PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Bill Providing for Reservation of British Columbia's Mineral Wealth for British Subjects Passes Second Reading.

Mr. Booth's Road Overseers Election Bill Is Withdrawn by Him on the Suggestion of the Premier.

Thursday, January, 12, 1898.

The speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock, and prayers having been read by Ven. Archdeacon Scriven,

PETITIONS

were presented as follows:

By Mr. Prentice—From Peter Ryan, John Shields and C. R. Doxat, asking for a private bill to consolidate the Ashcroft Water Works Co., Ltd., and the Asheroft Light & Power Co., and for an enlargement of the powers enjoyed under the respective charters.

By Mr. Munro—From Albert Nicholson and others, respecting certain liabilities incurred by the late commissioners of Sumas dyking district.

By Mr. Higgins—From John H. Senkler, Arthur P. Judge and Edgar Bloomfield, of Vancouver, seeking the incorporation by private bill of a company to carry on a general commercial and financial business.

By Major-General Kinchant—From J. H. Senkler, A. P. Judge and others, seeking the incorporation by private bill of a company to construct and operate a railway from Quesnelle Forks to the Skeena.

POLICE REGULATIONS.

The attorney-general in moving the second reading of the bill to amend the Police and Prisons Regulations act explained the object sought as being the institution of a change in connection with the jails of the province. It was proposed to take the administration of the jails out of the direction of the superintendent of police and make the wardens thereof responsible direct to the department of the attorney-general. This was the essence of what was contemplated, except to empower the Lieut.-Governor to make rules in council for the regulation of the jails, instead of having such rules promulgated as now by the superintendent of police. It was also proposed to have the appointment of police officers vested directly in the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council, instead of indirectly through the superintendent of police. Another point touched upon was that of the working of prisoners outside the limits of the jail enclosures, the law now providing that this might only be ordered by the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council. This rule had, in practice, been disregarded by the wardens as unworkable, and it was therefore proposed to invest the wardens directly with the necessary power. Again, justices of the peace were at present required to commit prisoners to the jails or lockups in their immediate localities, while for purposes of convenience or increased safety this was often inadvisable. It was intended to make the rule more elastic in this connection for the purposes of greater convenience and security.

Mr. Eberts saw nothing objectionable in the bill, although it did not appear to be important or very necessary. Still, as it was not adverse to the country's interests, and he would only offer opposition to legislation that he felt to be injudicious, he would support the government in the second reading.

The bill then passed its second stage, to be committed on Friday.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Hon. the attorney-general announced that the mining committee would meet to-morrow (Friday) at 10 a.m.

Hon. the finance minister announced that the private bills committee would meet to-morrow (Friday) at 10:30 a.m.

CHANGES IN COMMITTEES.

On the suggestion of hon. the premier the name of Mr. Deane was substituted for that of Mr. A. W. Neill on the railway committee.

Mr. Green (Kaslo) was placed on the railway committee in substitution for Mr. Kellie, on motion of the hon. the finance minister.

PLACER MINING AMENDMENT.

Hon. Mr. Hume, in moving the second reading of the Placer Mining Amendment Act, 1899, said the object of the bill was to protect the mining rights for British subjects. He could not see the necessity of saying very much about the bill, because it spoke for itself. He was very pleased indeed to know that the ex-premier would support the measure, seeing from an interview with the leader of the opposition published in one of the Vancouver papers that he had stated he was in accord with it.

Col. Baker—What paper?

Mr. Turner—Will the hon. gentleman repeat what he has said?

Hon. Mr. Hume repeated his statement and said he had seen the interview referred to in the Vancouver World.

Mr. Turner said that in regard to the alleged interview it was certainly not in the World. He was not aware that he had been interviewed in Vancouver. A young gentleman whom he didn't know at all asked him what he thought about aliens being allowed to work in placer mines. He said there was something in the objection to aliens working in placer mines, because their employment might mean the driving out of our own people.

He had never heard of any bill of this kind being proposed, the first he knew of it being when it was read in the house yesterday. He had had but little time to consider it and so important a measure required time for its consideration.

The leader of the opposition said he had received a letter from an American saying that an act had been passed by the United States congress allowing aliens to hold placer mining claims in all the territories of the United States except the district of Columbia. He concluded by urging upon the government not to press the bill to-day.

