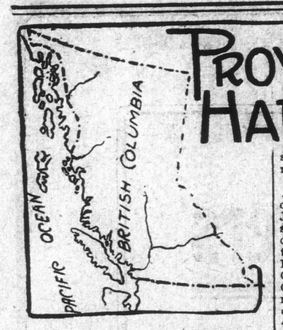
PROVINCIAL HAPPENINGS



Fernie's new municipal light system is now in service.

The damage by the recent floods to Vancouver's water system is estimated by Superintendent Madison at $8,000.

The municipal elections campaign in New Westminster is already in full swing.

Cranbrook is coming forward as a challenging rival to Nelson for the centralized trade of the Kootenays.

The close-down of the Extension mine of the Wellington Colliery Co. in consequence of flood damage, is announced to continue for another week.

Long distance telephone connection between Nelson and Cranbrook is projected and is being vigorously promoted by Cranbrook business men.

The Diamond Vale collieries in the Similkameen are to resume at the first of the new year, with double the old staff.

At Nelson on Wednesday last the marriage was solemnized of Robert J. Hutchinson, of Salmo, and Miss Bertha Morrison English, late of Boston.

Alf. Spears a former baggageman running on the C.P.R. between Laggan and the Coast, was badly injured recently by the accidental discharge of a gun, while duck hunting.

Revelstoke's most pressing problem of the present is the securing of the completion of the arrowhead and Kootenay railway, and construction of a railway into the Big Bend country.

The Salmon Arm municipal council has adopted a petition to the local government for a money grant for the repair of trunk roads through the municipality.

The Pacific Coast Colliery Co. have struck a 20-foot seam of coal in the No. 1 shaft of their Blair property. This is stated to be the record for the Nicola valley.

Railway construction from Midway to Merritt will open up a district rich in scenic glimpses, agricultural land, coal, metalliferous mines and good timber areas. The mineral future of the country is especially promising.

The directors of the Royal Columbian hospital, at New Westminster, are considering plans for a new hospital, submitted by Architects Gardiner and Salt. Final decision has been deferred until a meeting on the 15th instant.

The burial of the Japanese victims of last Sunday's disaster on the Great Northern, near Vancouver, took place at South Vancouver cemetery. S. Sasaki conducting the ceremonies of the Buddhist faith for the majority of the victims.

Two powder manufacturing concerns are seeking sites in or near New Westminster. The one will probably secure Tree Island, which the Royal City Board of Trade last week discovered, to its amazement, that it owns.

G. F. Welch, an old and esteemed resident of the Royal City, is at the Royal Columbian hospital, suffering from internal injuries received in a fall down the stairway at his home. Complete recovery is promised by the attendant physician.

H. J. Cooper, a blacksmith at the St. Eugene, the big mine of the Crow's Nest country, has recently made a miner's candlestick out of pure silver. The candlestick is the property of Foreman John Cannon. It was sent to Cranbrook for finishing and polishing by Jeweler W. H. Wilson.

Chief Constable Burr has brought down to Ashcroft jail a man named Clark, believed to have been implicated in the hold-up of the Cariboo stage near 150-Mile House on the first of November. Clark was committed on a charge of perjury, and will await an Assize hearing at Kamloops.

Two new ice breakers of an improved type have been completed at Nakusp for service on the Arrow lakes. They have the form of barges, but are completely sheathed with iron. Each cost between $5,000 and $6,000. Four ice breakers are now in service on the Kootenay lakes.

John Lamont, a workman employed in the C. P. R. shops at Nelson, was killed a few days ago by being struck on the head by a piece of a burst emery wheel. He was grinding the jaws of a large wrench when the wheel burst, a fragment striking him just above the left eye, fracturing his skull. He expired a few hours after the accident.

Death on Thursday last claimed the well known Nat Condy, of East Delta. He had set out for a part of the farm on which clearing was in progress, and failing to return in the evening, search was made for him and his lifeless body found. Heart disease had been the cause of demise. The deceased was a native of Guelph, Ont., and leaves a widow and family.

Reginald Tansley, a young Englishman, recently arrived in British Columbia, was the victim of a horrible accident at the Adams River Lumber Company's plant at Chase a few days ago, as a result of which he will have to suffer the amputation of both hands above the wrists. Tansley was working at the pile driver and failed to get away his hands as the weight descended. The result may be imagined.

