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VELEY & CO.,
Hastings Street, Vancouver.

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EKLY COLONIST.
PER ANNUM \$1.50.

The Semi-Weekly Colonist

FORTY-FIRST YEAR.

VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1897.

VOLUME XLII. NO. 5

NEWS OF THE CAPITAL.

Collapse of the Three Cent Policy Causing Much Laughter for Mr. Mulock.

Application for a Yukon Railway— Judge Appointed—Parliament Formally Called.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
OTTAWA, Dec. 24.—It is not likely that until parliament meets will the true inwardness of the communications which have taken place between the Postmaster-General and the Imperial government in reference to the 3-cent letter rate to England be known. Everybody here is laughing at Mr. Mulock's fiasco. Without question he exceeded his powers when he decided upon a reduction of postage without consulting the home government or the different colonial governments. The Postmaster-General's contention that this is a purely domestic matter with Canada is knocked on the head. One of the principles underlying the work of the postal union is that no action may be taken by one member of the union which is calculated to embarrass another, as Mr. Mulock's action is calculated to do, without a thorough understanding among the different colonial governments. There was a possibility of considerable friction. Canadian letters might under Mr. Mulock's hasty action be charged with deficit postage simply because the Postmaster-General had disregarded the postal union's regulations. A proclamation was issued this afternoon calling parliament for the despatch of business on February 3.

City merchants state that this has been the best week's business in twenty years.

Col. White, late Deputy Postmaster-General, was to-day presented with a magnificent gold watch and other articles of value by the inside and outside branches of the Association.

D. B. McTavish, city solicitor, has been appointed senior judge of Carleton county.

Hunter & Oliver, of Victoria, give notice of application for a bill to incorporate a company to build a railway from Portland inlet to Telegraph Creek, thence to Teslin lake and Dawson. Application will also be made for a charter to build from Arrowhead, on Arrow lake, via Trout lake to Kootenay lake.

SURVEY'S HOLIDAY.

At the school closing and festive Christmas Entertainments.

SURVEY CENTRE, Dec. 20.—The semi-annual examination of the Survey Centre public school took place on Friday, the 17th, in the presence of parents and friends of the pupils. In addition to the ordinary review examination in history, geography, mathematics, reading and spelling, the scholars in the different grades gave several recitations of their own work, and a humorous piece entitled "The New Church Organ," by Will Martin, and "Miss Mabel Starr and the Farmer's wish," by Miss Starr, were given. The school was closed with vocal and instrumental music. After a few remarks from Mr. Geo. Day, the school was adjourned to meet on Monday, the 21st, at 8 o'clock.

On the evening of the 17th inst. the pupils and associates of Cloverdale school gave an entertainment consisting of music, reading, dialogues and drill exercises in the hall, Cloverdale. The attendance was good and the execution of the different pieces on the programme was creditable.

PRESENTS BY THE TON.
Six Hundred Packages From England Arrive in Vancouver in One Day—The Music Hall Issue.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 24.—[Special]—The music hall people are hunting around in all directions and writing any number of letters to the press in their efforts to get candidates to champion music halls in the next municipal campaign. But Mayor Templeton is a fighter, politically speaking, and there is no advocate of music halls strong enough and anxious enough to oppose him for the position.

There arrived from England yesterday a Vancouver one ton and a half of Christmas presents, comprising 600 packages. In previous years the Christmas packages had ranged from 200 to 250. The next English mail will, it is expected, contain some 800 more. This year, however, the staff is increased at the postoffice, they are all overworked and have been hard at it every day this week, from morning until late into the night. The service, however, is excellent.

ORANGEMEN CANNOT PARADE.

The Governor of Newfoundland Has Forbidden a Projected Procession.

St. John's, Dec. 24.—The supporters of the White Star party in the Harbor Grace are hoping to embarrass the government of Sir James Winter in connection with the projected parade of the Loyal Orange Association next Sunday. Sir Herbert Murray, the governor, has issued a proclamation forbidding the procession. The clergy of all denominations are denouncing this attempt to revive sectarian discord.

CHIPPWEAS FOR KLONDIKE.

A Large Band Booked to Start From Victoria in January.

TO BE MADE IN GERMANY.

Stearns Bicycle Patents Secured by a Manufacturer of Berlin.

HERRING FISHERY GOOD.

Great Success of the Gloucester Fleet in Newfoundland Waters.