Hon. Mr. Hume pointed out that Americans are now flocking to this country, and the sooner action was taken in the direction of preserving the mineral wealth of the country for the benefit of British subjects the better. There was no doubt that our riches on the coast should be protected.

Hon. Premier Semlin said the sooner such legislation as this was carried out the better, and the information could the earlier be conveyed to those who are going up to the Atlin country. It would be an act of cruelty to them to get there and find they were excluded. The object of the bill was quite clear, it was to protect British subjects. It was not proposed for the mere purpose of excluding aliens; there was something to be gained by the aliens becoming citizens of the country. In the United States every man was regarded as an alien until he became a citizen. He had insisted for years that it would be in the interest of the province and of the Empire that people coming here should become citizens, and he had seen no reason to change the opinion he had held for years past.

Col. Baker thought there were some pros and cons to be considered in the matter. There were, of course, certain grievances existing owing to the inability of some people to corral mining properties, but why should the act apply only to placer mining? It should also have application to lands and to quartz mining. He could not but admit that the enterprise of American citizens had developed the vast resources of the Kootenay country.

He objected to sub-section 2 of the bill, providing that no joint stock company or corporation shall be entitled to take out a free miner's certificate unless the same has been incorporated, and not simply licensed or registered, under the laws of this province, and unless such company or corporation is authorized to take out a miner's license by the lieutenant-governor in council. He thought this savored too much of an oligarchy, and was quite consistent with the policy which had shown itself in all the actions of the government. He would take the opportunity of amending the bill in committee. It had been the custom when important measures of this nature had been brought down to refer them first of all to the mining committee, and he would not object to the second reading if the government would promise to refer it to the mining committee.

Hon. Mr. Hume said he would have no objection to adopt the suggestion to refer the measure to the mining committee except the urgent need of hastening the adoption of the legislation.

Hon. the Attorney-General said Col. Baker had referred to the fact of the bill being confined to placer mining. There was a difference of opinion as to aliens being allowed to prospect for quartz. His personal opinion was that they should be, it being to the interest of the province that they should. A great deal of mineral development had taken place owing to the enterprise of American citizens. Large sums of money are required to do work in quartz mining, but I am not prepared to say that the influx of Americans had been an unmixed blessing, for while their enterprise has been an advantage to the country it has been a disadvantage in other ways. The defrauding and misleading of the general public had not been to the best interests of the general public. The member for Southeast Kootenay had made charges of dishonesty against the government on account of sub-section 2.

Col. Baker—I never mentioned dishonesty in any way.

Hon. Mr. Martin—No, he was not brave enough to do that. He insinuated it. I can quite understand that the hon. gentleman would object to our doing what we consider to be in the best interests of the people of the province, and I can easily believe that the hon. gentleman would think that in making this move the government was interested in the benefit of some private corporation.

When the members of the late government saw that section in the bill it seemed almost natural for them to conclude that the government would act in favor of their friends, that having apparently being the guiding principle with them. The section objected to was necessary to carry out the intention of the act. The Americans, who have the reputation of being an astute people, would be likely to avail themselves of the advantage of forming a joint stock company, and it becomes necessary for the interests of the people that they should be able to decide whether it was a bogus company. The object of the clause was that none but a Canadian or British company should have the privilege of carrying on mining operations, and this he thought was in the interests of the province.

Col. Baker said that the attorney-general was condemned out of his own mouth. He could not expect to be in power all the time; some other party must be at some time in the future, and having used their majority to strengthen themselves in the house, it was quite possible that they might use this proposed legislation in a similar way.

