

CHINESE STEAMERS FOR THE PACIFIC

Two Kwangs Chinese Steamship Co. Will Have Trans-Pacific Service

LOCAL CHINESE SUBSCRIBE

Patriotic Venture Backed By Cantonese Guilds to Have National Steamers

The Japanese flag is familiar at this port. Japanese steamship lines have secured a large share of the trans-Pacific carrying trade. Now the Chinese have entered the field and a line is being organized at Canton which proposes to begin its operations by running steamers on the west river of South China, and then extend its scope by running steamers between Hongkong and either Puget Sound and British Columbia or San Francisco. Local Chinese are subscribing for stock in the new steamship company which is to be known as the "Two Kwangs Chinese Steamship Company" and proposes to operate on the lines of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha of Japan. The Chinese hope to secure a liberal subsidy for their foreign line, similar to the Japanese line, which is subsidized by Japan. Large subventions by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's foreign services.

The Two Kwangs Chinese steamship company—the two Chinese provinces of Kwangsu and Kwangtung from which most of the Chinese who are abroad have emigrated—are known as the Two Kwangs. It is making an appeal to all Chinese at home and abroad to subscribe for stock in the company and copies of the prospectus have been sent to Victoria for distribution as well as to San Francisco and other points on the Pacific coast. The stock is being sold at \$25.00 per share, and the organization has been given over to the 72 guilds of Canton, whose members extend where Cantonese are found in any number.

It is pointed out that the company proposes to begin by operating steamers under the Chinese flag on the West river of South China, and, as rapidly as possible, to extend to the Pacific to Puget Sound and to San Francisco, probably to San Francisco by way of Honolulu. The growth of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is pointed out, and it is stated that while Japan has about ten times fewer people than China and China has commercial relations with all parts of the world, a Chinese steamship company should, as successfully, if not more so, than the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

The prospectus appeals to the patriotism of the people. It points out that a great number of Chinese are expert navigators, but they are now employed for the most part in inferior positions on foreign vessels, and the patriotism of the people is being urged to remove the "disgrace" which now rests upon their country because there is not to be found upon either the Pacific or the Atlantic a Chinese steamship company.

Captured in Seattle.
Vancouver, March 25.—William Preyer, who with McKenzie, escaped from the chain gang a few days ago, was arrested in Seattle last night. It is understood that he will oppose extradition, but the Vancouver police will probably press for his return. Preyer was serving a six months' term in the city jail when he made his escape. He is a bad man and the police are desirous of getting him back. McKenzie, who got away with him, is still at large. He was suspected of being one of the safe crackers who operated at P. Burns & Co.'s butcher shop some time ago.

Offers Cup for Yachting.
New York, March 23.—Frederick Thompson, owner of the schooner yacht Shamrock, of the Larchmont and Atlantic Yacht club, announced yesterday that he would offer as a perpetual trophy to be raced for by yachts of any recognized club in the world a gold challenge cup valued at \$5,000. This trophy, which is to be known as the American Cup, will be the most valuable prize ever offered in America for a yacht race. The cup will be placed with the Larchmont Yacht Club.

American Eight For Olympic.
New York, Monday, March 24.—Plans for the selection of an American eight to row in the Olympic regatta in England in July, announced by James Pilkington, president of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen, member of the committee which has in charge the forming of an American crew.

"The original plan formulated by Julian Curtiss and myself will be adhered to," according to the rules of the association we can pick twenty-seven oarsmen who show up well in all or in many of the regattas held before June 1. These men will contest several one boat races and have selected eight oarsmen and several substitutes. There is no truth in the report that we intend to pick a crew as a whole. By picking eight of the best oarsmen in the country we will have no trouble in boat racing in time for them to get plenty of practice together before they go abroad, early in July.

