Local News.

CLEANINGS OF CITY AND PROVINCIAL NEWS IN A CONDENSED FORM.

—A cage containing seven pure bred canary cocks, consigned to R. G. Wilgress, Northfield, has arrived from England. The Dominion Express Company, in spite of the inclement weather prevailing in Eastern Canada, brought the birds through in the very best of condition.

—The city council held a special meeting Friday to consider the estimates. The heads of the various coporation departments were in attendance and recommended the changes sought by them for the ensuing year. It is understood that a number of improvements will be made, especially in the police department.

—It is expected duck shooting will be good in the marshes up along the E. & N. railway, and in the inlets and lagoons for the next few days. The recent fall of snow has just been sufficiently heavy to bring the fowl out into the swamp to look for food, and it is expected that the trains leaving for up the E. & N. will carry quite a number of hunters.

—The Chinese Reform Association of this city received Friday a telegram from the Chinese Reform and Women's Reform Association of Portland, which reflects the spirit which animates these organizations. The telegram extends felicitations to the local branch, and expresses the hope that the present year will witness the advent of a true reform government at Pekin.

—The forty-first anniversary of the Knights of Pythias in this province was celebrated by Far West Lodge, No. 1, Friday. After a candidate had been put through the second degree, a banquet was held. Bro. C. C. enketh took the chair. An address dealing with the benefits of the order and the progress made was held. Bro. C. C. Penketh took the speakers were Bros. Watson, Redgrave, Allan and Nathan.

—A prominent local Liberal is being somewhat embarrassed these days by the congratulations of friends who took too seriously the "exclusive" announcement of his appointment to the collectorship of customs, which appeared a number of times in the anti-government press. No appointment has yet been made nor is there likely to be a selection made for some time to come. Any statement to the contrary is absolutely groundless.

—Scott DeLaunay, chief engineer of the late steamer Clallam, whose license has been revoked by the Seattle board of inquiry, will appeal to Supervising Inspector Birmingham, of San Francisco. If he did not wish to take this stand he could appear before the Seattle inspectors and take the regular examination. The inspectors on whose finding the license was revoked point out that their decision does not prevent him from engaging in this calling again.

—The Cloverdale Athletic Association held a concert in Tennyson Road hall on Friday. J. T. Croot, president of the club, presided, and in his opening address outlined the progress made by the club. He hoped that it would soon be in possession of a lot upon which to build a club house. During the evening Misses Jennie Donkin and Florence Croot gave an exhibition of club swinging. Alex. Mellish also exemplified this art. Miss Westwood contributed recitations, and Messrs. Ward, Mesher and Petch took part in the proceedings.

—James Dougall was fined $20 in the police court on Saturday for assaulting a Chinaman. The latter, who is a scavenger, made a mistake in the place to which his orders had directed him and his countryman associated with him They were told that they had come to the wrong house, but continued their work. The defendant thereupon went out after them, and struck one with a stick. A. J. Lewis, charged with vagrancy, was remanded until Monday morning. A woman charged with being an inmate of a house of ill-fame was fined $50, or in default three months' imprisonment. She paid the fine.

—The manager of the Seamen's Institute gratefully acknowledges the receipt of reading matter during the month of January from the following: Miss Booth, Mrs. R. Maynard, Mrs. Wm. Atkins, Mrs. H. D. Helmcken, Mrs. Van Tassell, Mrs. G. S. Stainer, The Lord Bishop of Columbia, The Navy League (B. C. branch), R. W. Fawcett, David A. N. Ogilvy, H. Burnett, J. C. Mackay, the Times and Colonist, daily papers, and one anonymous donor. During the past month parcels of literature were supplied by the institute to the crews of the sealing schooners Vera, Casco and Jessie.

—F. L. Denman, auditor of the Pacific Cold Storage Company, says: "On account of the depressed condition of the salmon market many canneries in Alaska will not be operated this year. Other packing companies will go farther north, where they will catch less pinks and get more red salmon. Reds are now selling at $1.25 f.o.b. coast, while pinks are very low, the minimum quotations being 50 cents. This is below the cost of production, and there is no profit for those companies the bulk of whose pack is pinks. The cause of the unfavorable condition of the market is over production primarily. An effort has been made to maintain prices, but the stock on hand was too large. Consequently prices took a slump."

—The new building erected for the Chinese Benevolent Association on Cormorant street was duly cleared of "devils" on Friday by a judicious and protracted discharge of fireworks, which attracted a big crowd of Caucasian as well as Mongolian onlookers. Shortly before 8 o'clock a procession marched through the streets bearing the roast pig and other New Year dainties. In addition to these a large carved piece for the new Joss house was borne aloft. This piece is said to have cost hundreds of dollars, the carving being most elaborate. The procession ended at the new building, where, the ornament and dainties having been installed, a discharge of giant firecrackers, bombs, rockets, etc., was kept up for over an hour. The cost of last night's display must have been a by no means insignificant amount.

