the vessel off the shoal and started for Vineyard Haven, dropping the life-savers as they passed Monomy Point tonight.

GRAFT IN WINNIPEG.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 5.—D. D. Englandy city parks superintendent, who was charged with graft, resigned his position today.

CREW ESCAPES.

Belleville, Ont., Dec. 5.—The steam barge Hickox, from Oswego, long overdue, caught fire and was destroyed near Kingston. The crew escaped.

MRS. BELL RELEASED.

Kingston, Ont., Dec. 5.—Mrs. Bell of Ottawa, who was sent to penitentiary for life for cruelty to a child, was released today on parole. She had served ten years.

TO FOOT OF THRONE.

Winnipeg, Dec. 5.—At a meeting in Rossmere, Premier Roblin declared that he would not give up the fight for extension of Manitoba's boundaries until he had appealed to the foot of the throne.

SELLS OUT FOR $400,000.

Windsor, Ont., Dec. 5.—The Windsor and Cobalt Mining company sold out its interests to Toronto capitalists for the round sum of $400,000. It held two lots of forty acres in the very heart of the silver district of Cobalt. Big offers had recently been received.

CAPTAIN AND CREW SUFFER.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 5.—News comes from Annapolis Basin, near Annapolis, that the schooner Emma Harvey was totally wrecked at Granville Ferry this morning. Captain Berry is reported dead and a number of the crew frost bitten.

OIL HOUSE BURNS.

North Battleford, Sask., Dec. 5.—The C. N. R. oil house at this point was totally destroyed by fire this morning. There was a large stock of gasoline oils stored in the warehouse and the inflammable nature of these prohibited any attempt at saving the building and contents.

ELECTRICIAN KILLED.

Kingston, N. Y., Dec. 5.—While leaning against machinery he had installed today, Bishop Hardy, chief electrician for the Martin Cantine Company at Augerties, was instantly killed by the short circuiting of the electric current.

NEW STEAMERS FOR C. P. R.

Montreal, Dec. 5.—The C. P. R. announces that it will build three new steamers for lake traffic from Fort William to Owen Sound. This will mean the facilitating of the grain traffic on the Great Lakes and more rapid handling of the western wheat crop in future seasons.

GALE DOES DAMAGE.

London, Dec. 6.—A severe gale is raging on the coast. The steamer Baltic was delayed in sailing for New York until an early hour this morning. Among the many accidents reported is the destruction of the wireless telegraph tower at Machrihanis Bay, Scotland, which was 450 feet high and weighed 2000 tons. This tower was erected for communication with America. It collapsed and crashed to the ground. Fortunately it fell clear of the adjoining buildings and nobody was injured.

FAITH IN NIPISSING.

Toronto, Dec. 5.—More than $1,200,000 has been invested in Nippissing mining stock by Canadians since the sensation of last Saturday.

PASSES SECOND READING.

London, Dec. 5.—The House of Lords tonight by a unanimous vote, passed the second reading of the Land tenure bill, the object of which is to ameliorate the condition of the tenant farmers in England and Scotland.

GAINED 25 POUNDS.

"I was much run down in health, could not sleep, was very nervous, and so weak that I could hardly get around. Some months ago I began using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and today I am pleased to say that I am completely restored to health. I have gained over twenty-five pounds in weight, sleep well and feel strong and healthy."—Miss Annie Evans, 39 Gottingen St., Halifax, N. S.

BIG SHIP LAUNCHED.

Collingwood, Ont., Dec. 5.—"Midland Prince" the largest steamer ever constructed in a Canadian shipyard, was launched today by the Collingwood Shipbuilding company. The steamer is 448 feet in length and will be used as a grain carrier on the upper lakes.

PERILS OF PRAIRIE LIFE.

Craik, Sask., Dec. 5.—Miss McDonald, of Aylesburg, was lost on the prairie while returning from a neighbor's last night and when discovered at noon today was in such a condition that her recovery is hopeless. Her brother who also became lost while searching for her, is in a serious condition.

PEARL OF SUPERSTITION.

Romantic Story Attached to Princess Fredericka's Rope of Pearls.

