The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1893.

REASSURING.

In another column will be found a letter to the Westminster Columbian, written by Mr. Thomas Cunningham, on "The Fruit Outlook." Mr. Cunningham is an authority on fruit cultivation, and anything which he says on the subject is well worthy the attention of all who take an interest in the fruit growing and fruit preserving industries of this Province. He is a most successful horticulturist himself, and his experience cannot be at fault with respect to the effect of the late severe winter on the fruit trees. When he says that the cold weather has not damaged the pear trees in the least, and that notwithstanding the severity of the winter he is thankful to report the best promise of an abundant crop of fruit that he has seen in five years, he may be implicitly relied upon. He speaks of that whereof he knows, and testifies to that which he has seen.

This is not the case with persons who, taking their own surmises for knowledge, speak of the effects of last winter's frost as being most injurious to the fruit trees. Such reports are calculated to do the Province a great deal of harm, for one of its most promising resources is its fruit-growing capabilities. People are only just now beginning to realize how well adapted this Province is for raising a great variety of the best kinds of fruit. As good pears can be raised in British Columbia as any country in the world can produce, and the skilful fruit grower can calculate with certainty on the very best results. Reports, therefore, which lead inquirers to believe that the winter may be so severe in this Province as to kill the pear trees can hardly fail to discourage those who propose to cultivate fruit in some part of it. Consequently when so experienced and so successful a fruit-grower as Mr. Thomas Cunningham assures the public that there are no grounds for such reports gardeners and fruit-growers here and elsewhere may safely act upon the information he imparts.

LIGHT PUNISHMENTS.

The punishments of the men implicated in the Panama Canal frauds are, considering the magnitude of their offence, very light. It should be remembered that they were all intelligent men who were trusted by the people. The money which they squandered and appropriated to their own use was entrusted to them by people who had faith in their integrity. They all, both bribers and bribed, knew exactly what they were about. No one could have deceived himself or could have been deceived by others. The bribers knew that the money they gave to buy votes was not their own to give, and the bribed knew that the money they extorted from Charles Lesseps and others was stolen. They did not need anyone to tell them that Lesseps and his associates had no right to use the money of the stockholders in buying votes. The members who were bribed were guilty of a double crime. They committed a crime against the people when they received money from a company doing business with the Legislature, and they committed a more despicable crime, if possible, in taking as the price of their votes and their influence money which they knew to be stolen. Either of these offences deserved the most severe punishment. Men who are unfaithful to a public trust, who sell votes which are supposed to be unpurchaseable, should be made examples of, and men who receive stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen, become partners in the guilt of the thief. The speculators, who merely deceived the people by false representations and stole their money afterwards, though criminals certainly, are not criminals of so deep a dye as the Deputies and Senators who knew perfectly well that the directors of the Panama Company were cheating the people, yet who ran after them to get a share of the stolen money.

It takes away one's faith in human nature to find that men occupying high positions in the State and in society, and bearing unblemished characters, could not, when the opportunity presented itself, resist the temptation of committing crimes of the most sordid kind. It is difficult to believe that there is such a thing as honor left in the world, when we see men who might be expected to scorn to do anything that even appeared to be dishonorable, perpetrating crimes that a really honorable man could not imagine himself capable of committing. It is well for the reputation of the French nation that the Panama criminals meet with so little sympathy, and that the people demand that they receive the punishment which their crimes deserve.

A LITTLE TOO VENTURESOME.

The Hon. J. M. Rusk, late United States Secretary of Agriculture, undertakes to tell the world in the March number of the North American Review what American farming will be a hundred years hence. Mr. Rusk cannot place a very high value on his reputation as a prophet when he takes upon himself to predict what condition any industry in America or any other country will be in in the year 1993. Who in 1793 would have ventured to predict the changes that have taken place in the industrial world in a hundred years from the time he spoke. If any one did, and his guesses happened to be at all near the truth he would have been set down by nine hundred and ninety-nine thousandths of his contempories as hopelessly deranged. If, for instance, he had said that before the close of the century carriages would speed over continents at the rate of fifty miles an hour, and that the inhabitants of Europe and America would be able to tell each other the news of the hour instantaneously, how many would have believed him? When it is considered that a hundred years ago there were no railroads, no ocean steamships, no telegraphs, and that the only motive powers known to be practicable besides the strength of men and horses were wind and water, we will have a notion what a revolution has been effected in the industrial world in a hundred years.