—The police have received a letter from Mrs. Margaret Welch, of 1,318 23rd street, South Minneapolis, inquiring after the whereabouts of her son, P. J. Welch, who was en route home from Alaska when last heard from. She fears that illness or some other misfortune has befallen him.

—Always ready to assist a worthy object, the Victoria West Amateur Dramatic Society are about to present the war play, "The Spy of Gettysburg," at their benefit entertainment on Friday, February 26th. Considering the aim, the society's efforts should be rewarded by the assistance of the general public.

—In spite of the tragedy which took place within it a few weeks ago and the New Year's festivities which are engrossing Chinatown, the Chinese theatre is in nightly operation. Quite a number of whites were present Friday night, and while unable to pass on the merits of the play were unanimous in the opinion that the orchestra is superior to any that have yet had an engagement at the theatre in question.

—The funeral of the late Robert Fairful took place yesterday afternoon. Services were conducted by Rev. W. Leslie Clay. The pall-bearers were: E. M. Whyte, Chas. McKie, J. Pettigrew, J. Turnbull, A. Cameron and R. Nichol. There was a large attendance of the members of the unions to which the deceased belonged. Many floral tributes were received. The family wish to thank those who in this way showed their respect to the deceased.

—Vancouver papers have been publishing copies of a new fisheries bill, which they state is to be submitted by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to the Dominion House. It is known that British Columbia representatives are in consultation with the minister in regard to a bill relating to the fisheries, but nothing final has yet been reached, and any provisions published are merely tentative in character and likely to be materially modified.

—Tenders are being called by Lieut.-Colonel English, commanding troops at Work Point barracks, for such cartage and hire of wagons, carts, horses and hacks as may be required for the service of His Majesty's troops at Esquimalt for one year from April 1st, 1904. These will be received up till noon on Friday, March 4th. Those who wish forms of tender or further particulars are asked to apply to the officer commanding, army service corps, Work Point barracks.

—The case of Coles vs. C. P. R., which has come up in Chambers applications several times of late, has been withdrawn from court. The defendant company has agreed to settle the action for damages preferred by Miss Coles. The case arose out of injuries received by Miss Coles, stenographer in the Hudson's Bay Company's employ, while boarding the steamer Amur at the dock. A deficiency in connection with the gangway resulted in the plaintiff receiving the injuries. F. B. Gregory represented Miss Coles, all the preliminary steps being taken before a settlement was effected.

—Officials of the Victoria branch of the Provincial Mining Association waited on Lieut.-Colonel Hall, commanding the Fifth Regiment, Friday, and urged him to use his good offices towards securing a repetition of the military evening held in commemoration of Paardeberg. It is understood an arrangement was made to this effect, and on Thursday evening next the delegation to the annual convention of the Mining Association will be entertained to as fine an exhibition as has ever been given here. Further particulars will be given in the Times on Monday next.

—In connection with the third annual flower show of the Victoria Horticultural Society, for which the prize list has just been issued, it might be mentioned that special prizes will be given to amateurs who do not employ gardeners, or help of any kind, for the best kept cottage garden. This includes the general appearance of the flower garden and lawn. All persons desiring to compete for these prizes must notify the secretary not later than the last day of May. A committee has been appointed who will act as judges, and will make one visit of inspection to each of the competing gardens not later than a week before the first day of the show. An entrance fee of $1 will be charged. The prizes will be: First, $15; second, $10; third, $5.

—Victorians will be interested to learn that Senator David Wark, of New Brunswick, who celebrated his one hundredth birthday on Friday, is a brother of the late Hon. John Wark, after whom the Work estate is named. Mr. Wark came to this province in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company and received from them a large area of land to the north of Victoria, and now an extensive part of the city. In the deed a clerical error made the name Wark read Work, and the mistake was not discovered until too late for rectification. Mr. Wark came West many years before Victoria was founded, and was employed by the big trading company in various districts throughout the Pacific Northwest. Mrs. Tolmie and Mrs. Finlaison are his daughters. Another daughter was the late Mrs. Prior.

YOUNG MEN, Become Independent

Our School can give you a Veterinary Course in simple English language, at home during five months of your spare time, and place you in a position to secure a business of from $1,200 upwards yearly. Diploma granted and good positions obtained for successful students. Cost within reach of all. Satisfaction guaranteed. Write for full particulars at once. THE ONTARIO VETERINARY CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL, London, Ontario, Canada.

—A ship's carpenter and a seaman working on the steamer Princess Victoria, came near being asphyxiated this morning. They had entered one of the tanks of the steamer to dry it out preparatory to doing some painting. They had built a fire from shavings and thoughtlessly used some charcoal to make the fire last. The result, of course, was that they inhaled the gas. Coming under its influence they left the tank. When one got out on deck he fell, and striking his head was rendered unconscious for a short time. Neither now, however, are any the worse.