Magnificent and very old are the gems in the great rope of pearls which Princess Fredericka of Hanover wears at state functions. A romantic story attaches to them. Centuries ago, it is said, a princess of the house loved these gems so passionately that, even in death, she was not parted from them. They were buried with her, in course of time however, the thoughts of succeeding members of the family turned more and more to the pearls. They argued that to waste such splendid jewels was a shame. So the tomb of the princess was opened, and the rope of pearls was removed. But they seemed to be entirely spoiled; they had lost their lustre and beauty. This worried the new owner not a little. She wept over the gems, and dreamed about them. In one of her dreams she was told that three generations of lovely women must wear them before they regained their original beauty.

ROBBERS BREAK INTO PAYMASTER'S OFFICE

Take $1700 From Cash Box in Officer's Quarters at Esquimalt

POLICE AT WORK WITHOUT CLUE

Crews of Warships Are Mustered and Searched, But No Evidence is Found

The temporary office of Paymaster Howard C. M. Beals, of H. M. S. Shearwater, at Esquimalt, was entered on Monday night, a cash box was broken open and a sum of money approximating $1,700 was stolen. The robbers left no evidence of their identity behind them and the provincial police to whom the theft was reported are at present working on the case without a clue.

As soon as the robbery was discovered the crews of the war vessels in port were mustered. Kits were inspected and everything possible done in the effort to locate the guilty parties, but not a vestige of the missing property was discovered.

The paymaster had occasion to draw a certain amount from his cash box on the afternoon of Monday and on Tuesday when he went to it again for the purpose of making a payment to Assistant Paymaster Bishop, who was about to depart for England, he discovered that theft had been committed.

Paymaster Beals is in the habit of keeping a sum of ready money, varying in amount, in a small box which is attached to his office mantel. The building, which is his headquarters, is located in the Esquimalt dock-yard. Shortly before the first of the month he drew a considerable sum of money from the bank for the purpose of paying off the crews of H. M. S. Egeria and Shearwater. The amount then on hand reached a total of at least $10,000. As the majority of that was distributed almost immediately, the robbers had a comparatively small reward for their trouble and enterprise.

When the paymaster approached the box on Tuesday he at once noticed that it had been tampered with. The top had been pried open. Further investigation disclosed that all the currency, mostly American five dollar gold pieces and Canadian bills, was missing. Some postal notes and other papers, which, if taken, might have resulted in the discovery of the perpetrators of the crime, were untouched.

It is believed that the building was entered from the window fronting on the veranda, the fastening of which had been forced. This office, is being used as a temporary convenience by the paymaster in common with the senior officer commanding, as the warships in port are undergoing a somewhat extensive renovation at the present time.

COBALT SHIPMENTS.

Toronto, Dec. 5.—Twenty-seven cars of ore aggregating 1,449,580 pounds were shipped from Cobalt during the month of November according to the government statement issued today.

NEGOTIATIONS FAIL.

Mukden, Dec. 5.—The Russo-Japanese negotiations for the purpose of joining the two ends of the Chinese Eastern railway at Chang Chun have resulted in failure. It is reported that Russia rejects the Japanese proposal for a joint use of the existing railway buildings, valued at $2,000,000.

SPEAKER SQUELCHES MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Hon. Mr. Aylesworth Refers to Pope's Charges and Finds Himself in Awkward Position—Hyman Mystery Still Unsolved

Ottawa, Dec. 5.—(Special)—The remarks attributed to Rufus Pope in reference to a British Columbia judgeship being for sale led to a serious episode in the house today. Hon. Mr. Aylesworth, on the orders of the day being called, said he desired to call attention to certain statements materially affecting the administration of justice in this country and which it seemed to him on that account, ought not to be allowed to go uncontradicted. A few days ago there appeared in various newspapers of the country, a despatch stating that a man who at one time had been a member of the House, had publicly stated in the province of British Columbia that the vacant judgeship which existed in the supreme court of that province was for sale.

R. L. Borden interrupted and said: "May I ask if debate is to be allowed on this question?"

Speaker Sutherland called attention to the new rules adopted last session which required a statement of any urgent question to be submitted in writing to the speaker of the House, and then if supported by twenty members, rising in their places, the member who desired to speak could proceed.