Hon. Dr. McKechnie referred to section 19 of the old act, and said that the criticisms of the last speaker (Colonel Baker) would apply equally well to that. If it were right for the power contained therein to be in the hands of the executive council, it was equally right that a similar power should be given to the present government, and it was certain that those powers would be executed in an equally trustworthy manner. The member for Southeast Kootenay had argued that the result of this measure would be the keeping of capital out of the country; there is but little capital required in placer mining, it being generally understood that placer mining is the poor man's opportunity, while quartz mining is only possible to the rich man. The object of the bill was to reserve the riches of the province for our own people and to prevent outsiders getting away with the products of our placer mines. Too many people are carried away by a boom, and so many flock into a new mining country that 90 per cent. of the output of the mines would go to foreigners and only 10 per cent. be left for the people of British Columbia. The adoption of the bill would mean that the exploitation of the mines would last longer and that British Columbia would gain the whole houndred per cent. If it were left open for aliens it would mean that the goods required by the miners would be bought on the south of the line. The only possible objection he could see to be urged against the bill is that some merchants might under present circumstances do a rattling good business for a few years, and think it better to do that than to have a regular business for generations. If the exploitation of the mines went on slowly it would lead to the permanent development of the Atlin country, which was not only a mining, but also a rich agricultural and grazing country. There was no comparison between quartz and placer mining and the permanent settlement of the country depended upon the slower development of the mining industry. Quartz mining required much more capital than placer, and would leave in the country 75 to 90 per cent., but in placer mining little machinery was needed and meant in wages paid, supplies needed, and the creation of towns, a destinct benefit to the country if it were retained for our own people.

A. W. Smith (Lillooet) attempted to refute the argument that more capital was needed for quartz mining than for placers. His experience in Cariboo had been that much capital was needed in placer mining. He had no objection to the bill providing for the exclusion of aliens, but could not see why it should be made to apply to placer mining only. More money was taken out of the quartz mines of the province than out of the placers.

Mr. Helgesen (Cariboo) was not desirous of seeing any of the freedom hitherto enjoyed being destroyed, but did wish to see the country preserved for the benefit of the country. In the Cariboo country the people, even Americans, had asked him to have an alien exclusion act passed as soon as he was elected. He thought it was high time to begin to save the resources of the country for our own people, but he had not had time to go into the details of the bill, having only seen it to-day, and strongly recommended that it be referred to the mining committee.

Mr. Booth did not propose to give a silent vote upon the bill. He had no particular desire to force anyone to become a citizen, but would rather make it to the interests of aliens to do so, but the conduct of those on the other side of the line forces British Columbia to take such a step, and for that reason he was in favor of the bill. He believed that if the country could be developed slowly it would be better than to have it exhausted in a year or two. He did not know why quartz mining should be excluded. In times past it was to the interests of the country to get men who were acquainted with such work to prospect for minerals, but we have passed that stage now; the mineral wealth of the country was sufficiently known and he thought it would be well in the interests of the country to make the act apply to quartz mining.

Mr. J. M. Martin (Rossland) thought it would be a different proposition altogether to make the act apply to quartz mining. Placer mining was carried on much more cheaply than quartz, and the Americans who would exploit our placer mineral wealth would outfit in American cities. He was surprised that the government did not have the support of the hon. gentlemen opposite, because they had always been great sticklers for keeping trade in its natural channels. He remembered them objecting very much to a charter for a railroad in his own country because they said it would divert trade to American cities. In the Rossland district hundreds of aliens had come in, become citizens, and brought their families, and to exclude them from quartz mining meant the hindrance of the development of the country.

Mr. Helmcken, Mr. Green, Mr. Clifford, Mr. Neill and Mr. McPherson continued the debate, reports of their speeches being unavoidably held over until tomorrow, and the second reading of the bill carried, the committee stage to be reached at the next sitting of the house.

ROAD OVERSEERERS BILL.

Mr. Booth moved the second reading of the bill to provide for the election of road overseers, which, he said, was intended to place in the hands of the people needing the road the supervision of their construction, retaining to the government the supervision of the expenditure.

Hon. Premier Semlin said that although he recognized that there was much good in the suggestion contained in the bill, the government were already carrying out experiments along similar lines, and it was too early yet to decide as to their success. He would like the matter to be left over until another session, when the government would have a better idea of the workableness of the plan suggested.

Mr. Booth, on the understanding that it would be brought up again during another session, was willing to withdraw the bill; leave was granted and the order for the second reading discharged.

Friday, January 13, 1899.