In the Year of our Lord, 1793, a very large part of this American continent was to civilized men a *terra incognita*. The capabilities of the prairies of the Great West were unknown. Immense areas which are now cultivated and have, dotted over them, cities, towns and villages, were a trackless wilderness, to penetrate which seemed hopeless even to the courageous and enterprising pioneer. It was not then known that California was rich in gold and that inexhaustable stores of silver and other precious and useful metals lay hidden in the rocks and gulches of the Rocky Mountains.

The settlements of civilized men all over the continent were then comparatively few and far between, and farming in all parts of it was carried on in the most primitive way. There was then literally no "machinery" on the farm. Everything was done by hand, even to winnowing the grain. The farming implements were few and exceedingly rough and clumsy. The produce of the farm was carried to market, though the distances were necessarily short, slowly and with great labor.

The great ambition of the farmer was to raise and manufacture on his farm everything, or almost everything, consumed by himself and his family. The clothes which he and his wife and children wore were manufactured and made at home. Carding and spinning and weaving and tailoring and tanning and currying and shoemaking were all done on the farm. The farmer made his own cider, and often distilled his own whiskey. The rural population of the country lived a hard but not an unhappy life. They rose early and worked late. There was no talk of an eight-hours day in those times. Food was plenty, but it was coarse, and there was little variety. But see the work that these hard-living and hard-working people did! They redeemed a continent from the wilderness, and they built up a nation. There were little more than three millions of people then in what is now the United States, and only a few hundred thousand in the whole of Canada. The change that has been effected on this continent during the last hundred years is, even to look back upon, amazing; it is easy to see that at the beginning of the period it would have been far beyond the power of the human mind to foresee or even to guess at all intelligently at its extent.

When we look back to the beginning of the century and try to call to mind only some of the changes that have taken place, we realize the hardihood of Mr. Rusk when he tries to peer into the future in order to give us an idea of what farming or any other industry will be like a hundred years hence. He can have no idea as to what discoveries will be made in that time or what new forces will be brought into subjection to the will of man. Inventions may now be in process of being worked out in the brain of some genius of whose very existence the world does not dream. These discoveries and inventions may completely revolutionize the agriculture not only of America, but of the whole world. Ex Secretary Rusk can have no more idea of their nature and the changes they will cause than he has of the appearance and mode of life of the inhabitants of the planet Mars. How then can he presume to guess what farming in America will be like a hundred years hence. Such guessing is most unprofitable work.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

The citizens of Seattle are evidently more liberal-minded than those of some places in this Province that we could name. The Legislature of the State of Washington has just voted a handsome sum towards the erection of a fine State building in Olympia, Seattle instead of grumbling and growling that the Capital of the State is to be benefited by the improvement, good-humoredly felicitates its inhabitants on having succeeded in prevailing upon the Legislature to grant money enough to build a structure which will be not only an ornament to the Capital but a credit to the State. The Post-Intelligencer of yesterday says:

The good people of Olympia can now rest in peace. They have succeeded in securing the capital with a good big anchor in the shape of a million dollar building. They have worked hard to secure the prize and no one will begrudge them the realization of their hopes.

We trust that some of our British Columbia contemporaries will follow the example of the Post-Intelligencer and adopt a more liberal and a more neighborly tone when they have occasion to notice the passage of the bill authorizing the erection of Parliamentary Buildings in Victoria.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, March 23.—(Special)—W. R. Gillett died suddenly in bed this morning. The deceased was general agent of the London and Ontario Investment Co., and came to this province in 1884 from Toronto, where he occupied a position with the same company. He was originally from Port Hope, where his relations at present reside.

A Prince Albert dispatch says that between January 29 and the present time fifteen trains should have arrived there but only four have done so. The non-arrival of trains and mails is seriously affecting business.