Messrs. McDougal and Marsden, Indian reserve commissioners, are touring the province collecting data touching the reserve problem, for the Department at Ottawa. The mission of the commissioners is to obtain first hand information from the Indians as to their grievances and conditions generally. Improvement of the education system is specially contemplated as a result of the investigations.

W. E. Cooke, a veteran packer, recently made the trip through to Tete Jaune Cache with 12,000 pounds of supplies for the Canadian Northern camps. The steamer Nechaco took these supplies to the east side of Goat River rapids, 205 miles from Fort George. From the rapids to the Cache the outfit was moved, over 110 miles, by canoe in five and a half days, one canoe carrying a cargo of over 4,000 pounds.

A special train on the C. P. R. conveyed one of the principal Liberal spellbinders of the late campaign from Grand Forks to Kaslo, delivering him at 4.30 in the morning after the meeting at which he was to have been the principal attraction. Objection was made to the charge for the train, upon which Superintendent Purvis genially explained that the delay was chargeable to a "dispensation of providence." Distinctly cryptic!

G. P. Weir, of Trail, is to visit the Capital this week to represent that West Kootenay town in its application for approval by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of its plans re the installation of a municipal water system. The church interests have appealed from the decision of the government agent made last September and which gave the city a prior right to the water in Cambridge creek, and they are also applying for a renewal of the Violin Lake Power company's record. All three cases will be heard before the Lieutenant-Governor in Council at Victoria on December 8.

JUDGMENT AGAINST "BILL" MINER

Unconscious Humor Presents Itself in Substituted Service Against Missing Highwayman.

Judgment has been handed down by the New Westminster court registrar, J. J. Cambridge, for $500 and costs amounting to $29.65, in the substituted service against George W. Edwards, alias "Bill" Miner, of Cariboo stage robbery and penitentiary notoriety, now a fugitive in parts unknown. On November 13 an application was made to Judge Howay in the county court, by A. Johnson, on behalf of W. Norman Bole, K. C., for service on Miner, of a summons to appear by substituted service. As to the whereabouts of the train robber could not be ascertained very accurately, this made it necessary to post the summons in the office of the registrar. The stated eight days elapsed and as "Bill" failed to present his well known form at the notice, the registrar formally declared judgment. It is understood that there is money to the amount of the claim or more in the treasury at Ottawa to the credit of Miner and that this will be taken to cover the judgment.

RECOGNITION FOR YOUNG HERO

Public Testimonial Suggested For "Jimmie" Calder, Who Risked His Life For a Friend.

Several correspondents of the Revelstoke Mail-Herald appear to voice public sentiment in that part of Kootenay in advocating some public recognition of the heroism of Master "Jimmie" Calder, who very pluckily rescued A. McRae, Jr., from drowning when he went through the ice into the Columbia river about ten days ago. Owing to the unsafe condition of the ice Master Calder had to stretch himself flat on it with another body holding his heels, in order to effect the rescue, thus displaying an amount of good sense and judgment highly commendable. For the sake of others and as an encouragement to boys and girls to do the right and bravest things in the hour of danger it is fitting that some public acknowledgment should be made of young Calder's bravery.

AGAIN THE FATAL .22

Four-Year-Old Lad, of Larkin, Victim of the Latest Mischance With a Ready-Loaded Rifle.

The four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Hayes, of Larkin, was fatally and accidentally shot last Monday by his elder brother, Harry. The latter had picked up a .22 rifle that had fallen on the floor, and as he was doing so, the weapon was discharged, the bullet striking his younger brother. The bullet entered the chin, going down through and lodging in the spinal column. Dr. Vankleek was immediately called, and notwithstanding everything that could be done, the poor little fellow passed away early on Tuesday morning. The funeral took place on Wednesday to Lansdowne cemetery. Rev. D. Cameron conducted the services, and the pallbearers were young sons of prominent farmers—Masters Dan Crozier, Percy Reid, Ernest Hunter and Kenneth Hunter.

KAMLOOPS AND THE RAILROAD

Government to Be Urged to Divert C. N. R. Line and Make "Inland Capital" a Divisional Point.

