

HOME MISSION WORK.

Interesting and Instructive Debates and Papers at the Union Missionary Conference.

An Active Worker in the Field Deals not Length With the Potlatch.

Yesterday evening witnessed the close of the union missionary conference, which since Wednesday evening has been in progress in this city. The debates throughout have been remarkable for depth of research and the variety and scope of the information they afforded, and the conference cannot but be productive of lasting and most advantageous results. Both morning and afternoon sessions of the closing day were held in the Metropolitan church, where in the morning Rev. Dr. Wilson conducted the devotional exercises, after which the president, Rev. E. Robson, occupied the chair during the forenoon and Rev. Dr. Campbell during the afternoon.

Mr. M. Swartout, of Uleuleit, read an interesting paper on the Indian "Medicine Man." He spoke first of the causes which led to his prominence and power, such as the peculiar views held by the Indians of the origin of disease, witchcraft and spiritualism. In the second, his preparation for the office was touched upon—alone in the forest, or swimming in the sea, or invoking the powers of the air to assist him to gain the magic spell. Third, his work was described as sucking blood from the human body, extracting sticks and stones and driving out evil spirits from the bodies of his patients, put in them by the enemy, and sending his own spirit after the spirit of his patients and restoring them to their owners. Fourth, the methods by which he accomplishes his ends were described as by drumming, rattling, and dancing, and the use of his own spirit after the spirit of his patients and restoring them to their owners. Fourth, the methods by which he accomplishes his ends were described as by drumming, rattling, and dancing, and the use of his own spirit after the spirit of his patients and restoring them to their owners.

The "medicine man" is, said Mr. Swartout, "a powerful agent in demoralizing the Indians, and in opposing Christianity. The remedy is not the strong arm of the civil law, but the supply of native medicine to the Indians, and the abolition of the superstitions power of the Indian doctor, and thus remove the greatest curse of the red man, and the greatest obstacle to his being civilized and Christianized."

Rev. Mr. Stone, of Nitinat, read the following paper on the Potlatch, which resulted in the liveliest discussion produced by any paper submitted to the conference, some holding that the potlatch had a religious aspect, and others that it had not, all agreeing that the Indians could not be thoroughly civilized and christianized until it was abolished.

This custom peculiarly belongs to the native tribes of the North Pacific Coast. Viewed from the standpoint of appearance of a harmless mode of entertainment, but only those who are acquainted with its inward features can tell how predominant is the evil. As a relic of heathenism it holds a determined front against all civilization and Christianizing influences. Before the coming of the white man to these Western shores it existed with the many other savage practices, itself being the medium for the operation of the various crafts upon the superstitious minds of the people, and at the present time the missionary meets in it the greatest hindrance to his work of evangelizing.

"To enlist the sympathy of public opinion the Indian of to-day clothes it with a sort of civilized garb by introducing games and amusements indulged in by our own race and in this way enablers to point out to us his faults and privileges with ourselves. Then again the usage is accepted in the simple definition of the term which means 'to give,' and that it is nothing more than the expression of generosity on the part of the giver to his tribe, and the public more acquainted with what lies back of this giving, and understood the motive of the potlacher and the end in view, the right kind of sympathy would be shown by putting down the evil. It might be well to say here that potlatching is a violation of our Canadian law, and in some instances the offence has been followed up and the offender punished. In one case the Indian rebelled and his so-called reverence was taken up by a few pretending to guard the rights and liberties of the red man. Denunciation followed and our missionaries have been subjected to unwise and undue criticism. Reference is made particularly to Rev. J. B. McCullough a devoted worker of the Church missionary society among the Kana river Indians, and to Rev. C. M. Tate, the Methodist missionary to the East Coast tribes of Vancouver Island. Further, it has been charged to missionaries in general that they have been seeking the filthy lucre. It is almost needless to add that these apparently interested ones in the freedom of the potlatches belong to a class themselves who derive no small gain thereby, and it is to be expected these followers of Demetrius will use every effort to declaim this diabolical interest in the freedom of the potlatches. As missionaries we have been treated with silence the several newspaper articles on this supposed grievance, relying upon the sound judgment of better disposed minds, to whom we appeal for confidence in our endeavor to instruct in the Truth. We also look to such for assistance in breaking down this greatest barrier to knowledge and advancement for the Indian of British Columbia.