—The Sons of England of this city are making arrangements for a benefit concert on a large scale for one of their number, A. Peatt, who is crippled with rheumatism. Messrs. Boscowitz have kindly promised the theatre free of charge, and the newspapers, ushers, printers, etc., are also giving their assistance gratis. The concert will take place on the 14th prox., and will be high class in character.

—It is not known whether the new police commissioners will meet on the first Wednesday of every month in regular session as has been the custom of their predecessors, although the chances are they will adhere to the rule. In that event their first formal meeting will not be held until March 2nd. It is said that the new board intends to take a determined stand against gambling, and that the day of a wide open town is forever past.

—One of the tournament shuffle matches was contested on Friday afternoon between Dr. L. Hall and R. Dunn and J. Coates and A. H. Wilkinson. The former couple won. A great deal of interest is being taken in this tournament. The first round has been completed, and the semi-finals are being looked forward to as some close and exciting matches are anticipated. It is understood that the interest in this game is becoming so general that the Y. M. C. A. directors have decided to secure another board.

—Boring preparatory to commencing work on the new C. P. R. hotel, James Bay flats, will probably be completed early next week. The depth to bed rock is understood to be greater in some places than was at first believed. A full report on the work, however, will, it is expected, be forthcoming in the near future from the engineer having it in hand. All difficulty, it is said, in the way of laying a foundation will be overcome through the driving of piles.

—Eighty-four Chinese are to be deported to China by the C. P. R. steamship Empress of China. They took passage from China to points in the United States on the agreement that if they could not induce the United States immigration authorities to permit them to enter that country, they would return whence they came without protest. It is on such an understanding that all Celestials are now booked in the Orient. The batch of Chinese now en route home have been in the East for some months.

—The marriage of Staff Paymaster R. Clutton-Baker, R. N., now serving as secretary to the admiral on the coast of Ireland, and Miss Kathleen Elli Locke Paddon, eldest daughter of Rev. Canon Locke Paddon, of this city, will take place at Stillorgan, County Dublin, early in April. It will be remembered that Paymaster Clutton-Baker lately relinquished the duties as secretary to Rear-Admiral Bickford on this station. He now holds a similar appointment with the admiral in command of the Irish coast.

—The following paragraph from the New York Times will be read with interest by the friends of Geo. Denny, of this city: "Early on the afternoon of the day of the fight, a dispatch of 1,200 words, containing the story of the sea fight at Port Arthur from the lips of eye-witnesses on board the Indo-China steamship Columbia, began to come into the New York office of the Associated Press. It was sent by Geo. Denny, the Chefoo correspondent of the Associated Press. The dispatch was printed in full in late editions of the evening papers of this city and elsewhere in the country. The reports of the London morning papers were brief and almost destitute of details."

—A meeting of the management committee of the Victoria Kennel Club was held on Friday when the selection of a judge for the annual spring show was considered. As already stated, negotiations have been in progress to secure the services of a well known Eastern authority. These efforts, however, have not been successful. It was decided to refer the matter to a general meeting to be held on Tuesday evening next. The subject for discussion will be the advisability of securing several local judges for special breeds, or to bring a judge from the East. Indications are that the show will be most successful. Cash prizes will be offered as follows: In open classes, $5; in limit classes, $3; in novice classes, $2; in puppy classes, $2. There will be a large number of special prizes, fifteen silver cups having been donated and a number of medals. Many entries are expected.

—Minhui Cho, who for the past three years has been Korean minister to Washington, will be a passenger outbound on the Empress of China. He will represent Korea at Tokio. With him are his attaches, Chong Moo Hong and Chiyu Hau, and his secretary, Sunisu Ye. "Korea, as you know, is preserving a strict neutrality," His Excellency said at Vancouver, "and is not concerned in the outcome of the war. I think Japan may have the better army and navy, and though not so large is better disciplined and capable of better work than the soldiers of the Czar. How the war will end is difficult to state." Minhui Cho is to be succeeded at Washington by Yun Kuhn, who has not yet arrived. In the meantime the interests of Korea at the captital of the United States are being looked after by a substitute.

—According to a copy of the Japan Daily Herald, which arrived from the Orient on the S.S. Lyra Saturday, a United States naval attache has pointed out that Great Britain's extraordinarily developed naval mobilization at the present moment was a great factor towards peace. "The Mediterranean fleet," he said, "hovering toward Japan is powerful. It is around Suez, half way. The British fleet in the Far East could be quickly reinforced by part, or possibly even the whole, of the Mediterranean fleet, whose duties would be then taken up by the Channel squadron, leaving the home squadron in British waters. Great Britain never had so many ships in commission or men afloat as to-day." A United States military attache also pointed out that if Great Britain insisted on peace she had behind any such demand more men of campaigning age who had been under fire than any nation on earth, a military advantage which, doubtless, was not overlooked by any European power.

—Rev. H. J. Wood on Sunday united in matrimony at his residence, Kane street, Mr. Chas. F. Chitty, of Hinton & Co., and Miss Grace Dorothy Greenwood, daughter of Mrs. Kingsley. The wedding was a quiet one. Mr. and Mrs. Chitty left for the Sound on their wedding tour, and on their return will make their home in this city.