Mr. Aylesworth, after a little hesitation, said "I have no intention to discuss the subject. I was merely stating the circumstances of the publication I was alluding to. I do not intend to make any comment on the matter."

Mr. Foster—Others may wish to comment. May I ask what will be their status?

Mr. Aylesworth—I have simply to say, Mr. Speaker, that I think it will be well to follow the practice as laid down under the new rules.

Mr. Aylesworth then resumed his seat.

The Hyman Mystery

Mr. Borden inquired if there was any further announcement regarding the minister of public works.

Speaker Sutherland said he had received no further communication from Hon. C. H. Hyman and in the meantime, not having heard from him, he had written to him calling attention to the irregularity of his resignation.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said he had received no further communication from Mr. Hyman but had also written him on the subject of his resignation.

Mr. Borden—Has any action been taken on his resignation as minister?

Sir Wilfrid replied in the negative, adding that he had asked Mr. Hyman to reconsider his decision, but had not received an answer yet.

Immigration Figures

Peter Christie ascertained from Hon. Frank Oliver that from April 29 to Nov. 30, the season of navigation on the St. Lawrence, this year, there arrived via ocean ports 104,086 immigrants and from the United States, 33,420 immigrants, making a total immigration of 137,506. Of this number, 22,242 had located in Quebec and the eastern provinces, 37,188 in Ontario, 26,394 in Manitoba, 17,581 in Saskatchewan, 17,157 in Alberta and 12,531 in British Columbia while sixty went to the Yukon.

Motion on Coal Lands

An important question is to be brought before parliament at an early date by John Herron, member for MacLeod, Alta. He will move "That in opinion of this house, the coal lands owned by the government of Canada should only be alienated under such conditions, and subject to such control and regulation, as will provide for an immediate supply of coal adequate at all times to the requirements of the people, at reasonable prices to the consumer, and that in respect to coal lands already alienated legislative provision should be made for such control and regulation, in case of emergency, as will in future prevent loss and suffering to the people of the western provinces through lack of fuel supply."

Tariff Delegations

The influx of tariff delegations still continues. Among those in town today were representatives of soap, starch, hat and cap industries and many others. Representatives of the woolen industry will be here tomorrow. Harry Cockshutt, president of the Canadian Manufacturers association was in the city today.

Officials Condemned

The Senate had a warm discussion over wreck-saving appliances on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Members on both sides condemned the gross stupidity of government officials in quarreling about the cost of carrying a lifeboat from Charlottetown to the scene of the wreck at East Point, P. E. I., while men were perishing. Incidentally Sir Richard Cartwright said the government was considering the question of establishing a general system of life-saving stations.

Fish Question

All the British Columbia members had a conference with Hon. Mr. Brodeur tonight on the subject of the interim report of the British Columbia fisheries commission. Some difference of opinion was manifested on minor points.

Entries Received

Fourteen entries have been received for the Governor-General's theatrical and musical trophy competition, two each from Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Ottawa, and one each from Hamilton, Regina, Victoria, Quebec, Halifax and St. John.

Too Much Laxity

A deputation from the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada saw Hon. Mr. Aylesworth this morning and urged an amendment to the parole ticket-of-leave system. They think there is too much laxity in the present regulations.

Richard Grigg, representative of the British Board of Trade, will recommend that the board appoint nine correspondents in different trade centres of the Dominion.

CONFESSES MURDER.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 5.—William Ardley, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who was found dead on Thanksgiving day, and whose body has been sent home, was murdered and robbed, if a confession made by Atkins Harmon is true. When Ardley's body was found it was supposed that he had met death by a fall down a stairway.

Atkins Harmon, Sam Taylor, Arthur Harlon and Grip Jones, white men, were arrested today, charged with the murder of Ardley. In confessing, Harmon implicated the others and said that robbery was the motive for the crime.

HEIGHT OF WAVES.

Ocean Billows Rear Themselves Into High Walls of Green Water.

A great Atlantic roller, disporting itself on top of between 2,000 and 3,000 fathoms of water, will completely change its character on coming into shallower soundings. The drift is curtailed and the crest becomes peaked up.

Near the Eddystone lighthouse, where the depth steeps within the range of but a few miles from 200 fathoms to 300 fathoms, the sea has been known to heap up into a solid wall of green water to a height of more than 100 feet. Such a procession of billows bearing down upon the famous lighthousee leave nothing but its lantern visible above their frothing ridges.