THE POWER OF NATURE.

FOR every ill nature has a cure. In the healing virtues of the Norway Pine lies the cure for coughs, colds, croup, asthma, bronchitis, hoarseness, etc. Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup represents the virtues of Norway Pine and other pectoral remedies. Price 25c.

AMICABLY SETTLED.

The Troubles in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Satisfactorily Disposed of.

A Long and Tedious Investigation Brought to a Close Yesterday Evening.

The Presbytery met again Thursday morning, and was engaged all day in investigating the troubles in St. Andrew's church, referred to its members and special assessors for consideration. The proceedings were opened in the usual form.

Rev. P. McF. Macleod opened the case for the defence, and declared that he would take the necessary steps to have his character and standing as a minister vindicated against the attacks made upon him the previous day. He proceeded to treat of the petition, and denied the right of the petitioners to their claim that they represented the congregation of the church. Some of those men had been managers of the church, and no sooner had they resigned their position than they proceeded to assail and obstruct their successors in their work. The other petitioners were comparatively new members of the church, and lived at such a distance that their attendance at meetings was seldom. It had been broadly stated by Mr. Hutcheson that his (Mr. Macleod's) usefulness had ceased and that he ought to retire. Now, if such a charge had been made against Mr. Hutcheson—had he been told that his usefulness as a merchant in Victoria had ceased and that he had better retire, an action for defamation of character would in all probability have ensued. Mr. McMicking had stated that he (Mr. Macleod) was endowed with an uncontrollable temper.

"Now, where would Mr. McMicking be to-day had I an uncontrollable temper and from what he has said of me?" asked the speaker. He next proceeded to say that his character having been attacked, and these attacks published in the public press, it was not to be expected that he would get a call to any other church—that is, if the statements made by the petitioners were credited. He had never sought a call during his ministry; the call was made upon him, as in the case of St. Andrew's church, Victoria. The finances of the church since his advent next received attention. Mr. Macleod quoted from the annual printed reports of the Board of Managers in support of his statements, though some of these reports, he claimed, were misleading. In 1891, for instance, it was reported that there had been a falling off in the receipts, while there were 138 new members added to the church. Forty-two of these were added in the month of December of that year, and the vast majority at the last two communions of the year. Again, in 1892, with a bad summer and very many other troubles, the receipts of the church would compare favorably with those of the previous years. When he first came to the church, his call was signed by forty-seven members, and there was at that time a congregation of eighty-one persons. The congregation had steadily increased, year by year, until at the end of 1892 there were 346 on the roll. This did not look as if his pastoral exertions had been a failure. He denied his responsibility for the management of the finances of the church.

The reverend gentleman next alluded to the circumstances attending the memorial services of the late Hon. John Robson, and the removal of the portrait of that gentleman from the church. In this connection he read certain correspondence passing between Mr. McMicking and himself, and said that with the feeling expressed by Mr. McMicking it was anything but pleasing to find that gentleman appointed chairman of the Board of Managers, with the subsequent annoyances. The question of stipend was next touched upon, and Mr. Macleod read correspondence between Mr. Carmichael and himself on the point. When he accepted the call of the congregation he had the understanding from the late Hon. John Robson that the stipend was to be paid monthly, in advance. When Mr. Carmichael, as treasurer, wrote offering to pay half a month's stipend, promising the remainder at the end of the month, and stating that in future the stipend would not be paid in advance, he (Mr. Macleod) considered he had rights to protect.

"I felt," said he, "that if I admitted their right to touch my salary, they would do it again. I had in view that the previous minister of this church had had his salary reduced to $1 per quarter. (Laughter.) What was to prevent them taking a similar course with me? The object was made clear by the subsequent proposal to reduce my stipend to $2,000. They might as well made it $1, because these men know full well that I could not live and pay my way in Victoria on an income of $2,000 a year. It was their covert way of bringing about my resignation, for this was admitted to be the object at the Synod meeting."