—Save money by patronizing a home company. The premium rates charged by the Mutual Life of Canada are considerably lower than those of American companies, while the advantages to be obtained in the policies of the Mutual Life of Canada are not exceeded by any other company in the world. For rates and information apply to R. L. Drury, manager, 34 Broad street.

—At a meeting of the committee appointed by the school board to look into the matter of the expenditure of $10,000 appropriated for the purpose of increasing the school accommodation, it was decided to recommend the building of four rooms to the Central school. This, it was considered, will relieve the crush in that portion of the city and to some extent in the North ward. If the application for $30,000 is allowed a new school will be built in the Victoria West district. Of course the board has yet to decide whether the committee's recommendations will be adopted.

FIRE AT NANAIMO.

The Sawmill Narrowly Escaped Being Destroyed on Saturday Afternoon.

Fire broke out in the Nanaimo sawmill on Saturday afternoon about 2 o'clock, and came very near destroying the whole plant, prompt action on the part of the mill fire brigade alone saving the property.

The flames were first noticed about the main engine, and catching the oily wood surrounding it leaped up into the mill, the flames going as high as the roof. The sawmill fire hose was brought into action and the tremendous stream soon brought the fire under control.

The city fire department arrived and the flames extinguished.

The fire was caused by the overturning of a lamp that was being used in repair work. The loss, which is chiefly belting, is supposed to be in the neighborhood of $500 or $1,000, covered by insurance.

WILL BUILD A FLEET.

Alexander Watson, jr., left for Prince Albert, on the Saskatchewan, on Saturday night, where in about a month hence he will commence the construction of a sternwheel steamer for the Hudson Bay Company. From Prince Albert he goes to Fort Vermillion, where more vessels will be built. In all there will be three or four of these craft built. They will all be of small size and light draught, as they are intended for operation on the Peace river and some of its tributaries which enter a country being newly settled and in which the Hudson Bay Company are opening out new branches of business. The material for the vessels will, it is believed, be purchased in Winnipeg. It is somewhat complimentary to Mr. Watson and also to the skill of Victoria ship carpenters that he should have been selected by the company in preference to men who might more easily have been secured in the eastern provinces. Mr. Watson, however, has a reputation for good work, as his father had before him. He has to his credit a number of the best sternwheel steamers on the coast, notable among them being the Mount Royal, which he built for the Hudson Bay Company's Skeena river service; the Hazelton, the Casco and many others. Mr. Watson is an elder brother of Victoria's fire chief. His father, who is still living, is a pioneer on this coast. He it was who built many of the craft which plied the Fraser in the early seventies. He constructed the Elizabeth Irving, which was burned on her maiden trip up the river. He then built the H. P. Rithet to replace her. He built the old steamer Reliance and the historic tug Alexander, which is still in service, and more recently turned out of his hands the Yukoner and Gleaner.

PERSONAL.

Wm. N. Bissett, W. W. Bissett, Geo. Snyder and Fred. Snyder, of Bullion, Cariboo, are registered at the Dominion. The former is connected with the Consolidated Cariboo Hydraulic Mining Company, and is here for the purpose of attending the convention now in progress. Mr. Snyder this morning stated that prospects for a successful season at Bullion were bright. According to reports there had been a fall of several feet of snow and the lakes were filling up. With plenty of water the returns would be greater than before.

* * *

Dr. P. F. Scharschmidt, marine superintendent of the B. Y. Navigation Company, and J. H. Rogers, general agent of the White Pass, at Dawson, left by the steamer Whatcom on Saturday en route North. They took passage by the steamer Valencia from Seattle last night.

* * *

Capt. Caine, president of the Alaska Pacific Navigation Company and agent of the Cruz steamship line, was among the passengers from Seattle on Saturday by the steamer Whatcom. After transacting business here he returned to the Sound yesterday.

* * *

Arnold Becker, the inventor of a patent by which logs may be towed in rough seas without loss, intends taking up his residence in Victoria. Mr. Becker is interested in the San Juan Logging Company.

* * *

Wm. Adams, ex-M. P. P., of Soda Creek, Cariboo, is in the city. He expects to spend several days here, and is making his headquarters at the Dominion.

PASSED THROUGH BIG PATROL FLEET

LYRA SURROUNDED BUT WAS NOT BOARDED

Japanese Ports Are Strongly Protected—Arrival of Steamer From Across the Pacific—Notes.

Steamship Lyra, of the Boston Towboat line, arrived on Saturday from Japanese ports. She is the first vessel to reach port from across the Asiatic Coast since hostilities began between Russia and Japan. She left Yokohama about the time war began. The Japanese people were in a great state of excitement, and as the vessel came up the coast she was very closely watched by the patrol fleet stationed along the coast. Off Nagasaki there were between fifteen and twenty of these craft, and, as the Lyra hove in sight, a number of them cruised alongside to see if she was one of the enemy. Discovering their mistake they made off without molesting the merchant steamer.

