

Newsboys Enjoy Their Banquet

Poodle Dog Restaurant Scene of Happy Gathering Last Evening.

Victoria Newspaper Salesboys Have a Splendid Time to Themselves.

(From Friday's Daily.) Last evening at the Poodle Dog Restaurant, Yates street, the annual banquet of the newsboys of Victoria...

Mr. B. Hall, M. P., then, in happy vein, addressed the gathering, his remarks being received with the most continued applause. He reminded them of the banquet last year by the Times, and said that although the boys were not last year's boys, they would certainly last a good many years...

Hon. Mr. Pooley was hailed with cheers when he rose to address the boys. He was glad to observe that the boys had enjoyed themselves, and also the remarks made by Mr. Hall. He hoped they would show their appreciation and enthusiasm throughout their lives...

During the evening the following honor of regret was read from His Honor the Lord Governor: Government House, Victoria, B. C., Dec. 27, 1904. To the Manager of the Colonist, Victoria: Dear Sir—Thank you for your kind invitation for next Thursday...

ACCIDENT NEAR PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

C. P. R. Snowplow Causes Train Mishap With Fatal Results

Portage in Prairie, Man, Dec. 29.—A C. P. R. snowplow struck a defective switch at Arizona, twelve miles west of here and the caboose and private car of the superintendent of bridges and trestles were overturned and a half dozen men on board, and as it turned over the stove upset and started a fire, which consumed the car in ten minutes and half had narrow escapes of being burned.

A 'FRISCO INCIDENT

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 29.—Bruce Metcalf, a photographer, was shot and killed today in a room which he was occupying with his wife. Mrs. Metcalf, who was arrested on suspicion of having murdered her husband, told a story to the police that implicated Edward Pierce Keeley, a structural iron worker.

NEUTRALITY BY FORCE

The Hague, Dec. 28.—In connection with the rumors of a possible infringement of the neutrality of ports in the Dutch East Indies, it is officially pointed out that the neutrality of Sabang and other ports will be maintained by the Dutch battleships, two cruisers and five smaller warships are now in those waters, while two additional vessels are ready to proceed from Holland to reinforce them if necessary.

TRAGIC DEATHS.

Strikingly Similar Fate Overtakes Two Young New York Women. New York, Dec. 29.—The two young women who met tragic deaths in this city in a manner strikingly similar were identified today. The girl who was found unconscious in Riverside drive and who died without regaining consciousness was recognized tonight by John F. Mangano, his sister, Mary Mangano, who has been employed here as a domestic. She left home Christmas morning to attend church and her family was unable to trace her whereabouts until the brother identified the body in the morgue as that of his sister. The other woman, who was found dead in a Delancy street basement, was recognized as Mrs. Cecilia Butler, the widow of a railroad employee who died two weeks ago.

The identification does not, however, clear up the mystery attending the deaths of the women, both of whom died as the result of broken necks. The theory of murder is being investigated by the police. John W. Goff, jr., son of Recorder Goff, went to the morgue tonight, and after looking at the body of Miss Mangano said she was the same person he had seen in River drive late Saturday evening. Mr. Goff said he was walking down the park to the drive and saw the woman called to him from the park. He says he assisted her up the steps from the park to the drive and then went his way. This was about four blocks above the point where her body was found next day. Coroner Physician Weston is of the opinion that death may have been the result of either accident or assault.

British Army Reorganization

How Canada is Affected by New Plan of Imperial Government.

Under System Proposed Canadian Force Will Be Third Greatest in Empire.

The government has under consideration a plan for the strategic distribution of the Imperial forces that will concentrate our naval and military strength in a more effective manner than hitherto, says the London Standard. One change will be the withdrawal of the regular battalions from the small coaling stations and the placing of these ports in the hands of the local defence forces with primary protection from the navy.

When the proposed thirteen big depots for training recruits are established, many regimental depot barracks in the counties will be vacant, and these will be utilized to quarter other battalions in their own districts. The depot system involves considerable delay as new construction is necessary. The admiralty programme concerns the concentration for war of ships of the various fleets and the withdrawal of isolated vessels to the main squadrons. Third-class cruisers and all old vessels are being replaced with modern craft, and the designation of 'Channel Fleet,' which is a misnomer owing to the range of area involved, will probably be changed to the Home command.