When the Times went to press last evening the house was in committee on the Placer Mining Amendment act. During the progress of the consideration of the measure the most interesting feature was the reading of a letter by ex-Premier Turner, a full text of which follows: It came from a resident of Seattle, Mr. C. W. Turner, an attorney:

"Permit me as a citizen of the United States having some interest in your province to suggest, which I do most respectfully, the unwisdom of the proposed legislation. An era of good feeling, never so fully appreciated hitherto, exists between our people and yours, assuring a firmer friendship between us in future, with all the blessings it will confer. The opportunity for an advance in our civilization and humanitarianism should be fostered in every way. The law proposed in Victoria would naturally disturb such progress, because it would be quickly recognized by everybody on our side of the line as a shaft levelled specially at us; and whilst such result would be inevitable, it would not accomplish the end desired, for it is impossible to fully obstruct the determined energy, activity and enterprise of our miners and merchants. Whether the proposed legislation will provoke retaliation no one can foretell. The labor and capital of our citizens have largely contributed to the development of mineral resources in every clime, and both your placer and quartz regions have felt their potency. Probably the freedom of your system in admitting aliens to locate mineral claims without distinction inspired the act of congress of March 2, 1897, wherein it is provided that persons not citizens of the United States may acquire and hold lots and parcels of land in any incorporated or platted city, town or village, or any mine or mining claim in any of the territories of the United States. The constitution of the state of Washington gives similar rights to aliens as to mineral lands, and no line is drawn by either law as to the class of mineral lands that may be so held. Local traders in your mining camps are generally Canadians, and from them miners' supplies are chiefly obtained. They in turn buy in your own markets, so that at best there should not be more than a generous rivalry between your people and ours to secure local custom, and the history of all mining camps is that there has been more money expended within them than the amount taken from them. It is, therefore, better to encourage our people to aid your own in the development of your mineral wealth than to exclude them, viewed solely from the fact last stated. Viewed from any standpoint, the restrictive measure suggested is not in harmony with the enlightened spirit of our times, nor justified by the conditions surrounding us. But my intention was more to call your attention to the recent act of congress mentioned than to criticize your policy, and I beg you to treat this communication only as the prompting of amity, and a disposition to promote the common good."

In a subsequent note, Mr. Turner, of Seattle, wrote the leader of the opposition: "Either I or my typewriter omitted the words 'acquire and,' which should be inserted between the words 'may' and 'hold,' in the 18th line of the second page of my letter of this date to you, thereby giving the law referred to its literal (and a very important) signification; for there is no doubt in my mind, as a lawyer of many years' experience in our mineral regions, having a fair knowledge of our legislation and judicial decisions in mining law, that the framer of the provision mentioned intended by the use of the word 'acquire' that aliens can 'locate,' as well as take by any other method, mining claims—our courts having long held that 'discovery, locating, recording, etc.,' required by the Mineral act of congress of May 10, 1892, are acts or terms of purchase."

The consideration of the measure in committee resulted in a few slight changes, the most important being the insertion of a provision that any license wrongfully obtained by any company might be cancelled by the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council.

During the debate Mr. Eberts pointed out that American citizens might find a way of evading the law, and hon. the attorney-general explained that it was not expected that the act could not be gotten around, the only thing to be done was to make it as difficult of evasion as possible.

Finally the bill was reported complete as amended, the third reading being set for Monday next.

The house rose shortly after 3 o'clock, being adjourned until Monday at 2 p.m.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Helgesen—To move on Monday that a respectful address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor praying His Honor to move the Dominion government to furnish this house with the following returns, viz.:

1. The number of Chinese landed at the various ports of this province from foreign ports and the amount of head tax collected during the years 1897 and 1898.

2. The number of Japanese landed at the various ports of the province from foreign ports during the same period.

3. The number of Chinese and Japanese landed at the quarantine station at Victoria during the same period.

By Mr. McBride—To move that an address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor praying him to move the Dominion government to take steps to amend the statutes of Canada with reference to marine and fisheries, so as to provide for the appointment of a board of local commissioners having jurisdiction over the fisheries of this province with full power and authority to make rules and regulations concerning them.

By Mr. Eberts—For all correspondence between the government or any member thereof and Archibald Dick (late inspector of mines) and his replies thereto touching the enforcement of the Coal Mines Regulation act as to the non-employment of Chinese underground, and particularly any letter or report he may have made as to what action he had taken in the premises.

McPHILLIPS'S RESIGNATION.

Mr. A. E. McPhillips's resignation of his seat came as a great surprise to all parties. Seen yesterday by a Times reporter, Mr. McPhillips said that his reasons would be explained in a letter he was sending to the editor of the Colonist, and wished to be regarded as his complete explanation of what he had felt himself called upon to do.