FINLAY RIVER GOLD

Mr. Clifford Speaks of His Interesting Experience of Thirty Years Ago

Vancouver, March 24.—Four to six dollars per day at the Finlay river placers thirty years ago without going to bedrock. That was what C. W. D. Clifford, ex-M.P.P., and a party of men obtained during a hurried visit to the creeks which are now commencing to attract so much attention. Thirty years ago the cost of packing supplies into the Finlay river creeks was so great that not much attention was paid to the results of the panning, and no attempt was made to reach bedrock in the then inaccessible district.

Mr. Clifford and the other men of the party were then prospecting for placer mines and having only sufficient supplies with them to enable the object they had set out upon being attained, they spent but little time

on the creeks—hurried on and finally the memory of the discovery faded with time. Now Mr. Clifford, who lives at the head of Kitimat arm, directly on the road taken this winter by several parties rushing to the placers, is recalling the incidents of his early trip, and he sees no reason why he may not have passed over a Klondike.

The prospectors who will be on the ground in the spring, and those who have been there all winter, will uncover the bedrock and before next fall the world will know the result. If the gold is there, next winter will witness a rush to the Finlay river the equal of the famous struggle down the Yukon in 1897.

Bound For Old Country.
The following Victorians will sail from New York on April 1st on the Chinese steamer, bound for Liverpool. Capt. J. W. Troup, Lindley Crease, R. K. Laundes, Harry Betterton, Mr. and Mrs. James May and Edward Hall. It is expected that on this trip the Mauretanian will attempt to make a new record.

Robert Ward & Co. intend to erect a wharf on their Erie street waterfront property, about a hundred yards from the Victoria Chemical works, where the firm has a large warehouse. Plans of the proposed wharf have been referred to the marine department.

WHALING COMPANY FOR QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Company in Which G. A. Huff is Interested Has License for Station at Rose Harbor

A license for a whaling station at Rose harbor, Queen Charlotte Islands, has been issued by the department of marine and fisheries, and a company, with about \$150,000 capital, will commence operations there as soon as it is possible to get the necessary building and equipment in shape. Capt. Huff of Alberni, is one of the men interested in the industry.

The license carries with it the exclusive right to catch whales within one hundred miles of the station, and there is a proviso that the whales must be treated within twenty-four hours after they are landed.

It will be necessary for the new company to acquire a steamer similar to the Orion and St. Lawrence, both of which were built at Christiansburg. The latter vessel was secured from a St. John whaling company and brought around the Horn by Capt. R. Balcorn, who sold the vessel to the Pacific Whaling company. This company has licenses for five stations on the British Columbia coast, three of which are utilized.

H. Larsen Bjornsgaard, a Norwegian representing Ole Christensen of London, England, came to Victoria some months ago and endeavored to get a license for a whaling station at Calvert island, in northern British Columbia. He was unable to obtain a permit, however, and returned recently to Norway.

BROUGHT MACHINERY FOR NEW FREIGHTER

Antiochus Lands Engines for Steamer to Be Built by the Vancouver Lumbering Brothers

The steamer Antiochus of the Blue Funnel line returned from the Sound yesterday morning to discharge 700 tons of general cargo. At the same time the steamer brought included in her cargo the machinery for the new steam freighter Lemo which is being built for Leeming Bros., at Furber's shipyards on the upper harbor. The steamer freighter, larger of the small freighting fleet, has been completed and is ready for launching. The machinery is to be installed before the vessel takes the water, and it is expected she will be ready to leave the ways about eight or ten days hence.

TRAFFIC IS HEAVY

May Be Three Daily Transcontinental Trains En Route, Way on C. P. R. This Year

The rush of passenger traffic over the C. P. R. has been remarkably heavy all winter, and the prospects of a still heavier traffic during the summer months then will be very bright. It is expected, result in a three train daily service east and west. At present there are two transcontinental trains each way as far west as Calgary and this service will soon be resumed through to the coast. In addition to this, however, it is stated that the Trans Canada Limited which last year was run every day will be put on the daily service.