"We will now take up the question itself and will try to show—

"First—Its effect upon the Indians, socially, morally and intellectually. First, we have the social aspect. It is the potlatch which maintains the present social condition of the Indian as it was in the past. Each tribe has its hereditary chief, but there are numerous sub-chiefs who hold their positions of rank by the number of potlatches they give. Were it not for the feeling of pride that it fosters it would not be long before this custom would cease to exist. But the spirit of rivalry encour-

aged, by which one vies with the other to gain the highest point of favor in the estimation of the tribe, makes up in interest for any material loss to the potlacher, even though he be beggared and also compelled to borrow money from his friends who will have to wait his leisure or his pleasure, as the case may be, in refunding the loan.

"It is held that no better means can be employed by the natives to maintain peace and friendship among the several tribes and families, but this is an open question, for we have noticed that although there is a general mingling of minds and sympathies yet no sooner is the event over than the old animosities invariably return.

"There is another way we might view this social side of the question. It encourages idleness. It has been observed that only the thrifty, industrious Indian will give a potlatch. By using every economy he gathers in \$200, \$300, \$400 and even \$500, which he no doubt freely on his part, presents to his tribe. We are assured by the Indian department that the act will remain despite the efforts of some to repeal it. We look for a speedy enforcement of the same, believing it to be for the best good of the Indian.

"And as members of the Body, the Church, of which Christ is the Head, we view this question with no other interest than that of true sympathy and interest in our Indian brother and sister. And our Lord, who has sent us forth to preach the gospel to every creature, has also enjoined us to teach them to observe all things commanded by him. We are assured by the Indian department that the act will remain despite the efforts of some to repeal it. We look for a speedy enforcement of the same, believing it to be for the best good of the Indian.

"But there is yet another way by which its effects are shown. I refer to its influence in deterring the well disposed native from adopting civilized modes of living. The Indian who refuses to potlatch is ostracized. Every missionary knows somewhat of the persecution, not only contempt, to be borne by the Christian natives for their refusal to engage with the tribe in its heathen festivals. And these have come to us during the year asking why the law did not protect them under the existing condition of the case at present.

"We now take up the moral side of this question. Potlatching is a crime; in fact it is a form of bribery itself. The main object in giving a feast of this kind is to curry favor with the tribe, and who gives the most wins the greatest respect. In some instances where hereditary chiefs have had their power usurped by rivals who outdid them in potlatching. Then it is the Indians of the higher class who receive the greatest amounts, while the poor, old and forsaken receive the passing four-bits. The writer offered to join in with the tribe to which he ministers if only they would adopt the policy of giving for charitable purposes, but they could not understand the point. In the exact sense of the term bribery, the worldly point of view it is the expression of honor to whom honor is due.

"Again, the tendency to be dishonest is encouraged. As was stated before, large sums of money are expended by many with no intention of paying back. Only let the end in view be achieved, and any means is considered proper. This also explains the worst feature of the potlatch, which is the disposition tending to immorality. Not only at their feasts is licentiousness given full sway, but in order to secure money for the potlatch nothing is too impure. Men sell their wives and daughters and women sell themselves body and soul in the most nefarious traffic, that this desire to emulate may be satisfied. Look to the noblest nation of Indians on the coast, the Haida. Not twenty-five years ago there were thousands where now there are but hundreds. These have gone down to darkness and everlasting death, having met their untimely end through the sore disease of sin and immorality, and all because of the demands of the potlatch. And the tribes are not behind in the same sinful practice.

"We now turn to the event itself. It is on this occasion the baser appetites are freely indulged. The tribes are confined in general to a line of purity is drawn. And it goes to show that these and various other elements would not have such full scope were the potlatch system prohibited. The representative of one of these potlatches, who certified to the innocent amusement afforded by them, must have attended only the one. But could he witness the potlatch in its true light, he would no so freely express himself, and act justly to the public mind.