As a result of a recent conference between the Board of Trade and the City Council of Kamloops on the subject of the Canadian Northern route alteration so as to bring the railway into the city on the North Thompson, instead of on the further side of the river, resolutions have been adopted for presentation to the Premier and Government, and these will be presented shortly by a deputation composed of three members of the city council and three of the Board of Trade. The resolution as originally drawn and as passed with unanimity, reads as follows:

"Resolved, that this meeting do through the proper channels strongly urge upon the government of the province that in the final draft of the agreement with the Canadian Northern railway the provision that the main line of that railway should run from 'the Yellowhead Pass to a point within the city of Kamloops,' instead of from 'the Yellowhead Pass to a point at or near the city of Kamloops' as in the draft memorandum provided. Further, that a clause be inserted in the said agreement providing for the commencement of work at Kamloops simultaneously with that on other points of the line covered by the agreement. Further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the member-elect for the Kamloops electoral district and each member of the government. And further, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the secretary of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, requesting that the matter be taken up by the union."

On the suggestion of E. J. Hosker, the words were subsequently added: "And that the said city of Kamloops be made a divisional terminal point."

INQUEST STILL DRAGS

Question of Proper Coupling Remains Nebulous as Ever—Expert and Technical Testimony.

The long adjourned inquest on the interurban tram accident was resumed at Vancouver on Friday, but although two long sittings were held, the end does not appear to be yet in sight. At the evening sitting the principal witnesses were Superintendent Woodroofe and Mr. McQuarrie, manager of the interurban line. The question as to whether a proper coupling was made remains still as nebulous as before. Mr. McQuarrie did show, however, that some precautions had been taken at the switch at Nanaimo Road where the accident occurred, as on the previous Monday he had issued an order that all cars left there were to be blocked and a man was always to be left on any car standing on the main line there. At the afternoon session, the evidence was entirely of an expert and technical nature, regarding the operation of couplers and brakes. The witnesses were mostly called on behalf of the train crew to show that couplers were liable to part under any circumstances.

A MAIL CARRIER'S LIFE

Courier of the North Goes Through Lake Atlin—Frozen Hands and Feet as Souvenirs.

An Atlin despatch of yesterday states that while carrying mail across the ice from the setamer frozen in Lake Atlin, near Portage, Dan Holland and Fred Taylor broke through the ice. A companion extricated the men with great difficulty. The mail was also saved. Holand and Taylor started for the nearest shelter, a miner's cabin, several miles away. Both of Holland's feet and Taylor's hands were frozen. The men were taken into Atlin last night. Holland is in a serious condition. Lake Atlin was frozen over on December 1. It is the earliest closing of the lake on record.

FURTHER RIOTING IS ANTICIPATED

Chinese Fear Another Outbreak Over Unsettled Question of Removing Josses

"I think bye and bye catchee more tlouble Chinee town," said the Chinese cook, when asked for his opinions regarding the recent rioting regarding the proposed removal of the josses from the old-time josshouse. "I think catchee fighting. See Yup man no likee move him joss. All the time he talkee wanchee leform; suppose he wanchee leform all proper, no wanchee worship him idol. Safee. More better See Yup man no talkee wanchee leform, suppose no wanchee. Last Sunday catchee plenty tlouble Chinee town. Tirteen men arm, head, back, all sore; bad man stlike him with lion bar. Suppose he wanchee nother meeting makee talkee take away him joss, more better he talkee policeman come."

All of which goes to show if translated that certain sections of the Chinese fear a recurrence of the rioting in the Chinese quarter over the proposed removal of the josses. The project is favored by the more enlightened section. It is pointed out that with the removal of the Benevolent associations hall to the new school the josshouse is a needless expense as a caretaker must be employed there. As for the josses, the majority of local Chinese have agrown the belief in them. There is a section, though, the more riotous section, which will fight before agreeing to the removal and until this section is quieted there is a prospect of trouble.

Some few there are who are superstitious, who fear that bad luck may follow them if they interfere with the josses; but the majority look upon the project with favor, the josses having gone out of fashion with the more enlightened members of the Chinese community.

C. P. R. Earnings

MONTREAL, Dec. 4.—The earnings of the C. P. R. for November increased $541,000 over the same period last year.

Wireless in South Pacific.

MELBOURNE, Dec. 4.—Premier Deakin has arranged for a conference on December 15 between representatives of the Admiralty, Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia, to deal with the subject of wireless for the Pacific.

Imperial Defence Conference.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—Dealing with the Imperial Defence Conference in the speech proroguing Parliament, King Edward said: "The important conference which met in July last for the exchange of views between my government and the governments of the self-governing Dominions beyond the Seas upon naval and military defence, has been of great mutual advantage, and as an outcome of its deliberations it may be confidently expected that the stability of my dominions will be preserved, and their unity promoted."