SCHOONER STARTS TO HUNT SEA OTTER

Markland Leaves Today for Clayoquot and Hunting Grounds of North Pacific

The sealing schooner Markland, Capt. Heater, has her outfit and provisions on board and is expected to be towed to sea from the wharf of the Victoria Sealing company in the upper harbor today. The Markland, which is in command of Capt. Heater, will ship her Indian hunters at Clayoquot, and will then cruise off the coast during April to engage in the pelagic sealing and the close of the end of next month. The schooner will then proceed north on an otter-hunting cruise. While the regulations enforced against otter sealers than Japanese prevent seal hunting in the North Pacific ocean after the end of April until August begins, there is no law against the hunting of sea-otter other than the regulations of nations which forbid foreign vessels from going nearer than three miles of an alien coast to engage in business.

During the past few seasons several of the schooners of the Victoria Sealing company have done very well in hunting otter. The Casco took 12 one season, and 18 the next, and the schooner City of San Diego took 20 sea-otter in northern waters.

At the annual meeting of Carley's House Memorial Trust it was stated that the number of persons admitted to the house during the year was considerably over 2,000, and well above the average since the trust was established in 1895.

ASIATIC EXCLUSION IN VARIOUS PHASES

Appeal to Full Court on Natal Act—Force of Proposed Ottawa Bill

Vancouver, March 25.—On behalf of the Attorney-General an appeal was entered today by which the Full Court will be asked at its sittings here next week, to hold that the Natal act is operative against the Hindus, notwithstanding the decision of Mr. Justice Morrison given last Friday that it is in conflict with the Dominion immigration laws.

In the appeal the attorney-general asks for an order for the re-arrest of Narad Singh and his thirty brethren, who, having failed to pass the educational test of the Natal act, were sentenced to a year's imprisonment. As all had passed the Dominion regulations, Mr. Justice Morrison ordered their release, holding that the Natal act was ineffective being at the court held repugnant to the Dominion laws. In illustration of this, it was pointed out that the Natal act would not permit the landing of Hindus passed by the Dominion officer, while under the Natal act he could be fined five hundred dollars if he assisted in their landing before they had passed the Natal act.

In support of this A. D. Taylor, K.C., for the attorney-general argued that as the province admitted of either right to pass certain immigration laws it had the right to provide such laws as it pleased for their enforcement. The Full Court will hear a lively argument upon this, for it is understood that this appeal is preliminary to a final appeal to the Privy Council. Three grounds of appeal have been filed by Taylor and Innes, First, that warrant and conviction are not valid; second, that Mr. Justice Morrison erred in holding that the legislation had no jurisdiction to enact the Natal act; third, that he also erred in holding that the Natal act was repugnant to the Dominion immigration act.

Chief Justice Hunter, Mr. Justice Irving and Mr. Justice Clement will likely constitute the court which will hear the appeal.

Interest in New Bill

The proposed legislation in the House of Commons to take the place of the order-in-council which was gazetted yesterday by Mr. Justice Clement is being watched with great interest here. One highly important feature of the new statutory enactment will be that its terms, in their bearing on the immigration of Japanese from the Hawaiian Islands, will supersede the terms of the Anglo-Japanese treaty in respect to the right of entry and residence of Japanese in Canada.

Canada is a party to this treaty without reserve, and of its stipulations is that citizens of either country shall have unrestricted rights to enter the dominions of the other by subscribing to the treaty. When the order-in-council was passed yesterday it was claimed that Japanese would be prevented from coming to Canada from Hawaii. This claim was questioned because of the treaty, which it was held was superior to any order-in-council. This point was never tested, however, as no Japanese came from Islands while the order was in force.

Now, however, competent legal opinion declares that the statutory enactment respecting immigration which will be passed by the House of Commons will effectively stop the entrance of any Japanese from Hawaii, as it will, by reason of the fact that it is a statutory enactment passed subsequent to the passing of the parliamentary act approving the ratification of Canada in becoming a party to the Anglo-Japanese treaty, be superior to the terms of the treaty. Of course it will not act as a bar against Japanese coming direct from Japan, nor is it the intention that it should, but the treaty insofar as Japanese coming from any other country are concerned.