These patrol vessels, said Purser Marrington this morning, are not the strongest of the Japanese navy, but they make a formidable fleet, and splendidly protect home ports. They are to be seen in places all along the Japanese coast. During the voyage of the Lyra in Oriental waters no Russian warships were seen. At Yokohama there was one Russian merchantman which had received notice to clear out of port before the Lyra had sailed for Victoria. She was given just 24 hours to make away. The Lyra had no trouble whatever in discharging cargo, but every precaution was taken to prevent possible complications. The vessel had to call at Tamsui, Formosa, for 700 tons of sulphur for Victoria, and, as this commodity is largely used in the manufacture of gunpowder, it was feared that suspicion might rest on the vessel for carrying contraband of war. For this reason the manifest of the ship was presented for both the American and British signature to certify that the sulphur was to be taken to Victoria.

Throughout Japan the one theme of discussion in public places was that of war. Everywhere officers of the Lyra were informed that the military and naval training of the Japanese was as near perfect as it could possibly be. Purser Marrington has spent considerable time at Port Arthur. He says that the forts there are very strong from an engineer's standpoint, but he had an impression that they are not strong otherwise.

The recent marriage of the brother of J. Pierpont Morgan to a Japanese Geisha girl was an interesting topic in the Orient. The girl resided in Kioto, where she performed, it is said, in a fourth class theatre. Morgan, it is stated, did not win her altogether through love, but paid 4,000 yen for her.

The Lyra brought no passengers for Victoria She was 19½ days in crossing the Pacific. Bad weather was encountered all the way. As freight, the ship brings in addition to the shipment of sulphur 300 tons of general merchandise for this port.

The officers of the ship report that the crews of the Nippon Yusen Kaiha steamers, impressed by the Japanese government for transport service, have been retired on full pay and replaced by naval officers.

SHIPPING REVIEW.

R. P. Rithet & Co., in their monthly freight and shipping report for January, says:

"There is nothing of interest transpiring in the grain freight market. Rates remain nominally about 12s. 6d., with little or no injury. The disengaged tonnage is being gradually lessened by departures in ballast and by a few finding employment in the lumber trade. Lumber freights remain steady, with only a moderate demand.

"We quote freight as follows: Grain—San Francisco to Cork, f.o., 11s. 3d. to 12s. 6d.; Portland to Cork, f.o., 17s. 6d., and Tacoma and Seattle to Cork, 16s. 3d.

"Lumber—British Columbia or Puget Sound to Sydney, 27s. 6d. to 30s.; to Melbourne or Adelaide, 31s. 3d. to 32s. 6d.; to Port Pirie, 30s. to 31s. 3d.; to Fremantle, 37s. 6d. to 40s.; to Shanghai, 35s. to 37s. 6d.; to Kiao-Chau, 35s.; to Taku, 37s. 6d. to 40s.; to Vladivostock, 40s.; to West Coast, S. A., 27s. 6d. to 31s. 3d.; to South Africa, 48s. 9d. to 51s. 3d., and to U. K. or continent, 45s. to 47s. 6d.

WILL CARRY BIG MAIL.

R. M. S. Empress of China, which is scheduled to sail for the Orient on Monday next, will carry a full cargo consisting principally of flour and food stuffs, mainly consigned to Yokohama. As she will be forced to leave hundreds of tons of freight behind, it is probable that the Athenian may be ordered to cut short her stay in port and relieve the pressure. All the mail from the United States for the Orient for the next sailing will go by the Empress of China, which sails February 22nd. This change is due to the fact that the Hongkong Maru, due to sail from San Francisco February 17th, and the Riojun Maru, due to sail from Seattle February 24th, have both been taken off the run.

SEALERS SECURE CREWS.

Sealers who went down the coast on the steamer Queen City were successful in securing crews, and it is expected that just as soon as eight more vessels can be made ready for sea they will be sent out. The Queen City spoke the Allie I. Algar in Esperanza Inlet. She had made a very fast run down the coast, reaching the port mentioned in 24 hours. The Umbrina was seen at Kyuquot, and the Jessie at Eucluelet.

The Queen City had a very stormy trip. She brought back from Quatsino 50,000 feet of lumber. Among the passengers arriving on the steamer were Captains McLean, Burns, Pettigrew, Baker, DeLouchrey, McKiel, McDougal, Gullin, William Heater, and Macaulay; A. F. Gwin, Mr. Corkish and Rev. Mr. Stone. Capt. Townsend, of the steamer Queen City, stayed over in Clayoquot from midnight Tuesday until Wednesday morning in the hope of being able to pick up the wrecked schooner Emma Utter, but owing to the stormy weather he was obliged to continue his voyage to Victoria.

THE SOUND SERVICE.