First Aid to Injured

TORONTO, Dec. 4.—The meeting of the St. John's Ambulance Association at the Parliaemnt buildings yesterday, was in camera. The secretary reported branches of the organization now operating at Vancouver, Winnipeg, London, Toronto and Montreal, while classes were being regularly carried on in several towns of the interior. Since last year hew classes have been formed at Edmonton, Brandon, Grenfell, Orillia and Sydney Mines. The Federal Department of Mines is taking up "first aid" instructions, and will establish a central station in the Maritime provinces. The C. P. R. is also forming a class for its men. In response to the request of the British Red Cross Society Association, it has been decided to form a nursing and "First Aid" reserve for the Canadian militia, and the services of an organizer to carry on the work will be secured.

Mining Department.

EDITED BY WILLIAM BLAKEMORE, M.I.M.E. MEMBER CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE, GREENWELL GOLD MEDALIST NORTH OF ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF MINING ENGINEERS 1904

A GREAT MERGER

James Ross, Canadian.

The topic of the moment in Canadian mining and industrial circles is the great merger now under negotiation between the Dominion Coal company and the Dominion Steel company of Sydney, Cape Breton. Combined, these two form easily the largest industrial enterprise in the Dominion. The capital indebtedness of the former is in round figures $23,000,000, and of the latter $29,000,000, and the mines and works are all situate in a district of which Glace Bay may be said to be the centre, Sydney the western terminus, and Fort Morien the eastern.

The interest of the moment centres in the attitude of Mr. James Ross, one of the wealthiest, cleverest and most inscrutable of multi-millionaires. Mr. Ross began life like the proverbial poor boy. He worked his way up until he may be said to have attained his ambition when he became a railway contractor on the Canadian Pacific railway. Possessing all the acutest financial faculties of his race, he carefully husbanded his resources and rapidly added to his wealth.

Twenty years ago he began to be interested in street railways, and helped William Mackenzie to finance most of his earliest schemes. It was largely Mr. Ross' money which built up the street railway systems of Toronto and Winnipeg. Later, under the tutelage of that phenomenal electrical expert, Dr. F. S. Pearson of Boston, he launched out into similar enterprises in England, and when William Mackenzie purchased the Birmingham system of tramways, it was Mr. Ross who again figured largely on the financial side.

Towards the end of the 90's the Dominion Coal company had run the length of its tether under American management, and the personal friends of Mr. H. M. Whitney, its distinguished founder, were determined that he should relinquish control, and realize on his investment, which had greatly improved his private fortune. At this time Dominion Coal stock was practically unsaleable, and hovered in the vicintly of $15 to $20.

H. M. Whitney, American.

Meanwhile Mr. Whitney, who had been active, and in order to show the exact relation of these two great financial magnates to the merger under consideration, it is necessary to recite the circumstances of Mr. Whitney's connection with the enterprise.

In 1893, a modest Halifax lawyer, Mr. B. F. Pearson, a man who had never caused a ripple in the commercial world, and who was never suspected of having an original idea, sat back in his office chair cogitating on the possibilities of a project which had been flitting through his brain for some months. He conceived the idea that the time had arrived to gather together the elements of a scheme which would bring fame and wealth to Nova Scotia. Down in Cape Breton Island was a group of old mines, which had been in operation for at any rate a hundred years. In the main they were ill-equipped. They operated under difficulties, the difficulties being chiefly shortage of capital and uncertainty of demand, but Mr. Pearson knew that they controlled enormous coal areas, and that the coal was both easy and cheap to mine. This was the first factor in his project.

The next was that at about this time the Cleveland administration had nearly run its course, and certain influential persons had approached Mr. Cleveland for the purpose of securing legislation under which coal would be admitted free. The object was to secure Canadian coal for the New England states. Geographically the mines of Nova Scotia were many hundreds of miles nearer to most of the consuming centres than those of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and the people were clamoring for cheap coal. Moreover, Mr. Whitney, was practically the owner of the Boston street railway, and a large shareholder in the Boston gas works. Cheap fuel, therefore, was an important consideration with him.