Rev. Mr. Macleod again took the stand after adjournment, and proceeded to review the addresses of the petitioners as delivered on the previous day. Mr. McMicking had cast out an insinuation as to his (Mr. Macleod's) ministerial career which one could not expect from an honorable enemy. It was not necessary, Mr. Macleod said, for him to vindicate his ministerial career, extending over twenty-one years. Toronto was the last scene of his labors, and the session of the Central Presbyterian church there, with which he was connected for seven years, passed a resolution complimenting him upon his services, the congregation as well as the receipts of the church having increased three-fold during his ministry. Mr. McMicking's allusion to "the little girl pursued with avidity through the press," was, Mr. Macleod said, unkind. So far from the lady in question being "pursued with avidity," it was the young lady who went for him, in consequence of a sermon he had preached on the public school question and in condemnation of the too free use of the rod. The sermon, he believed, did good, although it might have had the effect of creating some ill-feeling on the part of the teachers. Another sermon, alleged to have created some ill-feeling, was one he had preached and which was said to have been aimed against secret societies. The reverend gentleman denied that this was his object. He also alluded to Mr. McMicking's accusation that he was endowed with "an uncontrollable temper, inherited from his parents."

"That I must pronounce, and I try to avoid strong language, as a lie in whole cloth. That I should say that I inherited an uncontrollable temper from a saintly woman—one of the noblest women that ever lived—and from a father that had spent forty years in the ministry—whoever put such words in my lips, put a lie into them. If Mr. McMicking has any honor or honesty in him, he will apologise."

Then it had been stated that his selection of certain sections of scripture read by him, was intended to offend. This statement he emphatically denied, and accused those who thus misinterpreted his intentions of doing him an injustice. As to his mission to Toronto, he denied that he undertook to raise subscriptions sufficient to reimburse the managers to the amount of the travelling expenses. His expenses were paid to the General Assembly, and while in that city he rendered valuable services in arranging for the furnishings and fittings of the church. The petitioners claimed that they were the bone and sinew of the church, but there certainly were other members who, perhaps, had more right to make that claim, and of these were gentlemen who now sat in the session and on the board of managers. Stress had also been laid on the point that a vote was taken other than by ballot, but if the pastor was openly called why should not any action affecting his position be openly dealt with? The so-called manse had been alluded to. The fact was that the house was too palatial and too costly, the rent or interest on the purchase money being $40 per month. The place was subsequently sold for $11,000. Alluding to the remarks of Mr. Carmichael, the reverend gentleman said:

"Mr. Carmichael made a personal attack upon my character. I hope on cooler reflection that he will apologise for having used these words. If he does not do so it will be necessary for me to take the proper steps to vindicate my character against a slander and a gross one."

Mr. Macleod argued that if the building loan had been properly handled in the first instance, there would have been little of the present financial troubles; and denied that he had difficulties and differences with the auxiliaries of the church as alleged by Mr. Dryden. It had been said by Mr. Hutcheson that the sooner he (Mr. Macleod) resigned the better.

"Is this a struggle for truth and justice or for mastery?" asked the reverend gentleman, as he averred that he had friends in the congregation, and that he was convinced that were he to resign it would not be in the interests of the church. The largest vote the petitioners secured was 75, while the action of the session and the pastor was sustained by a vote of 171. These were facts which he asked the Presbytery to consider.

Mr. Finlayson, sessional clerk of the church, avowed himself agrieved and ashamed of the action of the petitioners, whose real object was to secure a severance of the pastoral tie. He paid a high tribute to the worth of the Rev. Mr. Macleod and defended that gentleman ably, concluding with the hope that the petition would be dismissed.

Rev. Mr. Winchester declared himself a disinterested party, not even enjoying the acquaintance of some of the petitioners, and only recently having been made a member of the session of St. Andrew's church. He believed that had the laws of the church been better known and adhered to a great deal of the present trouble would have been avoided. The session's papers having so clearly stated the case, he contented himself with a brief allusion to the facts.