"And now we inquire how the mind of the Indian is affected by these heathen feasts. In a word they debauch him. He may be raised to an assumed false pride, but more surely does it degrade his nature and condition and render the mind less susceptible to the influence of light and truth. And because of its own influence it enforces the exacting homage from even those who are looked upon as civilized. This was particularly emphasized to the mind of the writer only last winter. Young men who are respected by those of Victoria who know them and who conduct themselves with due propriety in this town on their visits to it were compelled to honor one of the potlatches by feasting on a dog which had just been killed in a most cruel manner. At another time a cat was dispensed with in the same way. To think that this occurred in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, and within seventy miles from civilization, is a disgrace to the name of the potlatch exercises on the mind of the Indian.

"There is a wolf dance held chiefly to terrify the minds of the women and children, and which is generally carried on successfully. Again in many instances braves are subjected to torture, such as cutting with knives and biting, the latter giving a handsome sum for a piece of human flesh. "Superstition holds its sway through the influence of the potlatch, the Indian doctor celebrating a feast of this kind on his initiation to the secrets of the medicine art, and with which he is again honored on the completion of his course. "Summing up all the evidences before us we find the potlatch the great stronghold of heathenism. Destroy it.

and all other forms will fall with it; encourage it and the way of missionary enterprise is barred to a great extent. "And now, in conclusion, we will endeavor briefly to state the relief which the Indians to this and other evils prevalent among them. As a people we owe to them protection and support in the rights of their land. We must acknowledge we have taken their land from them, and this intrusion has greatly straitened their means of subsistence. We can now best reward them by using every effort to induce them to adopt our mode of living.

"But the potlatch sternly opposes this, therefore in the interest of the Indian the potlatch must go, that they may be free to be educated, to rightfully use their gains and earnings in dealing with the white man.

"Not only this, but our government is pledged to protect the interests of the Indian, and as his guardian instruct him. The wisdom of this legislature is shown by enacting a law condemning the potlatch, and in its importance we are assured by the Indian department that the act will remain despite the efforts of some to repeal it. We look for a speedy enforcement of the same, believing it to be for the best good of the Indian.

"And as members of the Body, the Church, of which Christ is the Head, we view this question with no other interest than that of true sympathy and interest in our Indian brother and sister. And our Lord, who has sent us forth to preach the gospel to every creature, has also enjoined us to teach them to observe all things commanded by him. We are assured by the Indian department that the act will remain despite the efforts of some to repeal it. We look for a speedy enforcement of the same, believing it to be for the best good of the Indian.

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BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The Dispute With the Waterworks Contractors to Be Brought to an Immediate Issue.

James Bay Bridge Repairs Exceeded the Estimated Cost by Fifty Per Cent.

There was but a slim attendance when at twenty minutes after the usual hour the city council met last evening. Mayor Beaven presided and the others present were Ald. Glover, Cameron, Wilson, Macmillan and Partridge. The market regulation by-law was first taken up, the point discussed being as to whether those who sell from baskets should be charged the daily market fee of five cents, or be compelled to take out hawkers' licenses at \$20 for six months. The discussion was in favor of the latter proposition and in that shape the by-law was read a third time and passed.

The by-law for the regulation of tramway traffic was taken up, after the Mayor had read a letter from the Consolidated company's solicitors, suggesting amendments to the existing law. All the suggestions by the solicitors were rejected, except one respecting the use of salt. Several amendments were then made by the committee of the whole, and the by-law was reported completed.

A letter from the city barrister and city solicitor, on the position of the waterworks contract was read. They recommended that the contractors be notified forthwith of the work required to be done or the materials to be supplied to complete the work, and that should they fail to do the work or supply the material the corporation will take over and complete the work at the cost of the contractors, and charge them as damages \$100 for every day after the expiration of the allotted time that the work remains uncompleted.

The Mayor added that the contractors have taken away the men, claiming that their work is completed. The work they are particularly required to do is the removal of the coffer dam. The recommendation of the legal advisers was then adopted.

An American letter from the barrister and city solicitor on the subject of the extra claimed by the waterworks contractors, recommended that they be informed that the claim cannot be admitted by the city, but that it must be referred to the city engineer, as the arbitrator named in the contract. Ald. Glover expressed doubt whether the city engineer can be regarded as the arbitrator named in the contract; and after a little discussion it was decided to carry out the legal advisers' recommendation in this matter also.