In the Cleveland administration was Mr. W. C. Whitney, a relative of Mr. H. M. Whitney, who worked tooth and nail for the free coal project. One of the most expensive lobbies ever known in the states, up to that time, was worked, and so certain was Mr. Whitney of success that he closed a deal for the purchase of all the Cape Breton coal mines except one, which steadfastly refused to come into the merger. But in legislation as in other things "there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip," and at the last moment the campaign for free coal went wrong, the gigantic interests of Pennsylvania and Ohio prevailed, and on the last day of the session the senate vetoed the bill. This left Mr. Whitney with the Cape Breton properties, acquired at a cost of something like $2,000,000, on his hands.

Then the genius of the Boston financier manifested itself, he interested American and Canadian capital, secured the alliance of such influential Canadians as Lord Strathcona, and Sir William Van Horne, and settled down to business. The mines were renovated and equipped at enormous cost. The output was developed from 300,000 tons to 3,500,000 tons a year, and by the end of the 90s' the Dominion Coal company was one of the most gigantic concerns on the continent with an annual pay-roll of $5,000,000, an annual product valued at nearly $10,000,000, an invested capital of $20,000,000, and a market which extended to Montreal in the west and Boston in the south.

But, so enormous had been the capital expenditure that it was difficult to make both ends meet, and the company realized that something must be done to secure a larger and more permanent market. Again the genius of Mr. Whitney was in evidence. He realized that the best customer for a coal mine was steel works and once again he rallied round him the very cream of Canadian and American financiers, including Mr. R. B. Angus, of Montreal, and Senator Cox, of Toronto. In March, 1899, these gentlemen promoted the Dominion Iron and steel company, with an authorized capital of $10,000,000, and the construction commenced at Sydney of one of the finest steel works in the world.

Stars in Conjunction

The advent of the steel company brought about the conjunction of Mr. James Ross and Mr. H. M. Whitney. Mr. Ross practically came to the rescue of the coal company, and invested millions in it. When the steel company was just getting on to its feet, and when Mr. Whitney relinquished personal control he became president, placed his son on the ground as his assistant, and took down Mr. George Duggan, a bright young engineer from Montreal, as general manager.

If the early days of the Dominion Coal company were beset with difficulties the establishment of the steel company brought infinitely worse trouble. The American engineers spent money like water, and failed to produce results. The works cost more than double the original estimate, and when they were completed instead of realizing the positive guarantee of the manager, Mr. A. J. Moxham, to produce pig-iron at $5 a ton, it was found that the cost was $11.

Meanwhile the capital outlay had exceeded $20,000,000, and still there was no rock of safety in sight. A great stock movement then began, one of the most remarkable stock movements in the history of Canadian finance, it resulted from a struggle between the American and Canadian interests to obtain control of both concerns, and as the leaders on both sides were multi-millionaires it is not surprising that the fight was long and stubborn. In the fall of 1901, between June and December whilst the contending factions were buying up every share of stock they could lay their hands on, Dominion Coal rose from $25 to $147, and Dominion Steel from $20 to $85.

Hundreds of men made fortunes, some of them very big fortunes. In a Toronto exchange to hand this week is the portrait of a man who is recognized today as one of the leaders of the financial world. His word is law, his advice is eagerly sought on all commercial matters, he lives in a palace in Toronto and is rated at $5,000,000. When the Dominion stock was booming he was a clerk in an insurance office in Toronto on a salary of $200 a month. He cleaned up more than $1,000,000 in the stock movement on an original investment of $5,000. He effected this by pyramiding his gains every day, and ultimately selling at $145. One of his fellow clerks followed suit and the next year was made general manager of a newly established Canadian bank.

When the movement was over the American element were beaten, and James Ross ruled supreme over the coal company and Senator Cox over the steel company. Mr. Whitney ceased all connection with the concerns which he had established, and which opened the eyes of the world to the possibilities of industrial enterprise in Canada.

Senator Cox, being a shrewd man, and having more interests to attend to already than he could find time for, wisely took hold of Mr. J. H. Plummer, the assistant general manager of the Bank of Commerce, a man of fine parts, who had enjoyed the inestimable advantage of being trained under Mr. B. E. Walker, easily the leading banker of the Dominion. An amalgamation of coal and steel then took place, but it only lasted a year; there were still conflicting interests. Montreal and Toronto, which means the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Commerce, could not stable horses together. Moreover, Mr. Ross is nothing, if not an autocrat, and his immense wealth and unparalleled success rendered him intolerant of interference or suggestion, so after a year's experiment the merger was dissolved, and from 1902 to date the two concerns have pursued an independent course.