SEALSKINS SOLD AT LOWER PRICES

London Sales Show Decline of 3 Per Cent. Over Last December Market

The sealskin and fur sales held in London yesterday by the Hudson's Bay company and other dealers resulted in a still further decline in the price of sealskins and of some of the dry furs. The Bering Sea sealskins which sold for a small quantity held over from the December market, January sales, brought 3 per cent lower than in December, when there was a marked decline in comparison with the sales of the previous year. The Copper Island pelts also brought 3 per cent lower, and the Cape Horn skins, fewer of which were offered, this day, brought the same price as last December, namely 17 1/2 per cent less than last year; other brought 12 1/2 per cent lower, silver fox sold for 7 1/2 per cent higher, silver foxes for 12 1/2 per cent lower, and ermine sold lower still, the price ruling 50 per cent less than last year. Marten were 15 per cent lower and beaver 12 1/2 per cent less than last year.

CALL LOANS ELSEWHERE

Canadian Bank Funds Loaned in New York Are Perfectly Safe

The chairman of the Bank of British North America at the annual meeting said: "There was one statement frequently made, both in this country and Canada, to the effect that Canadian banks were greatly hampered because their resources were so largely loaned in New York. Speaking for ourselves alone, I am glad of the opportunity of most definitely correcting this statement. We employ part of our call money in New York; we have always done so, and we have never had a broken out or a considerable sum employed in this manner. It is only in the case of the Bank of Montreal with whom we do business, and I would state that in no single instance did this bank fail to obtain repayment of call loans when we wanted the money."

Twenty thousand canaries have been consigned from Norwich to America. The birds travel in steam-hol in crates, and large supplies of hard-boiled eggs, loaves of bread and sacks of seed are taken with them for their sustenance on the voyage.

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CRETONNES, newest patterns and colors, per yard	20¢ and 25¢
BURLAP, per yard	30¢
MADRAS MUSLINS, plain and fringed, per yard, from	30¢ to 75¢
LACE CURTAINS, latest designs, taped ready to hang, with "hang easy" tops, from \$10 per pair, to, per pair	65¢

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HINDUS SET FREE BY COURT'S ORDER

Mr. Justice Clement Holds Federal Order-in-Council Invalid

The Governor-General in Council cannot delegate his powers in immigration matters to any minister or official, even though that official, as in this case, be the minister of the Interior. The discretion as to what immigrants shall be admitted or refused admission must be exercised solely by the Governor-General-in-Council, as I read the act.

You could almost hear the now historic and now invalid order-in-council of January 8, fall upon Registrar Pottinger's desk as Mr. Justice Clement concluded his view of its invalidity.

Four counsel sat waiting to be heard in support of the contentions of one hundred and in-council detained Hindus, contentions which went the length of declaring that the order was not only defective but never should have been promulgated by Ottawa, and particularly against British subjects.

But D. G. Macdonell, K. C., for the Dominion government could not get the order in-council set aside, and the validity of the order, it was held, was unnecessary to hear Mr. Brydon-Jack and his associate counsel, who appeared for the ten Hindus from Suva, nor D. G. Macdonell, K. C., and A. Russell, K. C., who appeared for the 146 from Hongkong.

Mr. Macdonell is now in communication with the minister of the Interior as to whether or not there shall be an appeal. This is however regarded as doubtful, while it is hinted that a new order, strictly within the limits of the Immigration act and not "delegating" any authority to any minister or official, may be expected.

Immediately the decision of the court was announced, immigration Officer Dr. Monro hurried to the court and instructed his waiting subordinate to at once release all the detained Hindus, while the Dr. himself, he said, gave a personal glad hand to every dusky denizen from the coast strand and ask no further questions as "where did you come from?" and "Did you come by continuous journey and through ticket bought before you started?"