St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 24.—The latest news from the herring fishery in Placentia bay shows great success for the American fishing fleet. Seventeen Gloucester vessels have sailed with full cargoes and 37 are now loading. It will only require another night's frost to complete the loading of frozen herring. About 3,000 men are engaged in the fishery.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Invited to Gather at Montreal From All Over Canada.

MONTRÉAL, Dec. 24.—[Special]—All the Catholic bishops of Canada have been invited to attend the anniversary service for the repose of the soul of Archbishop Fabre on January 4. It is the general impression that Mr. Bruchesi will take advantage of the gathering to promulgate the Pope's encyclical on the Manitoba school question.

PROMINENT ORANGEMAN DEAD.

Ex-Grand Treasurer Anderson Found Lifeless on the Road.

BELLEVILLE, Dec. 24.—[Special]—Wm. Anderson, ex-M.P.P. for Prince Edward, was found dead last night on the road near the home of a Mr. Laaburg. He had attended a Christmas party near here. He was grand treasurer of the Orange lodge of British North America.

A HOSPITAL ABLAZE.

Wilkins Wing at Kingston Sustains Ten Thousand Dollars' Damage.

KINGSTON, Dec. 24.—[Special]—Fire broke out in Wilkins wing at the General hospital and did great damage before it was subdued. Loss, \$10,000. The building was a gift from the late John Wilkins. The fire originated in the St. George's (children's) ward by the blazing up of a pot of hot beer.

ONTARIO.
TORONTO, Dec. 23.—[Special]—Marmaduke Pearson, formerly a prominent dry goods merchant, is dead.

NEWSPAPERS QUARREL.
MONTRÉAL, Dec. 23.—[Special]—Mr. Berthiaume, proprietor of La Presse, has entered an action for \$30,000 damages against Mr. Graham, proprietor of the Star. The action is based on alleged false representations made by the Star concerning the circulation of La Presse.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 24.—Fire broke out in the business part of the city to-day and fanned by a high north-west wind destroyed property worth more than half a million dollars.

Division Superintendent Killed.
SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Dec. 24.—Assistant Division Superintendent Marshall Newell, of the Boston & Albany, was found out almost to pieces on the tracks near the switch tower here to-night. He was formerly a well known Harvard football player and came here from Great Barrington, Vt.

TWO MILLIONS IN WHEAT.

St. Paul Operator Who Has Suddenly Made Enough to Retire Upon.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 24.—Mr. Charles A. Pillsbury, who is reported to have made \$2,000,000 in wheat this year, has resigned the management of the English syndicate mill. It is said that he foresees that there would be a big shortage of wheat in the Northwest early in August and when a little later it was rendered certain that fully 60 per cent. of the wheat of this section was below contract grade, he bought very heavily. He bought wheat all the way from 80 cents to 75 cents and sold from 80 cents to \$1.02. Mr. Pillsbury feels well enough over his recent work to retire from active business.

Eating is a necessity. To the healthy, it is a pleasure; to the dyspeptic, a torture. By the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, the weakest and most disordered stomachs restored to its natural condition, and food is once more partaken of with youthful relish and satisfaction.

A HOST OF RUSSIANS!

Quarters for Ten Thousand in Course of Preparation at Port Arthur.

Conflict Not Looked for but British and Japan to Make a Demonstration.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Russet, according to a special despatch from Shanghai, is preparing temporary headquarters for 10,000 troops at Port Arthur. She obtained a half portion from the grand council at Peking to dismiss Sir Robert Hart, director of Chinese Imperial maritime customs, and other high customs officials in addition to the British rail-roads and instructors. Fifty of the latter received notice to-day that they would be paid off at the termination of their contracts.

Contrary to general report the despatch asserts that there is good reason to believe that Great Britain will actively oppose the Russian operations in Corea and Northern China.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—The Daily Mail publishes a despatch this afternoon from Tokio which, it claims, evaded active censorship. The despatch says: "England and Japan, without entering upon an actual alliance, have arrived at a complete understanding which will probably result in a joint naval demonstration at the entrance of the Gulf of Pechi Li."

"In diplomatic circles at Tokio the probability of a conflict is regarded as extremely distant."

JAPAN'S DEBT TO GERMANY.

It is Increased by Recent Sale of Chinese Territory—Integrates of the Russian.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Commenting on the strained relations between Japan and Russia over Corea, the Chinese press reports that the Japanese army is full of Russian spies, disguised as Japanese, and that the Russian army is being tampered with by Japanese emissaries, who are doing all they can to stir up dissatisfaction among the soldiers.