The following is the letter:

Victoria, Jan. 13, 1899.

To the Editor of the Colonist.

Sir: I have to-day addressed a letter of resignation of my seat in the legislative assembly of the province to the honorable the Speaker. In that it may possibly become public before the official notification is made of my resignation that I have resigned, I think it well that my constituents, through your columns, should be made aware of why it is that I have resigned.

A doubt arose in my mind as to whether I was qualified to sit and vote in the house, and to remove that doubt I took the opinion of one of the leading counsel of the province, and of one who was opposed in politics to the party to which I belong. The opinion taken by me was that of Mr. Bodwell, which reads as follows:

"A. E. McPhillips, Esq., Barrister, etc., Victoria, B. C.:

"Dear Sir: In answer to your request for my opinion as to whether the transaction which took place between Mr. Barnard and the late government is such as to render you ineligible to sit and vote as a member of the legislative assembly, I beg to say that I do not think is of that character.

"As I understand the facts, Mr. Barnard made an arrangement with the government to hold certain briefs at an assize which was to have taken place a considerable period previous to the dates of nomination and election of members, but which in fact, owing to necessary adjournments, was not held until the week immediately preceding the date of polling. I think, however, the facts are such that it must be held that the contract, if any, was completed before the date of election. There was nothing left to be settled between the government and Mr. Barnard after that date. Even if there had been a dispute over the amount of the fee, it is a matter which could have been settled by taxation in the ordinary course.

"The principle laid down in Royse vs. Burleigh, in Law Reports, 4 Common Pleas, seems to me to govern the question here. It was there decided that in order to create the disqualification, the contract must be executory after the date of election. In that event the government of the day may be supposed to have some influence over the member to induce him to vote for them; but I think a disqualification can arise in the case of a contract executed before the election and with respect to which the contractor, after the election, stands in the relation only of a creditor of the government.

"I come to this conclusion altogether apart from certain other facts which I think are material. In the first place, I understand that this contract, if any, was made by Mr. Barnard without reference to you, and that when it came to your knowledge you declined in any way to participate in it, and that Mr. Barnard received the fee on his own account and applied the whole of it for his own benefit. I see nothing in the relation which exists between two barristers practicing in this province to prevent that kind of an arrangement being made; in fact, it seems to me rather doubtful whether a partnership in the ordinary sense of the word can exist between barristers as such, although such a relation may exist with regard to the solicitor work which they often do in connection with their practice as barristers. Moreover, it is not clear that a barrister can make a contract for a fee. I should think, unless he could made a contract enforcible in his behalf that it would not be within the wording, although perhaps it might be said to be within the spirit of the act in question.

"However, it is not necessary to seriously consider any of these points, as I think that the fact that the arrangement was absolutely executed before you were elected is sufficient to prevent a disqualification, even if you could be connected with the transaction by reason of the arrangement made with Mr. Barnard.

"Yours very truly,

"E. V. BODWELL."

It will be seen that some time before the sitting of the house I took the precaution to have legal advice, therefore my course was exactly in line with that of Mr. William Forsyth, Q.C., in whose favor in the Imperial parliament a bill of indemnification was passed. In view, however, of the number of resignations that have taken place, and in view of the very serious liability there is by way of penalties, I have, after anxious consideration, thought it right for me to resign. I may, therefore, say, though, that I have every confidence in Mr. Bodwell's opinion, as I feel sure the people throughout the province have, and whilst holding the bona fide belief that I am not disqualified, still I should not, in justice, expose myself to a $500 a day penalty for sitting and voting. I trust that my constituents will believe that I have endeavored to discharge my duties whilst acting as a member of the house in a fair and conscientious manner. I am sure it is unnecessary to state that of the fees received by Mr. Barnard—in amount about $150—I did not receive once cent, and when it came to my notice any payment was about to be received from the government of the day, I distinctly stated that I would not participate in the fees; as the result, Mr. Barnard put in his personal voucher for the personal services performed by him, and received the fees for his own private and separate use. Yours truly,

A. E. McPHILLIPS.

NOTES.

The members of the press gallery are to meet on Monday afternoon at one o'clock for the purpose of organization. Nine papers are represented.