Dr. Milne, M.P.P., said that he heartily disliked church quarrels, and much regretted the present one. No doubt there had been deficits for some years past, but this was chiefly due to paying off debts. But the condition of the church was by no means as hopeless as the petitioners would have people believe. With a little more energy and economy all would turn out well. The interest on the building fund had kept them back, but with present arrangements and a life insurance scheme now under consideration the difficulties would be overcome. The Doctor went into figures to show how great savings could be effected and had been effected in the management of the church. Speaking of the personal attacks made upon Mr. Macleod, he said that they were unjust and unfounded, and appealed to the Presbytery to sustain that gentleman's character.

Rev. Mr. Macleod asked for the production of a vote of thanks alleged to have been passed to the retiring board of managers.

It was explained that signatures had been obtained to the document, and canvassed.

Rev. Mr. McLeod, Nanaimo, suggested that the case should close, and that the Presbytery consider their report.

This proposition was received, and after adjournment for supper the Presbytery reassembled, the press and public being excluded.

The Presbytery assembled sharp on time, and the petitioners, pastor and session, were also present. Shortly after eleven o'clock Rev. Mr. Macleod was called in before the tribunal, and was in conference for half an hour. At 12:30 the doors were thrown open, and to all in waiting the Moderator announced that the Presbytery had adjourned until ten o'clock in the morning, and requested that the petitioners and all others interested should be in attendance by two o'clock in the afternoon, at which time it is hoped a decision will have been arrived at. Some half a hundred disappointed parties heard the announcement.

The long discussed troubles between Rev. P. McF. Macleod and a portion of the congregation of St. Andrew's church were brought to a termination Friday afternoon. The Presbytery and assessors, who had been sitting with closed doors for nearly five hours on Thursday night, and from ten o'clock yesterday morning until four in the afternoon, succeeded in bringing about an amicable settlement, and are being congratulated on all sides for the patient hearing they accorded the parties concerned, and the pains they have taken to bring about a satisfactory solution of a difficult and painful case.

At 2 p.m. the petitioners and a number of those interested in the case assembled in the schoolroom, but a few minutes afterwards were invited to retire, as a decision had not been arrived at.

For a couple of hours they remained about the building, and then Rev. Mr. Macleod was called in. The petitioners were subsequently invited into the Presbytery, and when the doors were thrown open to the public Rev. D. MacRae, as clerk, read the following, the result of the deliberations:

"Moved by Rev. E. D. McLaren, seconded by Rev. J. W. McMillan, and resolved:

"That this Presbytery deeply regret the unfortunate alienation from the minister of St. Andrew's church of the sympathy and co-operation of certain members of the congregation, and express their conviction that this alienation has resulted in many cases from misunderstandings about matters of very slight importance.

"They place on record their unqualified confidence in Mr. Macleod's ministerial character, and they deplore the injury that has been done him by unkind and baseless statements made by some of the petitioners.

"They bear most hearty testimony to Mr. Macleod's great ability, and to his untiring energy in the work of the church at large, as well as in the work of his own particular congregation, and they desire to express, in the strongest possible terms, their admiration of his many attractive personal qualities and the bold fearlessness with which he has always been ready to champion every cause of social reform.

"They have noticed, with great interest and satisfaction, the steady growth of the congregation under Mr. Macleod's ministration, and they are gratified to learn from the statement of the chairman of the Board of Managers that there is not even a single sitting vacant in the body of the church.

"They express the hope that the session may be able in some way to retain for the congregation the active sympathy and active co-operation of the petitioners and of those who share their views, some of whom have been for many years identified with the congregation, are deeply interested in its welfare, and have been greatly distressed by the present unhappy condition of affairs.

"They consider that they have secured all the information that would be likely to be elicited by the institution of a more formal process of investigation, and they therefore dismiss the petition with an earnest injunction to all parties to seek the things that make for peace."

This, the unanimous finding of the Presbytery, was read over to the parties, who were asked by the Moderator if they acquiesced.

Rev. Mr. Macleod replied: I acquiesce in the finding of the Presbytery on my own behalf and on behalf of the session of St. Andrew's church. I further gladly put myself in the hands of the session as to what my future course shall be in the interests of the church.