CARDINAL VAUGHAN.

The Duke of Norfolk Has Not Urged His Admission to the House of Lords.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Lord Salisbury, in reply to an inquiry in Manchester, has written that he had not heard the report that the Duke of Norfolk, postmaster-general, had approached him with the view of obtaining the admission of Cardinal Vaughan to the House of Lords. Lord Salisbury adds that the report is absolutely unfounded.

PARIS PORTS TO DISAPPEAR.

Present Sites to Be Sold and Money Spent on Ramparts Further Out.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—The initial step has been taken in the long-projected demolition of the fortifications of the city. General Billot, minister of war, has introduced in the chamber of deputies a bill providing for the razing of part of the forts on the west side of the city and for selling the sites. It is estimated that the land will realize 150,000,000 francs, 30,000,000 francs of which will be devoted to the construction of a short rampart further out. The remainder of the proceeds will be expended on artillery.

PORTUGUESE MASSACRED.

Natives Make It Interesting for a Colony on the Guinea Coast.

LISBON, Dec. 24.—An official despatch from St. Paul de Loanda, in Portuguese Lower Guinea, says that the natives of the Hume plateau in the Portuguese colony of Angola have massacred a Portuguese officer, a sergeant and twelve men. Reinforcements have been sent from St. Paul de Loanda.

Further advices announce that the officer is Count Alimoster, a grandson of the Duke of Saldanha. The Portuguese killed and missing number twenty-one persons. The murderers were Heroes and Ovampos tribesmen.

KRUGER FEARS RHODES.

The Transvaal President Apprehensive as to the Destiny of Delagoa Bay.

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 24.—President Kruger, in the course of a speech at Krugersdorp, on Tuesday, dwelt on the importance of the so-called constitutional methods of Hon. Cecil Rhodes, and upon the importance of keeping out of Mr. Rhodes' clutches Delagoa Bay, which the President characterized as "the Transvaal's only gateway to the sea."

Fallen From Grace.
New York, Dec. 24.—William H. Kent, a well-known man of Brooklyn and prominent in Sunday schools and the organizer of the penny savings banks, is in jail in Brooklyn, having been arrested on a warrant charging him with forgery. Assistant District Attorney Caldwell stated that Kent had taken no less than \$40,000 from his clients.

BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

Conference Proposed to Avoid Dan- gerous Rivalry as to Interests in China.

The British to Give Japan Only Moral Support at Present— United States Position.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—A despatch to the Daily Chronicle from Rome says it is rumored there that owing to her obligations to Germany, Italy has declined England's proposal for common action in the Far East, including a joint occupation of Chusan. It is also asserted that England has proposed to Russia a conference on the Chinese question with a view of avoiding dangerous rivalry.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The Chinese government is helpless. It is mobilizing a few troops under the command of general who conducted the campaign against Japan. The British fleet is at present at sea."

The Daily Chronicle says this morning it has good reason to believe that the government has decided upon a warring policy and will refrain from occupying any Chinese territory, but it will give its moral support to Japan and distinct warnings to China concerning England's action in certain contingencies. It is understood, says the Daily Chronicle, that Japan will protest in the strongest manner against Germany's action; while diplomatic circles ridicule the idea of a Russo-German entente cordiale.

A special despatch from Paris says: "The French cruiser Potheau has been ordered to prepare for service in Chinese waters. The Potheau is a first-class cruiser of over 5,000 tons displacement and 10,000 indicated horse power. She is classed as having a speed of 19 knots, and carries two capable general 5 inch quick-firing guns and eight small quick-firing guns."

BRITAIN, Dec. 23.—The press is evidently deeply interested as to whether Great Britain and the United States are likely to adopt in the Chinese affair. Every attempt is being made to induce the British government to represent her as isolated.

The official newspapers pretend that Japan has acquiesced in the German and Russian moves, and will take no aggressive action. Everything indicates, however, that the anxiety that hinges upon the ultimate grouping of the powers. Japan's action in withdrawing her protest with reference to the Russo-German entente cordiale is interpreted as showing a desire to be uncommitted abroad, and to have her hands free to deal with the Chinese question.

The Berliner Tageblatt ridicules the idea of an Anglo-Japanese-American alliance, and yet seems to fear it. The Kolon and Zeitung think that America will side with Russia, leaving England in "splendid isolation." The National Zeitung says that it is easy to be bold in the abstract, but that the United States would adopt a policy of moderation in the event of a conflict with Russia, contrary to all its traditions, for the sake either of England or China.