The following is the gist of the bill introduced to amend the Jurors Act, the panel being reduced from 24 to 13:

"The precepts, writs or orders to sheriffs for the return of grand jurors for the sittings of courts of oyer and terminer and general jail delivery shall command the return of thirteen grand jurors, and no more, and the panel of grand jurors for any of the said courts shall consist of thirteen grand jurors, notwithstanding any law, usage or custom to the contrary."

Mr. Higgins has been appointed chairman of the private bills committee, Mr. Kellie receiving a similar appointment from the members of the railway committee.

THE ATLIN GOLDFIELDS.

A Complete Bed of Gold Two Hundred Miles From Surprise Lake.

Among the recent arrivals from Atlin are Mr. Saunders and his partners, E. R. Robertson and J. P. Wright. They came out via the Taku trail and made the trip to Juneau, whence the came down in 36 hours. When at the Saklin river on the way out the party were joined by four more men who had been prospecting and were coming out for provisions. This party included Dick Richardson, A. A. Maxwell, Orrin Olesen and Chas. Smith, all from Calgary, who went in or attempted to go in to Dawson via the Stikine route, but failed to reach their destination and were forunate enough in reaching Lake Teslin, from whence they made their way to the Atlin district when the strike was first made. They located some fine claims on Pine and Spruce creeks, also some near Surprise lake. These gentlemen are all enthusiastic over Surprise lake. They claim that the whole section adjacent for two hundred miles either way from Surprise is one complete bed of gold. Gold can be found in paying quantity at most any place you put a pick regardless of where it is, in the bed of a creek, on the branches or on the highest hills. Golden nuggets were shaken from the roots of the trees by these prospectors and some of them which they showed were equal to anything that has been found in Pine creek.

Mr. Robertson, who spent some time on Dixie creek, thinks that Dixie will develop surprising results this spring. He is one of those conservative young farmers of the Saskatchewan country, and in speaking of the possibility of farming in the Atlin district he said that, beyond a question of doubt, the lands are rich and conditions for raising grain, vegetables and hay are equal if not superior to any portion of Canada. He says there are thousands of acres of meadow lands with luxurant wild grasses growing waist-high that can be put under cultivation to an extent that would make Illinois farmers envious. He also says that the winter is not more severe than lower British Columbia. From indications where rabbits have gnawed the bark from the trees he don't believe the snow ever falls more than eight or ten inches. When he left there was scarcely any snow, either in Surprise City or on the trail, and probably Atlin is the same.

Game is plentiful, Mr. Robertson says, particularly small game, all over the district, and people who are wintering there are comfortable and enjoying themselves. Considerable prospecting is being done, but most of the men are building cabins, sawing sluice-box lumber and getting ready to develop in the spring.

FAIRVIEW CAMP.

The Opinion of One Well Qualified to Judge As to Its Future.

D. A. Carmichael and bride, of Fairview B. C., have been guests at the Victoria for a few days. Mrs. Carmichael is a daughter of T. Kruger, Osoyoos, and was married to Mr. Carmichael on the 3rd of January. They are now on their wedding tour. Mr. Carmichael was a resident of Victoria in 1894-5, was in the Granite Creek rush, and ever since that time has followed mining in Boundry Creek and Osoyoos districts.

To a Times reporter Mr. Carmichael expressed the utmost confidence in the Fairview country. During the past season the district on the whole was quiet, that is there was no boom or undue excitement, but still there was a large amount of work done in prospecting and developing. Several strong companies have been working, and almost every foot of work has shown up good. Just before leaving Fairview a strike had been made on the Morning Star at 140 feet level, where the vein was found to be five feet wide and well mineralized. The quartz mill had been mining on the Smuggler, and a clean up had been made before Christmas which was highly satisfactory. The Stemwinder owners were still sinking, and are now 200 feet down, having fine ore at the 100-foot level.

Mr. Carmichael is interested in the Flora, West Hill and Virginia claims, which are above the Stemwinder and on the same lead as the Morning Star. He confidently looks forward to big results in a year or two, and believes that Fairview camp's future is full assured.

EFFECTS OF THE STORM.

The British Ship Iranian Driven Ashore By the Heavy Southeast Gales.