The petitioners agreed that "having carefully considered the finding of the Presbytery, read in their hearing, and also the statement of acquiescence of Mr. Macleod on behalf of himself and the session, in the interests of peace and of the spiritual welfare of the congregation, accept the same finding."

Mr. James Hutcheson here advanced and said: I don't believe in doing things by halves. Is Mr. Macleod, now that all is over, willing to shake hands with the petitioners?

Rev. Mr. Macleod expressed his hearty approval of the friendly suggestion, and a warm hand-shaking ensued.

The Moderator expressed satisfaction at so happy a termination of the difficulties, and Rev. Mr. Macleod having been granted three months' vacation, owing to his present delicate state of health, the meeting of the Presbytery was brought to a close in the usual form.

From the DAILY COLONIST, March 24.

THE CITY.

Public Offices Closed.

Yesterday's issue of the Gazette contains formal notice of the closing of the Government offices on Good Friday and Easter Monday, March 31 and April 3.

B. C. Wood Works Co.

Messrs. J. H. Binsted, C. M. Lapoint, W. C. Hicks, and Fred. J. Bauer, of Vancouver, have been duly incorporated as the British Columbia Wood Works Co., Ltd., with a capital of $25,000 in $10 shares.

Martini-Henry Rifles.

At a meeting of the officers of the B. C. B. G. A., held last evening, a resolution was passed, that in view of the fact that the General Commanding had recommended the issue of Martini-Henry rifles to all artillery corps, and that as the matches of the Dominion Rifle Association will, this year, be shot with that weapon, the Department of Militia and Defence be requisitioned for the necessary rifles to replace the Snider.

Kamloops Incorporation.

Mr. W. H. Whittaker, Kamloops, is in town, his mission being to complete the preliminaries to the incorporation of the "Inland Capital." He comes armed with a sufficiently signed petition from the property holders of the town, and hopes upon his return to be able to announce that the long-sought for incorporation is an accomplished fact. The example set by Vernon has stirred up the good people of Kamloops to renewed action.

Coal Prospecting Licenses.

No fewer than thirteen fresh applications for coal prospectors' licenses were gazetted yesterday, the majority of the applicants being desirous of prospecting Saturna Island, among them Messrs. J. A. Kirk, A. J. Hill, J. W. Harvey, A. Morrison, J. Punch, A. Godfrey, C. E. Woods, D. McNair, W. H. Towle, E. L. Webber, H. M. and N. P. Stramberg, and Hugh McLean. J. E. Saucier will explore the east bank of the North Thompson river, in Lillooet, and S. and C. H. Tingley, Osoyoos Division of Yale.

Lecture on Palestine.

Rev. Canon Paddon delivered a lecture on Palestine in the school room of St. John's church last night. The reverend gentleman has resided as a missionary in the Holy Land, and was consequently thoroughly familiar with his subject. In an able and eloquent manner he presented a panorama of the past and present of the land which cradled Christianity and sent it forth to the nations of the earth. The entire lecture was replete with vivid word paintings and apt illustrations, and was closely followed by a delighted audience.

To Celebrate With a Banquet.

At a joint meeting of the members of the Board of Trade and the subscribers of the Board of Trade Building Association yesterday afternoon the proposition to celebrate the successful completion of the Board's new home with a grand banquet was received with general favor and thoroughly discussed. A committee was finally appointed, on the motion of Mr. R. P. Rithet, to ascertain how many will subscribe to the necessary expenses, submit a list of guests to be invited and obtain particulars of the cost of the banquet, reporting at the quarterly general meeting on April 7. The committee as named consists of Messrs. G. Leiser, H. E. Connon, D. R. Ker, C. E. Renouf, A. W. Jones and A. C. Flumerfelt. At the close of the meeting a subscription list for the banquet was opened, every member present promptly affixing his signature.

Cleveland Will Rule.

NEW YORK, March 22.—A Washington City special to a morning paper says: It has just leaked out that President Cleveland had notified the members of his cabinet that they must make no appointments until the names of those selected to assume the office are submitted to and approved by him. This rule is laid down by the president in the most positive terms, and it is to apply even to clerks in the departments. Another interesting fact also became known to-day. At the first cabinet meeting the question of allowing Republicans in the diplomatic and consular service to serve out the terms for which they were appointed was discussed. The sentiment expressed generally is in favor of not removing any Republican holdover, except for cause. Secretary of State Gresham, alone, is said to have objected to the plan.