The Dr. is in fact put back to his regular official limits, the boundaries before this order was issued, which have to do merely with the physical and financial fitness of the anxious immigrant.

These were the fatal words in the opinion of the minister of the Interior, conditions of the labor market in Canada are such as to make the application of the act desirable, or whenever, in his opinion, other conditions exist which in a special degree render necessary, etc., the application of certain sections of the act.

"This," said the court, "is delegating to others, not contemplated nor permitted by the act, authority and discretion which clearly the governor-general is not empowered to exercise." "If that is your Lordship's view," said Mr. Macdonell, "there is no objection in arguing the case on the other side of the Hindu's are all detained under the same order."

UNION COMPANY MAY NOT RENEW

When Mail Contract for Canadian-Australian Route Expires in July Next

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COMBINATION MAY BE MADE
Believed C. P. R. Will Join With Union Steamship Co. to Operate Line

A well-informed steamship man said: "I think it is safe to say that the Union company will never provide without assistance, the fine service which is required under the contracts prepared, which, as will be remembered, the management returned to the Ottawa government recently without signature. I don't think they wish to be bound by the old contract, although it has a coasting company, although it has ambitions of an overseas trade. It has now three first class cargo steamers, one of which, the Aorangi, was recently in these waters. One of the favorite methods of advertisement is to place the newest vessels for a time in the Canadian-Australian line, hence the appearance of the Maheno, Manuka, and Aorangi and the coming Marama."

The R. M. S. Moana will sail from the outer wharf tomorrow evening for the Antipodes. On arrival at Sydney the steamer will be withdrawn from this service for a time, being replaced by the Manuka for the summer season. The Marama, which is due April 1 on her maiden voyage, will replace the Manuka and Aorangi, will maintain the service. Although it was announced that the Marama, the best of the steamers now in the Union Steamship company's fleet, was built for the Canadian-Australian line, it is reported on good authority that she will make only two trips during the summer season and the late autumn and winter service will be maintained by the steamer Aorangi, Manuka and Moana. With the recent withdrawal of the Mowara, whose officers have resigned from the Union Steamship company since arrival, the old Canadian-Australian line which had the mail contract for the service has only a one-third interest in the service. The Aorangi is the only vessel remaining owned by the Canadian-Australian company.

Efforts are now being made to secure the removal of the Aorangi from the line by the Union Steamship company, the Canadian-Australian line objecting. With the removal of the Aorangi from the service the Union company will secure undisputed control. The original Canadian-Australian line was willing to hand over their interest in the mail service to the Union company upon condition

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DIVIDEND REDUCTION

Over Twenty Millions Lost as Result of Setback to Trade

It is estimated that the shareholders of the States and Canada have lost \$20,000,000 as the result of the business setback which has forced various enterprises to either cut or pass their dividends.

To be exact, the actual amount since last August is \$19,877,742. Exactly sixty-nine corporations have been obliged to tinker with their dividends, and the end is not yet, although it is doubtful if there will be many more changes of any importance.

Of the sixty-nine concerns, only four are Canadian.

It was reported at a meeting of Wimborne (Dorset) Guardians that within the past six weeks 512 vagrants had applied at the police station for tickets of admission to the workhouse, a record far in excess of neighboring unions, and attributed by a member to the lack of any labor test beyond the tapping of wood. No fewer than ninety vagrants had to be sent out to sleep at the various lodging houses in the town, at a cost of 4d. each, during the past fortnight, owing to insufficient accommodation in the workhouse. It was decided to investigate the matter.

Over a quarter of a million dollars' worth of British sovereigns were brought to San Francisco on Tuesday by the Australian Mail liner Boveric. The Boveric occupied thirty days on her voyage from Newcastle, N. S. W., and in addition to freight brought 5,812 tons of coal and 150 tons of merchandise.

Andrew Carnegie gave \$1,631,530 for public and college libraries last year, according to figures just compiled. This brought his total gifts for libraries in all countries up to \$49,916,622.