The Mediterranean fleet will, in future, have two vice and two rear admirals in the chief command. The cruiser squadron, in first and second divisions, will become a vice admiral's command. The ships of the King Edward class will replace the Duncan type in the

Little "Bobs" Reads A Lesson

Puget Sound, there is, in your opinion, a building for the Home command material used in her repairs. I would point out that a clear understanding of the part of shipowners on this matter is very desirable, and is often necessary in order to keep down the cost of repairs to invite bids from yards both in British Columbia and United States ports.

TO OVERHAUL TOPEKA

SITUATION IN MOROCCO

ALCOHOL VALUABLE AGENT

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And a white's command substituted. The white's police, however, are being increased and a constabulary corps is in process of formation. The new Egyptian army is now practically the rival of its majority. His statistics is most efficient, and it is able, under white officers, to garrison the country from Cairo to the junction of the Nile. The intelligence department at Cairo reports its strength to be 18,273, of which the main arms are as follows: Cavalry, 730; camel corps, 623; Artillery, 206; artillery, 1,258; infantry, 10,280.

WILL SAVE MILLIONS.

At home several millions will be saved on the army vote during the next five years. The proposed reduction of 30 militia battalions into home service regiment will not be attempted for a year. The regular corps marked for reduction, subject to such modifications as may be necessary from time to time affecting individual regiments, include the 3rd and 4th battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Royal Fusiliers, Lancashire Fusiliers, Middlesex Regiment and the Manchester Regiment.

The material savings to be effected by already taken effect in part by the placing of the Buffs at Dover, the 2nd Devonshire at Devonshire, 2nd Scottish Rifles at Glasgow, 2nd Scottish Rifles at London, 2nd West Riding York, 1st Hampshire at Portsmouth, 2nd Yorkshire Light Infantry at Sheffield, a Surrey battalion at Aldershot, and some West Yorkshire unit at Lishide, and some Irish corps near their districts. The enlistment of men for two years' color service with the home army will be gradually introduced. A commencement will be made at once by opening for two years' enlistment the Suffolk, Devonshire, Gloucestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Berkshire regiments. Only men belonging to the regimental districts will be accepted, and in most cases the standard of chest measurement will be raised half an inch to secure a physical improvement.

FOURTEEN TRAINING DEPOSITS.

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Along the Waterfront

United States Treasury Removes False Impressions Regarding Repairs.

German Ship Neck May Come Here for Repairs—New of Shipyards. It has not yet been determined whether the German ship Neck, which is to be repaired at Seattle, will be repaired at Ancona, will come to Victoria for repairs. The work to be done on the vessel will cost about \$1,500, and her owners would be glad to have the work done by the local yards.

THE SHIP DOCTORS.

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Along the Waterfront

United States Treasury Removes False Impressions Regarding Repairs.

Victoria Shipyards Now Factor in Coast Business—Truebridge Resigns.

(From Friday's Daily.) In view of the active competition which takes place between the shipyards and iron works of Victoria and those on Puget Sound, and the attendant success of the Victoria firms in recent contracts, the Victoria firm of Truebridge, which has been brought here for repairs will be charged duty on the material used in the work on their return to a United States port. This is not true.

The same point was raised when the bark Abbey Palmer was towed to Victoria in a dismasted condition for repairs. The owners of the bark, on the advice of their lawyers, who evidently misinformed them, took the vessel to Puget Sound for repairs, being afraid that if the vessel was repaired in Victoria they might be held for duty on the material used in repairing the vessel when the ship next visited a port of the United States. This is an instance where the untrue statement worked injury to the local shipyards.

TO OVERHAUL TOPEKA

The Pacific Coast S.S. Company is spending large sums in repairs to some of its vessels. It is estimated that the repairs made at Seattle on the steamer Santa Rosa will cost \$100,000. At its headquarters the repairs necessary on the steamer City of Topeka will cost equally as much, and about \$40,000 is to be spent on the steamer Spokane.

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News of the Army and Navy

Reduction of Pacific Squadron Still Occupies Attention in England.

Not Considered Likely Garrison Will Be Withdrawn From Esquimaut.

London, Dec. 14.—The reduction of the Pacific Squadron is still occupying the minds of some naval people, and the whole question will be ventilated when parliament meets. It is not considered at all likely that the artillery garrison will be withdrawn from Esquimaut. Should the negotiations between the British Government and the Canadian Government result in the reduction of the Imperial troops in Canada, it is believed that the fort of both Halifax and Esquimaut will be manned by imperial garrisons.

Major H. G. Joly de Loche, D. S. O., Royal Engineers—one of the two British sons of the Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia—lately doing duty at Seattle for a number of months, has been appointed as division officer at Birmingham, the duties of which office he is eminently qualified to discharge.

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