Gigantic Law Suit.

But the dissolving of the merger left one bone of contention which for seven years has threatened to ruin both industries. Mr. Whitney's first step when establishing the steel company was to make a contract with the coal company for the supply of all the fuel required for fifty years at a price approximating to $1.35 a ton. The tonnage required was not less than 1,000,000 tons a year and might easily double that. Mr. Whitney's motive was all right because at the time he made the contract the coal company needed the market in the worst possible way, and the cost of production was only 80 cents a ton.

But times have changed, hardly had the steel company commenced operations when shorter hours and higher wages because the rule throughout the industrial world, and for years past it is safe to say that the average cost of coal in Cape Breton has been little less than $2 a ton.

With such a heavy loss staring them in the face the coal company repudiated the contract, after trying to evade it by supplying an inferior grade of fuel. Then began a fierce fight between Mr. James Ross and Mr. Plummer. The fight has lasted five years. All attempts at conciliation failed. Mr. Ross, who had never given way in his life on any point, was adamant. Mr. Plummer could not afford to yield because the life of the steel industry depended on maintaining his contract in its integrity.

Ultimately, after passing through all the Canadian courts the matter went to the Privy Council and three months ago, or thereabouts, a verdict was rendered in favor of the steel company with damages accrued up to date of more than $3,000,000. The money was paid, but by this time Mr. Ross must have realized that it was useless to prolong the fight. His health has given way under the strain, and at last the timely offices of personal friends prevailed and Mr. Ross consented either to part with his holdings, or to transfer them into a merger at an agreed price.

As he holds control of Dominion coal stock it means that his investment represents in the neighborhood of $12,000,000. It is understood that the merger has been effected not on the basis of valuations, but on the basis of the amount of capital invested, and that within a few weeks the necessary legal steps will have been taken to consolidate all interests.

A New Chapter.

Thus ends another chapter in the history of an industrial concern which has done more than any other to make Canada famous. Its pages are replete with human interest, and contain many features of a true romance. They record the struggle of Titans. The clash of strong imperious, self-made men, and the emerging from nearly twenty years of continuous trouble of what may yet prove to be the finest mining and smelting enterprise in the British Empire.

Yaskikowa to Hang

OTTAWA, Dec. 4.—The cabinet has decided not to interfere in the capital case of Yaskikowa, now under sentence to be hanged at New Westminster on the 10th instant, for the murder of another Japanese last summer. The law will, therefore take its course.

THE NATIVE PURITY AND FRAGRANCE OF

"SALADA"

TEA is preserved by the use of sealed lead packets. Black, Mixed or Natural Green

MELODRAMA OF REAL LIFE

James-Rule Wedding the Final Act of an Almost Tragedy

A few evenings ago at the little neighbor mining town of Ladysmith, the Rev. G. M. Ambrose performed a wedding ceremony uniting for better or for worse Charles James and Miss Amelia Georgina Rule—a wedding that marked the evolution into a well arranged romance of what not long ago approached hazardously close to most grim tragedy. Indeed the story of the wooing and wedding of pretty Amelia Rule, in its development runs the whole gamut of the constituents of thrilling melodrama.

And now, after having seen hero and heroine emerge serene and happily united out of multiplied vicissitudes and difficulties, the public of Vancouver island can only hope that the philosophy of fiction and the mimic stage may be still further respected, and that Mr. and Mrs. James find recompense for all their sorrow and sufferings in living happily ever afterwards together.

The trouble is that the self-same public which now smiles indulgently and approvingly upon the comedy climax of the Ladysmith romance, cannot just yet forget that indirectly they but a short time since had quite unheroic parts in the living drama.

The real unfolding of the plot of this twentieth century romance, which runs so close a parallel with the best of melodramatic thrillers, began in July last, when James was made a prisoner of the law at Ladysmith, "positively identified (to quote the Victoria press reports of the time) as James Jones, the man who more than four years ago deliberately shot and killed a white man, Jack Johns, in a barroom row at the little mining camp of Buxton, Munroe county, Iowa, and after making his escape from the scene of the crime by attiring himself in women's clothing, eventually found his way across the boundary line, and landed at Ladysmith."