The Seattle Times publishes an absurd story to the effect that a few Victoria business men are endeavoring to force the steamer Whatcom off the Sound run. The paper states that the fight between the owners of the Whatcom and Princess Beatrice has reached an acute stage, and "Seattle merchants are coming to the support of the American company. Contracts are being signed and pledges made that every pound of freight reaching Victoria for shipment to this port will be carried by the American steamship company's vessels. During the course of a year many boxes of liquors from Scotland, England and Ireland reach Victoria in bond. Upon being taken out by dealers in that city the goods are shipped to Seattle in large quantities. In the future that trade will all go to the American boats. It would be impossible for the Puget Sound Navigation Company to send the Whatcom out on a night schedule because of a United States mail contract. It provides that the mails shall be delivered in Port Townsend not later than 12 o'clock each day and be on the dock at Victoria by 3 p. m. Local merchants and shipping men assert that if Victoria residents want two boats a day it is proper for the last vessel on the run to arrange the schedule in accordance with their wishes and not try to drive an American company off the route by refusing to support when previous government contracts make such a change impossible."

The Times says that the Canadian Company took advantage of the American company at a time when the latter was short of boats. But the truth is that no unfair advantage was taken of the owners of the Whatcom. The service which had been provided had been unsatisfactory, and Victorians had protested time and time again. Long before the C. P. R. was ever approached by the citizens of Victoria the Pacific Coast Steamship Company were asked to put a fast steamer on the run, and the support now given the C. P. R. is the same as that offered that company. There could be no doubting the character of the service provided after the Clallam sank, and there could be no further tolerating it. Hence the advent of the C. P. R. in the business.

NOTICES TO MARINERS.

Among notices to mariners just issued by the department of marine and fisheries mention is made of a spar buoy established by the government of Canada off Hornby Island wharf, close southward of the reef to the westward of wharf. The buoy is painted black and is moored in three fathoms of water. From the buoy, Yellow Island east lighthouse bears S. 19 degres E. distant one and a half miles, and the extreme of Shingle spit N. 72 degrees W.

A buoy has been established by the government of Canada on the north extreme of Tattenham ledge, east Thormanby Island. The buoy consists of a square, wooden platform surmounted by a slatwork pyramid, the whole painted black. It is moored in four and a half fathoms of water.

On the 21st December, 1903, a bell buoy of the United States government pattern was established by the government of Canada off the eastern entrance to the crossing over Kelp bar. The buoy is of steel, painted red, and is surmounted by a bell rung by the motion of the buoy on the waves. It is moored in 25 fathoms, five and one-half cables outside the outer spar buoy in the crossing. From the buoy, Goose spit beacon bears S. 64 degrees W. distant two miles and seven and one-half cables, and highest tree on Sandy Island S. 28 degrees E.

His Majesty's charge d'affaires at Washington reports to the foreign office, London, that an uncharted rock has been discovered by Capt. M. B. Bufford of the transport Thomas in the North Pacific ocean. The rock, which is a great danger to navigation in the Pacific, is about 40 to 50 feet high and five to six times as long east and west.

WANTS HIS "AMBERGRIS."

At Washington, D. C., dispatch of yesterday's date says: "The treasury department to-day informed R. E. Finn, a lawyer of Halifax, Nova Scotia, that it would be impossible to restore to his client, Capt. Matthew Ryan, of the Canadian schooner Triumph, the alleged ambergris seized by Collector Ide at Seattle last fall. Last summer the sealing schooner Triumph, of Victoria, picked up a big chunk of what appeared to be ambergris, in the vicinity of Atu Island. A sailor named Todd subsequently took it to Seattle. The customs officers caught him and confiscated the stuff. Then an examination was made, and the ambergris turned out not to be ambergris at all. Before replying to the Halifax attorney to-day, the treasury department telegraphed to Collector Ide to ask what had been done with the 'ambergris.' Mr. Ide replied that he had given it back to Todd. Capt. Ryan and his Halifax attorney will have to fight it out with Todd."

TO BUILD A WHARF.

John Hendry, president of the Vancouver, Westminster & Yukon railway, is applying to the Dominion department of marine for some thirty thousand square feet of wharf space on Burrard inlet at the east end of Vancouver city. Mr. Hendry is asking for permission to run out a wharf for a distance of eight hundred and twenty feet, and forty-four feet in width, the same width as the lot.

MAKING FAST RUN.

The Canadian-Australian liner Miowera, Capt. Hemming, which is due here on Thursday, February 25th, from Australia, is making a record trip across the Pacific, and may reach port a couple of days ahead of her schedule.

The Miowera left Sydney on February 2nd, one day late, and evidently made a fast run from Sydney to Honolulu, as she reached the latter port on Tuesday last, one day ahead of her time, effecting an exceptionally fast run between the two ports. She left Honolulu for this port on Tuesday, and, according to advices received by the officials of the Canadian-Australian line from Captain Hemming, he expects to reach Victoria on Tuesday, February 23rd.