THE MANITOBA SCHOOLS.

The Pope Advises the Catholics to Make the Best of a Bad Job.

ROME, Dec. 24.—The Pope's encyclical on the Manitoba school question is published here this evening. After reviewing the religious history of Canada and eulogizing its scholastic institutions, his Holiness expresses regret at the position taken by the province in Manitoba relative to the Roman Catholic schools, and specifies the rights of Roman Catholics according to federal agreement. Continuing, the Pope condemns the school systems based on religious neutrality, praises the zeal the bishops have displayed on the question, and regrets that all Roman Catholics are not equally devoted to the cause.

He admits that the authorities have done something to diminish the inconveniences in school legislation, but declares that the board of appraisers should provide their own schools, and adopt Catholics to persist in claiming all their rights, though they must not refuse any partial reparations obtainable, with a view to reduce the perils in the way of the education of youth.

In conclusion, the Pope in his encyclical says that in the event of these being unobtainable, Roman Catholics should provide their own schools, and adopt Catholics to persist in claiming all their rights, though they must not refuse any partial reparations obtainable, with a view to reduce the perils in the way of the education of youth.

DERIVISHES OUT OF LUCK.

Ports Surprised by the Kassala Garrison and Many Slaves.

SOALIM, Dec. 24.—The native slaves of the Kassala garrison surprised a derivish post at El Faheer, on the Atbara, on Wednesday, and drove out the derivish with great loss, capturing the post, a number of camels, a quantity of stores and many cattle. Two derivish were killed. The derivish post at Asrah has also been invaded.

Fallen From Grace.
New York, Dec. 24.—William H. Kent, a well-known man of Brooklyn and prominent in Sunday schools and the organizer of the penny savings banks, is in jail in Brooklyn, having been arrested on a warrant charging him with forgery. Assistant District Attorney Caldwell stated that Kent had taken no less than \$40,000 from his clients.

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CHICAGO FIRE HORROR.

The Great Coliseum Building and Contents Reduced to Cinders in Twenty Minutes.

Occupied by an Exposition and Side Shows and Many Lives Assuredly Lost.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—The Coliseum, the great building at Sixty-third street and Stony Island avenue, in which W. J. Bryan was nominated, was totally destroyed by fire to-night. The exhibits of the Illinois Manufacturers' Exposition, which was opened in the building recently, were totally destroyed. Two "Midway" dancers are reported to have been burned to death. While responding to the alarm engine No. 19 was struck by a train on the Lake Shore road and several firemen were badly hurt.

The fire was the quickest ever seen in Chicago. From the time it originated, by the crossing of two electric wires, until the Coliseum was a pile of fused iron and hot brick was not more than 20 minutes.

The building was filled from end to end with booths, all of which were destroyed with all their contents. It is supposed that a number of persons were lost in the flames, and although no bodies have been recovered, the following are missing and have undoubtedly perished:

A girl named Pauline, surname not known, seen to enter the burning building in search of her mother, who she said was imprisoned by the flames. The girl and her mother were employed in the Irish village, the former as a dancer and the latter doing chores.

Two women in the Midway exhibit, seen in the building before it collapsed. Two men seen in the centre of the building by firemen during the fire.

L. Ladavne and his son, who conducted a sausage booth in the building. Ladavne entered the structure during the fire in search of his son, whom he feared was perished in the flames, and neither has since been seen.

The number of injured is large. Many people have been severely burned. The fire originated in a booth which was used for an exhibition of X-rays, and both being managed by M. J. Morley and William Robertson. The two men were examining their Roentgen machine, when they were startled by a sizzling noise behind them, and upon turning saw a part of the machine exhibit ablaze. Crossed arc light wires which were over the exhibit, were the cause of the fire.

The flames, they say, passed from one booth to another, but before they had secured water the fire had spread throughout the entire booth. Morley, realizing the danger, called for a bucket to cope with the flames, made an endeavor to save some of the X-ray paraphernalia. Running to the machine, he grasped two Crookes tubes, and then, with Robertson, began fighting his way out of the building. Before he reached an exit the flames, which he held in his hands, exploded from the heat, severely burning him about the head. Robertson was burned about the face.

About 300 persons were present in the building at the time of the fire and a first alarm there was a rush for safety. Fortunately the aisles were wide and owing to the comparatively small number of people in the building there was little difficulty in reaching the doors.