James—or Jones, as he was at the time rechristened by the law's exponents—was brought to Victoria by Constable Cassidy, of the provincial police, and Town Constable Callender, of Ladysmith, by whom he had been arrested. He was described in the papers at the time as "a good-looking mulatto"; and this seems to have caused him almost as much heartburning as even the terrible predicament in which he found himself, for he vehemently protested that there was no drop of "color" in his veins, which protest has later been sustained by evidence.

That he came here in custody and to face the most serious charge known to the criminal law was directly due to one Martin Brown, a negro miner of Ladysmith, who at the time the crime was committed of which James stood accused, was deputy sheriff, Munroe county, Iowa, with headquarters at the town of Albia, and who, in fact, took an active part in the hunt for James, chasing the latter as far as Kansas City, where the trail was lost.

After completing his term as deputy sheriff, Brown worked his way to the Pacific coast and finally arrived at Ladysmith, where he secured employment as a miner. James, after his arrival in Ladysmith, got work as a bartender, and an acquaintance was formed with Brown. Brown was well acquainted with the family of the Buxton murderer and was certain that the Ladysmith bartender and the youth who slew Johns were one and the same individual. Brown communicated his suspicions to the Ladysmith police, who in turn communicated with the Albia authorities. The result was the arrest of James on the request of the Iowa authorities. The description of the murderer given by the latter tallied closely with that of the young man who entered such vehement denial, "allowing," as noted at the time, "for such changes as a few years must have made."

The crime for which James was held was committed on the night of December 12, 1904, in Pat Lewis' roadhouse, a mile or two outside of Buxton, Iowa. Jones and another man were drinking at the bar, behind which Jones was working. The two customers were quarrelsome and Jones had been ordered by Jones to leave the premises. A fight started between Johns and his companion and the former struck the latter over the head with a bottle. Jones grabbing a revolver, ran around from behind the bar, and shot Johns in the back. Fatally wounded, Johns staggered outside to the street, followed by Jones, who fired four more shots into his victim, instantly killing him.

"I guess they'll want me for this," was all Jones remarked as he returned to the bar, secured his coat, and disappeared. It was subsequently learned that the murderer made his way to a friend's house some miles away and stayed over night. The next night he attempted to catch the train at Albia, but the police were guarding all means of travel, and Jones had to walk across country. On this trip his ears were frozen, and the fact that James, of Ladysmith, has small pieces of the lobes of his ears missing, as often happens when a person's ears are severely frost-bitten, was "one of the many marks by which Brown identified his man."

A posse of which Brown was a member scoured the county for days in the hunt for Jones, but no trace of him could be found, though it was discovered that he had made his way across country attired in woman's clothing, and that he reached Kansas City. Beyond that point search proved fruitless. A reward of $200 for information leading to the arrest of Jones was offered by Sheriff Griffen, of Albia county, and the description of the fugitive was scattered broadcast.

When James arrived at Ladysmith one of the first persons with whom he became acquainted was Brown, the ex-deputy sheriff and keen pursuer of Jones. It was natural that the two should talk of their homes in the States, and it was during this conversation that Brown became convinced that James and Jones were identical.

When James was in this city he was interrogated by the authorities. He stated that he was born at Middlesboro, Kentucky, leaving that state two years ago. He was a coal miner by trade. He vehemently denied knowing anything whatever about the murder of Johns, and declared that he had never been at Albia or Buxton, or in fact in that part of the state of Iowa, in his life. He said he had been in this province five or six months, arriving in Victoria from Seattle on October 26 of last year. He stayed here for two or three days and then went to Ladysmith. He denied as emphatically as any Kentuckian could that he had negro blood.

James appeared to take his arrest quietly. He came down on the train readily enough and when told that he would be held until the American authorities could be communicated with, displayed no alarm at the prospect. During his residence in Ladysmith he had been well behaved, always quiet and reserved in manner, and making but few friends.

Superintendent Hussey wired Sheriff W. B. Griffen, of Albia, notifying him of the arrest of James, and forwarding an accurate description. In response came telegrams from Sheriff Griffen and afterwards that officer in person, with whom James left—protesting innocence. His final request of Superintendent Hussey was for permission to bid good-bye to his Ladysmith sweetheart, Miss Amelia Rule, who through evil and good report had staunchly stood by him, disdaining all evidence by others deemed conclusive, or almost so, of guilt.