A letter from the secretary of the "good roads committee" of the Victoria Wheelmen's Club asked what action any of the council are taking in the matter of the suggested improvements between the tram rails for the benefit of cyclists. The Mayor reported having laid the suggestion before the city barrister, whose opinion was that from a legal standpoint it was exceedingly unwise to repair the roadway between the rails so as to invite particular use by a special class. The secretary of the "good roads committee" will be notified accordingly.

Thos. Earle and 140 other taxpayers petitioned that Yates and Wharf streets be put into more passable condition. Ald. Cameron thought that one section of Wharf street needs repair the worst of any roadway in the city, and thought that if possible some action should be taken on this petition of substantial ratepayers. The matter was referred to the streets committee.

A letter from the tramway company's solicitors notified the council that accounts had been sent to their clients for \$1,201.81 as the cost of repairs to the James Bay bridge, and that they had been called upon to pay the sum of \$428.81, being the difference between the \$775 they had paid and the actual cost. They pointed out that by their letters of July 18 and 24 the company's contribution was distinctly limited to \$800, and declared that their clients will pay no more than that. They suggested surprise that the estimate of the cost of this work should have been so far astray.

Ald. Glover considered it preposterous that in face of the specific agreement the company should have been called upon to pay this extra amount. Ald. Cameron spoke to the same effect, and it was decided that the letter lay on the table for the present.

The Mayor reported having called a public meeting as requested to discuss the Mongolian question, and suggested the appointment of a committee to prepare resolutions to be submitted to the meeting. Ald. Glover, Cameron and Partridge were asked short discussion named by the Mayor as the committee and the council adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

FIVE AND A QUARTER MILLIONS.

Five millions and a quarter is the aggregate capitalization of the new provincial mining companies incorporated during the past week. Of course Kootenay supplies the majority of these, but other parts of the province also are well represented, as the appended particulars set forth.

The Phoenix Consolidated Mining Co., Ltd., of London, \$750,000, is formed by Messrs. John D. Farrell, of Spokane, J. E. Zouli, of Kelowna, Dr. M. W. Brann, of Sandon, James Burridge, of Winnipeg, and George McL. Brown, of Vancouver, the primary object being to acquire and develop the Phoenix, Libby and Arden claims on the north fork of Carpenters creek, Slokan district.

Rossland has the head offices of the Rossland Homestake Gold Mining Co. and the Young British America Gold Mining Co., each of which is capitalized at \$500,000. The trustees of the former are Messrs. W. G. Johnston, D. M. Linnard and G. H. Bayne; and of the latter Messrs. H. C. Alters, R. C. Pollett and Joseph H. Adams. The Morning Glory Mining Co., Ltd., of Vernon, is incorporated with capital stock of \$500,000, and will purchase and work the Morning Glory mine on the east side of Okanagan Lake; while the Consolidated Gold Mining Co., \$500,000 also will acquire the Minerva Casad and Happy Day claims in Al-

berni district, developing these and contiguous properties. The head offices of the latter company are in Victoria and the incorporators and trustees are Messrs. George M. Perdue, Josiah Hemauss and C. N. Gowen.

Two other Rossland companies are the Silver Belle Mining Co., Ltd., and the Columbia and Ontario Gold Mining Co., with capital respectively of \$1,000,000 and \$750,000. The incorporators of the Silver Belle are Messrs. George A. Pounder, J. J. Henager and M. O. Tibbits; and of the Columbia and Ontario, Messrs. J. B. Miller, R. R. Gamey, John Y. Cole and Jonathan White.

The acquisition of the Two Friends claim, on Springer creek, Slokan, will be taken in hand by the Two Friends Mining Co. of Vancouver. This organization is capitalized at \$750,000, the trustees being Messrs. E. E. Evans, F. C. Innes, C. T. Dunbar and O. Plunkett.

THE CITY.

Rev. J. E. GARDNER, Mr. Coleman, the Chinese missionaries, claim that their remarks of Thursday evening at the mission conference were somewhat misunderstood by that body. They did not wish to be quoted as saying that "the laws in respect to the Chinese were not impartially administered."