The expression "green water," or "green sea," by the way, is used to denote the actual wave body, as distinguished from the spray which it may throw up on the breaking. Thus the celebrated St. Helena rollers measure no more than about 15 feet of green water, but on bursting they will fling their crystalline showers to a height of substantially over 100 feet.

SALVATION ARMY TAKES CONTRACT

Commissioner Coombs Enters Into Agreement With the Provincial Government to Supply British Columbia With People to Relieve Labor Scarcity

When Commissioner Coombs leaves British Columbia he will carry an agreement with the local government by which the Salvation Army undertakes to bring a certain number of desirable settlers west of the Rocky Mountains at specified seasons of the year. This arrangement Hon. R. G. Tatlow, minister of agriculture, and other members of the cabinet believe will result in relieving to a material extent the inconvenience due to the scarcity of labor.

Although it will hardly be possible for the Salvation Army to direct a sufficient number of emigrants to British Columbia to completely solve the labor problem next year, their continued efforts towards bringing homeseekers west should have results extremely satisfactory to those most in need of help. In a word, it should give the managements of industries, the proprietors of large ranches and farms an opportunity to increase their staff of employees materially. The outcome of this movement on the part of the govrnment is expected to prove beneficial to the province as a whole.

At the meeting held last evening at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, which was addressed by Commissioner Coombs and at which Hon. Mr. Tatlow also spoke, the latter referred to letters respecting the satisfactory work done by the Salvation Army in the encouragement of immigration in other provinces. These are appended:

"Winnipeg, Oct. 29, 1906.

"Hon. R. G. Tatlow,
Minister of Finance and Agriculture
Victoria, B. C.

"Dear Sir—I have your letter of the 12th inst. relative to the efforts and kind of settlers produced by the Salvation Army, and in reply beg to say that so far, and the prospects are still good, everything done by the Salvation Army in this direction has been perfectly satisfactory, and they have given the government of this province no trouble in any way whatever, as they have an organized staff in all towns of any magnitude which gives them the facilities for handling immigration work. We have had no report of any undesirable character being brought out by them, and so far our experience has been that the men as well as the women brought out are adapted to the position required.

"The government has given them $1,000 to assist in the work the current year.

"Replying to question No. 3 we consider this undertaking a success and I would say so far entirely satisfactory to the department, and we have no reason to anticipate any other condition in connection with the matter. They have a staff in the Old Country collecting immigrants, who see that the proper kind are forwarded, and the practice of paying them some cash for such service, will make them, I think, careful in this direction.

"I understand that Ontario is preparin, after their experience with the matter, to pay them a considerably larger amount this year than they have heretofore paid.

"Yours very truly,
"Sd. J. GOLDEN.
"Acting Deputy Minister"

"Toronto, Oct. 26, 1906.

"Dear Sir—Replying to yours of the 13th inst. re Salvation Army immigration, I beg to say that the Salvation Army is one of the various agencies in Great Britain sending emigrants to Ontario. In the case of agricultural laborers and domestic servants, the Dominion pays these agencies a bounty on each emigrant, but no bounty or assisted passage is contributed by the province.

"The government of Ontario have a free bureau of farm labor through which immigrants arriving here are provided with situations on farms throughout the province. In case of the immigrants brought here by the Army, their extensive organization throughout the country enables them to find positions for them without depending on the government bureau. Of some six thousand immigrants brought to Ontario, by the Army this year, all were provided with work by the Army.

"In order to assist the Army in defraying the clerical and other expenses connected with the work, the provincial government make a special grant of money to them to be used as the Army officers see fit, amounting this year to $7,000.

"So far the immigrants brought here by the Army have been of a very good class and show evidence of having been carefully selected by the Army agents in Britain.

"Very truly yours,
"(Sd.) A. E. SEMPLE.
"Minister's Secretary."

It is announced that the commissioner intends appointing men to look into the labor conditions in all parts of British Columbia as thoroughly as possible. They will ascertain just where men are required and how many are needed in agricultural work, mining and other vocations. The compiling of this information will enable the Salvation Army to bring the settler to the province and place him immediately upon arrival. Thus the work of stimulating immigration to the West will be carried out on a practical basis—a system satisfactory to both the employers and those induced to come here in search of employment.