After that the scene shifts to Iowa, where after having been very positively identified by Brown as the much-wanted murderer, James was found by others more competent to speak, to be quite unlike the missing Jones. He also offered evidence proving mistaken identity and an unassailable alibi, and—to crown all—the real Jones was subsequently captured.

What should James do, so soon as he was free, but hurry back to Ladysmith, knowing that one was waiting there to whom the news of his deliverance could only be fully satisfactory when delivered in person. The wedding last week provides the fitting climax to the story. The bride, who was given away by her step-father, J. Machaffey, looked orthodoxly handsome in cream cashmere, with veil and orange blossoms, while the bridesmaid, Miss A. C. Rule, a sister, was charming in white. Mr. R. Ray acted as groomsman. After the ceremony a wedding supper was served, only a few intimate friends being present. Many more, however, will join in hoping that from the wedding day, sunshine will bless the fortunes of the lovers.

Our Xmas of Musical Goods Goes Merrily on

Wise people are purchasing now before the Xmas rush commences and while selection is at its best. We can please everybody with inexpensive or expensive gift goods.

Note Our Reduced Prices

Popular Sheet Music at half the regular price

Music Folios at one third off

Graphophones at greatly reduced Prices

Pianos regular price $450 for $285

Everything else reduced in proportion. Come in and look around,—the largest stock of musical goods in Western Canada.

Fletcher Bros.

1231 Government St.

GOT $595 WITH $1

New York, N. Y.—A young walked into the store of Mr Wassermann, 279 Grand stre purchased a shirt waist for ou Mrs. Wassermann was ma her bank deposit, and had $41 and cheques amounting to $18 counter.

These she wrapped up waist. As soon as she discov loss, Mrs. Wassermann repor the police, but no trace of th woman could be found.

It is much more difficult to lost money than it is to rec health. Constipation, Bilious digestion, Dyspepsia, Lan Aching Limbs, Bladder a Troubles quickly disappear u curative influences of "Fruit "Fruit-a-tives"—the famou made from fruit juices and have given the most gratifyin even in the most serious Stomach, Liver, Kidneys, an Troubles.

50c a box, 5 for $2.50, or 25c., at all dealers, or from t a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

Why sit in a cold, damp Office, inviting Rheumatism winter complaints, when you Heat and Comfort. Come u particulars about the St. Steam Radiator; no fires to ing, no boiler or piping to b with; all the advantages heating at a fraction of the do all kinds of heating and and will be pleased to gi estimate.

HAYWARD & Phone 1854. 759 F

THE REVENUE OF THE PRO

Statement For the Fis Completed Shows Increase

The statement of provinc for the past fiscal year ha completed at the Treasury and, while precedent forbi ing out of any detail inform the return in its entirety laid before Parliament, this be disclosed—that the sho far the most satisfactory in history of the province. W at the bank of upwards of half million dollars, and t conditions of revenue exhib just-completed statement, t no question as to the emin factory condition of provin matters.

Paradoxical as it may statement for the just pas is in reality a statement f months, the amended pro enue act of 1908 having go and effect, and the fiscal thereby re-defined. In t custom has been to divide year of British Columbia a June. Experience has sh practicable, however, to e vincial business year wit of March, and this will h be the rule. The fiscal y tend from April 1st to Ma new order being initiated present set of public accoun

THIEF AT WO

Enters Government Stre and Steals Cash Regi Silk Goods.

Wasting no time in a get at the cash, but just p entire cash register and a thief or thieves made away from the premises gano and company, corne ment and Cormorant stre during Wednesday even yesterday morning. A h in the door on Governme the bolt within pushed bac thief entrance.

In addition to the cas number of silk handke other articles were taken amount of cash was in t not known, but there wa No trace of the burglar cured as yet.

Death of Mrs. St

VANCOUVER, Dec. 2. son, widow of the late G son, former proprietor of died today.

C. P. R. Not Affe

MONTREAL, Dec. 2.—T company state that their in any way affected by th strike.

Argentine Gets F

LONDON, Dec. 2.—It that the restrictions aga portation of Argentine Great Britain will be sho

France Takes No

PARIS, Dec. 2.—The today announced that t truth in the report publi papers of the United St day to the effect that F dered a warship from Nicaragua because of all ties suffered by French re caragua.

Food Standar

OTTAWA, Dec. 3.—It ed today by the Inland partment that the specia on standards applicable in Canada was almost c that the regulations w nounced early in January