THE SPOKANE'S REPAIRS.

The Pacific Coast Steamship Company's Alaskan excursion steamer Spokane, which struck bottom some weeks ago while crossing Humboldt bar, has been repaired and is being made ready to go into commission again. The repairs cost $25,000, and were made at the Union Iron Works. The Spokane is provided with a double bottom, and to this is due the fact that she did not go to the bottom with all on board when the jagged rocks ripped open her plates. The United States inspectors held nobody responsible for the accident.

THE BARGE SIDNEY.

Nelson McDonald and another Victorian have chartered the Vancouver tug Eagle for local towing service. They have received the contract for towing the barge Sidney from the Sidney terminus of the Victoria & Terminal railway line to False creek, and will start operations on the first of next month. The barge is fitted with rails to carry cars. It will be run three round trips a week, going up to the Mainland one day and returning the next.

CANADIAN STOCK BREEDERS.

Subjects to Be Discussed at the First Annual Meeting at Ottawa.

The following subjects will be discussed at the first annual meting of the National Association of Canadian Stock Breeders, which will be held at the city hall, Ottawa, March 7th to 12th inclusive:

1. Should Canadian records of pure bred stock be made national in character and scope?

2. Should the Canadian government be asked to take steps to regulate the further importation of horses, cattle, sheep and swine into Canada, (1) grades and stockers; (2) pure breds?

3. The possibilities and development of a live stock trade with the West Indies, Mexico, South American Republics and Newfoundland. Introduced by E. B. Elderkin, Amherst, N. S.

4. What relations should exist between racing associations and the National association? Introduced by H. J. P. Good, editor of The Sunday World, Toronto.

5. Should stallions be registered and receive certificates of fitness from the National Association? Introduced by Messrs. W. S. Spark, Yorkshire, Eng., and H. J. P. Good, Toronto.

6. Should steps be taken to regulate the manufacture and sale of woollen goods in Canada? Introduced by C. W. Peterson, Calgary, Alta.

7. Is it advisable to develop a dead meat trade with Great Britain?

ARMY SUPPLIES.

Shipments Are Arriving Frequently at Halifax For Canadian Strongholds.

A dispatch from Halifax says: "Every furness line steamer coming into this port is landing heavy explosives and big guns, which are distributeted among the harbor fortifications and also shipped to Esquimalt. The local consignments are being mounted as rapidly as possible. Some 1,800 men have been at work making changes in the fortifications under the direction of engineer officers, dismounting all the old guns and placing new ones in position. Acting under orders from the war office, General Parsons, commanding the imperial forces in Canada, has ordered a mobilization of the Royal Artillery, calling for the manning of every fortification in the Dominion by every available man. All the guns will be thoroughly tested and searchlights used every night. Next week a detachment of engineers will leave for Esquimalt and heavy shipments of ammunition and supplies will go forward."

SUDDEN DEATH.

Winnipeg, Feb. 20.—Mrs. Cyrus David, Beresford district, near Brandon, suddenly expired while driving home in a sleigh from the city with her husband yesterday. The husband raced his horses for medical aid, but was too late.

BORN.

WILKINSON—At Nelson, on Feb. 14th, the wife of Percy Wilkinson, of a daughter.

STIBBS—At Rossland, the wife of G. E. Stibbs, of a son.

SANDIFORD—At New Denver, on Feb. 12th, the wife of C. A. Sandiford, of a daughter.

CLEVER—At New Denver, on Feb. 13th, the wife of H. Clever, of a son.

O'NEAIL—At Slocan, on Feb. 12th, the wife of D. B. O'Neail, of a son.

FULLERTON—At Nelson, on Feb. 17th, the wife of H. M. Fullerton, of a son.

PARSON—At Golden, on Feb. 5th, the wife of H. G. Parson, of a daughter.

FRETZ—At Revelstoke, on Feb. 15th, the wife of L. A. Fretz, of a daughter.

MARRIED.

WOODROOFE-TEAGUE—At Yale, on Feb. 15th, by Rev. C. Croucher, Arnott Woodroofe and Miss M. P. Teague.

MORRIS-BROOKS—At the residence of the bride's parents, Orkdale, South Saanich, on the 18th inst., John W. Morris to Elizabeth Lillian, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Brooks.

CORNWALL-WELLS—At Kamloops, on Feb. 15th, by Rev. H. S. Akehurst, Henry A. G. Cornwall and Miss Louise L. P. Wells.

DIED.

BROOKS—At Rossland, on Feb. 14th, Geo. W. Brooks, aged 65 years.

CAMERON—At New Westminster, on Feb. 17th, W. J. Cameron, aged 65 years.

SMITH—At Revelstoke, on Feb. 12th, Mrs. William Smith, aged 69 years.

SHAW—At Arrowhead, on Feb. 12th, Daniel Shaw, aged 49 years.

FLEMING—At Revelstoke, on Feb. 14th, Charles H. Fleming, aged 40 years.