Miss ELAINE TELFER and Miss CORINNE TELFER, of San Francisco, who will take part in the Scotch competitions at the Vancouver carnival, were present at the Sir William Wallace Society meeting last night and delighted the gathering with pipe-playing and Scotch dancing. A temperance recitation by Mr. Hays and songs by Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Anderson and others added to the evening's entertainment. The Reel of Tulloch, danced with a tam to piper McDonald's music, closed a grand Scotch night.

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., of Toronto, editor of the Methodist Magazine, has been spending a couple of days in Victoria. Dr. Withrow is an author and traveller of note. His best known book is the "Catacombs of Rome," a standard work on that subject. His "History of Canada" is a text book in the schools. Besides his historical and descriptive works, Dr. Withrow recently published a novel which has attained a great success. "Barbara Heck" is founded on an incident in the early history of Methodism.

—of which history much is chronicled in the story—in America, and should be read by every member of that denomination. While this is true, it is also an interesting tale, full of the joys and hates of human nature, and the pioneers of Ontario were carving homes from the primeval forest. Dr. Withrow left by this morning's boat for the city engineer, as the arbitrator named in the contract. Ald. Glover expressed doubt whether the city engineer can be regarded as the arbitrator named in the contract; and after a little discussion it was decided to carry out the legal advisers' recommendation in this matter also.

CAREFUL consideration was given by the police commissioners yesterday to the recommendation by Dr. Crompton that a matron be appointed for duty at the city lockup. The services of such an official it was realized would be only a temporary expedient, but inasmuch as a matron is a necessity at times, the commissioners decided to recommend to the council the appointment of some lady to act in this capacity, she being only required to attend for duty when occasioned by a matter upon which the women's societies of the city have long been agitating, and it appears that their object will now be thoroughly and satisfactorily accomplished. The committee also decided to permit five of the Victoria force to meet a similar team at Vancouver, and by that time he will have a team that will do him and the city no discredit.

THE NEST EGG.

(From the Rossland Record.) It is evident that the Miner has it in for the Nest Egg people. If it would tell the truth and even show animus, it would not be so bad, but to deliberately abuse the name of the Nest Egg, and the value of the same, is inexcusable. In its last issue it said:

"The Nest Egg treasury stock is being extensively advertised in Toronto and other cities of Eastern Canada and offered at 25 cents a share. The company is capitalized at 1,000,000 shares of the par value of \$1. The Nest Egg is a very good prospect, but is not \$250,000 rather than \$250,000 figure for it? The Miner depreciates the offering of shares in mere prospects at these high figures. It is bad policy and will kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. It is much better to put these treasury shares on at a moderate price and give the public a living chance in the gamble. The Nest Egg treasury shares are offered here in Rossland 10 cents."

In the first place—the capital stock of the company is only \$500,000. The

Strong Nerves

Nerves just as surely come from the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla as does the cure of scrofula, salt rheum, or other so-called blood diseases. This is simply because the blood affects the condition of all the

Nerves

bones, muscles and tissues. If it is impure it cannot properly sustain these parts. It made pure, rich, red and vitalized by Hood's Sarsaparilla, it carries health instead of disease, and repairs the worn-out system as nothing else can. Thus nervous prostration, hysteria, neuralgia, heart palpitation, are cured by

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Because it is the One True Blood Purifier. Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner pills, aid digestion. 25c.

Miner well knows that. At 25 cents it would place a value of \$125,000 instead of \$250,000, as stated by that falsifying sheet. Again there is no Nest Egg in Rossland on the market. A few individual owners of small blocks in Spokane and Victoria are offering it for sale, but not at 10 cents as stated by the Miner, but for 13 cents.

The treasury stock is not for sale here or anywhere else for less than 25 cents. The different prices asked for stocks is often accounted for by the financial needs of the owners of it. Nearly every company in the camp, where the individual stock is not tied up so, cannot be sold, is offered for a less price than is asked for the treasury stock.

The treasury stock in any company is more valuable than individual stock, because the money it brings is to be spent upon the property. A person who is buying any considerable amount of stock can well afford to pay more for it than for individual stock, for it is going into the treasury of the company in which he holds his private interest, besides the money spent on a good prospect is very liable to materially increase the value of his stock.

The conduct of the Miner in reference to the Nest Egg is malicious and unparalleled.

ROSSLAND'S DEVELOPMENTS.