Commissioner Coombs points out that the method outlined has been adopted in all other provinces with the utmost success. It was evident that British Columbia could absorb large numbers of new-comers. But they could be induced to come much more readily if they knew that situations were assured them from the outset—positions which would enable them to support not only themselves, but any who might happen to be dependent upon them for a livelihood. In many cases the "flood" of settlers had proved of too great magnitude to be absorbed by the country. In the West the "flood" had not yet started, but when it did he wished employment assured for all. Of course, he knew that there was no danger, for some time at least, of too many coming in; but he believed it would be more satisfactory to all concerned if the emigrants were provided for before they reached the country.

As a result of the arrangement entered into between the Salvation Army and the provincial government, as stated, local residents may depend upon it that the labor problem will be to a great extent solved next year. The former organization has promised a certain number of settlers, and will carry out its part of the agreement.

SUB-PORT CREATED AT CLAYOQUOT

John Grice Is Appointed Sub-collector at Point on the West Coast

An Ottawa despatch to the Colonist says that John Grice has been appointed sub-collector of customs at Clayoquot. It was decided some time ago that Clayoquot was to be created a sub-port of entry to facilitate the shipping business expected to follow the establishment of the big saw and shingle mills of the Sutton Trading & Lumber Co. at Mosquito Harbor, which began cutting timber a few days ago.

Arrangements are being made for direct shipment from the mills by sailing vessels, and recently a pilot was appointed for the district, in the person of R. E. McKiel, a former sealing captain.

Mr. Grice is a resident of Clayoquot, where he was acting as shipping master.

STRANGE WEATHER PLANT.

Remarkable Shrub Foretells Not Only Storms but Earthquakes.

A "weather plant" which is said to have extraordinary powers in forecasting not only atmospheric, but seismic disturbance has been discovered in Cuba and Mexico. Its botanic name is abrus precatorius mobilis. The shrub has been found peculiarly sensitive to magnetic and electric influences. When changes in these occur its twigs and leaves perform peculiar and abnormal movements, each of these having its definite significance.

By its aid, it is said, weather forecasts can be made from two to seven days ahead of fog, and earthquake forecasts as much as 26 days in advance over an area of 300 square miles. It also predicts volcanic eruptions and accumulations of firedamp in mines. It is reported that bureaus will be established in San Francisco, Bombay and Tokio.

URUGUAY RELEASES CANADIAN SEALERS

British Minister Sends Men of Alice Gertrude to Falkland Islands

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 5.—The Canada Sealing company, of Halifax, received a cable this morning from Montevideo, signed by the British minister, stating that the four Canadians from the schooner Alice Gertrude, who were seized by the Uruguayan authorities, have been released and were being sent by the minister to the Falkland islands. The men it is claimed, were fishing within the prescribed limits.

HUMOR OF REFORMED SPELLING.

On the humorous side of the reformed spelling which President Roosevelt and noted educators have approved, the claim is made that Josh Billings, the funny man of long ago, was the father of phonetic or sound-spelling in this country. While Billings in his best days had a dry style of presenting facts that provoked laughter, it was the unique character of his spelling that attracted the attention of the nation to him.

If anything we are too serious in all our affairs. Thackeray, after his visit to us, complained that "when we laughed it was with a palpable reservation that we might cry at the same time." Dickens, unkindly noting the use of the knife instead of the fork at the table, said:

"These people have a sense of humor, but it is of the desperate kind. They can smile while dying for a cause they espouse."

So Billings and his spelling came to make our mirth less sad.

"Enny man kan be a fule," he wrote, "but not every fule a man."

It was the spelling of "fule" that made that a long-quoted joke.

"It ez ezzy tu be virtus," was another quote from his pen, "but not virtus tu be ezzy."

If the reformed spelling is to stand, much of Billings' was correct and will gradually come into common use.

THIRTY MILES OF PIPE.

Winnipeg, Dec. 4.—At a meeting of the fire, water and light committee tenders were called for 30 miles of assorted water pipe, to be delivered between June 1 and August 1.