MACFARLANE—At New Westminster, on Feb. 18th, Mrs. M. J. MacFarlane, aged 72 years.

O'BRIEN—At New Westminster, on Feb. 18th, C. O'Brien, aged 35 years.

CRAWFORD—At Vancouver, on Feb. 20th, Mrs. R. Crawford, aged 58 years.

ROBERTSON—At New Westminster, on Feb. 20th, Mrs. D. Robertson, aged 77 years.

Overcoats and Raincoats, Fancy Vests and Smoking Jackets, Half Price For Cash.

B. Williams & Co.

TWO TROPHIES WO BY VICTOR

DECISIVE MATCHES PLAYED ON SAT

J.B. A. A. Beat Vancouver at ball—Victoria Team Vanqu Terminals at Hockey.

J. B. A. A., 20; Sixth Regiment, was the result of the provincial lea keball match between the teams ed at the drill hall on Saturday nig game was witnessed by a large Throughout the contest there w doubt of the Bays holding the V boys down, apparently without th est difficulty. Towards the finish t ors braced up to a certain extent creased their score to ten points they were doing this, however, the A. players were putting up an exce fast game and made several goals field.

There was a great deal of diffe the style of the two teams. The ver five played a comparatively loo paying little attention to checking dulging in a great deal of useless c tion. They had many opportuni shoot which were not improved. checking would have been of grea ance to the visitors, because in t they would have prevented Belyea and Peden from scoring so frequen

A description of the Bays' me play is unnecessary. The oppos wards were watched carefully by gell and Finlaison, and were never a chance to get in a clean shot. Belyea and Peden played well t The two former were in good form out, and the latter, while off colo first half, played a star game in the part of the match.

From the start the local team advantage. The ball was taken towards the Sixth Regiment bask was returned well down the hall continued for some minutes witho score being made. The visiting basket was subjected to repeated but for a time nothing resulted. however, Belyea managed to score quick shot, which elicited enthusia plause.

Vancouver braced up considerabl the match recommenced. A nun fruitless efforts were made to sco the James Bay guards were always and saved the situation several About this time there was some combination among the local boys, ball was placed in the basket ag Belyea. The performance was with cheers. The game continued f for the remainder of the first half. only the Vancouver team managed t and their success ended there, wh J. B. A. A. team had secured ten poi fore the whistle blew.

During the first five or ten minu the second half the James Bays pla around their opponents. Everybody team took part in the scoring. A improvement was noticeable in R. work. Shortly after play was resu scored with a beautiful shot from the centre of the field. This was fo by a goal from Smith, who was centre. After this even Finlaison was playing guard, took a hand in th ing.

There is no doubt that this had a lating effect on the visiting five. aged by the applause from those ing the struggle, they gave the J. B boys some hard work for the remai the match. From about four points Murgatroyd and Boult pulled Vanco to ten points. Time was called, before they could increase their sc further.

Stanley Porter acted as umpire Bays and Mr. Selwood for the Sixt ment. Both gave general satis showing thorough knowledge of a governing the game.

As a result of this match the pr championship goes to the James Ba In every game they have proved vic and by winning Saturday's contest cient number of points were sec make it impossible for the other the league to win. It is very proba the right of the James Bays to h championship of British Columbia disputed by Victoria West and the N teams, and there is every reason to that challenges from these teams w accepted by the J. B. A. A.

The present standing of the lea lows:

	Played.	Won.	L
J. B. A. A.	3	3	0
Vancouver Sixth Regt.	3	1	2
F. Y. M. A.	4	1	3

THE V. W. A. A. TEAM

The vice-president of the Victori Athletic Club has written Geor Tracey, of Vancouver, requesting the V. W. A. A. team be allowed ter the contest for the provincial pionship. The communication is a ed:

Sir:—I write to you on behalf Victoria West Athletic Associ senior basketball team, the winne the Victoria city championship year 1904.

We understand that you have ously put up a cup, the winni which carries with it the rig claiming the championship of the ince of British Columbia.

May I take the liberty of put a claim to the undoubted right team, the V. W. A. A. senior te be recognized as one of the con teams for your cup and the c title of the champion basketball of British Columbia, upon the ing grounds:

1. The V. W. A. A. team are t disputed holders of the city champi of Victoria, B. C., having won game so far played in the city They have only one more game t in that series, the winning or los which cannot affect their positio "city champions."

2. We were designedly left out so-called provincial league.

3. The Mosquitoes, the Nanaim team, the present porvincial cham are not included in the presen called provincial league, and we stand, do not recognize its jurisdic

4. The V. W. A. A. team has one game with the Mosquitoes i drill hall here, which our team A return match has already been ranged to be played in Nanaimo.

Surely it requires no argument t vince every lover of fair play tha so-called contest for the champions British Columbia is the veriest That two teams, the Fernwoods a J. B. A. A. of Victoria, over whom team has so markedly demonstrated superiority, should be allowed to c for that proud distinction and igno stronger and better claims of the