MARINE MOVEMENTS.

Reported Wreck of the Sealing Schooner "Otto" at Pachena—Refitting for the North.

The "Quadra" Out of Dock—Repairs of the "Maude"—Catches of the Sealers.

Schooner Minnie, Capt. Victor Jacobsen, the second sealer to return to port to prepare for her Northern cruise, arrived in port yesterday afternoon with 107 skins stowed in her hold. The principal news brought by her is that of the wreck of the Otto, which left here in command of Capt. Keefe some time in January. This information was given to Capt. Jacobsen by the storekeeper at Kyuquot, who had been told that the Otto had run ashore at Pachena and had part of her keel, together with a great deal of her coppering, carried away. If this information is authentic, it is quite probable the Otto will be obliged to return to port for repairs. As far as can be ascertained, the schooner dragged her anchors in a storm one day last week and thus got on the rocks. The Minnie spoke the Oscar and Hattie on Tuesday last with 10 skins, the Brenda with 53, the Fawn with 75, the Annie E. Paint with 104, and the Beatrice with 105. On starting for Victoria the Minnie left all her Indian hunters at Pachena, where she will call for them in a few days.

REFITTING FOR THE NORTH.

The little schooner Labrador, Capt. Whiteley, has returned to port from the sealing grounds, to take on fresh supplies for her Northern cruise, on which she started at daylight to-day. Like all the other schooners, the Labrador has had poor luck, having only fourteen skins to show for her spring trip. The Labrador was in company with the Walter L. Rich at sea when the gale arose on Friday last, and although the latter had four of her boats stove in, the former, a much smaller boat, rode the rough seas for 36 hours without receiving the slightest damage. Of the fourteen skins, Capt. Whiteley says he secured twelve the first two days he was out. The Brenda and Fawn were in Hesquiot last week, the former with 75 skins and the latter with 49 odd.

STUDIED DISHONESTY.

An uncommon incident occurred at the outer wharf on Wednesday evening, when a man was noticed to jump over the railing of a steamer in motion and swim ashore. Early this week, it seems, a party came over from the Sound and secured twelve non-union sailors for the barkentine Empire, which, in the meantime, was lying off Port Townsend awaiting a crew to sail for England lumber laden. This done, the men having been partly paid in advance, the tug Mystery was' chartered to put them on board the bark. Everything went smoothly until the Mystery was passing the outer wharf, when two of the sailors suddenly left the boat. One escaped by swimming ashore as described, while the other is said to have been lowered into a small boat which came alongside.

THE QUADRA OUT OF DOCK.

The Dominion steamer Quadra, Capt. Walbran, came out of the Esquimalt dock yesterday afternoon and came round to her berth at the custom house. The Quadra will leave Victoria on Monday for an inspection tour of the Gulf lighthouses with the Agent of Marine.

"A BANQUET OF SWEET SOUND."

That there is in British Columbia sufficient musical talent to present a concert programme exceptional in quality and so diversified in character as to please all tastes, and at the same time to present this programme in a manner that would stand the criticism of any audience, is something of which all residents of the Province should be proud. Such a concert was that at The Victoria last evening. Those who provided the "banquet of sweet sound," or at least the majority, appeared before Victorians for the first time, but so did their music appeal to heart as well as ear that each number was listened to in intense delighted silence, succeeded by heartiest applause. The people of Victoria are not quick to become enthusiastic, and they are inclined to be severely critical; so much the greater triumph of Miss Monteith and those who appeared with her.