[From the Rosslander.] The working in the Josie from the Poorman tunnel a few days ago broke through into a ledge from which very good looking ore was obtained averaging about \$50 to the ton.

The coming America shaft on vein Number One is run down 25 feet, vein matter is changing rapidly and improves in appearance with every foot of depth. Vein Number Two, struck last week, is being stripped preparatory to thorough examination. The point of discovery the surface for 20 feet in width is furrowed with seams of copper and iron, assaying \$9 to the ton.

Very flattering reports come from the Wallingford, or Record mountain. The shaft is down 32 feet, and from the bottom ledge matter was brought in which was very strongly mineralized.

On the Great Republican Confederation not far from the Mayflower, a tunnel will be run in the lead to prove its extent.

Geo. P. Kelly is in from working the Apohagua on the top of Lookout mountain. Two shifts are working on the Emmet, on which a tunnel is in 40 feet, and a contract has been let to run the further. Free milling ore in a paystreak of nine inches has been encountered which runs from \$75 upwards in gold. A diamond drill is working on the Red Point claim.

The Denoro Grande is turning out one of the best claims in Long Lake camp. Mr. Shonquest has sunk about seven feet down and from that depth drifted five feet. He has as yet found no walls and is working on the sand ore, a coarse grained galena. Samples from the bottom and not picked in any way, assayed \$45 in gold and 33 ounces in silver.

J. E. Reed, who has been prospecting on the north fork of Salmon river since June 1st, has returned after a very successful trip. They went five north, began prospecting from Empey's camp. They found the country pretty rough, and came across abundance of mineral indications in small quantities for about four miles north of Empey's camp. Here they struck a granite belt about four miles in width. Above the granite is a mixture of slate and quartz in conglomerate. Iron indications are plentiful, and copper found throughout a large area. All the ledges trend northeasterly and southwesterly, and are well defined. Mr. Reed and his partner, Phil Connor, staked eleven claims in all, three of which are situated on the east side of the mountain, between the north fork of the Salmon and a stream coming in from the westward, and three others on the west slope. Samples from these claims assayed 24 per cent. copper and 400 ounces silver. The vein is about 18 inches wide and can be traced through two claims.

The Ivanhoe big tunnel is in on the ledge thirty feet, showing a well-defined vein of decomposed matter six feet in width. Some very good gold assays have been taken from the blast of the tunnel within the past few days, which warranted the company raising the treasury stock to ten cents per share. The company has a night and day shift, and intends to push development in order to reach the big ore chutes which crop on the surface 200 feet west of the tunnel.

Rover creek, which flows into the Kootenay about twelve miles east of Robson, has on one mile, the Blend, owned by Jack Malone, Trevellick, Chase and another, from which last year's galena was shipped, and more work is doing this summer. About a fortnight ago, Geo. Schief and Joe Brown, from Rossland, went up and after prospecting only a short time, located the Leap Year, getting ore out almost from the surface. It is copper, carrying gold and silver, in which an average assay of five samples went \$40 in gold and three metals. The ledge runs about 12 feet in width.

P. W. Peterson came in on Monday night from Boundary creek, where he located the Wallingford, Iron Hill, Ingersoll and Atlanta in Brown's camp near the government townsite reserve on the north fork of the Kettle river. Many of the claims have strong surface showings which increase in value with depth. The Pathfinder's open cut run for 75 feet to crosscut the vein had a breadth of solid copper pyrites. At the surface the ore assayed \$4; 15 feet down it went \$35, and at 40 feet \$85. An offer of \$100,000 in cash has been refused for the claim, \$150,000 being asked for.

The fire wardens recently elected have lost no time in forwarding the organization of a good brigade and attending to the purchase of additional fire-extinguishing appliances. They passed a resolution that merchants should not be allowed to keep in their place of business more than fifty pounds of explosives at one time. It was decided to build the house on the vacant lot next to the North Horn Hotel. The wardens are buying 800 feet of hose, new couplers and a hose cart. Upwards of thirty members of the brigade have been enlisted. Mr. McChesley, late of El Paso, Texas, has been chosen chief, with W. Mack as assistant.

An order-in-council has been passed providing for the recognition in this province of probates and letters of administration granted in the United Kingdom, reciprocal provision having been made by the Imperial government. The order takes effect on September 1.