Within ten minutes after the fire began the roof was ablaze, and in a very short time the fire had appeared on the top of the building one of the large arches that spanned the building gave way with a tremendous report, and then another, each one with the sound like the report of a cannon. The building fell very quickly after the first arch went down, the weight being too great for the arches next to it, so that all collapsed.

DUTY ON FISH LIVERS.

United States Board of Appraisers Decides that the Canadian Article is Taxable.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—General Wilkinson, of the board of general appraisers, handed down an opinion to-day in the case of fish livers that establishes a precedent in favor of the American product against the Canadian output.

The case on which the decision was based was that of B. F. Pike and W. A. Colby of Eastport, Maine. They imported a lot of fish livers and under the Dingley bill, which proscribes that intestines, integuments and sounds of fish are admitted free, claimed exemption from duty.

The collector of the port assessed the livers 2 1/2 per cent, and the firm appealed. The board of appraisers upheld the collector, holding that fish livers do not come under the construction of intestines, integuments and sounds. This decision, it is understood, will be apt to raise the price of cod liver oil.

Mrs. Booth's Illness.
New York, Dec. 23.—Commander Booth has published the following bulletin, issued by the doctors at the Presbyterian hospital, regarding his wife's condition this afternoon: "Mrs. Booth passed a somewhat quiet night, and responded well to the treatment given her. Her splendid constitution is much in her favor, and therefore her physicians hope to insure restoration. Her condition continues serious."

Leather coats with sheepskin lining, made specially for the Yukon country. B. Williams & Co.

CONGRESS AND THE AWARD.

Suggestion That Prompt Payment May Be Made to Further Other Negotiations.

New York, Dec. 24.—A despatch to the Tribune from London says: Officials at the foreign office do not consider their gratification over the result of the seal- ing award since the amount of the indemnity awarded exceeds that which congress refused to pay. The English press has been constantly reproaching the Americans for not paying the bill of damages after the general decision of the Paris tribunal had gone against them. The charge of bad faith will be again revived if congress refuses to sanc- tion the agreement reached by the seal- ing commissioners. Neglect on the part of congress to appropriate the money re- quired in settling the compensation for the seizure of Canadian sealers would naturally increase the difficulty of ad- justing the Behring sea question, and this is already serious enough.

The foreign office, which is now exposed to merciless criticism at home and abroad because of Britain's position of isolation and helplessness in dealing with the now mysterious Chinese question, would be glad to have the precise source of contention with America removed, but cannot act without the support of Canada, which is not willing to agree to the suspension of pelagic sealing and the preservation of the fur seal herd, unless a series of other contentious questions are taken up by the United States and disposed of. What is to be apprehended is diplomatic empass with increased bitterness between two nations as a result.

Notwithstanding the fact that two sealing conferences have been held, and that British and Canadian representatives have been compelled to recognize the sealers' right to hunt for the seal herd, the preservation of the fur seal herd, hardly fall to be helpful to the Americans in the negotiations next year for a new modern treaty under the Paris award. The prompt settlement of the damages agreed upon by Justices Putnam and King will protect the chances of reasonable adjustment of the chief question at issue. Otherwise the regulations will remain in force indefinitely under the Paris award, or until experience shows that they will be inadequate for the protection of the seal.

BEST IN FIVE YEARS.

That is the Report on the Holiday Trade—The Reductions in Cotton.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—R. G. Dinn & Co.'s weekly report shows a remarkably large holiday trade at many points, the largest for five years. Instead of decreasing the demand for products shows an unexpected increase in several important categories. Foreign trade continues satisfactory.

Cotton goods have further declined in price of bleached which meet active Southern competition, and the Fall stock of goods placed upon a reduction of one-ninth in wages, other New England mills joining. Out of 101 New England works 48 have passed dividends. Courteen at Fall River, with 15 others, are paying one per cent. for the last quarter. The fall in the price of cotton when the mills were holding a heavy stock of goods placed upon a reduction of one-ninth in wages, other New England mills joining. Out of 101 New England works 48 have passed dividends. Courteen at Fall River, with 15 others, are paying one per cent. for the last quarter. The fall in the price of cotton when the mills were holding a heavy stock of goods placed upon a reduction of one-ninth in wages, other New England mills joining. Out of 101 New England works 48 have passed dividends. Courteen at Fall River, with 15 others, are paying one per cent. for the last quarter. 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