The strong gale which came up from the southeast this morning, lashed the waters of the straits into big foaming waves and swept the streets, has played havoc with the telephone and telegraphic wires. At 11.30 o'clock this morning the wire which brings the power for the street railway company from Goldstream went down, and until the break was mended this afternoon the street cars were at a standstill. A number of telephone wires were crossed and many amusing incidents were noticeable in telephonic connection in consequence. One of the telegraph companies, too, was without a wire on account of the gale. The passage of James Bay bridge, wind swept as it was, was trying. A hooded grocery wagon was blown over and lay across the car track for some time before it was righted, and, minus the hood, continued on its way.

Perhaps the most serious accident which occurred during the day, however, was the grounding of the British ship Iranian at Esquimalt. The Iranian, which arrived from Hongkong about two weeks ago, seeking, went into the entrance to Esquimalt harbor a few days ago. This morning, when the storm broke, she dragged her anchor and was driven ashore on Rose bank, which lies to the back of the lighthouse at the fire side of the harbor. The tug Czar went around to render assistance, and succeeded in getting her off about 3 o'clock. Nothing could be learned as to the extent of her injuries at the time of going to press, but it is not thought she has been seriously injured, as the beach there is a sandy one. She will go on the ways for inspection. The steamers Charmer and Princess Louise were both delayed considerably. The former did not get away on her voyage to Vancouver until 7 a. m. and the latter was still awaiting at the other end of the wharf for a lull in the storm at the time of going to press.

The lighthouse-keeper at Fiddle Reef light, Oak Bay, is also a sufferer by reason of the storm. He is cut off from the shore, for the heavy seas now running have washed away his boat.

The storm is the tail end of a big ocean storm which began yesterday off the Washington and Oregon coasts.

Abbey's Effervescent Salt

Trial Size 25c Now Out

A trial of a good article establishes its goodness. The merits of the preparation will do the rest. All druggists. Large bottle, 50 cts.

The Cold Wave

Makes no difference to us. We are getting prices down to zero; driving trade to the merry music of the bells of Economy and Satisfaction. This is the weather for hot BUCKWHEAT CAKES AND MAPLE SYRUP direct from Ontario.

FLAKED BARLEY, for mush (more nourishing that Rolled Oats), 4 lbs.	$ .25
HUNGARIAN FLOUR	1.25
SNOWFLAKE FLOUR	1.10
SUGAR, 20 lbs. for	1.00
CREAMERY BUTTER, per lb.	.27
DAIRY BUTTER, per lb.	.20
JAM, in 5-lb. pails	.50

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Full lines of Winter Underwear, Clothing, Top Shirts, Fur Robes and Fur Caps.

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COLLINGWOOD, ONT.

People of This Town Greatly Stirred Up Over the Many Cases of Recovery From Severe Heart and Nerve Troubles

The Cure of Mr. J. Currie, the well-Known Blacksmith Causing a Great Deal of Comment.

The little life savers have struck Collingwood, Ont.

They've been greatly welcomed by the sick and suffering of that prosperous town.

They're curing people whom other remedies failed to benefit.

Building up run down constitutions.
Strengthen, invigorating weak hearts.
Toning up the nerves.
Making watery blood rich, red, nutritious.

Mr. J. Currie, the well-known brawny blacksmith of that town suffered greatly from palpation of the heart and shortness of breath.

This is his story of how he was cured:

"For three years something has gone wrong with my heart. What it was I did not know, but it caused me great suffering from palpation and shortness of breath. When I started to do anything in a hurry the trouble became a great deal worse. During the last three years I have taken a number of different medicines for heart trouble, but nothing did me any good, until I fortunately commenced taking Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills, which I got at E. R. Carpenter's Drug Store. Three boxes cured me, making my heart act in a healthy and natural manner, and restoring me to my former state of vigorous health. I am no longer annoyed with palpitation or shortness of breath, and can heartily say that Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills cannot be excelled as a medicine for all heart or nerve troubles. This is my own experience, and I recommend these pills to all who suffer as I did."

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills 50c a box or 3 boxes for $1.25, at all druggists. T. Milburn & Co., Toronto, Ont.

You hardly realize that it is medicine when taking Carter's Little Liver Pills; they are very small; no bad effects; all troubles from torpid liver are relieved by their use.