Of course the far-famed soprano, whose praises have been heard from across the Atlantic was the chief attraction of the programme. Much was expected of her, nor did she disappoint. Her selections were as widely differing in character as perhaps it would be possible to imagine, yet in each the spirit of the music was as intelligently interpreted as the written words and music. The first number—the grand aria d'Isabelle de l'opera Pre aux Cleres (Herold)—demonstrated the remarkable cultivation and power of Miss Monteith's voice, a sweet, sympathetic soprano, which seems to flow as easily and as harmoniously as a summer brook; the second, "Robin Adair," gave the touch of nature which ever endears the ballad to the people; the third, recitative and aria, "Wich Verdure Clad," Haydn's "Creation," gave the key to the meaning of the English critic who said, "Her singing of sacred music is religion itself—grand, pure, ennobling."

Superlatives are for the most part as uncalled for as lightly bestowed, but in attempting to describe Miss Monteith's singing they cannot be avoided. Her method is the perfection of art—simplicity, sweetness, thorough articulation and sympathetic interpretation of the composer's best thought, delicate as the whisper of a dream or masterful as a hero's deed. If, during her residence in Victoria, she succeeds in imparting to the many who will no doubt become her pupils the secret of her sweet singing, the public, as well as they, will owe her a second debt of gratitude.

Mr. F. Victor Austin is himself a Victorian, which is a source of satisfaction to all good citizens. Choosing for his first selections Beethoven's "Kreutzer" Sonata and Wieniawski's "Legende," both of which as played by Musin still linger in memory, he challenged comparative criticism; nor did he over-estimate his ability or win an unfavorable verdict. His most pleasing number, however, was unquestionably his last—"In Memoriam," a composition of his own, and Musin's famous Mazourka de Concert. The former possesses peculiar beauty and power; rich in melody, it has that within it which thoroughly enthrals attention. Commingling, blending, inseparable, are two distinctive strains—the one sad and mournful, a sob though not a dirge; the other grand as the swell of a mighty organ, telling of hope beyond. The composition is a work of genius; it will live long. The mazourka is too well known to require description, suffice it to say that it was played in a manner of which Musin himself would not have been ashamed.

Of Miss Dawson's work, both in piano solo, duet and accompaniment, much might be written and all in praise. Her touch is firm and delicate; her execution brilliant. She well deserves all the honors accorded her.

Miss Saxton's most acceptable recitation was beyond doubt her "chistening" in which she displayed much more than ordinary talent; her other and more pretensious number, "The Trial of Queen Katherine," was also well handled.

Mr. Fane Sewell and Mr. Percy Fischel, in baritone solos, completed the programme, which was enjoyed by a large and thoroughly musical as well as fashionable audience. The Lieut.-Governor and Mrs. Dewdney, who honored the concert with their patronage, also took occasion to enjoy it from their private box.

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STATEMENT OF MR. WM. McNEE.

For eight years I was troubled with a sore on my leg which resulted from having it broken. The doctors kept me in bed five months trying to heal it up, but all to no purpose. I tried all sorts of salves, liniments, ointments, pills and blood medicines but with no benefit. In 1883 it became so bad that I had to sit on one chair and keep my foot on another for four months. I could not put my foot on the ground or the blood would rush out in a stream and my leg swelled to twice its natural size.

ELEVEN RUNNING SORES

developed on it which reduced me to a living skeleton (I lost 70 lbs. in four months). Friends advised me to go to the Hospital; but I would not, for I knew they would take my leg off. The doctor then wanted to split it open and scrape the bone, but I was too weak to stand the operation. One old lady said it had turned to black erysipelas and could never be cured. I had never heard of Burdock Blood Bitters then, but I read of a minister, Rev. Mr. Stout, who had been cured of a severe abscess on the neck by B.B.B., after medical aid had failed, and I thought I would try it. I washed the leg with the Bitters and took them according to directions. After using one bottle I could walk on crutches, after taking three, I threw away the crutches, took a scythe and went to work in the field. At the end of the sixth bottle my leg was entirely healed up; pieces of loose bone had worked out of it and the cords came back to their natural places again. That was nine years ago and it has never broken out since. I can walk five miles to-day as fast as anyone, and all this I owe to B. B. B., which certainly saved my leg, if not my life. I cheerfully recommend it to all sufferers. Give B. B. B. a trial, it will cure you as it did me.

Yours truly,
WM. MCNEE, St. Ives P.O., Ont.

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